

THE RIDER

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UTRGV honors women's achievements

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

UTRGV and the rest of the United States are celebrating women's achievements and contributions in observance of Women's History Month.

The Office of Global Engagement celebrated International Women's Day with luncheons on both campuses honoring an Outstanding International Female Faculty and an Outstanding International Female Student.

Perla Frias Perez, a graduate student in early childhood special education in Brownsville, and Roshni Manwani, a junior accounting major in Edinburg, received the Outstanding Female Student award during a ceremony held on both campuses March 7 and 8.

Samantha Lopez, director of UTRGV International Admissions and Student Services, said both students were selected by a university scholarship committee.

Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Lopez said their recognition was due to a combination of outstanding achievements, leadership, community service and economic need.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Frias offered some advice for all UTRGV female students.

"Never underestimate yourself, always have confidence in who you are and what you can do. There are moments in life when you experience dark nights, but at the same time, there is always the starting of a new day. ... Keep going because we were born for success," Frias said in Spanish.

On the Edinburg campus, Bin Wang, a professor of information systems, was honored as an Outstanding International Female Faculty. In Brownsville, Alexandre Couture Gagnon, an assistant professor in public affairs and security studies, was also honored with the award.

Lopez said both faculty members were selected by the UTRGV Women's Faculty Network Executive Team.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Perla Frias Perez (right), an early childhood special education graduate student, stands beside her adviser, Hsuying Ward, early childhood special education coordinator, during the International Women's Day luncheon held March 8 on the Brownsville campus. Frias was presented with the Outstanding Female Student award.

"We asked them ... to select one professor from each campus that was international faculty," Lopez said.

The Women's Faculty Network empowers female faculty members by advocating for opportunities to advance women's professional development in research, teaching and service, according to the UTRGV website.

"I am proud. I am so thrilled. I was not expecting this. [This award] means that UTRGV really is my school," Couture Gagnon said in an interview with *The Rider* in Brownsville. "It means that UTRGV loves me as much as I love it. It's a reciprocal relationship."

"There are many resources

at the university, and there are many people willing to help you, but sometimes you have to reach out to them. Find a mentor or a professor ... because they really support

empowering for women to know that they are [deserving] and to make them feel special," Flores said. "I think every woman should feel special. We should have more events like this one."

The annual observance evolved from one day to one month throughout the United States, said Linda English, an associate professor in the History Department and program director for the UTRGV General and Women's Studies Program.

"[March 8] is International Women's Day and that has been in effect since 1911," English said, adding that in the 1970s, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County, Calif., Commission on the Status of Women was

" We live in a world that still doesn't have the equality that we deserve as women. So, we need to go back [and look] into history so that things don't repeat themselves. "

Alejandra Buitron
Student Involvement Student Assistant

you through hard times."

Among the attendees on the Brownsville campus was Clarise Flores, a marketing junior who said UTRGV should continue holding events that promote women's empowerment.

"I think that it's very

concerned that women's contributions were not being recognized.

"They established a women's history week and that was in Sonoma, Calif. ... From there, President Jimmy Carter in 1980 recognized the first Women's History Week," English said. "... Congress recognized Women's History Month in 1987. The idea of Women's History Month is to recognize women's contributions to American culture and society."

A special presidential proclamation is issued every year honoring the achievements of American women, according to the National Women's History Project.

In a proclamation March 1, President Donald Trump stated: "America will continue to fight for women's rights and equality across the country and around the world. Though poverty holds back many women, America cannot and will not allow this to persist. We will empower all women to pursue their American dreams, to live, work and thrive in safe communities that allow them to protect and provide for themselves and their families."

For those in the campus community interested in learning and recognizing the importance of this month, Student Involvement and the General and Women's Studies Program in the College of Liberal Arts have planned several events.

The General and Women's Studies Program will show the Emmy award-winning movie, "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in Liberal Arts Building 101 in Edinburg. The documentary film deals with transgenders fighting against police harassment in the 1966 Compton's Cafeteria riot in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

Student Involvement will present "Talk about it S'more" from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Ballroom in Edinburg. Guest speakers will talk about women's empowerment in the

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SGA prepares for elections

Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

Seventeen candidates will begin campaigning March 27 with hopes of being elected or appointed to the Student Government Association for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The SGA Elections Committee conducted two mandatory candidate meetings on each campus March 9 to inform students of the campaign guidelines and election timeline.

Peter Averack, this year's SGA vice president on the Edinburg campus, said going over the timeline with the candidates gives them a better

understanding and more confidence.

"It is important to understand the timeline and now that I have a better idea of what that timeline looks like and how we should invest our resources over the election period, there's more confidence going into this," Averack said. "It's always about communicating with the students and letting them know that the elections are happening and that we do have their interest and their concerns as our top priority."

Ten students attended the sessions in Edinburg and seven in Brownsville.

Failure to attend the mandatory meeting without a good cause results



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities, explains campaign guidelines to nursing freshman Ingrid De La Torre (from left), communication freshman Nayla Paredes and biomedical sciences freshman Samantha Garcia during a mandatory meeting held March 9 in University Library 3.102 on the Brownsville campus.

in the candidate not being placed on the ballot, according to the SGA election guidelines.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, there are 43 positions in the executive and legislative branches of the SGA available.

SGA advisers David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities and head of the election committee, and Delma Olivarez, interim associate dean for Student Involvement and director of Leadership

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THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Flute concert

Krista Jobson, a UTRGV assistant professor of flute, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Jobson directs the UTRGV Flautistas Ensemble and coaches woodwind chamber music. Tickets (\$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with ID) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Spring Jam tryouts

The **Student Union** invites the Brownsville campus and all music bands in UTRGV to try out for a chance to perform at the **Spring Jam** event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in El Gran Salón in Brownsville. The Spring Jam will take place March 29 on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989 or email mabel.cortinamatos@utrgv.edu.

22 Push-up event

The **Student Veterans of America** will host a **22 Push-up event for PTSD and Suicide Awareness** among service members and veterans from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email patrick.roberts01@utrgv.edu.

Flower Day

The **Student Union** invites students to welcome spring by creating a flower crown from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union Commons in Edinburg and El Comedor in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

Pharmacy info session

The **Vaquero Pre-Pharmacy Association** will host the **University of Houston College of Pharmacy**

for an information session from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Education Complex in Edinburg. Dress professionally. For more information, call 343-3969 or email jared.sheneman01@utrgv.edu.

