

THE RIDER

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 2, ISSUE 25

STUDENT FEE REQUESTS GREATER THAN PROJECTED REVENUE

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For next academic year, UTRGV estimates it will collect \$12,358,626 in student services fees based on enrollment. However, 55 UTRGV programs have submitted funding proposals totaling \$14,421,054, a 15.4 percent difference. At the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, students pay a \$249.96 student services fee per long semester, which is \$20.83 per hour capped at 12 credit hours.

Vaquero Voice,

Page 6

Programs funded through the student services fee are based on recommendations of the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC).

The SFAC makes recommendations on the allocations of projected fees to UTRGV President Guy Bailey. Projected fees are based on enrollment.

See FEES, Page 3

School of Medicine facing budget issues

Reprinted and updated from
utrgvrider.com

Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

The opening of the UTRGV School of Medicine last summer came with much fanfare. Less than a year later, the Texas Legislature is voting on a budget that will either provide enough funding for the startup or cut funds by \$35 million.

State policymakers are required to produce and operate on a balanced budget, and the House and Senate are almost \$45 million apart on the amount of funding the School of Medicine will receive over the next two years.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the university is hopeful the 2018-2019 state budget will provide enough funding for the School of

Medicine to operate.

"It's crucial; the operation of the medical school depends on state funding," Bailey said. "Without adequate state funding, we couldn't operate. The House version of the budget includes adequate funding. The Senate version of the budget is more problematic. There's a long way to go in the legislative session and we're hopeful that something closer to the House version will emerge."

The Texas Senate approved a budget March 28 that provides the UTRGV School of Medicine \$25 million, \$35 million less than the \$60 million the university received last session and asked for

See MEDICINE, Page 18

UTRGV students worry about TEXAS grant

Monika Garza
and Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley students such as nursing sophomore Monica Olvera could find themselves in financial trouble if Senate Bill 885 passes.

"Since I do not really have a car at the moment, my dad takes me to school," Olvera said. "I have to give him money for the gas and that's where I give him money for the gas because I don't work at the moment. They should not take that money away because I still need that extra cash to go to school."

Senate Bill 885 would limit the use of the TEXAS grant to educational purposes only, such as tuition, required fees and textbooks.

The purpose of the Toward EXcellence Access and Success Grant program is to make sure high school graduates with financial need can go to college, according to the

College for all Texas website.

Senate Bill 885 states that a person receiving a TEXAS

Senate Committee on Higher Education on March 8. The author of

the bill is state Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo).

Seliger stated that Senate Bill 885 will ensure that grants are used only toward tuition, fees and books. This will help reduce waste and allow a larger number of students the opportunity to access state grant aid, according to a Feb. 14 news release.

"It just makes it more difficult and it adds more weight on our shoulders. So, I think that [lawmakers] should try to relate with us because they were also once students."

Isabel Sanchez
UTRGV computer science sophomore

grant may use the money to pay tuition and required fees. The bill was left pending at the

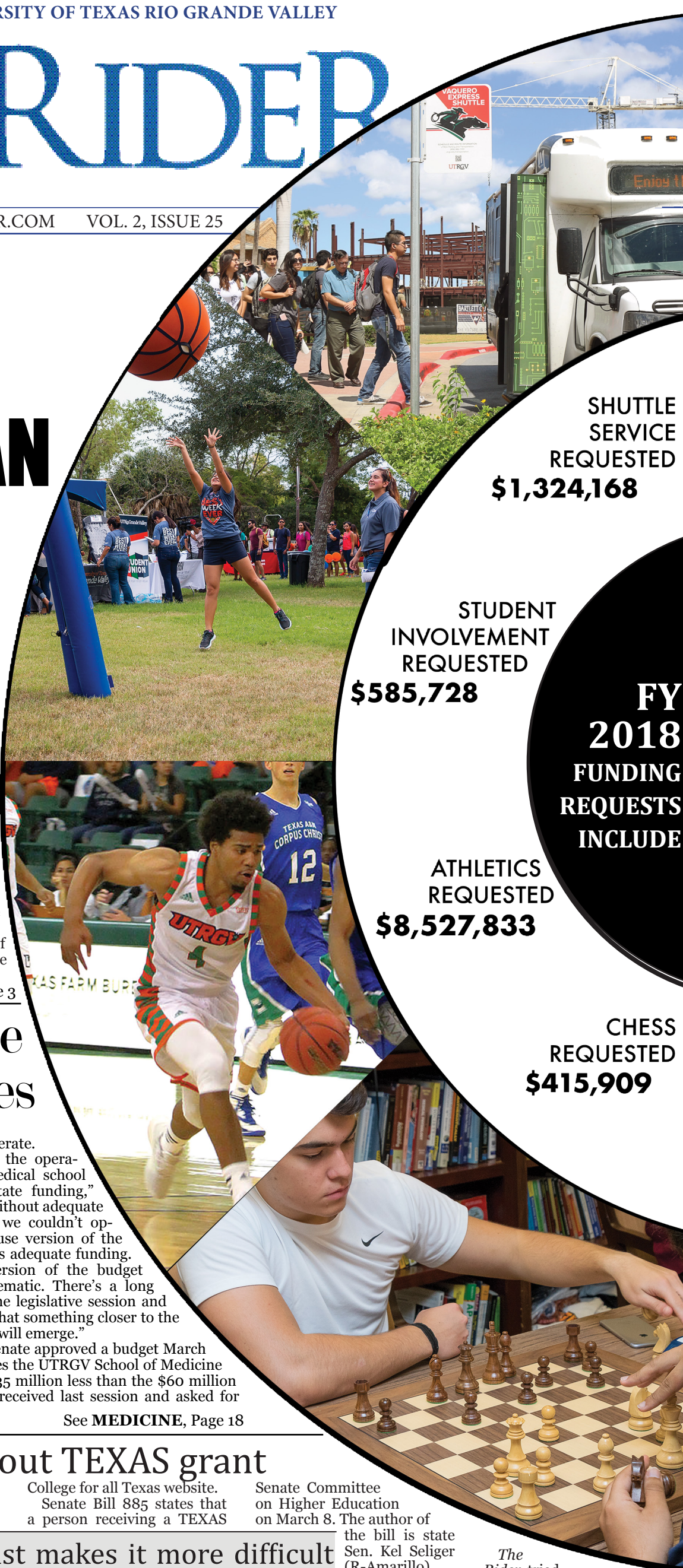
opportunity to access state grant aid, according to a Feb. 14 news release.

The Rider tried to contact Seliger but he declined an interview.

The newspaper also tried to reach state Rep. René Oliveira (D-Brownsville). However, he was on the House floor and was unavailable for comment.

In a statement sent to The Rider, Oliveira said: "If students are prohibited from using TEXAS grant funds for other expenses, there could be a greater chance of them

See TEXAS, Page 5



SHUTTLE
SERVICE
REQUESTED
\$1,324,168

STUDENT
INVOLVEMENT
REQUESTED
\$585,728

ATHLETICS
REQUESTED
\$8,527,833

CHESS
REQUESTED
\$415,909

FY
2018
FUNDING
REQUESTS
INCLUDE



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TEXAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

taking on debt for housing or other expenses. We are currently not doing enough to help our students pay for college. We will not achieve our graduation-rate goals by placing more restrictions on student aid. We should be expanding aid, not restricting it.”

The Rider also tried contacting state Senators Royce West (D-Dallas), Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville), and state Rep. Eddie Lucio III (D-San Benito). West, Hinojosa and Lucio Jr. did not respond. Ruben O’Bell, chief of staff for Lucio III, said the representative was not available for comment.

State Representatives Oscar Longoria (D-Mission), Sergio Muñoz Jr. (D-Palmview), Armando Martinez (D-Weslaco), Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Robert “Bobby” Guerra (D-Mission) were not available to comment because they were on the House floor.

Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications, said the university is still waiting for the final version of the bill.

“We have a lot of students who rely on the TEXAS grant, so, obviously, any changes that come out of the bill in the allocation of funds are going to affect those students who rely on the TEXAS grant,” Gonzales said. “We don’t have a specific impact yet. We are waiting until we see a final version of the bill.”

At UTRGV, about 8,000 students receive the TEXAS grant, Financial Aid Director Arnold Trejo said.

To receive the grant, students must be Texas residents, never have been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance, demonstrate financial need, have an estimated



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Students eat lunch and study last Wednesday on the Life Health and Science Building patio in Brownsville. State Sen. Kel Seliger, (R-Amarillo) has proposed a bill that would limit the TEXAS grant to tuition, required fees and textbooks.

family contribution less than or equal to \$5,088 and registered for the Selective Service or exempt from this requirement, according to the UTRGV website.

Computer science sophomore Isabel Sanchez said lawmakers should reconsider the passing of SB 885 because it will affect students with financial need.

“Students are already having a really hard time paying off school,” Sanchez said. “We are already in debt because we have to take out student loans. So, it just makes it more difficult and it adds more weight on our shoulders. So, I think that [lawmakers] should try to relate with us because they were also once students.”

Gonzales said the university is monitoring the bill to see what happens.

“We respect the legislative process,” Gonzales said. “We understand that every bill is a work in progress and so ... there’s also the chance that the bill might not pass. We are watching the sessions. We are monitoring things and we will be ready to respond as necessary when certain bills get passed.”

Alondra Lucio, an interdisciplinary studies freshman, receives the TEXAS grant and is considering living on campus for the next semester.

“The TEXAS grant would have helped me in some way possible,” Lucio said. “However, if this bill is passed, my possible ability to live on campus will end. ... I think lawmakers should put themselves in the shoes of a student trying to study and afford housing, food and personal expenses.”

Trejo said the university receives

about \$37 million of TEXAS grant money per academic year.

The average grant amount a UTRGV student receives is \$5,000 per year, or \$2,500 per long semester, he said.

“We have been very fortunate to have the largest TEXAS grant allocation in the state of Texas,” Trejo said.

To be eligible for the TEXAS grant, a person must:

- Be a resident of the state of Texas
- Meet financial need requirements
- Be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible institution
- Be enrolled in at least three-fourths of a full course load for an undergraduate student
- Have applied for any available financial aid or assistance
- Comply with any additional non-academic requirement

Trejo said for UTRGV students to receive a renewal year award, they must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average.

“Students must be making satisfactory academic progress,” he said. “They must complete 24 credit hours at the end of the spring term and they must be maintaining a 2.5 GPA.”

To receive a renewal year award through the TEXAS grant program, a student must:

- Have not been convicted of a felony or crime involving controlled substances
- Have financial need
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress

Students seeking financial aid may call the Financial Aid office at 882-4026. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Main 1.100 on the Brownville campus. In Edinburg, the office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday on the first floor of Student Services Building.

FEES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UTRGV’s enrollment for Spring 2017 is 25,860 and 27,560 for Fall 2016, according to the university’s enrollment reports.

Student services fees are collected for activities that are separate from academic functions and that directly benefit students. The fees help support various programs and departments across the university that serve students.

“It is for programs that directly impact students,” said Cristina Castillo, UTRGV financial manager and SFAC chair. “They’re just programs and services that contribute to the well-being of students or that directly benefit the students.”

Mario Bravo, a computer science junior on the Edinburg campus, said he was not sure what his student services fee paid for.

