

THE RIDER

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 2, ISSUE 24

STAFF VOICE TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS

Bailey updates employees on university issues

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com**Jesus Sanchez**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During Wednesday's Staff Senate meeting in which UTRGV President Guy Bailey addressed the state's hiring freeze and budget shortfall, the school's probationary status and an employee

buyout program, staff raised concerns about transportation among campuses.

Bailey briefly addressed the meeting held in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón and streamed to the Harlingen and Edinburg campuses to update university staff members on several issues.

Rick Anderson, executive



Guy Bailey

vice president of Finance and Administration, said the retention and recruitment of students play a major role in the university's revenue and cost effectiveness, saying it is not only a faculty job, but a staff member's duty as well.

"We all need to spend as much time on the revenue side as much as we do on the cost side and that means we

recruit and retain students," Anderson said. "UTRGV is a place where we want students from the Valley and outside the Valley to come to."

Jaime Richeson, Student Rights and Responsibilities senior program coordinator, asked Anderson what was the cost effectiveness of students who have to travel between

See **STAFF**, Page 10

UTRGV: We're fixing probation problem

Bryan Ramos

NEWS EDITOR

While the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley remains accredited, the institution brass is working to fix the school's probationary status.

In December, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges placed UTRGV under a yearlong probation for failure to demonstrate compliance with several accreditation standards.

SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey and Deputy President Janna Arney met with SACSCOC officials in early February, where they spoke about the next steps in the process.

"We talked about the next steps and moving forward and the kind of things we needed to do to get off probation," Bailey said in a phone interview with *The Rider* last Thursday. "We had a great discussion and we're moving forward with their suggestions. They're being extremely helpful, so things are



Students walk along the covered walkway near the University Library last Tuesday on the Edinburg campus.

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

going quite well."

Arney said "SACSCOC is absolutely committed, as we are, to working together through this process."

Bailey said some of the technical issues about the transition have already been resolved with SACSCOC. What the university is doing right now is handling some of the communication issues, most of which had to do with the website.

"Currently, what we're doing is revising some of the things on our website that were inaccurate," Bailey said. "Here's the problem: When we put our website together, we did it at various times beginning in 2014. By the time we opened as a university, things had changed dramatically and we had not had time to update the website. SACSCOC pointed out some inaccuracies in the website, so we're scrubbing that, going through and revising the website and doing things like that."

Havidán Rodríguez, UTRGV provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, explained what the issues were regarding the university website.

See **PROBATION**, Page 6

UTRGV's first official class ring designed by students



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

The official UTRGV class ring features specific college seal designs and is available for purchase at both university bookstores. Graduating students who place an order by Friday will be able to attend the class ring ceremony May 6 and will receive a free cap and gown with their purchase.

Nubia Reyna

THE RIDER

On Thursday, the UTRGV class ring was finally revealed in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón in Brownsville and the Student Union Commons in Edinburg.

Nearly 200 people attended the event to see a video of the first official class ring, which was designed by UTRGV students.

"I would like to recognize all the contributors in the development of the UTRGV first official class ring," Student Government Association President Denise Molina-Castro said. "... Thank you for making this day possible."

To purchase the ring, students must have completed a minimum 75 semester credit hours.

"Those who purchase a ring will receive a free cap and gown," Molina-



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Donna Sweigart (left), a creative design co-lead associate professor, and art and jewelry design students Vilma Flores, Gloria Reyes and Oscar O. Padron pose in front of the College of Fine Arts class ring last Thursday on the Edinburg campus.

Castro said.

She said that more information about the "extremely unique and beautifully stylish" ring will be revealed later.

"The ring reflects the university's spirit," Molina-Castro said.

Even though President Guy Bailey could not attend the ceremony, he appeared on a video made for the ring reveal.

"Every university has a ring that rep-

resents what it meant to the students," Bailey said. "Those rings are written symbols."

The president also said that what is most important to him is the fact that students were involved in the process of creating and designing the ring.

"That's meaningful to me and I hope it will be to you as well," he said.

Art jewelry design student Gloria Reyes said the architecture on the cam-

See **RING**, Page 6

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.

- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jesus Sanchez
- NEWS EDITOR
Bryan Ramos
- PHOTO EDITOR
Mario Gonzalez
- SPORTS EDITOR
Nathaniel Mata
- ONLINE EDITOR
Karina Aguirre
- SPANISH EDITOR
Rebeca Ortiz
- SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Sergio Garcia
- CARTOONIST
Clarissa Martinez
- REPORTERS
Monika Garza
Macarena Martinez
Nubia Reyna
Marie Vallangca
- COPY EDITORS
P.J. Hernandez
Javier Vargas
- PHOTOGRAPHERS
Michelle Espinoza
Lesley Robles
Gabriel Mata
Ana Cahuiche
Sarah Carvajal
- ADVERTISING SALES
MANAGER
Leslie Medrano
- ADVERTISING SALES
REPRESENTATIVES
Jessica Mendez
Alexandra Mendoza
Oscar Boeta
- DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS
Gustavo Garcia
J. Edward Moreno
- STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo
- STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM
ADVISER
Carina Alcantara
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Ana Sanchez

CONTACT:
EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-2541
Fax: (956) 665-7122
BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 1.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176
Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

© 2017 The Rider

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

The Rider will not publish an issue on April 3, as its staff will be attending the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention in Dallas this week. The newspaper will resume publishing on April 10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Cesar Chavez Blood Drive
The **Association of Migrant Students** will host the **National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive** from noon to 5 p.m. today through Friday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email aracely.alanis01@utrgv.edu.
Vaquero Ice Cream Bar
The **Student Union** will serve free cups of ice cream with trimmings from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.
Flute concert
Brielle Frost, a UTRGV lecturer specializing in flute and flute ensemble, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3471.

Tuesday
Hijabi For A Day
The **Muslim Students’ Association** will celebrate **Islam Awareness Week** with a series of events: a **hijab tabling** from noon to 1:30 p.m. today in the Student Union Patio on the Edinburg campus, where students can learn more about the hijab and try it out for themselves, and henna tattooing for anyone interested at a cost of \$5 to \$10; a **calligraphy and Islamic art workshop** from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. Wednesday in Student Academic Center Room 1.112A in Edinburg; and, an **interfaith workshop, games and opportunities** to learn about

everyone’s faith from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the University Center Ballroom in Edinburg. For more information, email ameera.khan01@utrgv.edu.
Euphonium concert
Jonathan Watkins, a teaching fellow at the University of North Texas, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3471.

Wednesday
Spring Jam
The **Student Union** invites students and all music bands in UTRGV to celebrate the **Spring Jam** from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 365-7989.

Ask a DREAMer
The **Minority Affairs Council** will host an information panel that will serve as a base for resources, events, invitations and information regarding undocumented students at UTRGV from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email nicolas.har001@utrgv.edu.

Union Canvas
The **Student Union** invites students to relax and let go of stress through painting from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.


Thursday
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.
SummerResearchWorkshop
The **American Association of University Women in STEM** will conduct a workshop on summer research opportunities at UTRGV from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.242 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email khzarzosa@gmail.com.
FIFA 17 Tournament
Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc. will host a **FIFA 17 Tournament** from 6 to 9 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.112A/B/C on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email lawrenceearl.pabalin01@utrgv.edu.
Young Dems Pool
TheProgressiveYoungDemocrats at UTRGV invites the student body to relax at the pool and relieve stress from 6 to 9 p.m. in the University Recreation Building on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email mimosa.thomas01@utrgv.edu.

Friday
Career Workshop
The **English Education Committee** will sponsor a free workshop for students planning to take certification exams to become English teachers in Texas from 1 to 4 p.m. in ELABS 256 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email amy.cummins@utrgv.edu.
--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 6 and 19.