MTG Tournament

The **Student Union** invites students to compete for V-Bucks from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

Anderson Cooper livestream

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** will host a livestream event featuring CNN journalist and author **Anderson Cooper**. The live stream will be from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Student Union PlainsCapital Theater in Edinburg. For more information, call 607-7439 or email raul.lealo1@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Game-A-Palooza

The **Student Union** will host three hours of free gaming from noon to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room in Edinburg and El Comedor in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

'Today' co-host Kotb to speak

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** will host a broadcast featuring NBC **"Today"** show co-host **Hoda Kotb** from 6 to 7 p.m. in Salón Cassia in Brownsville. For more information, call 607-7439 or email raul.lealo1@utrgv.edu.

Holi Festival of Colors

The **Campus Programming Board** invites students to celebrate the Holi Festival of Colors from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Casa Bella Stomping Grounds in Brownsville. There will be free food, music and lots of paint. For more information, email louay.bachnak01@utrgv.edu.

Talk About it S'more

Student Involvement will host **Women Artists' Night**, ranging from poets to a capella performers, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom in Edinburg. S'mores and hot chocolate will be served. For more information, call 665-2660.

Thursday

'The Edge of Seventeen'

Student Involvement will screen **"The Edge of Seventeen"** from 7 to 10:15 p.m. in the Student Union Theater or Chapel lawn, depending on the weather. For more information, call 665-2660.

Trump foreign policy talk

The **Political Science Association** will host a talk on President Trump's foreign policy by political science Professor Sonia Alianak from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North 101 in Edinburg. For more information, email stephen.l.lopez01@utrgv.edu.

Friday

Educational workshops

The **Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society** will host a **Personal Statement** workshop from 10 to 11 a.m. in Science Building 2.104 in Edinburg. For more information, email chelsea.gerlicki01@utrgv.edu.

Saturday

Miles for Smiles 5k

Operation Smile Club will raise awareness of and money for **Operation Smile** with a **Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk** from 7 a.m. to noon at the Edinburg Municipal Park. For more information, email lesley.robles01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 27 and March 3.



Feb. 27

9:56 a.m.: A staff member reported losing her keys in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus.

1:52 p.m.: A student reported that his laptop computer was stolen from the University Library on the Brownsville campus.

4:09 p.m.: A student on the Edinburg campus reported that her ex-boyfriend has been harassing her via social media.

10:41 p.m.: A student lost his wallet off campus with his UTRGV ID inside.

11:18 p.m.: A student said that her ex-boyfriend has been harassing her via social media. The ex-boyfriend allegedly physically assaulted the student off campus. She was referred to the Brownsville Police Department.

Feb. 28

1:52 p.m.: A staff member reported an alleged loan fraud by a male student. The report is under investigation.

2:44 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to lot B2 on the Brownsville campus after someone reported a possible venomous snake. The officer found a rattlesnake in the lot. Brownsville Animal Control was called and relocated the snake.

March 1

12:24 p.m.: A student reported

that her vehicle had sustained minor damage while it was parked in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus. Surveillance video showed that the damage did not occur on campus.

2:06 p.m.: An officer found a female student and a man inside a men's restroom stall in the Health Affairs West Building on the Edinburg campus. The man was issued a criminal trespass warning and the incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

3:39 p.m.: A student was following/chasing his girlfriend into the University Center on the Edinburg campus. The student said that his girlfriend was upset at him and exited the moving vehicle by the Student Academic Center. She was picked up by her parents.

4:45 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Physical Science Building on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that the water pumps in the riser room set off the alarm. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

6:25 p.m.: A student lost his wallet, which contained personal documents, in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus on Feb. 27.

March 2

9:13 a.m.: A student reported that her vehicle was damaged on Feb. 28 while it was parked in Lot E25 on the Edinburg campus. Surveillance video

confirmed the vehicle accident. The case is under investigation.

10:11 a.m.: A staff member turned in a lockbox that was found in the Health and Physical Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The lockbox was opened by a UTRGV locksmith. U.S. currency and paperwork was found inside and indicated that it belonged to a student organization.

2:29 p.m.: A student was struck while crossing the 1200 block of West University Drive in Edinburg. He was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg.

4:10 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Physical Science Building on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that the water pumps in the riser room set off the alarm. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

7:24 p.m.: A student reported that her vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E36 on the Edinburg campus. Surveillance video confirmed the vehicle accident. The case is under investigation.

March 3

11:25 a.m.: A student reported that another student was harassing her via electronic messages while off campus. The incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

United States. S'mores, hot chocolate and hot dogs will be served.

Asked what speakers will attend, Alejandra Buitron, a student assistant at Student Involvement, replied: "As of right now, we are still getting in touch with different speakers, so we are not sure yet."

On Thursday, Student Involvement will show the New York Film Critics Circle award-winning movie, "Edge of Seventeen" from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Student Union Theater in Edinburg. The film tells about the life and adventures of a teenage girl. Popcorn and lemonade will be served.

"We live in a world that still doesn't have the equality that we deserve as women. So, we need to go back [and look] into history so that things don't repeat themselves," Buitron said.

On March 28, the General and Women's Studies Program will show the documentary "Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed" from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building 125 in Edinburg. The documentary portrays the life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and her campaign for the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nomination.

The Gender and Women's Studies Program provides students an interdisciplinary and global arena to study the history and theories of women, men, gender, sexuality and

other related topics.

UTRGV Philosophy Lecturer Christina Rawls said Harriet Tubman, an American abolitionist and humanitarian, is one of her inspirations.

"Her image is about to be recognized ... on the United States \$20 bill," Rawls said. "She will be the first woman in 2020 to be placed on our currency. She was an amazing humanitarian and courageous individual during the Underground Railroad time period and during the slavery time period ... in the United States. In the 1800s, for many years, she survived being a slave and ... went free. Then, she continued to free other slaves secretly through various underground lines."

Forming HPC clusters

Karina Aguirre
ONLINE EDITOR

The IT Business Relations Department and the College of Engineering and Computer Science will host High Performance Computing (HPC) workshops today through Wednesday on all the UTRGV campuses.

High Performance Computing refers to the practice of combining computing power in a way that delivers a much higher performance than one could get out of a standard desktop computer in order to solve large problems in science, engineering or business.