“I would think buildings and stuff like that,” Bravo said. “Utilities, whiteboards and materials.”

Ivan Morado, a psychology sophomore in Brownsville, said he does not mind paying extra fees if they will provide benefits.

“If I have to pay some extra hundred dollars, then I really don’t mind as long as my financial aid covers it, because college is really expensive nowadays,” Morado said.

Castillo said students sometimes do not realize what the student services fee can fund, but that it is important to inform them.

“I think it’s important to educate our students on what the services are and that, also, they can participate in it,” she said. “It’s not just a few students that make these decisions. They can also be part of this process.”

Funding requests are divided into two sections: ongoing requests and one-time requests. Ongoing are

proposals that must be funded with incoming revenue so that they are sustained by the student services fee budget. For Fiscal Year 2018, a total of \$14,298,053 was solicited for ongoing requests.

One-time requests may be funded from reserves. The reserve is an account that holds years of funds left over from previous requests, according to Castillo.

A total of \$123,000 was solicited for one-time requests.

For next academic year, Athletics requested \$8,527,833. This academic year, Athletics received \$8,470,582 after requesting \$8,495,295 in a 2016 SFAC meeting, according to documents obtained by *The Rider*.

\$415,909.

The SFAC had five new funding requests compared to last year. The Student Service Center asked for \$53,845; Academic Advising, \$52,500; the Counseling Center-TAO, \$24,000; the Residence Housing Association, \$6,000; and the UTRGV Concerto Competition, \$5,000.

For one-time requests, Brownsville and Edinburg Student IDs each asked for \$1,500 to fund GET, a CBORD software that transforms a traditional campus card program into a physical and virtual commerce environment that is convenient and secure, according to the CBORD website.

For a full list of FY 2018 requests, visit utrgvrider.com.

representative

--Jacob Camacho, a student representative

--Joseph Rayner, a student representative

--Allison Burrola, a student representative

--Karla Loya, a university representative

--Marcela De León, a university representative

--Douglas Stoves, a university representative

--Joe Lacher, a university representative

--Frances Rivera, ex officio

Last year, Bailey approved all SFAC recommendations with one exception.

The SFAC recommended reducing the allocation to Athletics by \$294,896, or about 3 percent, in order to fund student activities supported by the committee.

Bailey asked that the SFAC’s recommendations “be included in the budget but that revenue above that needed to meet the committee’s recommendations be considered as a source to assist in balancing the athletics budget.”

Castillo said she is working on compiling and finishing the FY 2018 SFAC recommendations for Bailey.

“It is not just a report that we provide,” she said. “There are additional recommendations that are not necessarily monetary, but they are suggestions that [the committee] wants to make to the president about these requests.”

Castillo said she expects to present the recommendations to Bailey in about two weeks.

After they are submitted to the president, visit utrgv.edu/sfac to view the FY 2018 SFAC recommendations.

“ I think it’s important to educate our students on what the services are and that, also, they can participate in it. It’s not just a few students that make these decisions. They can also be part of this process. ”

Cristina Castillo
UTRGV Financial Manager and SFAC Chair

Shuttle Services solicited \$1,324,168 and made a \$120,000 one-time request for next academic year. This academic year, Shuttle Services received \$606,805 after requesting \$1,036,806.

The Shuttle Services’ one-time request will go to a parking and transportation study to try to assess the needs across campus and improve its services.

Student Involvement requested \$585,728 for FY 2018; Student Media, \$264,573; the UTRGV Food Pantry, \$60,612; the Student Government Association, \$60,531; and Chess,

recommendations, visit utrgv.edu/sfac.

The SFAC is composed of 11 individuals: nine voting, one ex officio and one chair. An ex officio is a non-voting member of a body. The SGA or Bailey appoints each member of the committee. Five members are students, selected by the SGA, and four are university employees, appointed by Bailey.

Besides Castillo, SFAC members for the 2017-2018 cycle are

--Peter Averack, a student representative

--Louay Bachnak, a student

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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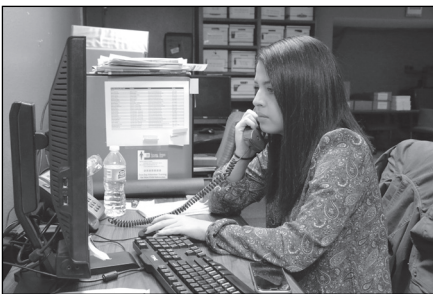
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Piano concert

Pianist **Dino Mulić**, a UTRGV lecturer in the Music Department, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Mulić, a native of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, has performed in Austria, Canada, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, the United States and his native country. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 882-7025 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Mozart’s ‘Requiem’

The UTRGV Master Chorale, guest soloists and the Brownsville Festival Orchestra and Chorus will perform **Mozart’s “Requiem.”** The performance includes Lenten motets by composers **Giovanni Palestrina** and **Francis Poulenc**. A pre-concert lecture in the Arts Center lobby will start at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 882-7025 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

22 Pushup event

The **Student Veterans of America** will host a pushup event for PTSD and suicide awareness among service members and veterans from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email patrick.roberts01@utrgv.edu.

Résumé Building

The **Public Relations Students**

Society of America at UTRGV will review, edit and give tips to better improve members’ résumés from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South 173 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email karla.leal01@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Vaqueros Got Talent

The **Campus Programming Board** invites students to come and support the participants for **Vaqueros Got Talent** from 7 to 10 p.m. in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at 7 p.m. in the Student Union theater on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email louay.bachnak01@utrgv.edu.

Thursday

Veteran Resource Fair

The **Student Veterans of America** and the **Military and Veterans Success Center** will co-host a resource fair for veterans from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email patrick.roberts01@utrgv.edu.

Friday

S.E.A. Prom

The **Student Equality Alliance** invites the campus community to celebrate love and friendship while dancing the night away from 7 to 11 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email john.delagarza01@utrgv.edu.

Saturday

MBA Association 5K

The **MBA Association** will host a 5K run to generate funds for the association. The event will start at 8 a.m. under the covered walkway in

front of the Business Administration Building on the Edinburg campus. Students will be able to compete for participation medals and trophies. For more information, email jorge.a.garcia02@utrgv.edu.

Food Sales

Hot dogs

The **Pre-Dental Society at UTRGV** will sell hot dogs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email dakota.miller01@utrgv.edu.

DEAF fundraiser

The **Deaf Education and Advocacy Foundation** will sell baked goods to raise funds for hearing aids from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Library Courtyard on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email leslie.k.gonzalez01@utrgv.edu.

Aguas frescas

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will sell aguas frescas from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Library Courtyard on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email michelle.a.cavazos01@utrgv.edu.

Fruit cups

The **Operation Smile Club** will sell fruit cups from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Library Courtyard on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email lesley.robles01@utrgv.edu.

Hot Cheetos

The **Philosophy Club** will sell Hot Cheetos with cheese and drinks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Liberal Arts Building South lobby on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email alfredo.ovalle01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 20 and 31.



March 20

9:21 a.m.: An inoperable motorcycle being pushed by the motorist and a public safety officer to an area with less traffic on West University Boulevard

and Jackson Street rolled back down the street and struck a UTRGV police vehicle. No injuries were reported.

March 21

11:01 a.m.: A staff member reported that he accidentally shattered the window of a parked vehicle while trimming grass in Lot E29 on the Edinburg campus.

12:08 p.m.: A faculty member reported that he struck a parked vehicle in Lot E19 on the Edinburg campus.

3:21 p.m.: A student reported losing immigration documents either off campus or at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

March 22

9:35 a.m.: A vehicle struck a student riding her bicycle in the crosswalk at the intersection of Nevarez Drive and Van Week Street in Edinburg. She was transported to Edinburg Regional Medical Center for a medical evaluation.

3 p.m.: A vehicle struck a student riding his bicycle in the crosswalk on the 700 block of North Sugar Road in Edinburg. He suffered a minor scrape on his left elbow.

4:23 p.m.: A student reported losing two USBs that contained his personal information and documents in the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

10:15 p.m.: A male student on the Edinburg campus reported being harassed by a female student via text messages. The case is under investigation.

March 23

10:21 a.m.: A Sodexo employee reported having chest pains. He declined emergency medical services and will seek a medical evaluation

from his physician.

3:04 p.m.: A staff member reported a phone call from a person claiming to be her niece and requesting that she deposit \$1,000 to an account. No currency was deposited and the call was deemed a scam.

March 24

10:50 a.m.: A faculty member turned in a found wallet to the UTRGV Police Department. A student claimed the wallet. Upon receiving it, she realized \$15 were missing. The faculty member said there was no money when it was turned over to her by a staff member, who received it from a student.

March 27

9:29 a.m.: A vehicle struck a student riding her bicycle on the crosswalk on the 700 block of North Sugar Road in Edinburg. She was not injured and refused emergency medical services.

9:49 a.m.: A UTRGV grounds staff member reported accidentally shattering a window of the University Center on the Edinburg campus while cutting the grass with a trimmer.

4:01 p.m.: Officers responded to a strong odor of smoke emitting from the 1500 wing of the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. It was determined that an air handler belt had malfunctioned, causing the burnt odor to enter the ventilation system. The Brownsville Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

5:58 p.m.: A student contacted the Hidalgo County Emergency Medical Services due to an anxiety attack. She was transported to Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen.

March 28

11:57 a.m.: A university electrical vehicle sustained minor damage after it scraped against a speed limit sign in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus.

March 29

10:04 a.m.: A student who secured his bicycle near his apartment in The Village on the Edinburg campus reported that it was stolen between

noon March 28 and 5 a.m. March 29.

12:26 p.m.: A faculty member reported losing several university-issued keys and a USB. He was not sure what the USB contained and whether it was computer sensitive information.

3:39 p.m.: A Casa Bella resident reported that she was physically assaulted by her ex-boyfriend around 11 p.m. March 28 in Lot B3 on the Brownsville campus. She was not injured. The case is under investigation.

4:38 p.m.: A student slipped and fell in the Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus due to water on the floor near a water fountain. She complained of pain in her toe but refused emergency medical services.

March 30

9:04 a.m.: A staff member reported miscellaneous property stolen from his office in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The loss was estimated at \$75. The case is under investigation.

2:22 p.m.: A student fell and hit her head while playing soccer on March 29 on the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus. When she woke up the next day, she experienced neck pain and went to Student Health Services.

3:45 p.m.: Two students reported that while backing out of their parking spaces, their vehicles collided in Lot E16 on the Edinburg campus. The damage was less than \$1,000 to each vehicle. No injuries were reported.

8:25 p.m.: A staff member reported her UTRGV ID missing on the Edinburg campus. The ID provides access to the Visual Arts Building.

March 31

2:15 p.m.: A UTRGV Facilities Services staff member reported that someone had stolen large toilet paper rolls from multiple restrooms on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

#LoveYourLibrary

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Book cover designing, *lotería*, Literary Pictionary and a book giveaway are among the events the UTRGV libraries will host in observance of National Library Week.

“It’s the whole nation celebrating how amazing and wonderful our libraries are,” said Liliana Sanchez, access services librarian for the Brownsville campus.

The celebration will start at 11 a.m. today with the “Design Your Own Book Cover” event on the Brownsville campus.

“We are going to have books displayed,” Sanchez said. “We will have books covered and we are going to provide material, color pencils and crayons, and students will be able to design the book from scratch.”

