

THE RIDER

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ONE EARTH, ONE DAY

Marie Vallangca
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Office of Sustainability will host Earth Fest Wednesday on the Brownsville campus and Thursday on the Edinburg campus to show support for environmental protection.

Every year is a different theme to commemorate Earth Day. This year it is space, water and energy.

“It’s all about connecting, collaborating, contributing to a better future, better quality of life and a part of that system is the environmental system,” said Marianella Franklin, UTRGV chief sustainability officer.

“So on this day, we celebrate that environmental system and we talk about some of the research that’s being conducted in order to move in that direction,” Franklin said. “We talk about some of the concerns as well, but most of all, we try to connect with each other and connect to our passions to actually contribute to a better quality of life. And so what better place to do this than at an institution that’s really committed to sustainable development, committed to a better society, better economy and better environment.”

The daylong event is separated into three parts. The celebration starts with a symposium from 9 a.m. to noon in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and in El Gran Salon on the Brownsville campus.

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WEAR JEANS FOR A PURPOSE

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

In a study on sexual assault conducted by the University of Texas System, 4 percent of all UTRGV male students and 6 percent of all female students reported they have experienced rape since their enrollment.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, more than 28,000 students in 13 of 14 UT System’s institutions participated in the study, including 3,821 UTRGV students.

The UTRGV Counseling Center and other university organizations will participate in Denim Day, an event in which people are encouraged to wear denim to raise awareness of sexual violence.

“So, the idea behind it is about looking at survivors, looking at people who have been harmed by sexual violence,” said Douglas Stoves, associate dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities. “So, the idea is to highlight that because April is the Sexual Violence Awareness

Month.”

Among the organizations and departments that will take part in Denim Day are the Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP), Student Rights and Responsibilities and

Friendship of Women Inc.

Melissa Garcia, a primary prevention educator at Friendship of Women, said Denim Day originated in Italy.

“During those days, there was a victim of sexual assault,” Garcia said. “She

was driving with her driver instructor and when they were driving, he committed sexual assault. Then, he left her down the road and she had to walk back home. She told her parents and her parents did everything they could. They

PRIDE IN ACCOMPLISHMENT

First Lavender class honored in Edinburg

Nathaniel Mata

SPORTS EDITOR

A handful of students were honored Thursday as part of UTRGV’s inaugural Lavender Graduation Ceremony at the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus.

The goal of the ceremony was for the university and Student Equality Alliance to recognize and applaud LGBTQIA+ graduates for finishing their studies in spite of hardships.

Students honored came from majors ranging from biology aiming for a career in medicine to dance performance and anthropology.

Different fields of study were represented but the emotion in the room was universal among all students who spoke at the lectern.

The graduating seniors shared excerpts from an essay participants wrote about their experiences in life and as students. Each of five receiving cords in attendance spoke in front of the crowd, either reading passages or just speaking on struggles and triumphs in their lives.

Gustavo Huerta, a photographer for Pulse magazine, is graduating with a degree in mass communication. The Houston native recalled growing up with the verbal and emotional abuse he received from peers and instructors alike.

Huerta is active in local LGBT rights movements when he’s not taking photos. He plans on heading back to his hometown after graduation.

“I will never forget the things I was able to accomplish when being a part of this university, this organization and a part of the LGBT community down here,” Huerta said. “Even though I was born and raised in Houston, I will consider the RGV my home, because I’ve never felt more welcomed here.”

Anthony Sepulveda is set to earn an English degree and become a teacher. He told memories from a turbulent period

See **LAVENDER**, Page 10



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Anthony Sepulveda, who will be graduating with an English degree, speaks about his experiences growing up at the inaugural Lavender Graduation ceremony last Thursday in the Visitors Center.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ

went to the cops and reported the assault. [The case] went to court. At the end, the judge ruled that because the girl was wearing tight jeans, she must have consented to have sex with the driver instructor. So then, most of the ladies of the parliament, they were really upset about the ruling. So, they protested by wearing denim jeans the next day.”

Garcia said after the incident in Italy, communities around the world wear denim to bring awareness of sexual misconduct.

“Since that happened, now it is like a worldwide thing where every last Wednesday of April, the communities around the world are encouraged to wear denim to make sure that there is justice for the victims of sexual assault and that the victims of sexual assault have all the resources that they can get,” Garcia said.

Sexual assault is defined by Texas Penal Code Section 22.011 as intentionally or knowingly causing the sexual

See **JEANS**, Page 10

THE RIDER

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Jazz concert

The **UTRGV Jazz Orchestra** will host the **Harlingen High School Jazz Ensemble** under the direction of **Ronnie Rios**. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

Abortion Positive Tour

The **Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity RGV** will host the **Abortion Positive Tour** to share stories and inform the community of their rights and create space where individuals can speak about abortion freely from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email juanita.rivas01@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Pi Day + Epsilon

The **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics** will educate the student body on what Pi is and how it is used every day. There will be free food and prizes from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Math and General Classrooms front lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email manuel.villarreal01@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Alcohol awareness

Student Rights and Responsibilities will give out chips with informational alcohol tips from noon to 1 p.m. at the Veranda Apartments in Edinburg. For more information, email douglas.stoves@utrgv.edu.