March 6
12:33 a.m.: Officers responded to a water leak in the Texas Southmost College Science and Engineering Technology Building in Brownsville. It was determined that an ice machine was the source of the water leak. Two UTRGV offices located on the first floor were affected. Both were cleaned by custodial staff.
6:43 a.m.: A staff member reported hygiene materials and Bluetooth headphones stolen from her locker room in the University Recreation Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.
8:47 a.m.: A staff member reported a desktop computer, valued at \$877.18, missing after a department inventory was conducted. Several computers were sent to the IT Department for maintenance. Upon return, one computer was missing, with the IT Department having no knowledge of it.
March 7
1:55 p.m.: A student reported that she had not received her financial aid check from Fall 2015 and that it had been cashed by an unknown person. The case is under investigation.
9:52 p.m.: A student accidentally burned his right index finger while soldering in a classroom in Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus. The officer observed light redness on the upper left side of the student’s index finger. The student declined medical assistance.
March 8
1:03 a.m.: A staff member reported that as he secured a set of doors at the Texas Southmost College Garza Gymnasium, the center door mullion came loose and struck his forehead, causing swelling. He declined emergency medical services and completed a UTRGV Health and Safety Injury report.
10:35 a.m.: A student reported being assaulted/forcibly fondled (unwanted breast contact) by another student on Feb. 18 in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.
11:26 a.m.: A student who locked his bicycle to an exterior stairwell in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus reported that it was stolen

between 9 p.m. March 7 and 9 a.m. March 8.
12:36 p.m.: A staff member reported a UTRGV-owned Wi-Fi hotspot device lost at a meeting in San Benito.
1:24 p.m.: A staff member reported that his vehicle’s window was shattered while it was parked in Lot E6 on the Edinburg campus. Surveillance video confirmed the damage was caused by a rock thrown from a weed trimmer while grounds personnel were working in the area.
March 9
12:44 p.m.: A staff member reported that a university-owned Surface Pro tablet was stolen from an office cabinet in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The tablet was last seen Feb. 17.
March 10
6:15 a.m.: Officers responded to an unknown suspicious man seen outside the women’s dorms in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. A Residence Life staff member reported that the same man and another man attempted to enter the dorms through the front entrance around 5 a.m. March 10, but were denied entry.
12:29 p.m.: A UTRGV Parking and Transportation staff member reported the theft of a \$494 wheel lock that was placed on a student’s vehicle for unpaid parking fines in Lot E35 on the Edinburg campus. The student later contacted the department and agreed to return the item to University Police.
5:30 p.m.: An officer found two students having consensual sexual relations in a vehicle parked in the corner of Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. The students were issued a warning citation for disorderly conduct and the UTRGV Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities was notified.
March 12
7:05 p.m.: A student reported that his gaming console and accessories were stolen between 6 a.m. March 8 and 7:05 p.m. March 12 from The Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The exterior door to the apartment may have been unlocked. A Clery Act Timely Warning was issued. The case is under investigation.
March 13
4:23 p.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported losing two

university keys at his residence.
March 14
7 p.m.: University Police arrested a man after he allegedly physically assaulted his wife, a UTRGV student, at Performing Arts Complex C on the Edinburg campus. The student reported that her husband arrived on campus and an argument escalated. The man left the scene before the officers arrived. The student had a visible injury and was evaluated by emergency medical personnel. She declined medical services and was provided the “Notice to Adult Victims of Family Violence” information. The suspect was booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail and issued a criminal trespass warning. The UTRGV office of Institutional Equity was advised of the Violence Against Women Act offense.
March 15
2:57 a.m.: A student reported that she was assaulted while visiting friends in The Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. A resident of the apartment became upset and began threatening her with a conducted electrical weapon. The weapon never came in contact with the student and she was eventually able to exit the apartment. The case is under investigation.
March 16
10:21 a.m.: A staff member reported losing a key to a university-owned vehicle in the Community Engagement and Student Success Building in Edinburg. The last time the key was used was March 3.
March 17
10:45 a.m.: A staff member reported losing three university keys and one access card on the Brownsville campus. The last time they were used was March 8.
March 19
1:30 a.m.: Two students reported seeing two men writing on the concrete sidewalk in the area of Health Affairs Building West and the North side of the Quad on the Edinburg campus. The students walked by again about an hour later and the whole area had chalk writings. A work order has been placed to remove the writings.
--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

Veterans Resource Fair scheduled

Marie Vallanca
THE RIDER

UTRGV will host a Veterans Resource Fair April 6 in Brownsville and April 7 in Edinburg to start a network of agencies for veterans attending the university. It will be a tabling event with about 30 agencies where veterans can learn about opportunities that are available after they graduate. “We partner all the time with community resources and campus resources that are available not only for our veterans but our family members, our military families,” said Elda Arriaga, manager of the UTRGV Veterans Services Center. “So we’re bringing those individuals into our campus to promote their agencies and to give opportunities to our veterans and military families to learn more about them and to see seek assistance through their services.”

At this event, veterans will also be able to meet other veterans on campus and feel the camaraderie they had while still in the service, meet people they were enlisted



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the UTRGV Veterans and Military Success Center. The center assists those who have served our country and are committed to helping military students and their dependents start or continue their education.

with and learn about the possibilities available upon finishing their academic career.

Representatives from Hidalgo County assistance programs will attend the

event and provide information on housing and educational benefits through the UTRGV Military and Veterans Success Center office and other services.

The Texas Veterans

Commission and the Women Veterans Outreach will be on the Brownsville campus during the fair.

Both campuses will have the Veterans Affairs Mobile Vet Center, which is based in

McAllen and travels across South Texas to offer services, such as “counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma, bereavement counseling, marriage and family counseling, and resources like VA benefits information and suicide prevention referrals,” according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website.

Representatives from academic programs popular among veterans, such as criminal justice, psychology, rehabilitation services and social work, are invited to the event.

“It’s a university outreach event but these veterans are able to share that information and that knowledge that they gain with other veterans in the community,” Arriaga said.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the event. In Edinburg, the fair will take place from 9 a.m. to noon in the UTRGV Ballroom and from 1 to 4 p.m. in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus.

For more information, call 665-7934 in Edinburg, 882-8980 in Brownsville or email veteranservices@utrgv.edu.

School of Medicine gains 56 residents

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

On July 1, 56 new medical residents will be placed within six residency programs and community outreach opportunities at the UTRGV School of Medicine.

“We are very excited to have new residents coming and new programs starting,” said Steven Lieberman, UTRGV School of Medicine interim dean. “We are especially excited with the individuals who matched with us. These are very high-quality applicants. ... We just cannot wait until the new residents get here.”

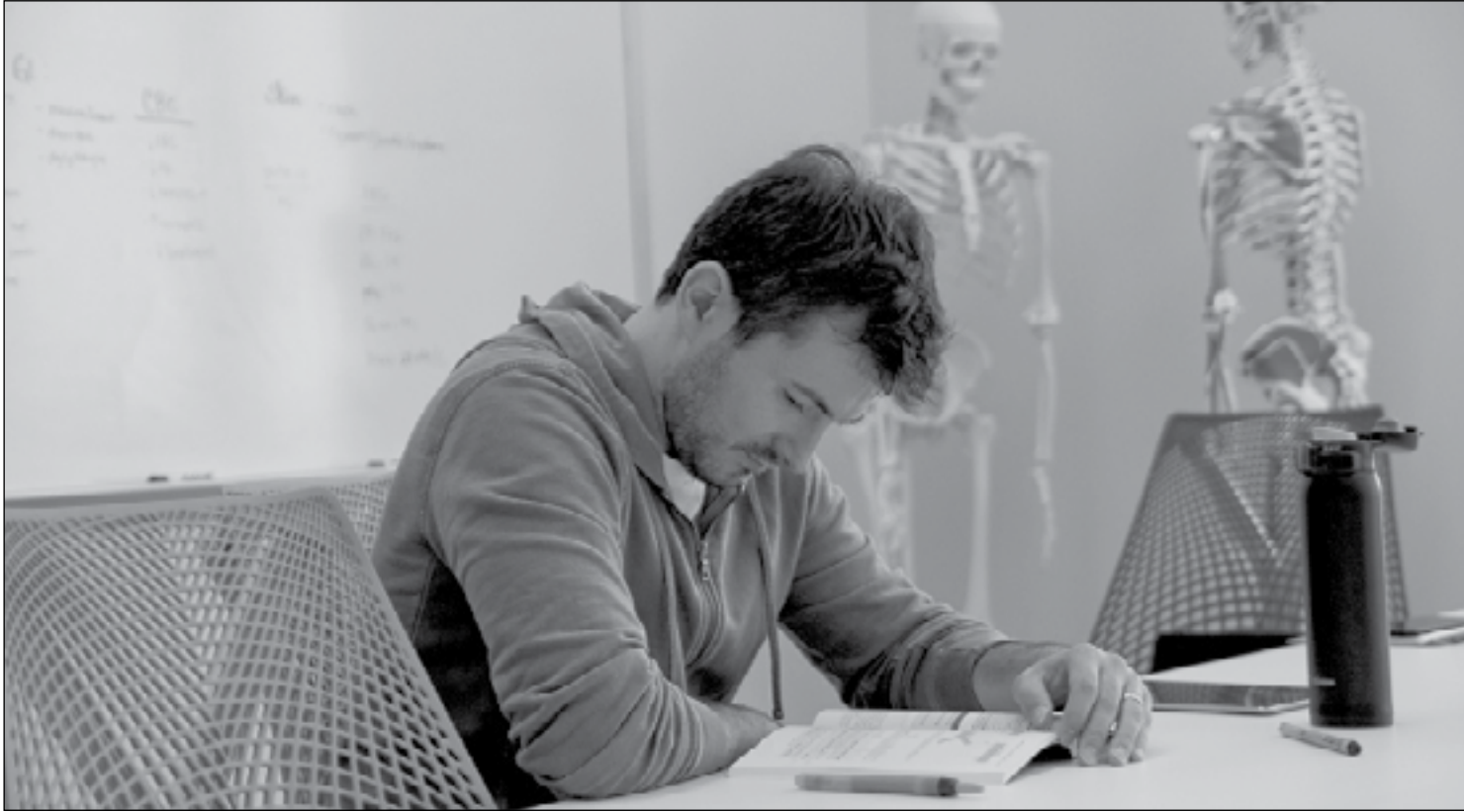
The School of Medicine added three new residency programs this year: preventive medicine, a family residency program at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco and psychiatry.