The library will provide 50 covered-in-white books for the students.

“You don’t have to know how to draw or be an artist,” she said. “We will have someone helping you along the way.”

The designed books will be displayed on the library’s first floor and will be judged by University Librarian Paul Sharpe, Library Assistant Abraham Mata and Library Student Assistant Jessica Perez.

The winners will be announced Friday.

“[Students] will be able to win a prize and at the same time learn that we have popular reading books available for checkout,” Sanchez said.

On Tuesday, the library will host “Literary Pictionary” at 11 a.m. and “Student Readings” at 2:30 p.m. on the Brownsville campus.

“We are hosting ‘Literary Pictionary’ based on the Pictionary board game but we added another component to it,” said Joel Chirino, head of Research and Instruction Services. “We are going to have white boards and they are going to be writing classic book titles.”

Students will also draw references to popular books such as “Lord of the Rings” by J.R.R. Tolkien and the “Sun Also Rises” by Ernest Hemingway.

“It will be a lot of fun, kinda competing against each other,” Chirinos said.

For the “Student Readings,” creative writing Assistant Professor Christopher Carmona and several of his students will showcase some of their work.

“April is also Poetry Month, so we are thinking there may be some poetry,” Chirinos said.

He said students will read some of their poetry along with some essays, adding that the university has many talented students.

On Wednesday, “Library Loteria” will start at 11 a.m. on the Brownsville campus.

“It’s a Mexican-style bingo with library images,” Chirinos said. “What we want to do is promote the library as a place not only to come and study and do research but there is some much more that happens.”

On Thursday, the Brownsville library will host “Library Matinee” at 11 a.m. and “Throwback Thursday” at 2:30 p.m.

“We are going to be showcasing ‘Jurassic World’ as part of our collection,” Chirinos said.

Sanchez said they want to let students know the library offers movies to check out.

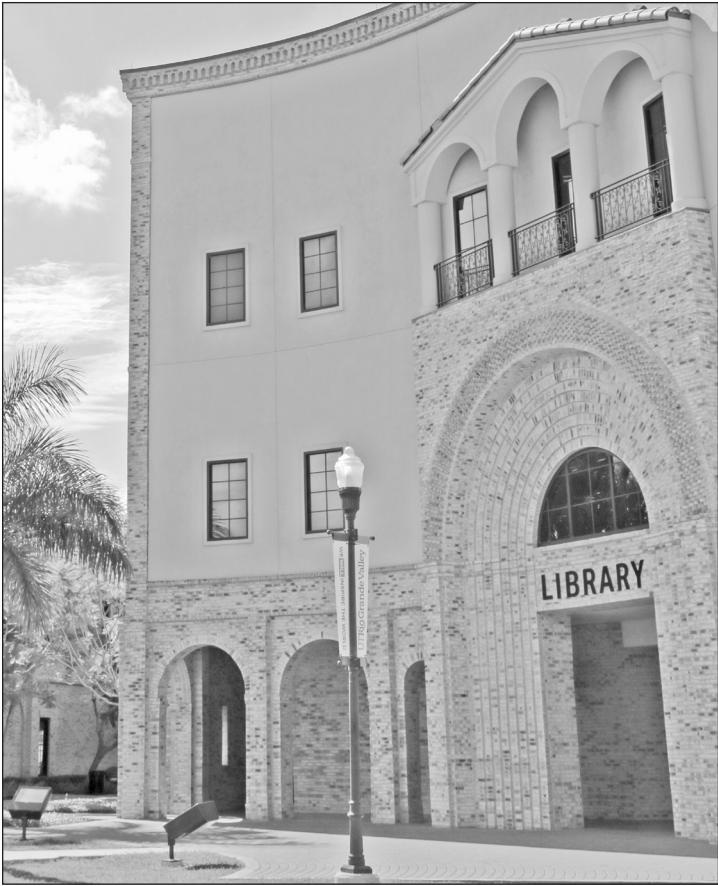
“We are ordering a lot of new movies, a lot of new materials that have some value for students,” Chirinos said.

For the second event of the day, Librarian John Ferris will play an LP record player.

“He is going to be playing music and also talking about how to find information on certain musicians,” Chirinos said.

On the Edinburg campus, the library will host a book presentation of “*Todos a Comer*” by Lecturer Alma Gonzalez at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Shary Room.

“It is a Mexican food alphabet book,” said Susan Bushnell, head of Research



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Both UTRGV libraries will host events this week in observance of National Library Week. The Brownsville campus will kick off the celebration at 11 a.m. today with “Design Your Own Book Cover.”

and Instruction Services for the Edinburg campus.

On Wednesday, the library will have a book giveaway from 9 to 11 a.m.

“We have a lot of books and they will be free,” Bushnell said.

For more information about the events, visit the libraries on both campuses.

“Love your library,” Sanchez said. “Come and visit and use your resources.”

All events are free and refreshments will be provided.

“I am really looking forward to this,” Chirinos said. “It is more than just books; it is more than a computer lab. We are here to help you.”

UTRGV honors student employees



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Kimberly Cerbin, nursing sophomore and student career adviser for Career Services, signs in students at the front desk last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. This week, UTRGV observes National Student Employment Appreciation.

Rebeca Ortiz
SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV will honor its nearly 3,000 student workers with a job fair, workshops and appreciation ceremonies as part of National Student Employment Week.

“The main purpose of this event is to appreciate what the student employees do for us,” said Ana Perez, assistant director of Student Employment for the UTRGV Career Center. “What we are trying to do is give an appreciation day for the students, give something special, make something special for them.”

The National Student

Employment Appreciation Week is an annual event. This year’s celebration will be the second in UTRGV history.

At UTRGV, there are 2,850 students working on all campuses, 198 of which are international students.

Today, résumé seminars will take place at noon in Salón Cassia in Brownsville and in the Student Union’s Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus.

Perez said it is important for students to attend résumé seminars.

“Many students already have their résumés, but also some students have never done a résumé and they really

need to know; they have to be ready,” she said. “By the time that they graduate, they need a résumé for them to find a real job outside.”

On Tuesday, a job fair for employment on campus will take place at 10 a.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón in Brownsville.

“This will be either to hire students for the summer or to start interviewing to hire students for the fall,” Perez said.

In Edinburg, the job fair will take place at 10 a.m. Thursday in the University Ballroom.

A networking/social media workshop will take place at noon Tuesday on both

campuses in Salón Cassia and in the Bronc Room.

Perez said the networking workshop will show students the proper way to use social media to obtain a job. She also mentioned the effects Facebook profiles have in today’s hiring process.

“You may have a very good résumé, you may have very good experience in your résumé and everything, but these employers go in to look at your Facebook and if you have something that is not right--let’s say you are drinking or doing something that is not appropriate for a job--you might not even get a job. That’s what this workshop is about, the do’s and don’ts about the media,” she said.

Kimberly Cerbin, a nursing sophomore and student career adviser for Career Services, said she enjoys her time working at the university.

“I’m always here on campus, pretty much all day and you also get to build connections with different faculty and staff,” Cerbin said.

She said an advantage of working on campus, besides building connections, is the work experience she receives when helping students and interacting with others.

Asked what her thoughts are about the Student Employment Appreciation Week, Cerbin replied, “It is a good opportunity to get to know other student employees around the campus and you get to see the honorees, and the achievement that they have accomplished.”

The ceremonies for Student Employee of the Year and Supervisor of the Year will take place at noon Wednesday in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Friday

in the University Ballroom in Edinburg.

Virginia Ledesma, a learning instructional specialist for the ASPIRE program, said it is important to show appreciation to student employees because “they play a big role in the success of the program and the students, so it’s important that we recognize their contribution to the program and to the success of the student.”

Ledesma, who spoke on behalf of the tutors from the program, said one can see the difference in student employees when they start and when they finish.

“It’s very important for them to have good communication skills, good representations of the program, create a connection with the student, so when they come in they are very cautious about it, but once they see, you see confident students,” she said. “Their knowledge increases because they practice that all the time that they were here, they create bonds with the students, so it’s important because that gives them professional knowledge, career knowledge, academic knowledge, and they create bonds with the students they get in contact with.”

When nominating a student for Employee of the Year, Ledesma said she looks for several things.

“The knowledge, how they respect and how they get along with the students, how they connect with them, how they are always willing to serve the student [are a few],” she said. “Someone that is here, aware that when once they are here, they are here to provide a service. That’s how I nominate a Student Employee of the Year.”

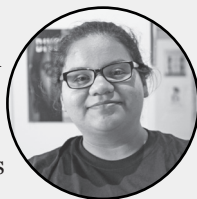
Vaquero Voice

Student Fees



“I don’t mind paying for all that stuff. I think the money should be put into areas that require more attention, like the rec center. I think that it’s important to have a stress reliever. I go every once in a while to run, just to relieve stress. I would say maybe we should give more money to clubs because it’s nice to have a way to express yourself.”

Jonathan Cantanoza
Psychology freshman



“I know it includes the health center, the rec center. I read through that stuff online. I don’t use those things, though. I think it would be awesome if they gave us the option to not pay for it.”

Gabriella Hernandez
English junior



“I understand that sometimes we need to pay for things as it is, we’re a union now. Since we merged with UT Pan Am we have a lot more offered to us but I understand we have to pay more in order to have access to that stuff. I understand that fees go up.

As a result, some people are not happy because of the bus situation or that tuition is too high, that’s understandable. But at the same time if we want our school to progress we need to invest more money in it so we can’t always just try to get the free deal of it. Like some people don’t benefit from financial aid due to their parents’ income, it’s fine. There’s scholarships and then we don’t necessarily have to pay back our loans as long as they’re subsidized, the ones that we don’t have to pay until after we graduate. So, I mean, I don’t really have a problem with how it is now.”

Luis Segoviano
Art junior

“I believe that it should be an option, like if you do feel that you need the medical services or the rec [center], there should be, like, a list and in your ID once you, like, if you go say, ‘OK, she paid for these services,’ because some, like, I have insurance, so I don’t need to be paying those extra fees. But, the gym I do use it, so it should be, like, an option if you want to pay for it. If not, well then you won’t be able to get those services.”



Teresa Garcia
Criminal justice junior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

If Texas Senate Bill 885 passes.

Best to start your college fund now, kid.



Pampered with pride and rights



Marie Vallangca
THE RIDER

As an immigrant coming from the Philippines to the United States, a powerful and respected nation compared to others, the first thing I saw was disrespect among the people.

The students were disrespecting their teachers, superiors and even each other. This was a culture shock for me, especially as a young kid starting a new life in a new country. Even though I came from a private Catholic school, I knew that in public schools, any of the offenses listed above could lead to the student’s expulsion. However, these types of behaviors in public education institutions are a common occurrence in the United States. There are no limits to the students’ behavior toward one another.

Those who misbehave and disrespect their teach-

ers are sent to detention. After detention, they go back to their old ways. If students are allowed to talk back to their superiors and only have detention as a disciplinary act, which is basically a free day or class period for them, when and how will they learn to respect?

I’ve heard the students use their “rights” as an excuse for their behavior. They have freedom of speech, which means they have the right to say whatever they want. Students may be able to say what they want but they don’t have the right to disrespect. Many abuse the rights given to them and use it against others.