Legacy institutions UT Pan American and UT Brownsville became involved with high performance computing in 2006. The university currently has three HPC clusters, *Futuro*, *Bambi* and *Thumper*.

"In 2006 is when the first cluster, a Dell cluster, came to the university to do computational chemistry, mathematical simulations," said Robert Jackson, IT Faculty and Research Support manager. "It was a 55-node cluster."

A node is an object on a network. They communicate with each other to solve a larger problem than any singular computer could in a reasonable amount of time. A cluster is a set of nodes that work toward a common goal. It can be viewed as a single system.

In 2010, UT Brownsville



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Robert Jackson, IT Faculty and Research Support manager, demonstrates the high performance computer cluster *Futuro* located inside Cortez Hall on the Brownsville campus. The HPC cluster processes complex applications equivalent to more than 250 desktop PCs.

acquired *Futuro*, which is a 40-node cluster with a general parallel file system (GPFS) and can be used for computationally intensive calculations and assimilations. In 2011, the Edinburg campus received the 72-node *Thumper* cluster.

"Say you have a computer node that has 12 CPU [central processing unit] cores, but

your program needs 24 cores. You can recruit two nodes to run your computation," Jackson said. "Therefore, you get a better performance and you're able to get the computation done quicker than you would if you ran it on your desktop."

The clusters are used in research conducted by students or staff members who

want to run computationally complex applications. For example, Matlab, which is the Matrix Laboratory, is able to function thanks to the clusters, and the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship runs a complex simulation to forecast stocks on the stock market.

Today's workshop will take

place at 8:30 a.m. in Academic Services Building 2.148 on the Edinburg campus and will feature a presentation by the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC).

"TACC has a huge cluster," Jackson said. "They run computations for the government, for the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense."

On Tuesday, an HPC presentation by Dell is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. in Cortez Hall 118.

At 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in Education Complex 2.228 on the Edinburg campus, NVIDIA, a manufacturer of graphical processing units, will give a presentation. At 1:15 p.m., IBM will then give a high performance computing presentation.

"We have a small high performance computing community here and we want to grow it," Jackson said. "We want to enrich it and make it much bigger. A lot of faculty are doing research and they don't have the computational capability and they're just making it the best they can. I want to let them know that this is out there for them to use, for their convenience. There are people here who can help them, set them up, get them going and support them as they go forward."

For more information about the HPC workshops and to register, visit utrgv.edu/training.

UTRGV program promotes geosciences

Marie Vallangca
THE RIDER

Stimulating Hispanic Participation in the Geosciences (SHIP-GEO) at UTRGV is a program that raises awareness of the career opportunities in geoscience for students.

The National Science Foundation predicts a 135,000-geoscientist workforce demand in 2022. The awareness of the potential loss of skills and knowledge due to a large number of retiring geoscientists and few graduates is important because it will continue to be a beneficial field of employment over the following decade.

Geoscience is a broad field; everything that is related to Earth such as water, agriculture and petroleum is under its umbrella. It offers careers in engineering, environmental science, marine science and oceanography.

"We use natural resources from Earth every day and at the same time we release pollutants to the environment," said Chu Lin Cheng, a UTRGV assistant professor. "We are constantly, daily interacting with Earth and [the] environment, and a lot of people [and] students are not aware of this."

Most students in the Rio Grande Valley are not aware of the geosciences, making it one of the reasons why the National Science Foundation awarded UTRGV SHIP-GEO a \$500,000 grant, for



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of UTRGV students poses for a field trip photo in front of the UTRGV Floating Classroom in the Laguna Madre. The field trip was sponsored by the university's SHIP-GEO program.

which Cheng applied. The grant is used to enhance the awareness of careers and possible advanced degrees in geosciences.

The National Science Foundation is aware of the lack of diversity in the work force, Cheng said.

"We only have the 3 percent of the Hispanic workforce in geosciences that could be environmental scientist, naturalist and petroleum engineers," he said.

To achieve the goals of the

program, which is to increase the knowledge of geoscience at UTRGV, diversify the field of geosciences and to increase the number of graduates in the field, career opportunities and field trips themed with different topics are offered to everyone at school. Several speakers from other universities are invited to speak about geoscience.

"We offer career opportunities, we invite speakers from other universities. We invite

students to expose them to different opportunities in geosciences," Cheng said.

High school students are also invited to the field trip the program offers; transportation and lunch are paid. There are no requirements to be part of the field trip or to join the program, just the thirst to learn something new about the environment.

"We encourage students to work with faculty research, not just taking classes. So [students] actually get [their]

hands dirty," Cheng said.

Not only does the program offer free hands-on knowledge about the environment, but also scholarships to sophomores and juniors who are serious about pursuing a degree in geoscience. The grant offers 50 scholarships in three years time, awarding \$2,500 to each student. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is December 2017. The scholarship application and information can be found on the SHIP-GEO page (<http://www.utrgv.edu/geopaths/scholarships/index.htm>).

Mia Infante, a senior majoring in environmental science, is part of the SHIP-GEO program. She is applying to graduate school to study marine science or oceanography.

"I thought that would be great to start working [to what] I want to do for graduate school, to get into a program where I can get recommendations and some more experience as well," Infante said. "I want to focus more on climate change during research and also outreach about what climate change is, especially with current events. Now is the time to speak up, climate change is real and we need to start taking action."

For more information about SHIP-GEO or the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, call 665-2464 or email geosciences@listserv.utrgv.edu.

Vaquero Voice

Women's History Month



"I think it's really cool that we have a month that celebrates women. Women are historically oppressed and it's a step in the right direction having a month like this. Like that new movie that just came out about the ladies that worked for the space program, so many were hidden under the achievements of men. It's crazy to think we might have overlooked some genius women in the past."

Jesse Solis
Electrical engineering junior



"I know it celebrates the history that women have influenced, like in computer science. Women are the ones that actually inspired the science behind computer science."

Bianca Ayala
Computer science junior



"Creo que es un mes en donde apreciamos a la mujer y nos damos nuestro lugar, bien merecido, porque no muchos aprecian a veces todo lo que hacemos, o muchas veces como una mamá que trabaja, y más aparte limpia y cuida y todo eso, muchas veces no lo valoramos. O, por ejemplo, hoy estaba viendo en mi clase de sociología que muchas veces que aunque ahorita haya 'equidad,' realmente no. Y muchas veces, como mujer, tenemos cierto lugar y ciertos lugares que no nos dan. ... Si yo quiero ser enfermera, OK si está bien. Pero, si un chavo quiere ser enfermero de que le dan una posición más alta, y pues entonces sigue habiendo un poco de discriminación por decirlo así y entonces me encanta que este mes sea dedicado a la mujer y que se pueda ¡Girl Power!"