“Each specialty has a specific number of years of training,” Lieberman said. “For instance, family medicine is three years, internal medicine is three years, obstetrics and gynecology is four years, general surgery is five years, preventive medicine is two years and psychiatry is four years. So, those are the specialties that we have now.”

Match Day, held March 17 this year, normally takes place on the third Friday of March, according to the UTRGV website.

During Match Day, the UTRGV School of Medicine received:

- two residents to the preventive medicine program
- six residents to the psychiatry program
- four residents to the obstetrics and gynecology program
- six residents to the family medicine at Knapp Medical Center
- four residents to the general surgery program at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg
- six residents each for the



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Medical student Eugene Postevka reads a book in a study room last Tuesday at the School of Medicine building on the Edinburg campus.

family medicine programs at McAllen Medical Center and Doctors Hospital at Renaissance

--22 residents for the internal medicine programs at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen and at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance. “Residency training is primarily hospital based. ... They also do outpatient work and that will be at a variety of locations around the Valley,” Lieberman said.

The new residents will begin their orientation June 22 and 23.

Andrey Shalomov, a new

UTRGV resident in the psychiatry program, said he is impressed with the postgraduate training that the university offers.

“ We are especially excited with the individuals who matched with us. These are very high-quality applicants. ... We just cannot wait until the new residents get here. ”

Steven Lieberman
School of Medicine Interim Dean

“It is an amazingly setup program,” said Shalomov, who graduated from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. “I am really impressed that they have new equipment that will transfer to the next

generations. ... The simulation model that they have in the building is brand new. This is something that I haven’t seen before. I was really impressed

with the program and the design of it. It is a very community-involved program.”

Lieberman said the match process, which lasts five days, included applications and interviews that the residents are required to pass.

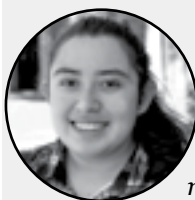
“Once medical students decide what medical field they want to go into and they send out applications, they are invited to interviews at programs that they are

interested in,” he said. “Following the interviews, students have a list of programs where they have been interviewed and then, [residents] rank [the programs] from their highest to lowest priority, and the programs list the applicants that they interviewed from their highest to lowest priority.”

“All of this goes to the computer and the computer creates the match list and the student always gets the highest-ranked choice on their list to which they were accepted. ... The match process lasts five days. On [March 13], students who didn’t match are notified and they go through a special rematch process over the next few days, where there are many matches to fill and connect unmatched students to unfilled training programs.”

Campus Q&A

What question would you ask UTRGV President Guy Bailey and why?



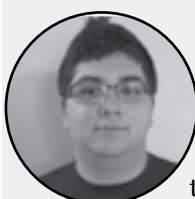
“¿Usted cree que la ayuda para los estudiantes internacionales es suficiente, o cree que necesitamos más? ¿Usted qué opina? ... Porque siendo un estudiante internacional me he dado cuenta que no hay tanta ayuda para nosotros y la ayuda a veces es inesperada, así que muchos vienen con dudas de, ‘¿Quién me va ayudar? ¿Cómo voy a pagar?’ Porque muchos de nosotros no calificamos para ayuda financiera, comparado con los que sí son residentes o ciudadanos, así que quisiera saber su opinión acerca de eso. Si él sabe cómo está el sistema con nosotros que somos internacionales ¿o no?”

Celeste Moreno
Estudiante de psicología de tercer año

“Is anything going to be done about [Brownsville] parking for this coming semester? Because more people are going to keep coming to the university, so it’s going to be a constant problem just parking here on campus. Also, I know there is going to be a new education building as well. How is that going to affect our federal grants? What should we watch out for? ... Because I honestly don’t know, especially with the new presidency.”

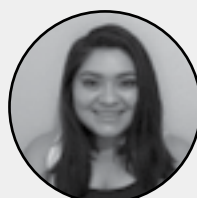


Jesus Galindo
Political science junior



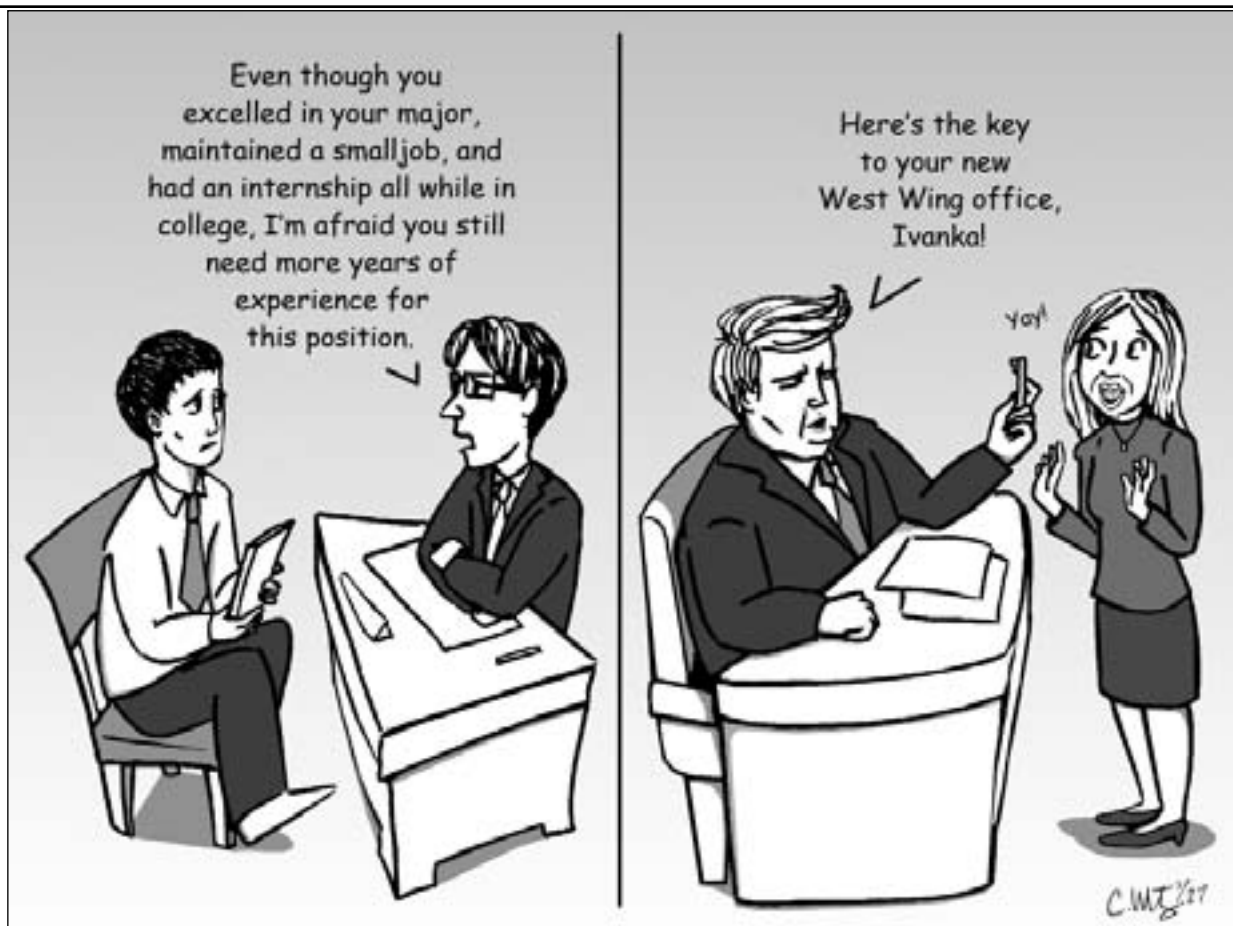
Juan Fernandez
History freshman

“I guess I would ask him what his plans are for the school. I know we’re getting those new buildings. I want to know if there is anymore expansion in the future.”



Sarai Badillo
Biology junior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



The technology we make is what breaks us



Javier Vargas
COPY EDITOR

These days, we live in an age of convenience. If we want to listen to music, we simply use our phone and find the song we want. The same also goes for food, entertainment and social interaction.

With the astonishing rise of social media and other technologies, came the fall of human connection and morality. Nowadays, a person’s own value of their life can be measured by how many likes their post on Facebook has or by how much skin they’re willing to show in a picture. Go to any place with people, and you will see their eyes glued to the small screen on their hand, more interested in what someone a thousand miles has to say than the person sitting in front of them.