“ Many people use their rights in malicious ways to insult people they may dislike or oppose. ”

Since some are not accustomed to being respectful, as adults, respect is still unfamiliar to them. Today, many insult the LGBT community, religions and nationalities without thinking that they are disrespecting human beings. Ironically, people shout for human rights as

well. Many people use their rights in malicious ways to insult people they may dislike or oppose.

One of America’s characteristics is discrimination, which is a form of disrespect. The United States is a wonderful country but its self-admiration leaves it with more to be desired.

Letter to the Editor

Students’ environmental awareness comments appreciated



Thanks to UTRGV Environmental Awareness Club President Julissa Roman and graduate student Ricardo Ramirez Garcia-Rojas for their Public Comments participation at Pharr City Hall on April 3, where they kindly spoke to further environmental awareness into the minds of the leadership and residents of Pharr immediately following Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez’s City of Pharr Arbor Day proclamation.

The proclamation was the final requirement needed in order to achieve Tree City U.S.A. status committing our city to restoration, protection and state-of-the-art maintenance of our public trees, natural treasures and now a valued green infrastructure part of Capital Improvements dedicated to the residents’ quality of life, Pharr Forward, into the future.

Dr. K.C. Fletcher
Board Member, South Texas Tree Council

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UTRGV study reveals sexual misconduct findings

Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has released the results of a study on sexual assault and misconduct at the university. The statistics are part of a University of Texas System survey, which is the most in-depth look at violence and misconduct ever undertaken by an institution or system of higher education in the U.S.

In 2015, the UT System board of regents approved \$1.7 million to fund the Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments (CLASE) report, a survey of sexual assault and misconduct within the system. Thirteen of the UT System’s 14 academic and medical institutions participated in the survey in Fall 2015 and early Spring 2016.

“The first step toward meeting any responsibility is to take an unflinching look at where you’re doing well, and where you’re falling short,” UT System Chancellor William McRaven said in a March 24 news release. “Unfortunately, higher education has too often fallen short when it comes to addressing the epidemic of sexual assault and misconduct on campus. That includes The University of Texas System.”

More than 28,000 students in the UT System at various institutions participated in the study. Of the 24,600 UTRGV students who were invited to take part in the study, 3,821 participated. The sample of students was designed to be representative of the student body at the university.

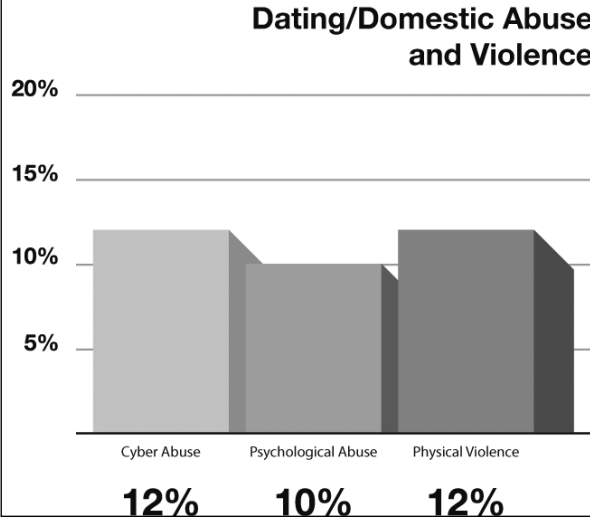
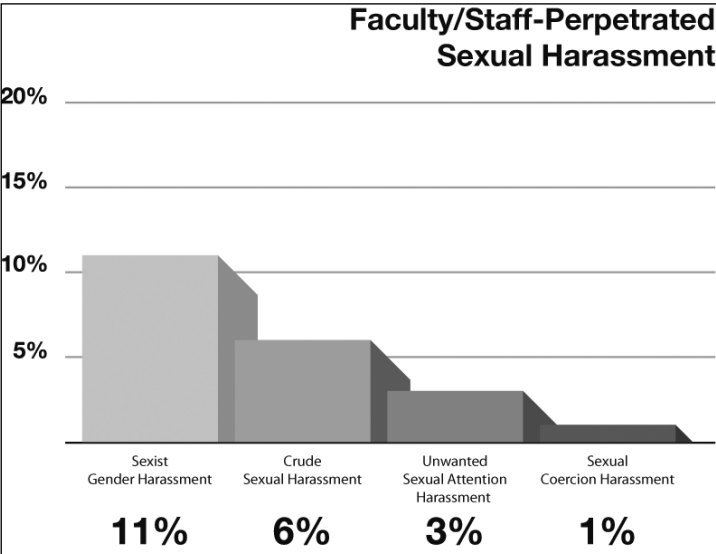
Students at UTRGV identified as 56 percent female, 43 percent male and 1 percent identified as an additional gender identity. Of students who participated in the study, 59 percent of all victims identified as female while 38 percent identified as male, with 3 percent identifying as an additional gender identity. Seventy percent of victims and 78 percent of non-victims reported.

The study asked students about their experiences since their enrollment at UTRGV. Participants were asked about sexual harassment, stalking, dating/domestic abuse and violence, and unwanted sexual contact.

Sexual harassment is defined as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic or work performance or creating a hostile environment.”

The study provided a look into faculty-and-staff-perpetrated sexual harassment. Eleven percent of participants reported sexist gender harassment, 6 percent reported crude sexual harassment, 3 percent reported unwanted sexual attention harassment and 1 percent reported sexual coercion harassment.

The gender identities of the



faculty or staff perpetrators showed 71 percent were male, 16 percent female and 12 percent unknown. The academic status of the perpetrators revealed 53 percent were faculty, 16 percent staff and 31 percent student employees. Seventy-nine percent of the reported faculty staff sexual harassment incidents happened on campus.

Sixteen percent reported student-perpetrated sexual harassment. Seventy-nine percent of student-perpetrated harassment showed to be male and 16 percent female. The academic status of 92 percent of student-perpetrated sexual harassment was undergraduate, with the other 8 percent falling under graduate or professional. Seventy-eight percent of said student-perpetrated sexual harassment occurred on campus.

Stalking is defined as the “persistent [use of] threatening or harassing tactics” that are unwanted and fear-inducing, such as being followed, spied on, or sent repeated unwanted messages.

Eleven percent of participants reported stalking. Seventy-one percent of the stalking perpetrators were male, 15 percent female and 14 percent unknown. The relationship between victims and perpetrators revealed 36 percent were acquaintances, 33 percent had a close relationship, 26 percent were strangers and 4 percent was faculty or staff. Forty-nine percent of these incidents occurred on campus and 51 percent occurred off campus.

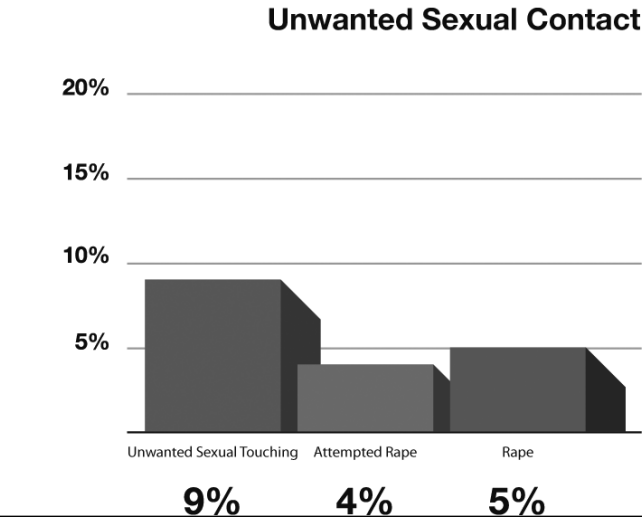
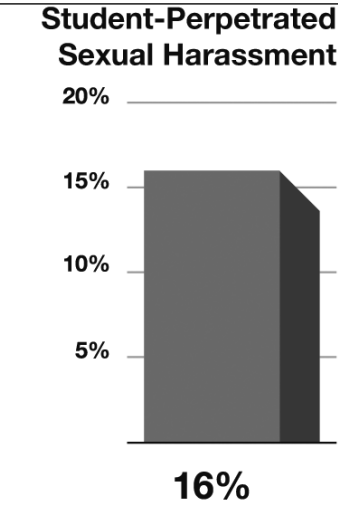
In relation to dating and

domestic abuse/violence, 12 percent reported cyber abuse, 10 percent psychological abuse and 12 percent reported physical violence. Thirteen percent of undergraduate females reported cyber abuse while males reported 11 percent. Undergraduate males reported psychological abuse at 9 percent with females reporting 10 percent. Fourteen percent of undergraduate males reported experiencing physical violence, while females reported 11 percent.

Twenty-three percent of gay and lesbian students who were in a dating or marital relationship while at UTRGV reported experiencing physical violence, compared to only 11 percent of heterosexual students who were dating or in a marital relationship while at UTRGV.

Unwanted sexual contact is defined as sexual activity that occurs without consent. Nine percent reported unwanted sexual touching, 4 percent attempted rape and 5 percent reported rape. Seven percent of female undergraduates reported experiencing rape since their enrollment at UTRGV and 4 percent of all students reported they had experienced attempted rape. Eleven percent of female undergraduates and 8 percent of graduate and professional students reported unwanted sexual touching. Seven percent of males, both on the undergraduate and graduate professional level, reported unwanted sexual touching.

In cases of unwanted sexual contact, the identity of the perpetrator was 69 percent male, 22 percent female and 9 percent unknown. The relationship between the



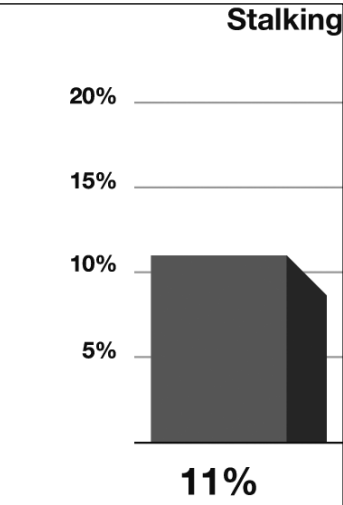
victims and perpetrators was 24 percent acquaintances, 65 percent close relationships, 10 percent strangers and 1 percent faculty and staff. Thirteen percent of these incidents happened on campus while 87 percent occurred off campus.

Kristin Croyle, UTRGV vice president of Student Success, was part of the university’s committee directly involved in conducting the survey. Croyle said the study showed the university has work to do.

“Any instance of sexual violence or unwanted sexual contact with a student is not acceptable,” she said. “Anything above zero in the whole report is just not acceptable. I’m familiar with the research; it’s encouraging in many ways--most students feel safe on campus, most violence they experience happens off campus. We have work to do with our campus community and our community partners. There’s encouragement but anything above zero is not OK.”

Twenty-four percent of victims disclosed the incident prior to taking the survey, while 76 percent of victims did not disclose to anyone prior to participating in the survey. Nine percent of victims who disclosed told someone at the university. Sixty-one percent of victims did not know or were unsure of how students get help.

The study showed that LGBTQI students are victimized at a rate disproportionate to their population size. Students who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or an additional sexual orientation made up 11 percent of the participant



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

sample, but represented 17 percent of the victims. The study also showed 17 percent of gay and lesbian students experienced crude sexual harassment from faculty or staff.