Ingrid de la Torre
Estudiante de enfermería de primer año



"I believe it is a very important new field in the history overall, in general, because now that, you know, women are composing more than 50 percent of the labor force, it's important to have them make their mark in history and be recognized for it, of course, without falling into the stereotype of "feminazis" or things like that. I mean, if we are going to devote a piece of history to women, I believe we have to make the best out of it, not the wrong things."

Daniel de la O
History senior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

March: Women's History Month



Give me my letters, while I can still read them



P.J. Hernandez
THE RIDER

College is the place where we are supposed to find ourselves. You've heard the tale before, go to school, get an education and get a good job. However, today, this type of farming creates a fear of chasing dreams. The world seems to be tired of artists, or those who want to create in some shape or form.

Starving artists won't survive against greedy guts. Meaning, if you want to make a good living, then get a degree in something that provides service to society.

I'm not trying to sound like the preacher to the choir. It's just that in my five years at this university, a common theme that floods the classroom is the fear of going after artistic aspirations. Ambitions that could essentially cast color on the black-and-white world, where gray shades are painted everywhere.

"Not enough time, not enough money, I'm not good enough." These statements repeat like a refrain in a poem

every semester that I've been enrolled. I have witnessed wasted potential due to the fear of creation or foolish frowns for their actions.

I've almost fallen into this trap. Well, I'm still trying to escape it. You see, I'm an aspiring writer, and I've been through all the ups and downs like the letter "W."

I've always been passive; life just seems to be passing me by.

My ears may not be accustomed to stereotypes, but it seems we listen to the same melodies, which are then followed by the same dance. I don't know about you all,

but some days I see color in gray skies and other days, I'm just walking in the rain.

The thing is, it's acid rain, more painful and tainted than the water in Flint. It's got me stuck in the mud.

That doesn't mean I'll be stationary forever.

I suppose what I'm trying to say is, writing this column is like my umbrella,

which provides shade from the harsh conditions.

I'm sure anyone with his or her own craft can relate to this, and build upon it. When there's rain, there is bound to be a rose garden.

“ I have witnessed wasted potential due to the fear of creation or foolish frowns for their actions. ”

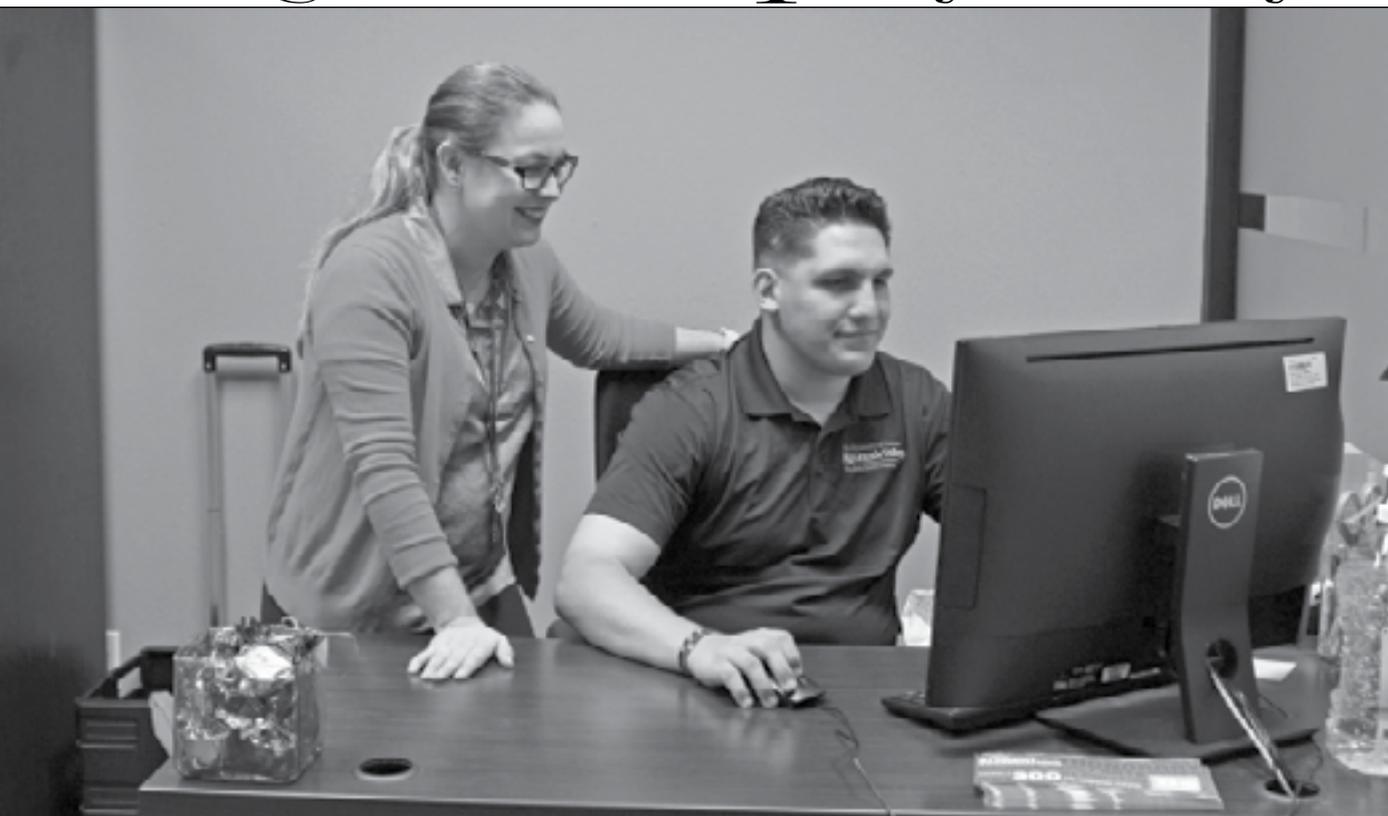
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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
LET US KNOW AT
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Submit a Letter to the Editor



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Being a team player key to success



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Student Activities Program Coordinator Patricia Montemayor assists criminal justice senior Luis Meza at the University Center. Meza has worked with the Office of Student Involvement for more than a year and a half.