“It has become appallingly apparent that our technology has exceeded our humanity,” said the genius known as Albert Einstein. The more we focus on advancing our technology and creating ways to excel human evolution with machinery, we begin to lose sight of our own humanity and become disconnected as a species. As we’ve seen in every single sci-fi movie, the evolution of technology can either help us grow, or completely annihilate not only us but also everything on Earth.

That notion may be slightly exaggerated but there is some truth to it. We’ve seen what technology can do to provide for us; however, in recent history, we’ve witnessed firsthand what it can do to cause massive amounts of death and destruction. It is also that fear that keeps people awake at night, knowing that one day, humanity will lose all sense of value and become as cold as the metal of the atom bombs that fell on the unsuspecting residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on a warm summer day in August 1945.

It’s an inevitability that humanity will continue to evolve along with the technology that surrounds us, and it will be a sad day when we allow ourselves to become part of the machines we’ve created. As a species, we strive for greatness in order to achieve the sense that we control our own fate. Regarding technology, we use it as an end to justify the means; we use it to do good in order to repent for past atrocities.

Other groups and factions use it to further their own agendas, uncaring of the collateral damage their environment sustains, such as North Korea going on the warpath, testing its own arsenal of nuclear weapons, threatening to plunge the world into chaos and reduce our civilization to ashes.

Only we have the power to stop the key from turning, to stop ourselves from allowing the very technology that we made to break our society. “Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty,” Einstein said.

Submit a Letter to the Editor



Letters policy: *The Rider* encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and content. Letters for *The Rider* may be sent to TheRider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author. Opinions expressed in *The Rider* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Rider* or UTRGV administrators.



Away from home but close to success

Finland native finds opportunities in Texas

Sergio Garcia
THE RIDER

UTRGV graduate and former soccer player Rico Laitinen is living and working in the United States thanks to his F-1 student visa. Although it's temporary, he plans to stay in Texas.

Despite the majority of students at UTRGV being Hispanic, Laitinen never felt alienated nor found it difficult to adapt to the culture.

"Not at all, I think it was even easier [to adapt]," said Laitinen, a native of Finland. "All the people were really outgoing and they were really friendly and helpful."

Laitinen's family resides in Finland, but for him, part of his family lives here with him.

"Everybody lives over there; my family is just my Finnish teammates right now," the alumnus said. "It's kind of like a small family for me when my real family is back in the other side of the world."

Despite difficulties, Laitinen graduated last December with a general studies degree and three minors: business administration, marketing and kinesiology.

"The reason I chose those minors is because I wanted to do business but as well as do something with health related to soccer and sports, so that's why I picked up the kinesiology," he said. "If I had just graduated marketing or business, I couldn't have had a chance to study anything related to the human body or athletics or lifestyle."

Life as a student athlete may have been difficult, but he was able to stay focused. He also kept high standards, excelling on and off the field.

"It was a challenge but I was able to

I graduated, now what?
Page 11

balance it really well, even when we were on the road," Laitinen said. "I took the time and I always did all my homework on time. I was always trying to take care of school, even when we were traveling and things like that. I was able to do well and I ended up having all A's in my classes at UTRGV."

With Laitinen's student visa, he will be able to work full time in the U.S. for a period of one year after graduation under a program called Optional



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

2016 UTRGV graduate Rico Laitinen works for Bert Ogden BMW under an F-1 student visa. He hopes to continue working in the U.S. after his Optional Practical Training (OPT) ends.

Practical Training (OPT).

"It's kind of a like an extended internship, if you will," the UTRGV graduate said. "It gives you the option to stay here and get work experience and at the same time get to know what real life is like."

Laitinen works at Bert Ogden BMW in McAllen as a client adviser. However, since the work permit is temporary, he is required to obtain a sponsorship from the company if he wishes to stay employed.

Patrick Fralick, general sales manager at Bert Ogden BMW in McAllen and Laitinen's boss, said it is the first time that the branch office employs an international student under an F-1 visa and even though they have had employees from Mexico, Venezuela, and other countries in South America, he is the first employee

they have had from Finland.

Fralick said Laitinen has been a great asset for the company, especially because he is always trying to learn and progress as an employee and as a person.

"He is a very courageous person," Fralick said. "Not a lot of people would travel across the world to pursue a career or an education. He is a great individual. He's got a real smart head on his shoulders, he picks up on things really quickly. He's never said 'no' when presented with different tasks, always excited about learning more and moving forward."

Regardless of what happens in the near future, Laitinen plans to acquire a master's degree in business administration.

"I definitely plan to stay here in Texas," Laitinen said. "At work, there's

always competition for job openings, so you never know where you are going to end up going. Right now, I can't think of a place where I want to stay, but definitely in Texas. Not sure if South Texas, but I want to stay in Texas after I get my master's and work in a large company, kind of like in the management field."

As an international student and a former UTRGV soccer player, Laitinen has had the opportunity to visit many states but Texas is still his favorite place.

"I love the weather here, the palm trees, but the most important thing is people," Laitinen said. "People are great here. They are really friendly and helpful; it feels like a second home to me."

Social Work brings more hands-on opportunities

Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

This month, UTRGV celebrated social work with activities ranging from a conference, to workshops to help aspiring social workers address issues of diversity.

"We are here to expand the school of Social Work in Brownsville," Lecturer Jack White said.

After the scheduled Department of Social Work faculty meeting last Wednesday, three guest speakers expressed their need for help from the social work faculty and students to fill positions as interns, employees and volunteers.

"We brought in people who were trying to communicate about how can we better serve with field placement students, how can we serve some of your employees by expanding the social work curriculum here in Brownsville," White said.

Cesar Garcia, executive director of the Recovery Center of Cameron County, said that the center hires social workers, licensed chemical dependency counselors and licensed professional counselors.



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Social Work faculty discuss the current academic program last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. March is Social Work Month.

The Recovery Center of Cameron County, "a place of healing and hope," is dedicated to serving those who want to make a change in their lives from addiction, mental and emotional disorders, according to its website. (recoverycentercc.

org)

"We want really empathetic people to help us solve the problems, but we also want people who are compassionate," said Wendy Hanson, vice president and community impact director at United Way of

Southern Cameron County. "We want them to be able to feel and have the emotional attachment to the issues that people have. More than that, we want people who are going to be proactive."

United Way focuses on education, health and income,

Hanson said. The organization supports the All-In internship program, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Mental Health Task Force, among others.

The Brownsville Housing Authority mission is to provide low-income residents of the community access to "affordable, quality housing, and [to] achieve self-sufficiency through education and collaborative partnerships," according to its website. (hacbv.us)

"One of the partnerships that we actually entered into with UTRGV is bringing in interns to our housing authority," said Carla Mancha, chief executive officer of the Brownsville Housing Authority. "... I have talked to Mr. White and Dr. [Sudershan] Pasupuleti about how can UTRGV come in here and have a presence."

Last Thursday, the Department of Social Work hosted a conference to celebrate Social Work Month that focused on the role of social work in addressing issues of diversity.

For more information, call the Department of Social Work at 665-3575.

Club Spotlight

Name: Rehab Club RGV

Purpose: Offers the opportunity to get involved in the community and gain firsthand experience related to the rehabilitation field. Club members also have a chance to interact with other students in the same field. Although the organization is comprised primarily of health sciences and human services majors, it welcomes any student wishing to get involved in rehab-related events.

President: Noelle Garcia

Vice President: Manny Quiroga

Historians: Lizeth Esparza and Serena Rangel

Representative: Chris Hanks

Event Coordinators: Alex Ortiz and Genesis Garcia

Secretary: Anna Pollard

Sergeant-at-arms: Louis Nolan

Treasurer: Marcela Terrazas

Adviser: Lynn Fischer, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling lecturer

Activities: Volunteers at weekly events such as sensory friendly activities and adaptive sports leagues, raises funds to donate at the end of each semester and focuses on the upcoming Dash for Disabilities 5K.

Meetings: 12:15 p.m. every Tuesday in EHABE 1.14

Membership requirements: \$20 annual fee and members must complete 20 community service hours each semester.

For more information, email: noelle.garcia01@utrgv.edu

Facebook: Rehab Club RGV

Twitter: @Rehabclubrgv

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Rehab Club RGV include (from left) Event Coordinator Alex Ortiz, Historian Serena Rangel, Sergeant-at-arms Louis Nolan, Secretary Anna Pollard, Event Coordinator Genesis Garcia, Historian Lizeth Esparza, Treasurer Marcela Terrazas, Vice President Manny Quiroga, President Noelle Garcia and Representative Chris Hanks.

Want your club featured? Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!

PROBATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"One of the issues that we've been dealing with, in terms of the transition to UTRGV, ensuring that we are referring to the appropriate institutions that form part of UTRGV and that we make references to the partnerships," Rodríguez said. "If our website by any chance, let me use an example, 'The University of Texas at Brownsville in 2015 was under x, y or z,' they would come back and say that's wrong because in 2015 there was no UTB, there was a UTB/Texas Southmost College. That was the institution that was accredited by SACSCOC. It wasn't UTB, it wasn't TSC, it was UTB/TSC. We're just trying to make sure that we're consistent in the way that we convey that information and that we have a correct and accurate historical account of how the transition to UTRGV occurred."

In October, a SACSCOC special committee will visit the UTRGV campuses to determine an agenda, what people they want to meet with and what type of information the university will need to provide. The university will then be able to respond and provide information needed to clarify any issues, concerns or answer any questions.

In December 2017, UTRGV will be reviewed by SACSCOC's board of trustees, which will consider the accreditation status of the university following review of a monitoring report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited for non-compliance, and the report of a special committee that will visit the institution in October.

"As we've said, we're working extremely hard collaborating with SACSCOC to try to ensure that the probationary status is lifted in the December meeting, although we can't guarantee that. That's not a decision that corresponds to us. We're working hard to ensure that does happen," Rodríguez said.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV students, faculty and staff watch a video of the class ring unveiling last Thursday in Edinburg. Free T-shirts and cookies were handed out during the event.

RING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

puses inspired the creation of the ring. Symbols on the ring also distinguish the college from which the student graduated, a palm frond representing the Rio Grande Valley and a swash as a symbol of the Rio Grande.

The ring comes in gold or silver and students may have their college symbol on the front of the ring. The options are Sheer Ice, Pebble Satin, Matte Black or

Engraved Stone. Ring sizes range from extra small to extra large, and an insurance plan is also available. Students may add their full name, their initials and their class.

"It is going to be worn by thousands of students," said student Vilma Flores, who helped designed the ring. "Our biggest challenge was putting a lot of symbolism and representation."

A ring ceremony, in which students receive their rings in the presence of family, friends and university dignitaries, is planned for May 6, according to

a UTRGV news release. To participate in the ceremony, students must purchase their ring by Friday.

"They can charge it to the school account, just this week," Josten's Associate Dora Cavazos said. "The price ranges from \$375 to \$4,000."

Cavazos will be in the bookstore on the Brownsville campus to receive orders all day Wednesday and Thursday.

If students are unable to order it at the bookstores, they may purchase the rings at Jostens.com.

"We hope you like it as much as we do," Molina-Castro said.

Visit us at utrgvrider.com

Biblioteca preserva archivo de escritores vivos



FOTO CORTESÍA

La poeta de República Dominicana, María Palitachi, presenta ejemplares de *Voces de Latinoamérica* durante el acto de donación en la biblioteca del campus de Brownsville, el pasado 3 de marzo.

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El pasado 3 de marzo, cuatro poetas latinoamericanas donaron libros y material inédito de su autoría al Archivo de Escritores Vivos de UTRGV durante el Festival de Libros y Artes Internacionales (FESTIBA). Las poetas Sheila Maldonado, Wendy C. Ortiz, María Palitachi y Estrella del Valle dejaron primeras publicaciones y manuscritos personales al archivo creado en el otoño del 2013 por el profesor de creación literaria, Christopher Carmona, y la gerente de colecciones especiales del campus de Brownsville, Milagro Hernández. “Lo que usualmente hacemos, y seguiremos haciendo, es que cada vez que traemos escritores aquí a Brownsville les preguntamos si quieren donar algo y crear un archivo aquí”, dijo Carmona, quien comenzó el programa Writers Live at UTB en el 2012 y el cual dió lugar al Archivo de Escritores Vivos.

“El propósito es preservar a los escritores vivos y así tener un lugar para almacenar sus documentos o artículos. Usualmente, lo que pasa cuando una biblioteca compra los documentos de alguien, usualmente están fallecidos o son mayores de edad y han estado donando todo su material a la biblioteca”, dijo él. Carmona explicó que de esta manera, los poetas pueden continuar agregando cosas al archivo. “Es así como podemos trabajar con ellos de esa manera, para que los estudiantes tengan acceso a ellos y a sus cosas, y además puedan contactarlos”, el dijo. “Eso es lo que estamos haciendo”. Por su parte, Hernández enfatizó la importancia de contar con fuentes primarias dentro del departamento de Colecciones Especiales y Archivos. “Tener fuentes primarias en los archivos de las colecciones especiales es algo que siempre estamos necesitando debido a la investigación”, dijo Hernández. “Ayudamos a los estudiantes que probablemente están en la carrera de inglés, tienen que escribir muchos trabajos, tienen que hacer cierta investigación y usualmente un profesor, para poder hacer eso tiene que buscar fuentes primarias. Así que nosotros sentimos que ... tener una variedad de fuentes primarias de diferentes temas realmente ayudaría”. Incluyendo los cuatro archivos creados este año, existen un total de 17 dentro del Archivo de Escritores Vivos. Los archivos están compuestos

por libros publicados, manuscritos, borradores y fotos. “Todo lo que usaron para hacer la publicación de su libro, todo ese proceso desde el comienzo”, dijo Hernández. Sean Visintainer, jefe del departamento de Colecciones Especiales y Archivo, dijo que al coleccionar artículos de escritores vivos, están mirando hacia el futuro. “Es muy importante coleccionar [material de] escritores vivos ahora porque queremos asegurarnos de tener estos artículos y así poder obtener cierto contexto de estos autores sobre lo que están donando, el por qué es importante para ellos y eso es difícil una vez que los autores ya no están con nosotros”, dijo Visintainer. Rossy Evelin Lima, poeta, lingüista y parte del comité de FESTIBA, opina que el acto de donación es muy significativo para la comunidad. “Para mí, este trabajo si es súper importante, y sobretudo tener la oportunidad de que estos artistas, que están visitando para otro evento, que es el evento de FESTIBA, tengan

oportunidad ... que no nada más hayan venido, sino que también hayan dejado un pedacito de su arte”, dijo Lima. El cuál es el caso de la poetas Palitachi y Ortiz, quienes donaron ejemplares que ya no se encuentran a la venta. Palitachi dejó la colección de *Voces de Latinoamérica* y Ortiz donó su única copia de pequeñas colecciones de poesía. “No es lo mismo que ya después te compres un libro en Amazon o en Barnes & Noble, a que vayas a la biblioteca y veas los libros que dejaron”, dijo Lima. “Imagínate ese momento histórico, en el que después ya van a pasar los años, y las personas como quiera van a poder leer estas palabras que ya no las vas a encontrar en ningún lado más que ahí guardadas en la biblioteca”. La poeta del Valle donó su más reciente material, *La Selva Afuera*, que se compone de una antología de los cinco libros que ha publicado. “Es una antología de las que yo seleccioné. Todos los poemas que están ahí, son los poemas que a mí me han gustado a lo largo de estos cinco

libros”, dijo del Valle. A mí me parece interesante porque no siempre puedes conseguir, es como un poco difícil, conseguir de escritores vivos, textos que ellos consideren representativos de su obra, ¿no?” Además de Ortiz, Maldonado, Palitachi y del Valle, algunos de los autores que han comenzado un archivo en UTRGV son Dan Vera, Ken Jones, Katherine Hoerth, Jack Taylor y los poetas laureados Lauren Guerrero (Texas), Jessica Helen López (Albuquerque, N.M.) y Glen Sorestad (Canadá). El Archivo de Escritores Vivos se encuentra almacenado en el departamento de Colecciones Especiales y Archivos ubicado en el campus de Brownsville. Si algún estudiante en el campus de Edinburg desea acceder al archivo puede solicitar que el material sea trasladado durante los próximos días. El material del Archivo de Escritores Vivos únicamente puede ser revisado dentro del cuarto de lectura.



FOTO CORTESÍA

De izquierda: Rossy Evelin Lima, Christopher Carmona, Sheila Maldonado, Wendy C. Ortiz, María Palitachi, el cónsul titular Juan Carlos Cué Vega, Estrella del Valle y Gerald Padilla posan durante la lectura de poesía el pasado 3 de marzo en el Consulado de México en Brownsville. FOTO CORTESÍA



**United Methodist
Student
Movement
UTRGV**

**Invites you to
enjoy lunch
every Tuesday
and Thursday
in April at
noon. Free of
charge!**

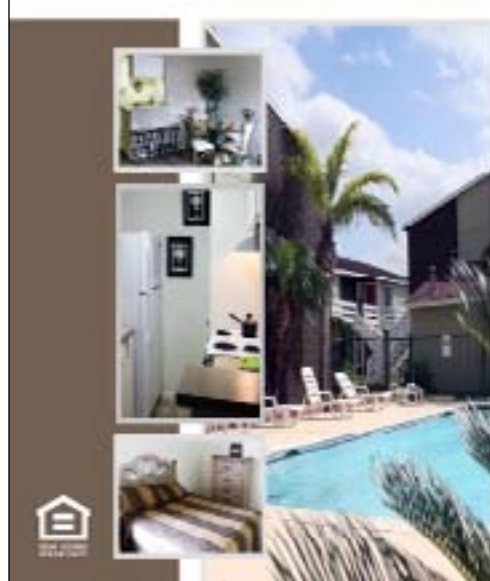
956-381-4463

**123 N. Sugar Rd. Edinburg, TX.
78541**



Welcome to El Bosque Apartments, a community located just on the edge of campus. Enjoy convenience with an off-campus lifestyle.