The study showed victims deal with the experience even after the incident. Twelve percent of victims had to take time off from school after victimization, 6 percent of victims had to take time off from work, 4 percent of victims needed medical care, and 3 percent of needed to relocate to another residence after victimization.

Victims also experienced depression and PTSD symptoms at a higher rate when compared to non-victims. Twenty-two percent of victims screened positive for depression compared to 9 percent of non-victims, and 28 percent screened positive for PTSD while only 13 percent of non-victims screened positive.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the reason for the study was the UT System recognized a national problem and what the university will do to make for a safer campus.

“We have a number of things in place, I think part of what we need to do is make people aware of the options and resources we have available for them,” Bailey said. “We need to look at other initiatives we need to put in place as well. We’ll look at national best practices and we’ll try to make sure we have the best practices.”

UTRGV offers several programs aimed to reduce violence and ensure students’ safety, including the Office

Big win in Dallas

UTRGV Student Media rakes in 44 state awards



UT Rio Grande Valley's student newspaper, general and literary magazines, radio and TV stations captured 44 awards at the 108th annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention held March 30 through April 1 in Dallas. More than 500 students and advisers representing colleges and universities from across Texas gathered in the Crowne Plaza Hotel to attend the convention. Students competed in on-site contests and attended workshops.

Reprinted and updated from
utrgvrider.com

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student members of *The Rider*, UTRGV-TV, UTRGV Radio, Gallery and Pulse magazines took home a total of 44 awards at the 108th annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention held last week in Dallas.

More than 500 students and advisers from 47 Texas colleges and universities attended the convention. Students competed in numerous on-site contests and attended workshops.

TIPA is the nation's oldest and largest student press association.

Competition categories included news writing, television announcing, feature photography, sports photography, magazine design and radio announcing, among others.

In the on-site contests, *The Rider* captured three awards. Editor-in-Chief Jesus Sanchez received first place in Print News Writing; Cartoonist Clarissa Martinez, third place in Editorial Cartoon; and Photographer Ana Cahuiche, honorable mention in Feature Photo.

UTRGV-TV Station Manager Sarah Garcia earned honorable mention in the on-site TV Announcing (Spanish) competition.

In the on-site Magazine Design competition, Pulse Graphics Editor Melissa Alatorre received honorable mention.

Jalen Portillo, UTRGV Radio social media editor, garnered honorable mention in the on-site radio advertising competition.

In the previously published and broadcast categories of the competition, works from UTRGV won 35 awards.

Pulse magazine was awarded first place in General Magazine Overall Excellence among Division 2 schools.

Former Editor-in-Chief Betzaida Rivera and Veronica Cardenas, a UTRGV alumna and contributor, garnered first place in the Story Package category. Rivera also received second place in Feature Story.

Photo Editor Gustavo Huerta won second place in News Feature Story. Alatorre received honorable mention in the Illustration category.



Ana Cahuiche
Honorable Mention in Feature Photo



Clarissa Martinez
Third place in Editorial Cartoon



Jesus Sanchez
First place Print News Writing



Jalen Portillo
Honorable Mention in Radio Advertising



Sarah Garcia
Honorable Mention in TV Announcing
(Spanish)



Melissa Alatorre
Honorable Mention in Magazine Design

--Photos by Michelle Espinoza

Gallery magazine won first place in Literary Magazine Overall Excellence.

UTRGV alumna Angela Ruiz captured first place in Illustration; Ivanna Mejia, second place in Photo Essay; Mayanin Rosa, honorable mention in Poem; and Sergio De Leon, honorable mention in Short Story.

UTRGV Radio earned second place in Radio Overall Excellence.

Former News Director Melissa Gutierrez won first place in the Spot News category. Gutierrez shared second place with former News Director Mark Lopez in Single Public Affairs.

Station Manager Nathaniel Puente won third place in the Spot Commercial/PSA/Promo and Sportscast categories.

For UTRGV-TV, former Station Manager Cassandra Torres placed first in News Feature Story. Sports Director Daniel Galvan earned third place in Sportscast and former Chief Reporter Erick Guerra received honorable mention in News Non-Feature and Audition Tape.

The Rider netted 19 awards in the previously published and broadcast categories of the competition among Division 2 schools.

Sanchez earned first place in Opinion/Editorial Page Design, second place in Single Subject Presentation and honorable mention in Print News Story. Photo Editor Mario Gonzalez received first place in Critical Review, third place in Best Audio Slideshow and honorable mention Feature Photo. Two of Gonzalez's entries received third place and honorable mention in the Information Graphic category.

Spanish Editor Rebeca Ortiz placed second and third in Spanish News Writing; Photographer Gabriel Mata, third place in Feature Photo; and Photographer Lesley Robles, third place in News Feature Story.

News Editor Bryan Ramos garnered honorable mention in Sports News Story; Sports Editor Nathaniel Mata, honorable mention in Headline Writing and Sports Feature Story; Photographer Sarah Carvajal, honorable mention in Sports Action Photo and Sports Feature Photo; and Martinez, two honorable mentions in Editorial Cartoon.

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June 26-30	Beansprout	Ages 3-4	9:00 - 12:00	\$120
June 26-30	Lego1	Ages 5-10	1:00 - 4:00	\$120
July 3-7 (closed 7-4)	Princess Camp	Ages 5-7	9:00 - 3:00	\$130
July 10-14	Spectacular STEAM	Ages 5-7	9:00 - 3:00	\$150
July 17-21	Big, Messy Art	Ages 7-10	9:00 - 3:00	\$150
July 24-28	Jedi Masters	Ages 5-7	9:00 - 3:00	\$150
July 31-August 4	American Girl Doll	Ages 6-9	9:00 - 3:00	\$150
August 7-11	Around the World in 5 Days	Ages 5-7	9:00 - 3:00	\$150
August 14-18	Mai and Moana	Ages 3-4	9:00 - 12:00	\$120
August 14-18	Lego2	Ages 5-10	1:00 - 4:00	\$120

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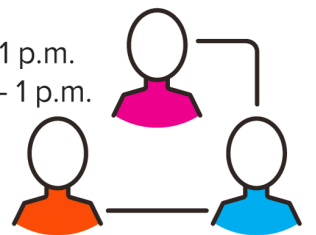
MONDAY, APRIL 10

*Rick
off*

RÉSUMÉ SEMINARS

Brownsville Campus at Cassia • 12 - 1 p.m.

Edinburg Campus at Bronc Rm. • 12 - 1 p.m.



TUESDAY, APRIL 11

NETWORKING/ SOCIAL MEDIA

Brownsville Campus at Cassia • 12 - 1 p.m.

Edinburg Campus at Bronc Rm. • 12 - 1 p.m.

ON-CAMPUS JOB FAIR

Brownsville Campus

Student Union El Gran Salon • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AWARD CEREMONY

Brownsville Campus

Student Union El Gran Salon • 12 - 1 p.m.

Student Employee of the Year

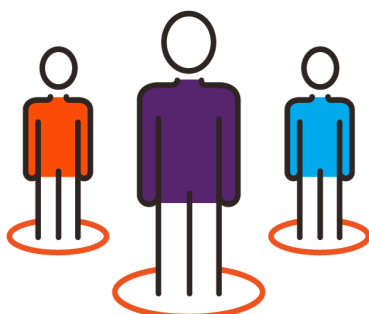
Supervisor of the Year

*Invitation
Only*

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

ON-CAMPUS JOB FAIR

Edinburg Campus Ballroom • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



FRIDAY, APRIL 14



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AWARD CEREMONY

Edinburg Campus Ballroom • 12 - 1 p.m.

Student Employee of the Year

Supervisor of the Year

*Invitation
Only*

For more information or special accommodations, contact the UTRGV Career Center:
Edinburg Campus, Student Services Bldg. 2nd Floor – (956) 665-2243,
Brownsville Campus, Cortez Hall # 129 – (956) 882-5627.

UTRGV ofrece cursos de desarrollo profesional



FOTO CORTESÍA

Estudiantes atienden el taller de “Leyes de trabajo para organizaciones sin fines de lucro” impartido por D’Ann Johnson, directora en Texas C-Bar, el pasado octubre en el Sitio de Enseñanza en McAllen. Johnson habló sobre el proceso para contratar y entrenar personal además de las pólizas y archivos.

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORIA DE ESPAÑOL

Más de 10 diferentes certificaciones están disponibles este mes a través del programa de Educación Continua en el sitio de enseñanza en McAllen y en el campus de Brownsville.

Además de ofrecer programas de licenciatura y maestría, la universidad ha desarrollado cursos sin créditos académicos para las personas que buscan desarrollo profesional en el Valle del Rio Grande.

“La meta principal del programa de Educación Continua de UTRGV es extender los recursos educacionales de la universidad para satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad”, dijo Jayshree Bhat, directora de Educación Continua.

Bhat habló sobre la gama de gente que necesita desarrollo profesional pero que no está interesada en un programa con créditos académicos, tales como los profesionistas y gente de todas las edades.

“La tecnología ha hecho una necesidad para la gente en cualquier tipo de profesión continuar ... su aprendizaje para poder actualizar sus habilidades y conocimiento para que se puedan permanecer encima de la fuerza laboral”, dijo Bhat. “Ya sea en la forma de algo que hace a alguien más comerciable, o si es algo que un profesionista necesita para capacitarse, es ahí donde entramos”.

Al igual que proveer experiencias de aprendizaje, el sitio de enseñanza en McAllen ofrece clases de maestría en administración de empresas, administración pública y liderazgo educacional. También provee cursos de preparación para el Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), el Graduate Record Examination (GRE) y el Law School Admission Test (LSAT), entre otros.

“Esencialmente, estamos buscando extender los recursos de la universidad y dárselos al público; queremos que todos puedan tener una oportunidad

de desarrollar sus habilidades y crezcan profesionalmente”, dijo Marco Carbajal, coordinador del programa de Educación Continua. “Pueden explorar un hobby, pueden impulsar su currículum si quieren, o pueden cambiar de carrera con algunos de nuestros programas”.

Carbajal explicó que alguien que no está en un campo específico puede tomar una clase e ingresar a uno completamente diferente.

“Hay también mucha gente que quizás empezó trabajando en cierta industria y que están aburridos o que quieren ganar más dinero, así que se registran en una de nuestros cursos de asistencia médica, como nuestro programa de flebotomía ... o nuestro programa de técnico de farmacia”, dijo Carbajal, “De nuevo, son solo unos pocos meses y una vez que salen pueden tener muy buen ingreso y una vida estable, y lo hicieron en un sábado por unos cuantos meses”.

Este es el caso de Juan Sánchez, estudiante de Educación Continua, quien piensa que fue una verdadera oportunidad para reinventarse asimismo.

“Acababa de terminar mi licenciatura y no estaba completamente listo para comprometerme con una maestría y para poder ganar nuevas habilidades, tomé un amplio rango de clases—gestión de proyectos de informática, finanzas, recursos humanos, creatividad e innovación—muchas cosas diferentes que ayudarían a mis habilidades y carrera”, dijo Sánchez.

El recomienda tomar clases en el programa de Educación Continua porque ofrece la oportunidad de encontrar lo que te interesa y quizás comprometerte con un programa.