Macarena Martinez

THE RIDER

Getting along with co-workers and supervisors, and completing tasks on time can lead to success in your first job after graduation.

“The No. 1 skill is the ability to work in a team environment,” said Juan Rodriguez-Nieto, director of the UTRGV Career Center.

If a team does not get along, it is going to spend too much time trying to solve issues, instead of pushing ideas forward, and it will not be productive, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

UTRGV Chief Human Resources Officer Michael James said, “The majority of the issues that lead to disharmony in the workplace have to do with ineffective communication.”

Employees who get along are happier working, able to satisfy their needs, focus on their job, and their creativity expands, Rodriguez-Nieto said. When a new employee gets along with everyone, the employers are going to view him or her as someone who is adding value to the team.

When given a directive by a manager or supervisor, new employees should fully understand what it is they are asking them to do and then get it done to the best of their abilities, James said. “With your co-workers, it is

understanding that not everyone is like you and that you have to be mindful of your communications and respectful to everyone at all times,” he said.

Some supervisors will be specific on deadlines for projects and will take time to explain it to the new employee. Other supervisors will assume that by explaining the projects once, the new employee will understand. It is important that the new employee read between the lines and identify the deadline, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

“I manage [my tasks] ... by making myself a schedule where I can go ahead and manage my time to the hours per day that I work,” said Heriberto Marquez, who graduated from UTRGV last spring with a bachelor’s degree in engineering physics-computer engineering last spring and now works for the Geek Squad as an advanced repair agent.

More than likely, supervisors will have many projects to manage that they will not remind you when a project or report is due until probably the day they are expecting it, Rodriguez-Nieto said. Do not assume that it is over, or it is less important.

“It is important to treat every project that’s been given to them as if it was the most important project,” Rodriguez-Nieto said.

If new employees have a complaint, they should make every effort to clearly communicate with the supervisor to ensure that they are on the same page, James said. If the problem is not solved, there is another more official way to go: the office of human resources, or employer relations division.

Graduates first starting their career should be most mindful of proving they are competent and strong employees, and then the opportunities will follow that, James said.

“Work hard. ... Prove yourself and the opportunities and the money that goes along with it comes along,” James said.

Marquez said he asks for a raise after he proves he has excelled in his tasks. He shows motivation and always gives his best.

Asked when new employees should ask for a raise, James replied: “I would have given myself plenty of time to learn the job and make sure that I was meeting the standards that have been established for the position before ever asking for more money.”

In the first three months of a job, the employer will test the employee and more than likely there will be an evaluation at one, two and three months. If the employee makes the three months, the next one will probably be in six months, depending on the company and if they decide that

this will be your probation, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

“Every week I get reviews ... on how I’m doing with my numbers so they can track me if I’m losing track,” Marquez said.

Rodriguez-Nieto said getting along with your supervisor is important because he or she is the one who is going to be conducting the evaluation.

“If he or she perceive that you are definitely an added value to the company you will stay, but if they see that you are not getting along well with him or her, that is more than likely a reflection that you are not getting along well with anybody else,” he said.

Employees who are not satisfied with their performance appraisal should have a conversation with their supervisor “to sort of understand what their expectation is versus what your achievements were so that you can get on the same page and figure out what the disconnect was,” James said.

Asked how often employees should receive training, he replied that training never ends.

“Training is something that you should aspire to have, you know, as an ongoing issue and a theme that runs throughout your career,” James said.

Fringe benefits

Most organizations hiring new graduates are going to have a canned package of benefits that they offer to all of their candidates, James said.

“There’s the standard insurance benefits, medical, life, dental, vacation, sick time,” he said.

To provide for retirement, planning is required, James said.

“From what I earn, 5 percent of it goes to my 401(k) and that’s how I plan to do it,” Marquez said.

People employed by the University of Texas System have a mandatory retirement program through the Teacher Retirement System. It is a contributory account where both the employee and the employer contribute into the retirement account for the employee, James said.

Besides a retirement program, employees should plan on doing voluntary savings, the amount of which will depend on what their discretionary income is and what their obligations are, James said.

Graduating seniors and recent graduates seeking help in obtaining a job may call the Career Center at 882-5627 in Brownsville or 665-2243 in Edinburg. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Cortez Hall 129 on the Brownville campus. In Edinburg, the center is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in Student Services Building 2.101.

I graduated, now what?
Sixth in a series

Club Spotlight

Name: National Student Speech Language Hearing Association-UTRGV Chapter (NSSLHA)

Purpose: Allows communication sciences and disorders majors to interact, network and volunteer on the UTRGV campus and throughout the community. This organization is available to undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in the field of speech-language pathology.

President: Alexis N. Martinez

Vice President: Mayra A. Garza

Secretary: Joana Ramirez

Treasurer: Luz Maria Lavallo

Co-Treasurer: Marifer Muñoz

Historian: Valeria Quintanilla

Co-Historian: Ashlyn Montemayor

Liaison: Karla Nieto

Senior Representative: Vanessa Rodriguez

Junior Representative: Dora Rivera

Adviser: Sonya Salinas, a clinical assistant professor in the Communication Disorders department

Activities: Volunteer opportunities are offered at every meeting. Socials are held throughout the semester. The organization has volunteered at 16 events on campus and throughout the community.

Meetings: Biweekly meetings are held every Thursday in EHABW 1.406.

Membership requirements: Open to all UTRGV graduate and undergraduate students. Students in good standing with the university (2.5 cumulative GPA for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate) are eligible for full local membership after attending or participating in an organization event/meeting.

Facebook: facebook.com/nsslhaatutrgvz

—Compiled by Lesley Robles



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association include (front row, from left) Treasurer Luz Maria Lavallo, Vice President Mayra A. Garza, President Alexis N. Martinez, Secretary Joana Ramirez and Junior Representative Dora Rivera. Back row: Co-Historian Ashlyn Montemayor, Historian Valeria Quintanilla, Liaison Karla Nieto, Senior Representative Vanessa Rodriguez and Co-Treasurer Marifer Muñoz.