AVAILABILITY - FALL 2017



El Bosque
APARTMENTS

*Love where
you live.*

956-383-8382

Stop by our leasing office to learn more and
secure your spot today!

1609 W. Schunior Street, Edinburg, Texas 78541

2017 Student Technology Survey

SPEAK YOUR MIND!

Complete survey by April 14

for a chance to win a \$50 or \$100 Amazon gift card!

Go to utrgv.edu/it/techstudy





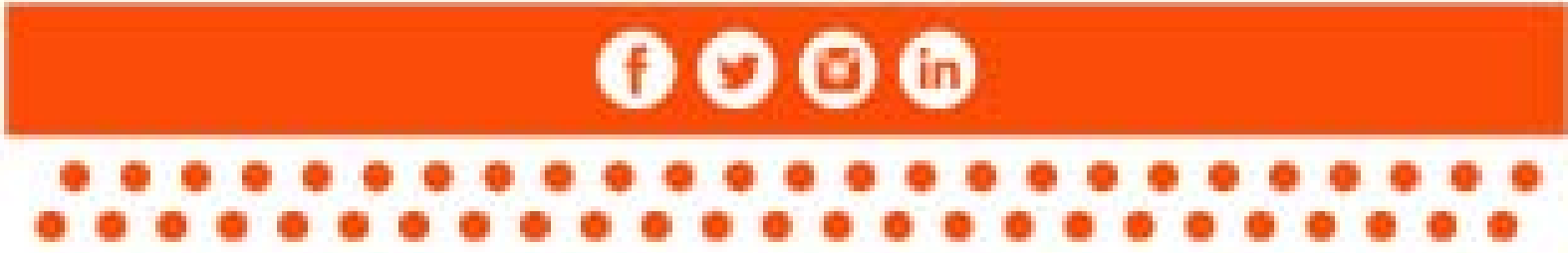
Spring
TEACHERS
JOB
— EXPO —

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
Thursday, April 6, 2017
El Gran Salon (Student Union)
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

EDINBURG CAMPUS
Friday, April 7, 2017
Fieldhouse (EHPE I)
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bring your résumé and dress professionally.
This event is open to the community.

For more information or if special accommodations are needed,
please contact the Career Center at (956) 683-5827 or (956) 685-2243.



STAFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

campuses.

Anderson replied by saying the shuttle buses are available for students and the service has increased in popularity since UTRGV opened.

“Our partnership with Valley Metro does give us access to federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration,” said Roberto Cantu, executive director of Auxiliary Business Services. “In capital purchases, we pay about 20 percent for shuttles, for any new acquisition of shuttles, and, also, we get some matching funds for our operations.”

He said it was a cost-effective service for UTRGV students.

Anderson added to Cantu’s statement by explaining why Valley Metro provides those services.

“Any kind of bus service in the Valley, whether it’s Brownsville or Edinburg, the federal government helps subsidize those bus services based on ridership,” he said. “So, what Valley Metro gets from us in relation to that investment is the ridership numbers. They get to count the ridership numbers from a federal standpoint.”

Richeson suggested hiring more faculty on each campus so students do not have to travel.

“Students are being told that they have to, in order to complete some of the semester courses or graduate courses, they have to take a class in Edinburg,” Richeson said. “We can limit the cost of them having to go to Edinburg by providing them the course here by hiring staff and faculty in Brownsville or the Edinburg side so they don’t have to be traveling. It would be more cost effective for students and more efficient for students so they don’t have to be wasting time traveling when they could just come to the class here.”

The discussion prompted several Information Technology employees to raise issues regarding travel. They said shuttle services are not always the best option because of the equipment they must carry at times.

Anderson replied by saying the university has a mileage reimbursement rate for employees traveling across the Rio Grande Valley.

“Other things we’re looking at are some rideshare programs and rideshare options that we may be able to help promote,” he said. “Heavy urban campuses will have Zipcar and other car-loaner programs.”

Sergio Chavez, a technology support specialist, said there are not enough university vehicles available for IT employees in Brownsville.

“I do use my vehicle at times and I do get reimbursed for it, but, you know, that is time, that is miles on my personal vehicle,” Chavez said.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Deputy President Janna Arney speaks about upcoming changes to the university web pages to meet some of the accreditation requirements.

Staff Senate President Michael Aldape said he appreciated the feedback.

Texas Legislature

Bailey said the “most significant” issue in the Texas Legislature right now is a budgetary shortfall from its previous session in 2015.

“When the legislative session started, the comptroller, [Glenn Hegar], forecast a budget shortfall of a couple billion dollars,” he said during the meeting. “Nobody knows really what [the budgetary shortfall] is, really. If you hear \$3 [billion] to \$4 billion, yes, that’s a lot of money but remember, that’s a fairly small percentage of the total state budget.”

However, Bailey said state funds are not the only form of revenue for the university, the largest being tuition and fees.

“We can, partially, offset whatever reductions we have in state appropriations by growing our enrollment,” he said. “If we have good enrollment this fall, that will do some partial offset there.”

Hiring freeze

Bailey said Gov. Greg Abbott’s hiring freeze will end Sept. 1, but what happens after depends on what happens to the university’s budget.

“The governor’s hiring freeze had to do with the shortfall in the budget in

the current biennial; it has nothing to do with how the Legislature is handling the shortfall with the next biennial,” he said.

Regardless of the state’s hiring freeze, UTRGV received special permission to ignore the freeze when it comes to the hiring of School of Medicine, enrollment management and student employees.

Michael James, UTRGV chief Human Resources officer, said the hiring freeze caused the university to pull down some positions from its website, but has now received permission to add more.

“Since we have received feedback from the governor’s office for hiring waivers, we did re-add positions to our website,” James said. “Right now, we have 35 positions posted and about 10 or so in the mix.”

He said another area that received permission was faculty recruitment for summer classes.

Voluntary Separation

Earlier this month, UTRGV offered a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) for some of its employees.

To participate, eligible employees must submit a notice of intent by 5 p.m. April 7 as well as a separation agreement.

If employees signed a notice of intent and later decide they do not want to retire or terminate, the process will stop after the VSIP agreement deadline, according to the UTRGV website. If employees signed the VSIP agreement, they must submit a revocation notice by the deadline after signing the agreement.

James said there are about 19 staff members who are eligible for the voluntary separation incentive program.

Bailey said the VSIP has nothing to do with the state’s hiring freeze or the legislative session.

“That really came about because we had requests from, primarily, faculty,” Bailey said. “We had a number of faculty who had asked about the possibility. I guess some of them regretted not taking the last VSIP. We knew there was some interest in it. ...

That’s really where that comes from. It was not something that we had planned.”

For more information about the VSIP, call the Office of Human Resources at 882-8205 in Brownsville and 665-2451 in Edinburg or email at hr@utrgv.edu.

Probationary status

UTRGV Deputy President Janna Arney said university administrators are working closely with officials of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to resolve some of the accrediting standards the school violated, starting with the “language” on the school’s website.

“We’re going to be making some revisions to some of the wording they’ve asked us to make,” Arney said. “You have to keep in mind that, from SACSCOC’s perspective, that may not match what the Texas Legislature wrote and UT System wrote. It becomes a little challenging to write something that kind of meets all three of those criteria. ... What we are doing is just simplifying everything.”

Last December, SACSCOC placed UTRGV under a yearlong probation for failure to demonstrate compliance with several accreditation standards.

SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

“We don’t think that there will be any problem at all getting off that probation in December,” Bailey said. “The things that we need to get done are getting done. Our relationship with SACSCOC is good right now.”

Bailey and Arney reiterated that UTRGV remains fully accredited and that its academic quality was not affected.

“The things that were cited in our probationary status are things that are the easiest to fix because they have nothing to do with the quality of our education, the quality of our faculty, the quality of our staff, the quality of our students, the quality of our programs,” Arney said. “These are transition issues.”



Chief Human Resources Officer Michael James speaks about a volunteer separation incentive program to university staff.

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com

Making a smooth transition

Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

Once someone is settled into a career, it is imperative to be happy every day. But, sometimes life takes a drastic turn and there is much to learn about resigning, going back to school and unemployment.