Algunas de las certificaciones básicas preparan a los estudiantes para los aspectos tecnológicos de un trabajo y les proporcionan un certificado de cumplimiento que demuestra que han cumplido con los requisitos necesarios para el trabajo.

“Mientras puedan leer y escribir en inglés a nivel preparatoria, pueden

beneficiarse con muchos de nuestros programas”, dijo Bhat.

Además de las carreras técnicas de flebotomía y farmacia, el sitio de enseñanza en McAllen ofrece el certificado de facturación y codificación médica.

“Algunos de nuestros certificados de asistencia médica son tomados por estudiantes de UTRGV que están buscando un segundo ingreso mientras están en la escuela”, dijo Bhat. “De verdad les da esa exposición que necesitan para entender lo que la profesión requiere de ellos”.

Debido a su naturaleza carente de créditos académicos, no hay prerequisites para inscribirse en las certificaciones y en los cursos de desarrollo profesional. Las inscripciones se hacen a través del sitio web, (<http://www.utrgv.edu/ce/>) y no hay fecha límite ya que los programas se ofrecen durante todo el año y no necesariamente están sometidos a un semestre.

El sitio de enseñanza en McAllen ofrece programas de desarrollo web, marketing digital, animación de video, edición de video, gestión de redes sociales y animación, de los cuales, los dos últimos serán ofrecidos este mes.

La colegiatura está basada en la duración de cada curso.

La mayoría de los cursos son impartidos en el sitio de enseñanza en McAllen, el cual es la oficina principal del programa de Educación Continua y está ubicada en 1800 S. Main St., Suite 1100. Cursos también son impartidos en los campus de Edinburg y Brownsville.

Los salones de dicha instalación están disponibles para que estudiantes de UTRGV lleven a cabo grupos de estudio, o juntas de organizaciones, o cualquier otra actividad relacionada con la universidad.

Centros de cómputo con impresoras también están disponibles.

Para mayor información, llame 665-2017 en McAllen, o 882-7711 en Brownsville.



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Nombre: Jung-Sik Byun

Edad: 26

Especialidad: Ciencias computacionales

Clasificación: Estudiante de segundo año

País de origen: Corea del Sur

¿Qué idiomas hablas? “Coreano, inglés y estoy aprendiendo unas palabras en español”.

¿Por qué decidiste estudiar en E.E.U.U? “Porque conocí a mi esposa que vino de aquí. Ella era una estudiante de intercambio allá [Corea del Sur]. Era una estudiante de UTB que fue a mi universidad y allá nos conocimos”.

Menciona algunos platillos típicos: “Arroz y kimchi, que son vegetales fermentados, repollo. Esa es comida tradicional en Corea”.

Platillo favorito de aquí: “Tacos y Church’s Chicken”.

¿Cuáles son los lugares turísticos en tu país? “El Río Han, el cual está en la capital, Seúl. Es un río como el de San Antonio pero a mayor escala, la gente va ahí a correr”.

Restaurante favorito en E.E.U.U: “Panda Express”.

¿Qué diferencias y similitudes encuentras entre tu país y E.E.U.U?

“La gente de allá, si sales, hay personas en todos lados. La gente aquí realmente no sabe usar las banquetas”.

¿Cuáles son algunas ideas erróneas que la gente tiene sobre tu país? “Si digo que soy de Corea, la mayoría de la gente dice, ‘¿Corea del Norte o del Sur?’, hasta me preguntan, ‘¿La del Norte es buena o la del Sur?’ Y [la gente] no reconoce los diferentes países en Asia, todos creen que soy de China, o algo así”.

Anécdota: “La primera vez que vine aquí, los oficiales de la aduana me preguntaron [en el aeropuerto] ‘¿Por qué escogiste Brownsville?’ Y les dije que era por mi esposa... y ellos me dijeron, ‘Oh, vas a aprender mucho español’, y entonces dije, ‘No, voy a aprender inglés’ y ellos dijeron ‘No, no, no, vas a aprender español’. Estuve muy confundido, ¿qué querían decir? Si voy a la universidad ... ‘Ya verás’, me dijeron. Entonces no entendí, pero ahora sí”.

¿Cuáles son tus planes después de graduarte? “Voy a buscar trabajo aquí y si no encuentro, voy a entrar a la maestría. En Corea, a mi edad ya estoy un poco grande de lo que debería estar para graduarme... porque mis hermanos ya se graduaron. La mayoría ya están trabajando. En Corea es una sociedad muy competitiva, así que si regreso, no voy a poder conseguir trabajo porque las compañías quieren a la gente más joven”.

--Recopilado por Rebeca Ortiz

Club Spotlight

Name: Student Alumni Ambassadors

Purpose: To promote development of a positive relationship between the student population and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley by enhancing loyalty and support through actively participating in university functions and events, providing an opportunity for students to develop positive community relations, increase network contacts and increase career opportunity awareness.

President: Luis Leal

Vice President: Annjanett Gonzales

Secretary: Victoria Garza

Treasurer: Josue Arellanes

Public Relations Officer: Yajaira Lopez

Student Adviser: John Wyatt

Recruitment Officer: Patricia Lerma

Adviser: Marisela Leal, executive director of Alumni Relations

Activities: Participation in HESTEC, community events, UTRGV's We Love Our Donors Day event, Graduation Bash and various alumni events.

Meetings: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every other Tuesday in SWOT 1.404 on the Edinburg campus.

Membership requirements: \$5 annual fee. Membership is open to UTRGV students in good standing.

For more information, email: luis.b.leal@utrgv.edu.

Facebook: UTRGV Student Alumni Ambassadors

--Compiled by Lesley Robles



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of the Student Alumni Ambassadors include (from left) Treasurer Josue Arellanes, Vice President Annjanett Gonzales, President Luis Leal, Recruiter Patricia Lerma, Secretary Victoria Garza and Public Relations Officer Yajaira Lopez.

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

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the seventh in a series. The Rider interviewed David Fisher, an associate professor of history, for information.

Major: History

School: College of Liberal Arts

Department chair: Thomas Britten

Prerequisites: None

Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120

What is history? “The major in history is spread out between four major fields. Students study American history, European history, the history of Latin America, world history or we also have courses in the history of Asia and the Middle East. So, they get some choices where they want to concentrate after they take the history core courses.”

Which classes can students expect to take? “The core courses for history majors include World History 1 and 2, Historiography and Methods and Senior Research Seminar. So, those core courses are spread out through their program of study. The world histories are 2000 level, so those come early. Historiography is in the 3000 level, so it's between the time they move from lower division to upper division. The Senior Research Seminar is in the 4000 level. It is a capstone that they usually take in their senior year.”

What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “If we're lucky, the students learn skills that fit into the bigger picture of humanities. Those skills correlate really well to skills employers say they're looking



for. For example, some of the recent surveys of what employers are looking for in college graduates include things like an understanding of the global context in which work is done. So, one of the skills the history major gives students is a really good database of knowledge of not just North America, but the rest of the world as well. Other skills that employers are looking for that they get from history are being able to evaluate reliable information and sources, to look at primary or secondary sources, to use the material to answer questions about the past and think about the present and maybe even speculate about the future. So, that ability to work in a sophisticated and complex way with

multiple sources of information and evaluate them for reliability and then somehow synthesize them to answer a problem is what employers are looking for. They put together a rich database of the world, learn how to analyze information and we work with them to improve their communication skills in terms of writing and speaking.”

What are some possible careers?

“Like a lot of majors in the humanities, the name of major and the name of the job don't match up, so the history major doesn't necessarily turn students into historians the same way the literature degree doesn't turn them into writers. The kinds of jobs that are available to history students deal with professions that are looking for

students that are intellectually curious and communicate well. Teaching is a possibility. The top five areas they end up in are education, finance, retail, public administration or they hold jobs in some type of professional service position. They're involved in management, sales and education. The history major is a really flexible degree in this ever-changing economic world. Some will go on into professional schools such as graduate school for business. History is also a good prep for law school. Many politicians were history majors, so that is a possibility as well.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “History majors have the highest salaries of any graduates in the humanities and liberal arts. The average salary for a graduate of liberal arts would be something like \$47,000 a year, but the average for history majors was about \$10,000 more. We must be teaching them some useful skills out there because they end up in a wide variety of jobs. Since they're good communicators and they're good at dealing with a wide variety of information and thinking about cause and effect and why things are the way they are, they end up earning higher salaries.”

Are there any student clubs? “Currently, I don't believe there are. At the moment, we're looking forward to students starting some student clubs associated with history.”

For more information: contact David Fisher at david.fisher@utrgv.edu or 882-8836. Or, contact Britten at thomas.britten@utrgv.edu or 882-7379.

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

Visit us at **utrgvrider.com**

Turning the corner

UTRGV looking to keep early stumble in past



PHOTO COURTESY RAZIEL SANCHEZ

Second baseman Austin Siener throws out a runner during a game earlier this season at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. Siener has started in each of the Vaqueros' games in his first year.

Nathaniel Mata

SPORTS EDITOR

For baseball, losing six straight WAC games could have been the dagger. Heading into April 1's matchup with California State University, Bakersfield, UTRGV had lost four conference games in a row and seven overall.

Getting swept would have had the Vaqueros in last place and it would have been a long trip back to the Valley.

In an offensive explosion, the Vaqueros used a 12-hit performance to score 13 runs and narrowly edge CSU-Bakersfield. A day

later, in the rubber match, UTRGV returned to early season form.

Andrew Garcia pitched for six innings, allowing 10 hits but only two runs. The offense came through with timely hitting, specifically a solo home run by second baseman Austin Siener, which stood as the game winner.

"It's exciting," Siener said. "It's cool knowing that the coaches trust me to have me in there every day, and I'm sure these guys want me in there right away. It's a good feeling being able to come in and impact right away."

The junior transfer has

been impactful in field and at the plate. In batting, he was tied for second in hits after two Western Athletic Conference series, with eight. He was the team leader in total bases, with 13, part of his five RBI. He has also yet to make an error in a conference game.

Siener is one of only three players who have started in all of UTRGV's games so far. The St. Louis native is in his first year after transferring from Illinois Central College.

Head Coach Manny Mantrana, in his ninth year with the program, is relying on his usual roster combination of many transfers and

a few homegrown talents.

The veteran coach knows the importance of having a successful conference campaign. Last year, UTRGV missed out on the Western Athletic Conference tournament after a 10-14 record.

"Every WAC weekend is important. And every pitch, every at bat counts," Mantrana said. "We got to make sure that we're focused and do the best that we can so we don't throw away a pitch or an at bat or any WAC weekend."

Siener has made an immediate impact, but he's not the only newcomer contributing this year. Short-stop Ivan Estrella has connected for 32 hits, amassing 25 RBI.

Also receiving praise from the head coach was Conrad McMahon. The outfielder out of Kansas City has added 11 conference hits, bringing his total in his first year with the Vaqueros to 30.

The team is trying to erase its seven-game losing streak that started with a 9-7 loss at the University of Texas, a game in which the team blew a 7-0 lead.

Mantrana, who has been around the game of baseball for decades, said the key to getting through slumps is continuing to work hard.

"Once they're hitting the ball, it's kind of a contagious thing, it rubs on one another," he said. "And going into a slump is part of baseball. For the most part, it's just keeping them confident, continuing to work."