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México celebra natalicio de Benito Juárez



Mario Gonzalez / THE RIDER GRAFICA

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El 21 de marzo marca una de las fechas más importantes y significativas del calendario mexicano. Este año, se cumple el 211 aniversario del nacimiento del abogado, político y presidente, Benito Juárez. Durante este día se cancelan las labores docentes en todo el país. Universidades de diversas partes del país adelantan clases, centros escolares de nivel preescolar y primario realizan festivales por el inicio de la primavera y funcionarios públicos de todos los ayuntamientos del país depositan ofrendas florales en sus monumentos locales.

El presidente de la república y otros empleados civiles del estado se reúnen en el Hemiciclo al Benemérito de las Américas de la Alameda Central en la ciudad de México, donde el presidente da un discurso en su honor y deposita una ofrenda floral.

Nacido el 21 de marzo de 1806 en la zona montañosa del poblado Oaxaqueño de San Pablo Guelatao, Juárez pasó a la posteridad como uno de los personajes más importantes y significativos de la historia mexicana.

“Fue el primer presidente indígena en toda América. ... De esa manera sirvió como inspiración a las clases oprimidas en México, particularmente para los indígenas, y hasta cierto punto para los mestizos también”, dijo Anthony Knopp, profesor emérito de historia.

De origen zapoteca, Juárez ocupó la presidencia de México en repetidas ocasiones (un total de 14 años aproximadamente), durante las cuales proclamó las Leyes de Reforma, que establecían la separación entre los bienes de la Iglesia y del Estado. La primera, la Ley de Nacionalización de los Bienes Eclesiásticos proclamada en 1859, impidió a la iglesia tener propiedades en México.

“Benito Juárez fue el único presidente designado como ‘Benemérito de la patria’, y es recordado principalmente por tres logros”, dijo el profesor de historia, Irving Levinson. “El primero fue su compromiso con la igualdad en

México, sus logros legislativos incluyen la Ley Juárez ... implementada en la constitución de 1857. La Ley Juárez declaró que todos los mexicanos eran iguales ante la ley.

“Previamente hubo grupos privilegiados, exentos de la misma ley que gobernaba a todos los demás. Benito Juárez fue considerado como uno de los arquitectos de la constitución mexicana de 1857. Su segundo gran logro fue su liderazgo en tiempos de guerra”.

puedo relacionar con él porque, pues él vivía en la sierra con su idioma, en su zona de confort, y tener que ir a la ciudad para pues aprender, para buscar oportunidades, para crecer como persona”, dijo Lerma. “Igual y se puede relacionar conmigo. También yo estaba en Valle Hermoso con mi familia, en mi zona de confort y pues no tenía todo pero no batallaba en ciertas cosas y tener que venirme para acá, y tener que aprender un nuevo idioma, acostumbrarme a la cultura,

la nación. En segundo lugar, Juárez y Lincoln guiaron a sus países durante guerras civiles y en tercer lugar, Juárez y Lincoln tenían alta estima el uno por el otro.

“Benito Juárez simpatizaba mucho con la causa de la Unión en la Guerra de Secesión y estaba muy en contra de la esclavitud que existía en los Estados Confederados de América. Para Juárez, la esclavitud era una versión más extrema del abuso que tantos pobres mexicanos sufrían. Lincoln, por su parte, también simpatizaba con Juárez. Las ideas de Lincoln sobre cómo debería estar estructurada una sociedad estaban muy cercanas a las de Juárez”.

En 1878, fue fundada la “Sociedad Benito Juárez de Auxilios Mutuos” con su oficina principal en Brownsville y cuyos miembros consistían en mecánicos mexicanoamericanos.

La sociedad mutualista permaneció activa hasta alrededor de 1940.

“Los mutualistas fueron la primera unión de trabajadores formada en México”, dijo Levinson. “Los mutualistas tenían un propósito muy amplio. Los miembros se unían ... para asistirse mutuamente con dificultades que requerían más esfuerzo que el que una persona podría poner. ... Conforme pasó el tiempo, las personas que trabajaban en los mutualistas decidieron unirse para abarcar cuestiones laborales, como el salario y las medidas de seguridad en el trabajo”.

Juárez irrumpió en las estructuras sociales, políticas, culturales y religiosas, señaladamente en estas últimas, para marcar la vida de los mexicanos de su tiempo. Juárez figura como uno de los héroes permanentes de México.

“Benito Juárez siempre fue visto como el defensor de los pobres y de los oprimidos, como el defensor del mexicano promedio, así que hay muchas organizaciones y lugares en México que llevan su nombre”, dijo Levinson.

Visítanos en línea:
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“ Fue el primer presidente indígena en toda América. ... De esa manera sirvió como inspiración a las clases oprimidas en México. ”

Anthony Knopp
Profesor emérito de historia

Juárez lideró al partido liberal durante la Guerra de la Reforma, guerra entre liberales y conservadores de 1857 a 1860, y la Guerra de la Intervención Francesa de 1862 a 1867.

“Como resultado de esto, la ley Juárez entró en efecto y los mexicanos recibieron libertades civiles completas y hubo una firme separación de la iglesia y del estado”, dijo Levinson.

“... Lo que tenemos aquí es el liderazgo de Juárez durante la Guerra de la Reforma y también su resistencia a la invasión francesa.

“La tercera razón por la que Juárez es tan favorablemente recordado en México es por el enorme empuje que hizo de su vida. Nació como un indígena zapoteca pobre en el estado de Oaxaca y se alzó de esa obscura posición para convertirse en el presidente de la república”.

De la misma manera, la estudiante de segundo año de matemáticas, Andrea Lerma, dijo sentirse identificada con Juárez.

“Yo tengo entendido que no hablaba español castellano. ... Su idioma era pues el zapoteco. ... Siento que me

porque aunque esté cerca de aquí del Valle de Texas, si es diferente, la gente es diferente”.

Es importante destacar que Juárez no se salvó de críticas y controversias.

“Hay algunos aspectos controversiales de Juárez también. ... Hay gente que dice que básicamente se convirtió en un caudillo, que continuó en el cargo, que se volvió menos tolerante de lo que había sido previamente”, dijo Knopp. “También hay gente que dice que estaba en proceso de disminuir a la iglesia católica. ... Hay críticos de Juárez también, pero cuando echas un vistazo a México ... en cada ciudad parece haber un monumento de Benito Juárez, ya sea en una plaza o en algún lugar de la ciudad definitivamente”.

Para muchas personas, existen muchas similitudes entre Juárez y el presidente Abraham Lincoln.