Juan Rodriguez-Nieto, director of the Career Center, said you are happy when you wake up every day and are glad to go to work and your service is appreciated.

Resigning

Some employees who are not happy with their job resign to pursue another career or go back to school.

To submit a letter of resignation, the employee should have accepted another job or been accepted into graduate school, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

Before writing the letter of resignation, try to finalize your projects or make a plan so that you can transfer your responsibilities over, he said.

Rodriguez-Nieto said there are three components in a letter of resignation.

The first one is telling the supervisor that this is a letter of resignation, then stating when the last day would be (usually two weeks from the date you give notice). Then state the reason for leaving, although there is no need to give too many details.

The second component of the letter is thanking the employer for the work opportunity, what you've enjoyed and learned.

The third component is to offer your help in training new employees, wish them luck and thank them once more, he said.

"The first person that should know is your supervisor," Rodriguez-Nieto said. ... "The employee might be tempted to tell the colleagues."

Always give the employer at least a two-week notice when resigning. However, employees in a higher position, might have to give the employer three weeks to one month, he said.

When leaving a job, keep all the doors open because you might need a letter of recommendation or might go back to work with the same employer.

Remove all of your personal items from the work area except those owned by the company.

Once done with the job, update your LinkedIn account and always maintain contact with former colleagues.

"Even if they are working on



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

City of McAllen Controller-In-Training David Palacios is pursuing an accounting degree at UTRGV.

campus we try to use this as a learning experience, so that they can actually provide their supervisors with a two-week notice," Rodriguez-Nieto said. "We want for the students to know that is the right thing to [do] once they transition into their career."

Returning to school

An advantage of enrolling into graduate school is that more than likely students will not have many commitments and will be able to transition without many responsibilities or financial commitments.

"The disadvantage of doing that is that they might not get real world experience, which can be compensated by participating in

[an] internship," Rodriguez-Nieto said. "The advantage of getting a job after they get their undergrad is that they'll get real work experience, but the disadvantage is that with time, they might find commitments and then it would be difficult for them to actually quit their job and go back to graduate school on a full-time basis."

Andrea Torres, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communication last fall, said she is planning to pursue a master's degree.

"I've been told many times by faculty mentors ... that it is not good to get a master's in the same thing you got your undergrad in, so I'm looking into going into international

affairs or international relations," Torres said.

For some employees, such as David Palacios, controller-in-training in the Finance Department for the City of McAllen, it was hard to return to school after working for more than 18 years. He expects to graduate in Fall 2017 from UTRGV with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

"If anyone is currently working and considering going back to school, it's hard. I'm not going to sugarcoat it; it takes a lot out of you, especially if you have a family," Palacios said.

Graduates seeking help with a resignation letter may call the Career Center 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?
Last in a series

“If anyone is currently working and considering going back to school, it’s hard. I’m not going to sugarcoat it; it takes a lot out of you, especially if you have a family.”

David Palacios
City of McAllen Controller-In-Training

Crafting the vibes of spring



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Criminal justice freshman Jeanell Garcia creates a crown Tuesday in the Student Union in Edinburg to celebrate Flower Day. The event was held on both campuses to commemorate the beginning of spring.



Students and staff welcome spring Tuesday by crafting crowns during Flower Day in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Protecting intellectual property



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

About 40 people attended the Rio Grande Valley Intellectual Property workshops hosted last Thursday by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Texas State Bar Association in

collaboration with the UTRGV Office of Economic Development and Commercialization Center, located at Resaca Village in Brownsville.



Taylor Elfervig, a patent examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, conducted a workshop titled "Prior Art Searching and Demo."



Attendees listen during a Rio Grande Valley Intellectual Property workshop conducted last Thursday in the UTRGV Office of Economic Development and Commercialization Center. The workshops aimed to inform the community about measures to protect their logos, business names, inventions or technology and products. The commercialization center provides an array of services to the community for starting, growing and better managing a business. Special programs are offered for students, faculty and staff for business incubation and acceleration.

Have a story idea?
Give us a call at
882-5143 or 665-2541

FOLLOW US!

LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK



@UTRGV_TheRider
on Snapchat &
Twitter



Full speed into WAC

Baseball begins conference play on a high note



GABRIEL MATA/The Rider Photos

First baseman Victor Garcia Jr. attempts to tag out Ben Haefner from the University at Buffalo Bulls during the game March 20 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

Nathaniel Mata

SPORTS EDITOR

You can't win championships in the nonconference portion of a college baseball season. You can, however, create momentum and build confidence for a championship-caliber ball club. That's exactly what UTRGV baseball tried to create prior to WAC play. The Vaqueros owned a 16-8 record before conference play, while outscoring opposition 140-102. On the pitching mound,

Pitcher-of-the-Week honor. The Vaqueros are 16-0 when leading after six innings of play. "We train all week, all fall, pretty much just for that one moment, maybe for one batter," Martinez said. "We're there, we know what our duties are." Leading the offense again is left fielder and leadoff hitter Jose Garcia. The senior maintained a .405 batting average; he led the WAC in runs scored (27), total bases (54) and walks (24) during nonconference. As a whole, UTRGV was the

they are; that's the good thing about our team." Freshman Tyler Torres is second on the team with doubles, with eight, and sophomore Conrad McMahon has 18 hits and eight RBI. Head Coach Manny Mantrana, who is in his ninth season, reached a milestone in the last home game before conference. He became the second coach in program history to reach 200 wins. He joked that he still has 900 games to catch Al Ogletree and his program record 1,084 wins. He credited those around him for doing the heavy lifting.

"I am very, very fortunate, had some really good players, some good coaches and I'm blessed the good Lord has given me the opportunity to coach," Mantrana said. "It's an honor and a privilege. I don't do much. The players do it and the assistant coaches." All of the Vaqueros' wins so far have come at UTRGV Baseball Stadium. They are 16-4 at home. The team swept three series, against Texas Southern, Prairie View and Buffalo universities for four games. Now they'll move into WAC play, looking to do better than last season's 10-14 record, which caused

them to miss the conference tournament. Seattle University was last year's regular season champ but it was Utah Valley that came out of the conference tournament as champion. The Wolverines advanced to the NCAA tournament. That's where UTRGV is trying to go, for the first time since the new university was established. "Obviously, the boys are up, they're confident. That's always good when you're going into any game but in particular the WAC. The WAC is really when our season begins. We're heading in the right direction," Mantrana said.

“ Obviously, the boys are up, they’re confident. That’s always good when you’re going into any game but in particular the WAC. The WAC is really when our season begins. We’re heading in the right direction. ”

Manny Mantrana
Baseball Head Coach

the team has seen contribution both from starters, such as Carter Johnson and Andrew Garcia. Also contributing to a team 3.51 ERA is the bullpen. Austin Douglas, Austin Kufrovich, Luis Acosta and Zach Martinez are some of the strong relievers who keep teams from coming back. "We're looking for that championship at the end, that's what we're in it for," Martinez said. "We don't want to lose that last game of the season." He has made six appearances, throwing eight innings on his way to a WAC

WAC's most patient team, drawing 136 walks, 34 more than second-place Seattle. Speed and emphasis on manufacturing runs can be seen in the 14 sac bunts successfully laid down. Activity on the base pads has allowed 14 different Vaqueros to record RBI and six players had 10 or more. "The chemistry is there. It's just good how another teammate can come and pick you up when it's not your day," Garcia said, complimenting young hitters. "The new guys are just picking us up, the old guys. We're not there and there



First baseman Victor Garcia Jr. attempts to catch a ball hit by a player from the University at Buffalo Bulls.

MEDICAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Lieberman said this year, UTRGV's residency programs filled on the primary match.

Asked if the School of Medicine will add new programs for next year, Lieberman replied: "We are working on at least one more program. ... We are looking to start a neurology program for next summer of 2018."

Arden Dingle, a professor and director of the psychiatry residency program, said this program will focus on teaching residents about the range of skills and knowledge that psychiatrists need.

"The psychiatry program is very interested in producing high-quality general psychiatrists who can work with a variety of populations who have different needs and problems in different settings," Dingle said. "It is a program that is very interested in teaching residents about health disparities, the social determinants of health and sort of the associated medical problems. It is interested in teaching people about the range of skills and knowledge that psychiatrists need."

Shalomov said he was surprised and happy to get into the psychiatry residency program.

"I was so amazed," he said. "I was so happy and so glad. It is a dream that came true. This is something that I wanted and I worked really hard for it. It is a great opportunity to do your research."

Dingle said the six psychiatry medical residents will train in different sites throughout the Valley.

"Residents are going to work at the Rio Grande State Center in Harlingen," she said. "They are going to work at the Tropical Texas Behavioral Health center ... [which] has multiple locations in Edinburg, Weslaco, Harlingen and Brownsville. They are going to work at the ... Veterans Administration, which has a location in McAllen and one in Harlingen. And, they are going to work at Valley Baptist Medical Center, which



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's School of Medicine is located on the Edinburg campus.

is in Cameron County. So, those are the main sites."