UTRGV will be at home again at 7:30 p.m. Thursday to host Seattle University in hopes of getting back to its strong home play. The Vaqueros started the season on a nine-game home win streak.

COACH OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Xavier Richardson

Sport: Track and Field

Title: Head Coach

Years coaching: 14 (four high school, two with the University of Virginia, six with UT Pan American, two with the program)

Hometown: Fredericksburg, Va.

What's your favorite part of coaching Track and Field? "Probably just being out there and being involved in the sport I love."

What's your favorite place to eat off campus?

"I would have to say Costa Messa on 10th [in McAllen] because I really like going there, I guess."

How was the adjustment going from athlete to coach?

"I can't say it was that difficult. As an athlete, I loved track and field. Just carrying that passion over and not just doing it for myself, but to encourage others to do it, wasn't much of a stretch. Getting used to the actual instruction and learning how to get people to perform was the hardest part."

How do you feel coaching this team?

"I guess it depends on the day. Every day that you get to go out there is a privilege. In my job, I get to wear T-shirts, shorts and tennis shoes every day. Just being out there on the track, in the sport that I love, is a blessing."

Who is your favorite music artist?

"Michael Jackson, because he's the greatest entertainer of all time."

Where would you go on your dream vacation?

"I've always wanted to go to Tokyo. I've been to the airport and that's about it."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Righthand pitcher Connor Grant delivers the ball to home plate during a game against the University at Buffalo.

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A German night at the museum

Karina Aguirre
ONLINE EDITOR

The RGV German Club, a new student organization at UTRGV, will host a German music concert on Thursday at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art to raise money for study abroad scholarships.

The club's purpose is to educate and inform the Rio Grande Valley of the German language and culture. One way it hopes to achieve this is by having the Musikabend Spring Concert.

With the concert, the German Club hopes to give back to the community by adding to the diversity of cultural events in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The money raised in the event will also go toward scholarships to help support students who want to study abroad in Germany but may lack the funds.

"I think that's very important because here in the Valley, not many people have a lot of money to go and study abroad," said Natalia Davila, co-founder and president of the RGV German Club. "It's really expensive, so I want to make that the cause of the event."

Months of practicing and



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the RGV German club include (front row, from left) Griselda Ramirez, Yanelly Palomo, Jill Twark and Brian Miller. Back row: Manuela Madero, Angela Zolezzi, President Natalia Davila, Liliana De Luna Chavez, Vice President Aleyda Perez, David Salas, Secretary Christopher Alaniz and Adviser Arno Forst.

planning by all volunteer students have gone into the making of the event. The Musikabend Spring Concert will feature music by German composers, such as Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann, among others, of the Classical and Romantic periods performed by UTRGV music faculty and senior students.

"We are bringing some diversity to the Lower Rio Grande Valley by putting on some events that you typically don't see," said Arno Forst, an accounting assistant professor at UTRGV and faculty adviser of the RGV German Club. "So, it's right on the mission of promoting German language and culture and, of course, the added benefit of, hopefully,

funding some students so they can go to Germany."

Forst said study abroad changed his life.

"I was a student in Germany; I came here for one year to study in Wisconsin and it blew my mind, being in a different culture," he said.

The Brownsville Museum of Fine Art is located at 660 E. Ringgold St. Tickets

for the concert are \$30 for individuals, \$60 for couples and \$15 for students.

The reception begins at 6:30 p.m., with artisan hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served.

For more information and tickets, call Forst at 882-5783 or email at arno.forst@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV offers professional development courses

Rebeca Ortiz
SPANISH EDITOR

More than 10 different certificate program courses are available through the Continuing Education program this month at the McAllen Teaching Site and on the Brownsville campus.

In addition to offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the university has developed noncredit courses for people looking for professional development in the Rio Grande Valley.

"The primary goal for UTRGV Continuing Education is to extend the educational resources of the university to meet the learning needs of the community," said Jayshree Bhat, director of Continuing Education.

Bhat spoke about the gamut of people who need professional development but are not interested in a credit program, such as professionals and people from all age groups.

"Technology has made it a necessity for people in any type of profession to continue ... learning to be able to update their skills and knowledge base so they can stay above the flow in the workforce," Bhat said. "Whether it's in the form of something that makes somebody a lot more marketable, or if it is something that a working professional needs to be able to do their job better, that's where we come in."

As well as providing noncredit learning experiences, the McAllen Teaching Site offers graduate-level courses in business administration, public administration and educational leadership. It also provides test preparation for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), among others.

"Essentially, we are looking to just extend the resources of the university and give them to the public; we want everybody to be able to have an opportunity to develop their skills and to grow professionally," said Marco



PHOTO COURTESY ARLENE MARTINEZ

Eva Paschal lectures during the Healthy New Year Lunch & Learn workshop that took place in January. Paschal cooked with produce from the UTRGV Community Garden. The workshop, held on the Edinburg campus, stressed the importance of simple ingredients and healthy cooking, and also helped raise money for the UTRGV Student Food Pantry.

Carbajal, program coordinator of Continuing Education. "They could explore a hobby, they could boost their résumé if they want to, or they could actually change careers with some of our programs."

Carbajal explained that someone who may not be in a specific field can take a class and get into a completely different one.

"There's also a lot of other people who maybe started working in a certain industry and they're bored or they want to earn more money, and so, they'll sign up for one of our health care courses, like our phlebotomy program ... or our pharmacy program," Carbajal said. "Again, it's just a few months and once they are out they can make a really good income, and a steady living and they did it on a Saturday for a few

months."

This is the case of Juan Sanchez, a Continuing Education student who thinks it was a real opportunity to reinvent himself.

"I had just finished my bachelor's degree and I wasn't completely ready to commit to a master's program, and in order to gain new skills, I really took a wide range of classes--IT project management, finance, human resources, creativity and innovation--just a lot of different things that would be able to help with my skills and my career," Sanchez said.

He recommends taking classes in the Continuing Education program because it offers the opportunity find what interests you and perhaps commit to a program.

Some of the entry-level certificate

programs prepare students for the technological aspects of a job and provide them with a certificate of completion that shows they have met the requirements that are necessary for that job.

"As long as they can read and write English at a 10th-grade level, they can benefit from many of our programs," Bhat said.

Besides phlebotomy and pharmacy technician, the McAllen Teaching Site offers a medical billing and coding certificate.

"Some of our health care certificate programs are taken by UTRGV students that are looking for a second income while they are in school," Bhat said. "It really gives them that exposure that they need to understand what that profession requires of them."

Due to its noncredit nature, there are no prerequisites to enroll in the certificate and professional development courses. Registration is done through the website (<http://www.utrgv.edu/ce/>) and there is no application deadline as the programs are offered throughout the year and are not necessarily tied to a semester.

The McAllen Teaching Site offers programs in web development, digital marketing, video animation, video editing, social media management and animation, the last two of which are being offered this month.

Tuition is based on the duration of each course.

Most of the courses are held in the McAllen Teaching Site, which is the main office of UTRGV Continuing Education program, and is located at 1800 S. Main St., Suite 1100. Courses are also held on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

The facility's classrooms are available for UTRGV students to use for group studies, student organization meetings and other university-related activities. Computer labs with printers are also available.

For more information, call 665-2071 in McAllen, or 882-7711 in Brownsville.

Targeting climate change and poverty



PHOTO COURTESY ONE WORLD CENTER

Santiago Wills, a volunteer for One World Center, is shown with kids in Africa at a fundraiser organized by the program to build schools.

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

For more than 30 years, One World Center has been recruiting volunteers to work and travel together to address climate change and poverty. Teaching English and Spanish, building children’s playgrounds, pre-schools, schools, kitchens and latrines are some of the projects the organization has done to improve communities in Africa and Central America. “We are nonprofit and we are based in Michigan,” said Elisabeth Axelsen, an international specialist educator for the organization. The organization offers two programs for potential volunteers: Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder with the Poor and Bike For Change. “We have programs where people can learn a lot about the world,”

Axelsen said. “One is about poverty and the other one [Bike For Change] about climate change.” The Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder with the Poor program is a comprehensive study of global poverty. It is an 18-month program where volunteers will learn about the conditions of billions of people living in poverty and how it affects their health, education, freedom, economic opportunity and their very survival, according to the official web page of the organization, oneworldcenter.org. In this program, volunteers will spend six months at their institute in Michigan where they will study the history of poverty, learn to empower the poor and train to become a development instructor. “You will prepare yourself for the next six-month project,” she said. After the six-month study, the team

of volunteers will be divided into groups of three. “Each three will go to a different project,” Axelsen said. “One type can be agriculture, other [types] can be climate change, health and community development.” Volunteers will work together with the local staff and the community to find sustainable solutions for their lives. “This combination is very powerful,”Axelsen said about the idea of mixing volunteers and a community in Africa to work together and determine what they think is important to improve in the village. Equally important, the Bike For Change program will have volunteers bike through Central America to get closer to the environment and their residents. During the travel, volunteers will exchange experiences and in-

formation, connect communities and create channels of reliable information, according to oneworldcenter.org. “The whole idea of this program is to meet people who are affected by climate change,” Axelsen said. Teammates will live on the road while biking across the United States and Mexico to make it to Central America. During the journey, volunteers will have time to study more about the environment, people’s struggles in the region and look for solutions. Volunteers will record interviews, capture landscapes, write journals, livestream events and more. “Perhaps you may see some problems that the local people don’t see,” Axelsen said. The nine-month program consists of three periods: a three-month training in which volunteers begin biking and conducting investigations to learn about climate change. In those months volunteers, will decide the route of their travels, according to oneworldcenter.org. The second period consists of four months biking to Central America. There, volunteers will study the environment and possible solutions to negative effects of climate change. Period three consists of two months back in the U.S. In this period, volunteers will conclude their findings and present them to their group and communities. The team will host an event on campus as the final stage of the program, according to oneworldcenter.org. The Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder program costs \$500 for enrollment and \$4,900 for tuition; the Bike For Change enrollment fee is \$500 and tuition is \$2,500. For more information about volunteering and the application process, visit oneworldcenter.org or contact Axelsen at elisabeth@oneworldcenter.org.

Keep your mind in the gutter

UTRGV takes initiative on water pollution

J. Edward Moreno
THE RIDER

As an area that is prone to flooding, the Rio Grande Valley is one of many urban areas that have adopted a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) as a vital part of its infrastructure. MS4 systems are publicly owned storm sewer systems that assist in redirecting rainwater in order to alleviate flooding in urban areas. These systems encompass “ditches, curbs, gutters, storm sewers and similar means of collecting or conveying runoff that do not connect with a wastewater collection system or treatment plant,” according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality website. In 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency determined that most of the contaminants going into the Valley’s water sources, specifically the Laguna Madre, are coming from storm sewers rather than sanitary sewers. Richard Costello, director of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, said that many of these pollutants come from construction, such as that which takes place on campus, but much of them can be attributed to toxic substances such as paint or oil that people pour down drains or gutters without knowing that they are toxic. “Silt coming from construction sites has a tendency to clog the gills of the fish in the Laguna Madre, which actually contains 60 percent of the fish in the Gulf of Mexico,” Costello said. “What we’re trying to do is implement



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

A storm drain outside of the EACSB building on the Edinburg campus.

measures on this specific campus in order to reduce the contaminants that go into the storm sewer.” Although MS4 systems are run by municipalities, Costello said that as the issue begins to grow, the institution is now responsible for a minimum of five control measures to combat this problem. Among these control measures is public outreach, which can be seen

through the various signs across campus saying, “Only Rain Down the Drain!” Also, a phone number is provided on the “UTRGV’s Guide to a Clean Stormwater System” pamphlet, to call if anyone is seen not complying with measures so that they may be properly addressed. “Considering that our campus has roughly 17,000 commuting students, we hope that they will take this

information home with them,” Costello said. “Hopefully, this kind of outreach will be remembered by students the next time they make the decision to pour oil or paint down the drain, or toss leaves and grass down the gutter.” More information on pollutants and preventative measures can be found at the Office of Sustainability or Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management department.