“Juárez y el presidente Lincoln son muy similares por un número de razones”, dijo Levinson. “En primer lugar, ambos hombres fueron muy pobres de nacimiento y con su trabajo escalaron hasta el cargo más alto de

Flute concert kicks off week of music



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistant Professor Krista Jobson plays the flute last year in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Nubia Reyna THE RIDER

For more than 30 years, Patron of the Arts events have entertained students and the Rio Grande Valley community. This week is no exception.

Today, Assistant Professor Krista Jobson will perform a flute concert featuring Lecturers Hector Rodriguez on the guitar and Dino Mulic on the piano at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

"We are going to have a lot of variety," Jobson said. "We are hoping to provide a concert that is enjoyable for the audience of all ages."

She started playing flute about 20 years ago, when she was in the sixth grade.

Jobson said she would always listen to music when she was growing up, and always had music "around her."

"My mother would tell stories while we listened to classical music, and the sound of the flute was always a bird, or a fairy or a princess and I thought, 'Oh, my goodness, I have to play that,'" she said.

Besides performing across the United States, Jobson has also performed in France, Mexico, Germany, Puerto Rico, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

"Music enriches our life no matter what," Jobson said. "Music is really interesting as an art, because it is an art form that is created at the moment."

Jobson encourages students and the community to attend her concert.

"Patron of the Arts is wonderful," she said.

Jobson said it is fantastic that Patron

of the Arts is able to bring classical performances to the Valley.

Also taking place this week:

--The Guitar Ensemble Festival begins with a performance by Thibaut Garcia, a Guitar Foundation of America competition winner, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville.

--The festival continues with Jason Vieaux, an American virtuoso classical guitarist, at the same time Friday in the TSC Arts Center.

--Guest artists Walter Gray of the Seattle Symphony and Andrew Smith of the University of Nevada Las Vegas will perform with Assistant Professor Katherine Decker and Lecturers Stacy Kwak and Tido Janssen in the Pan American Cello Festival: Showcase Recital, scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Performing Arts Complex.

--Guitarist Grisha Goryachev, a Russian virtuoso, flamenco and classical guitarist, will close the Guitar Festival at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the TSC Arts Center.

--The Pan American Cello Festival: Ensemble Concert will take place at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Complex.

Ticket prices for each event are available at patron.utrgv.edu.

"I always see these events as a way to relieve myself from all the stress I have from classes," said special education sophomore Jaqueline Alvarado. "They are always entertaining, surprising and really beautiful."

Patron of the Arts Program Coordinator Valerie Hernandez said the program sends out weekly emails

about its upcoming events.

To receive the email from Patron of the Arts, subscribe at the Patron of the Arts website.

"We have a lot of free events coming up," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said the free events will help students and community members who do not have those extra \$5 to attend the events hosted by Patron of the Arts.

For the list of free events, go to patron.utrgv.edu.

Musical notes



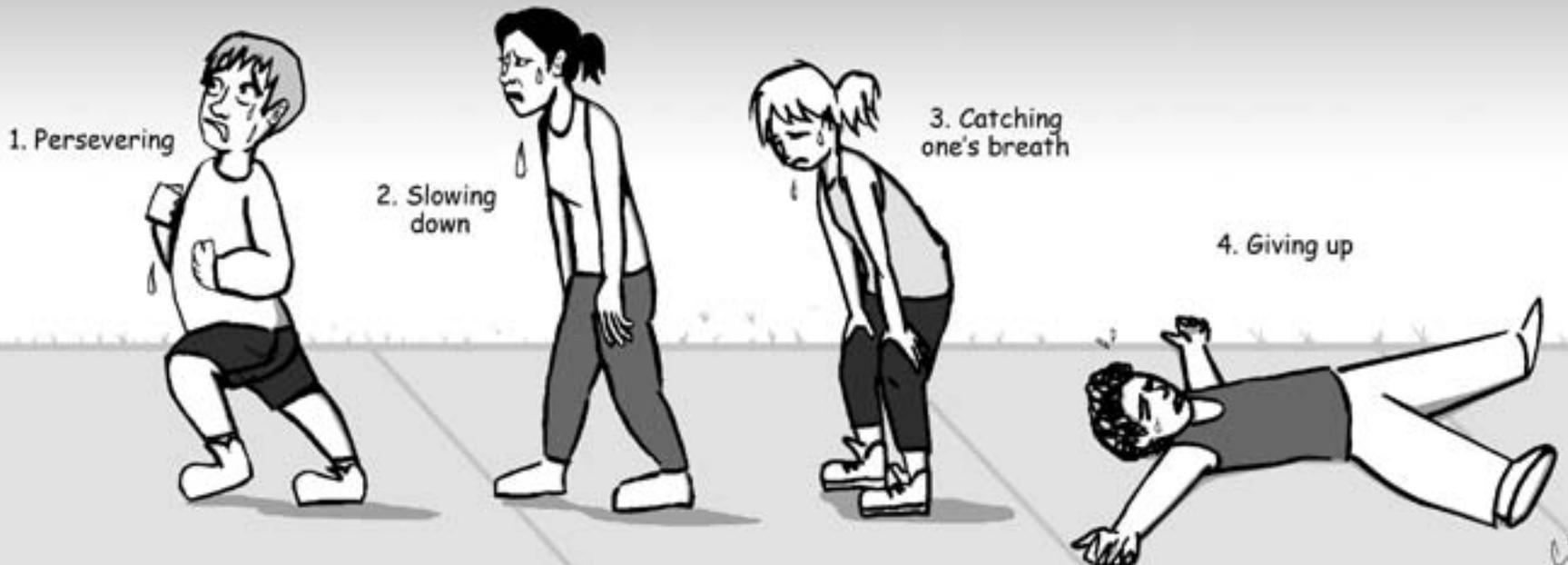
ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

William Haugeberg plays the trombone, accompanied by Eric Jenkins, during a concert presented March 8 by the UTRGV School of Music in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville.

Trials and Trifles

By Clarissa Martinez

The four stages of an early morning jogging class :



SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Mentoring, conducted the meetings, going over election guidelines with the candidates.

The elections committee is made up of Marquez along with one student representative from Brownsville, Alexander Pepping, and one from Edinburg, Paolo Ferrel. The committee establishes the guidelines and oversees the election to ensure it is fair and runs smoothly.

Marquez said having a combination of returning members and fresh faces is critical to the SGA's work.