Lieberman said the 56 new residents will be part of UTRGV's effort to improve health care in the Valley.

"We are delighted at the caliber of the residents who are starting here this summer," he said. "We think that they will be part of our effort to improve access to [health] care in the Valley. Residency training is a clinical part of medical education. It's really during residency where you learn how to practice your specialty and it's well recognized that when people do their residencies, they are very likely to stay and go into practice with their careers. So, growing the residency programs

in the Valley is really important for increasing the number of doctors we have in the Valley in all specialties."

As previously reported by *The Rider*, last year the School of Medicine welcomed 42 medical residents.

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com



UTSA College of Business

Level up

TURN YOUR PASSION INTO PROFIT

- ✓ For Non-Business Undergrads
- ✓ One-Year Master's Program
- ✓ Full-Time
- ✓ Lock-Step Cohort
- ✓ Starts at the End of May
- ✓ GMAT Waiver Based on GPA

Master of Science in Business

Visit business.utsa.edu/msbusiness

Live Here, Save Money!

University Inn & Suites

- From \$385 monthly for 1 - 2 persons
- Flexible month-to-month agreement
- All utilities paid (cable, water, electricity)
- Near the UTRGV and TSC campuses
- Security Surveillance
- Kitchenettes available
- Furnished, large rooms, full-size beds
- Restaurants nearby
- Wi-Fi Available
- Laundry Area

Located in
Downtown Brownsville
55 Perl Blvd.
(Off 12th St.)
For more information,
call (956) 546-0381

TAKE 12TH STREET EXIT GOING WEST FROM EXPRESSWAY.
GO ONE MILE. MOTEL IS ON RIGHT SIDE.

RST DRIVING SCHOOL

TEEN DRIVERS ED

32 HOURS OF CLASSROOM
7 HOURS DRIVING / 7 HOURS OBSERVING
\$295 OR \$50 TO REGISTER

ADULT DRIVERS ED

6 HOURS - CERTIFICATE PROVIDED THAT SAME DAY
ENGLISH AND SPANISH
EVERY SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
18 YRS & OLDER FOR \$100

WEEKLY ROAD TEST

FOR THOSE WHO COMPLETED TEEN DRIVERS ED
(RST STUDENTS, OTHER SCHOOLS' STUDENTS, PARENT TAUGHT)

NEW DRIVING EVALUATION

DRIVING WITH ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
(CLINICAL SIMULATOR AND VISION TESTER)

CPR / FIRST AID / BLS

2 YEAR CERTIFICATION

ONLINE DEFENSIVE DRIVING / TICKET DISMISSAL

INSTRUCTOR COURSE

BECOME CERTIFIED TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO DRIVE!

RST Mobility Services	RST in Edinburg	RST in Mission
2825 Pecan Blvd.	2002 W. University Dr. Ste. 4	2002 N. Conway
McAllen, TX 78501	Edinburg, TX 78539	Ste. 1D
(956) 616-6655	(956) 383-5566	(956) 585-5566

rstdrivingschool.com email: rstdrivingschool@hotmail.com

From students to artists

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

More than 50 people attended the opening reception for the “Juried Student Exhibition” last Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus.

Maria de Lourdes Ballard won “Best of Show” for her oil-on-canvas piece, “North Dakota.”

The “Best 2D” award went to Iliana Salazar Rodriguez for her piece, “De Colores.” Salazar used ballpoint pens to create the portrait.

Andres A. Aceves received “Best 3D” for his mixed-media piece, “Zombae.”

Receiving honorable mention were Vivian Zapata for “Neon Bloom,” a digital photography piece; Michael Peña for “How’s it Hanging,” a peephole box; Natalia N. Soto for “Blue Green Coral,” which consists of earthenware, aluminum, acrylic and ink; Josie Del Castillo for “We Are Always Changing,” an oil-on-wood piece; and Carla Santillana for “Ataraxia,” a mixed-media piece.

The exhibition showcases more than 25 pieces ranging from digital photography, oil on canvas, ceramic and aluminum to oil on wood, ink on paper, collages and colored-ballpoint pen, among others, by undergraduate



Graphic design freshman Manuel Gamez (from left), art junior Carla Santillana and graphic design freshman Jorge Abundiz look at “La Ponke” by Jesse Borciasa.



Education junior Norma Ybarra speaks to Art Lecturer and exhibition judge Ruth Keitz during the Juried Art Exhibition last Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville.

and graduate students from both campuses.

Art Lecturer Ruth Keitz, the judge of the show, said choosing the Best of Show was a difficult decision.

“It is important for the students to have juried shows because this will show on their résumé,” Keitz said.

She said she based her decision on how well students controlled the medium they selected and the message of the piece.

“I was also looking at the presentation, the framing, how they

presented the work,” Keitz said.

Students who sent their work to the exhibit think it is a good opportunity for them to showcase their work and see the reactions and suggestions of the public.

“You never know what you’re going to find,” Santillana said. “You won’t regret this.”

She submitted a mixed-media piece inspired by her “weird dreams,” named “Ataraxia.”

“I am really into dreams and looking into their meanings,” Santillana said.



Criminal justice freshman Perla Sanchez points at an artwork, “Alley Life,” by Jorge Abundiz during the Juried Art Exhibition last Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville. Also shown is marketing freshman Marlen de la O.

“One time, I had a really weird dream and I told my teacher. She told me, ‘Why don’t you just draw that for the competition?’”

She said students in the art field should take opportunities like this.

Art Lecturer Stephen Hawks said seeing the work students from both campuses are doing is interesting.

“It’s the first time we’ve had a student show combined on this campus,” Hawks said. “It’s good to see what the other students are doing.”

Graphic design freshman Jorge Abundiz hopes students enjoy the piece he submitted.

“What inspired me is downtown [Brownsville] and how it looks,”

Abundiz said. “How historical it is.”

He submitted a digital photo titled “Alley Life.”

Graphic design freshman Manuel Gamez submitted a mixed-media piece titled “Lucid,” in which he spent more than four hours editing a digital photograph of a student.

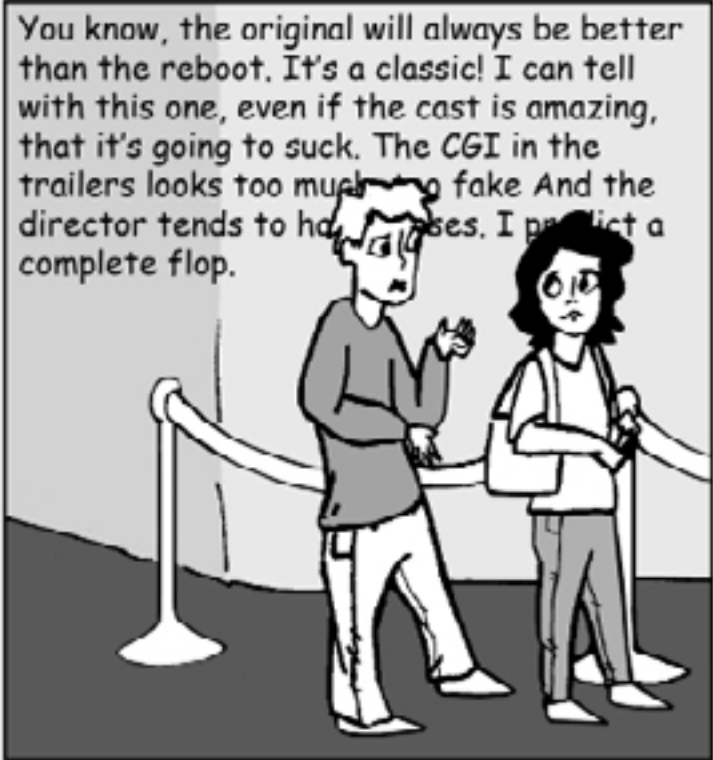
“I wanted to make her look like a doll,” Gamez said. “It looks like she is dreaming.”

The exhibition will run until April 14 and is open to the public.

For more information, email Gallery Coordinator and Art Lecturer Alejandro Macias at alejandromacias@utrgv.edu.

Trials and Trifles

By Clarissa Martinez



Spring FLING

04/06/2017 1PM-9PM

Rudy's BBQ
PING PONG & BILLIARDS
TOURNAMENTS
DOOR PRIZES!

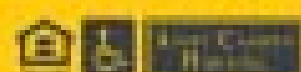
SAVE ALMOST \$1,000
\$0 DOWN AND
SPECIAL RATES
FOR 1-DAY ONLY

Legends™
EDINBURG



WWW.LEGENDSSEDINBURG.COM

1815 West Chapin Street, Edinburg, Texas 78541



(956) 316-1815

Text EDINBURG to 47464