Springing into new positions



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Harmony Public School Human Resources Director Belinda Sanchez informs Interdisciplinary studies junior Xiomara Garcia about teaching positions in Harmony Public Schools located in San Antonio. Hundreds of students attended last Friday's Spring Teachers Job Expo hosted by Career Services in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Bilingual ESL Director for the Willis Independent School District Felicia Jackson conducts an interview with Erika Rocha, a recent UTRGV graduate with a bachelor's in bilingual education specialization for elementary education with an EC-6 bilingual generalist certification.



Virginia Macias, an interdisciplinary studies senior with a concentration in bilingual elementary education, registers with the Houston Independent School District at the Spring Teachers Job Expo hosted by Career Services last Friday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.



Olga Hernandez, Special Education Coordinator for Lockhart Independent School District, talks about transitioning into teaching and living in Lockhart with biology senior Ernesto Sanchez (left) and mathematics senior Liliana Duarte during the Spring Teachers Job Expo. Also pictured is Stephanie Muñoz (right), a third grade bilingual teacher at LISD's Alma Brewer Strawn Elementary School.

MEDICINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

again this year.

Early Friday, the Texas House of Representatives approved its version of the budget.

Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV vice president for Governmental and Community Relations, spent eight years representing District 41 (McAllen and parts of Mission, Edinburg and Alton) in the Texas House of Representatives. Gonzales' familiarity with the state's process provides UTRGV with knowledge of dealing with different budgets every two years.

"It's a very stressful time because each session is different than the one prior," she said. "This year, unfortunately, happens to be a very lean year and that's for several reasons: oil prices were down, \$5 billion was directed for [the] highway fund and some taxes were lowered prior, so all of that resulted in less money being available for the budget. You deal with what you have during that budget year because Texas has to produce a balanced budget every session."

After the House votes, each chamber will appoint five members to a conference committee that will work together to produce a budget to be voted on that resolves the differences between the two versions of the bill.

If the bill is passed in both houses by May 29, when the legislative session ends, it will be sent to the comptroller for certification, and finally to the governor for signing.

"The Senate and the House understand that for UTRGV [School of Medicine] to continue strong operations, it's going to require much more than \$25 million," Gonzales said. "We're very optimistic, cautiously optimistic, that we're going to get closer to the numbers that the House has."

"The reason it's important for us is because we are a startup. We aren't asking for anything that medical schools in the past haven't asked for. Schools in general, all the public schools across Texas, are seeing cuts at this point. It's concerning because higher education is the key to a successful future, so if we want that for our students, the state has to fund us adequately."

STUDY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP)--a center that works with the campus and community to eliminate interpersonal violence and improve safety; the UTRGV Superhero Project--a bystander intervention program focused on changing behavior to prevent harm; the University Counseling Center--provides free confidential mental health services to any student; OVAVP Victim Advocates--provides confidential assistance to victims and survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence; and Student Health Services--provides confidential medical care to any students, including victims of sexual assault.

While UTRGV offers programs and services to ensure campus safety, the university is hoping to increase access to campus resources and support services for victims, improve campus safety and increase administrative and policy efforts, increase faculty and staff training and involvement, address

dating and domestic abuse and violence and to making content specific-outreach to LGBTQI communities and student-athletes.

UTRGV Interim Dean of Students Becky Gadson, who was also part of the university's committee directly involved in conducting the survey, said there is an opportunity to educate the campus community about the serious issue of unwanted sexual contact and violence at the university.

"It's of paramount importance that people are aware in the campus community of what resources are available and we're able to share and articulate what the process is," Gadson said. "I feel like there's a great opportunity to educate our students about reporting, about being able to establish the healthy boundaries in relationships and to maybe destigmatize asking for help or reporting."

The study is available at <http://www.utrgv.edu/sites/default/files/sites/clase/files/clase-ut-rio-grande-valley.pdf>



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April's spring comedies



MARIE VALLANGCA/THE RIDER

UTRGV alumna Jacqueline Corte (standing, from left), theater seniors Valerie Prince and Sabrina Rodriguez and theater sophomore Erica Treviño rehearse a scene in which they battle monsters for the play, "She Kills Monsters," last Thursday in the Albert Jeffers Theater in Edinburg. The play, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. April 19-22 and 2 p.m. April 23, is filled with dramatic comedy, '90s pop culture, adult situations and language.

Marie Vallangca

THE RIDER

Film production is as hard as producing live plays for theaters. Every detail is dedicated to making the final project perfect and appealing to the audience.

The Albert L. Jeffers Theater, which is the largest and best-established successful community theater in the Valley, is preparing for two plays that will be presented this month, said David Carren, a UTRGV associate professor and interim department chair of Theater/Television/Film. They are "She Kills Monsters," a comedy written by Qui Nguyen and 2013 winner of the American Alliance Theatre and Education Distinguished Play Award, and "Bug Joy," a fantasy written by Jan Seale, the 2012 Texas Poet Laureate.

"She Kills Monsters" is about Agnes Evans following the death of her younger sister, Tilly. Agnes finds her sister's Dungeons and Dragons notebook and enters an imaginary world of refuge that was Tilly's. The play is filled with dramatic comedy,

'90s pop culture, adult situations and language. The play will take place at 7:30 p.m. April 19-22 and 2 p.m. April 23.

After a comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games, the following play is "Bug Joy," which is appropriate for all ages. It will run at 7 p.m. April 27-29 and 2 p.m. April 29-30.

Every production in the Albert L. Jeffers Theater is selected a year in advance so that directors can start working on the shows as soon as six months before they are presented. Duties include reading the script, figuring out how they want to approach the story, designing the set, casting and many other preparations.

"We try to do shows that are

entertaining, that will attract an audience but will also have community theater engagement," Carren said.

The shows are made possible by the UTRGV theatre students, faculty and staff, who help to bring the story to life through their acting and designing talents. Community members are also cast in the plays, especially young children.

“ We try to do shows that are entertaining, that will attract an audience but will also have community theater engagement.”

David Carren

Intern Department chair of Theater/Television/Film

The set for "She Kills Monsters" is designed by Cara Tougas, a UTRGV lecturer, and is being built by Eric Sanchez, UTRGV technical director and production

manager of the Theatre/Television/Film department. Tougas designed the set to have tiers separating the two worlds in which the play takes place.

"It's actually a multi-tiered stage, there's different levels of platform that

we have here," Sanchez said. "Because the play itself takes place in two worlds--the real world and the game world Dungeons and Dragons ... the set is constructed in a way to separate both worlds. The platform area is the real world and the non-platform area is the game world."

Carren, a fan of comedy, encourages the public to attend both plays because they're fun to watch.

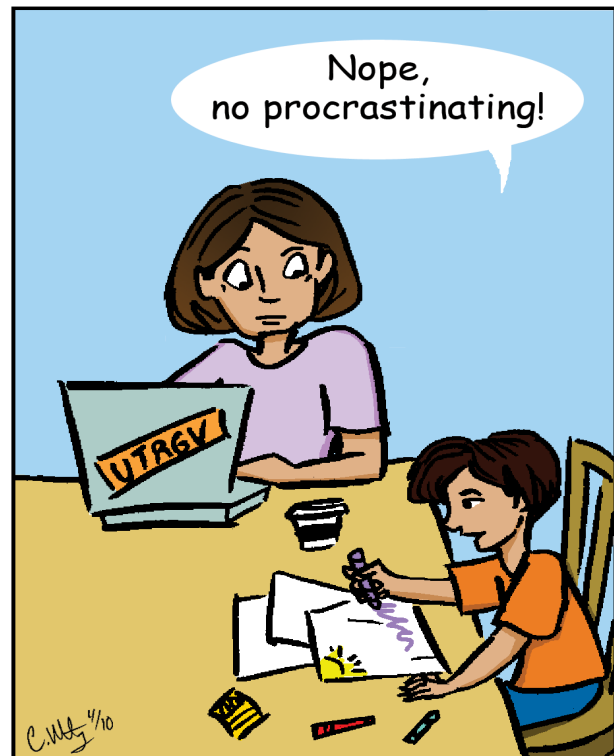
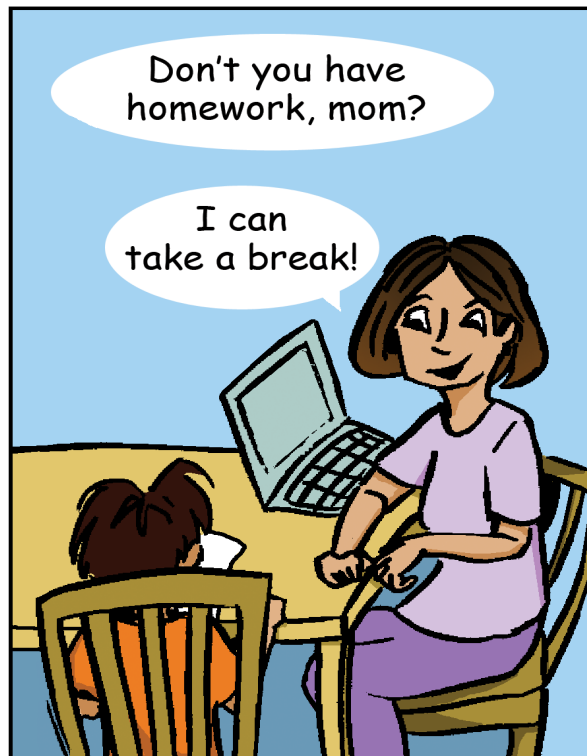
"We need the students to come to the shows, we need the community to come to the shows and have a good time because we want to keep doing this," he said. "We want to keep producing the shows we've been producing in a very high level of quality that serves so many purposes, [such as] entertainment, education, community engagement."

Tickets for "She Kills Monsters" are \$20 for reserved seating, \$15 general admission and \$5 for UTRGV students, faculty and staff. For "Bug Joy," tickets are priced at \$10 each.

For more information about the plays and theatre department, call 665-3888 in Edinburg or email david.carren@utrgv.edu.

Trials and Trifles

By Clarissa Martinez





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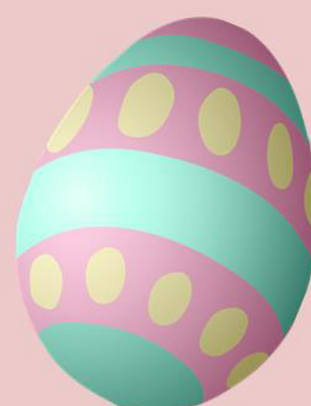
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