"You want to have a balance between seasoned, experienced students and those coming in so they can pass on the torch," he said. "Some of the initiatives they work on spans over years. It's critically important that you have a good fresh batch of faces so they can work with the veterans and that's a healthy cycle. The good thing is that there's always students' wanting to take part in SGA."

Online voting will begin at 8 a.m. April 4 via myUTRGV and will close at 11:59 p.m. April 6. Election results will be announced April 7.

Students, however, will only be able to vote for certain candidates depending on their corresponding campus and college, except for executive tickets.

An executive ticket consists of the candidates for president and a vice president from each campus. All students are able to vote.

A Meet the Candidates Fair is scheduled from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. March 28 and 30 on Brownsville's Main Courtyard and the Edinburg Student Union Commons.

Olivarez said election time brings a sense of renewal and energy to the SGA and future members.

"There are new incoming leaders that we have the opportunity to work with," she said. "The onboarding and training period is very important, so when they take office in May, they're more prepared and understand the responsibilities that come with their new positions. So, I always see the students with new energy and they always have new ideas, so I'm in a position to support them with those."

For more information regarding SGA, visit its V-Link page or on Facebook at UTRGV Student Government Association.

--Jesus Sanchez contributed to this report.

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Friday, April 7, 2017
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9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Growing together

Women's golf gets contribution from players near and far



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Sophomore Michelle Moroles reads the green before she putts March 7 during the UTRGV Invitational at the McAllen Country Club. Moroles led the team with a three-round score of 229, putting her in a tie for eighth place.

Nathaniel Mata SPORTS EDITOR

Growth is the keyword for women's golf Head Coach Risé Alexander and her group.

"It's been quite a two and a half-three years of growth for us. We're getting to the point where we're seeing substantial growth. Our scoring average has gone down ... and over the year it's definitely fallen quite a bit," Alexander said, referring to her team's low scores.

The difference between Fall 2015 and Fall 2016 was a 20-stroke improvement, according to goUTRGV.com.

Those low scores were on display earlier in March when the women's golf team hosted the UTRGV Invitational for a second straight season. Last year, UTRGV finished in seventh place, with a team three-round score of 967.

The top finishers last year--Geraldine Torrellas, Emma

Mesta and Daniela Mendez--all tied for 19th with scores of 241.

The 2017 version of the same event, again at the McAllen Country Club, saw the team score drop to 941.

It's difficult to compare scores from 12 months apart, with conditions playing a factor. However, 241 was the best score in 2016, and in 2017 six of the eight golfers reached 241 or shot lower.

Sharyland High School alum Michelle Moroles led the team. The sophomore tied for eighth place, her third-round 74 cemented her place among top-10 finishers.

Moroles, who finished with a 229, said doing well at a course she's familiar with was a special experience. Despite a strong tournament, she also looked at getting even better.

"It was nice to have our home course, especially

because I'm local. It was nice to have family out, it was nice energy, nice environment," Moroles said. "I know I can have a lot more improvement. Everything's about the process and trusting the process. Every tournament is an opportunity just to build off of it, you learn from it, your mistakes, what you can improve on in the next tournament."

Women's golf has three upperclassmen. Seniors Torrellas and Kasey Canales take the course for their final collegiate seasons. Jessica Young, a junior, rounds out the group.

The elder golfers, however, are outnumbered by youth. Five golfers are underclassmen, including a strong group of sophomores with Moroles, Mesta and Mendez.

"It bodes well for the program. You want to make sure you're getting kids in that are committed and really love the game of golf, and these kids are," Coach Alexander said after the UTRGV Invitational. "They're young to golf and they really want to improve, very coachable."

Another standout sophomore has been Indian national Shweta Mansingh. On the first day of late February's Islander Classic, Mansingh set the program record with a five-under par 67. She led the tournament for two rounds before falling into a seventh-place finish.

"I guess the key thing is you don't really try, it just happens. You stick to your process, you trust the process. As Coach says, play one shot at a time," Mansingh said, switching gears to speak on adjusting to the game in America. "I believe golf is the same all over, but it's the course and conditions and the pressure you play in. I think India is coming up with good standard golf courses, but they're not that available. I've had a great team to adjust with. They've helped me out a lot and Coach has been great."

Alexander, who is in her 27th year of coaching at the collegiate level, received the 2016 Gladys Palmer Meritorious Service Award. She said the team has what it takes to be great, but talent alone isn't enough.

"The better you get, the harder it is to get better," Alexander said. "I don't like the word talented. They are talented but they have a lot of potential, they work very hard and they're learning the game. They're really young to golf, so it's something that they got a lot more experiences to have."

UTRGV has two more tournaments remaining before conference. Next up, they will be in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land March 27-28 to participate in the Houston Baptist University Husky Invitational.

The Western Athletic Conference Tournament will be held April 19-21 in Mission Hills, Kan.



Sophomore Shweta Mansingh follows through on her tee-off swing March 7 during the UTRGV Invitational at the McAllen Country Club. Mansingh finished the tournament with a three-round score of 241.

Exploring the field



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER PHOTOS
Jose Luis Lopez (center), a Workforce Solutions Cameron facilitator, introduces himself to Luis Lopez, UTRGV International Education Services recruiter, during the Spring Career Expo held March 8 on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is Alexandra Huerta, Workforce Solutions Cameron community engagement and communications coordinator.



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Valdez, UTRGV-ROTC on-campus recruiter, explains the process of joining the National Guard to Erica Gonzales during the Spring Career Expo held March 8 in Brownsville. More than 30 companies and organizations attended the expo hosted by the UTRGV Career Center.



Firefighter Jim Richardson speaks to a student about the challenges of his job during the Spring Career Expo in Brownsville.



Jose Chapa (left), a special agent for Homeland Security Investigations, explains some of the job requirements to students during the Spring Career Expo in Brownsville.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER
Psychology junior Elsa Torres speaks with Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist Dan LaConte, of The Center for Health Care Services, about career opportunities within his organization during the Spring Career Expo held March 8 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS
Psychology senior Jennifer Cantu speaks to Dan LaConte, a representative for the Center for Health Care Services, during the UTRGV Career Expo held March 7 on the Edinburg campus.



Civil engineering sophomore Angel Sarmiento speaks to Toyota representative Ena Capucion during the UTRGV Career Expo held March 7 in Edinburg.



Political science sophomore Roberto Diaz speaks to a company representative during the UTRGV Career Expo held March 7 in Edinburg.