Academic Fitness Workshop

The **Academic Advising Center** will host a workshop about **mindfulness**

from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7120 or email academicadvising@utrgv.edu.

Thursday

Service Fair

The **Community Engagement Council** invites students to meet representatives from nonprofit agencies across the Rio Grande Valley to learn how to get involved and give back to the community. The event takes place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 607-7439 or email raul.lealo1@utrgv.edu.

AMA fashion show

The **American Marketing Association at UTRGV** will present its **2017 Fashion Show** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email julio.salinaso1@utrgv.edu.

Wearable Ecosystems

The **Student Union** invites everyone to create **Wearable Ecosystems** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and Thursday in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. Participants can make their own terrarium necklaces. For more information, call 665-7989.

Company Night 2017

The **Association of Latino Professionals for America** will host a social networking event for students and business professionals from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the University Circle on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email claudia.orozcogonzalez01@utrgv.edu.

Movie showing: ‘Denial’

Student Involvement will show the movie “**Denial**” for **Holocaust**

Remembrance Week from 7 to 10:15 p.m. in the Student Union Theater or the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660.

Foam Party

The **Campus Programming Board** will host its inaugural **Foam Party** from 7 to 10 p.m. on the Troxel Hall lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email louay.bachnako1@utrgv.edu.

Friday

Infinite Love volunteering Medicine, Education and Development for Low Income Families Everywhere and local group **Infinite Love** will serve food to low-income families and the homeless from 6 to 7 p.m. at the McAllen Municipal Park. For more information, email tanvi.guptao1@utrgv.edu.

University Opera

The **UTRGV Opera Theater** will present **Johann Strauss II’s “Die Fledermaus,”** a comedy of errors, at 7:30 p.m. April 21 and 22 and 3 p.m. April 23 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Tickets (\$20, \$15, \$10 and \$5) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. Shuttle service to the Library Auditorium will be available 30 minutes before the performance from the UTRGV Visitors Center. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

Saturday

Suicide prevention walk

The **Rehab South Club** will hold a campus walk for the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email antonio.aguirre@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 2 and 9.



April 2

1:08 p.m.: A staff member reported surveillance video from a camera captured an unknown male inside his office without his consent around midnight.

At 3:15 p.m. April 6, a suspect was taken into custody. Upon further investigation, it was determined that he was responsible for four additional burglaries in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus.

April 3

12:36 p.m.: A student fainted while sitting in class in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The officers arrived while she was lying on the floor conscious, and she complained of a headache from hitting her head. She was evaluated by emergency medical services and was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance.

1:30 p.m.: A staff member reported that a calculator, valued at \$98.94, was issued to a student at the beginning of the 2016 spring semester on the Brownsville campus and was to be returned at the end of the semester. The student signed an agreement when the calculator was issued to him. The UTRGV department in charge of the program has attempted to contact the student to return the calculator to no avail. The incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

4:55 p.m.: Officers responded to an odor of smoke emitting from the racquetball courts of the Health and Physical Education II building on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department determined two light fixtures burned, causing the odor to enter the ventilation system.

April 4

10:37 a.m.: A student reported being harassed via social media by her ex-boyfriend’s wife off campus in

Brownsville. The Brownsville Police Department is investigating.

12:05 p.m.: Staff members reported a wireless computer mouse and receiver were stolen from an office on the third floor of the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

3:03 p.m.: A UTRGV High School Equivalency Program student was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street on Fourth Avenue and Cano Street in Edinburg. The student suffered injuries to the head and forehead. The motorist did not stop and render aid. The student was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance. The Edinburg Police Department is investigating.

April 5

10:19 a.m.: An unaffiliated male was using vulgar and profane language in front of several individuals who were offended in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. He was issued a disorderly conduct citation and a criminal trespass warning for the UTRGV campus.

10:55 a.m.: A staff member reported a coaxial coil tube exchanger, valued at \$2,000, was stolen from the corral behind the Facilities Services building on the Brownsville campus.

4:19 p.m.: A faculty member reported losing two university keys and one personal key in the Mathematics and General Classroom building on the Edinburg campus.

7:03 p.m.: A Casa Bella resident brought a cup to the apartments containing alcohol mixed with a soda. An officer responded to the report and detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from the cup. The student was issued a citation for possession of alcohol by a minor. The incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

April 6

1:05 a.m.: An officer made contact

with three suspicious males, one of them a student, riding bicycles and pulling a fourth bicycle across Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that the fourth bicycle was stolen. All three were arrested and charged with theft. One suspect was also charged with being in possession of a criminal instrument. The case is under investigation.

10:09 a.m.: A student suffered a seizure in the Social Work and Occupational Therapy building on the Edinburg campus. She was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance by Hidalgo County Emergency Medical Services.

10:33 p.m.: A student reported that her bicycle and cable lock were stolen from a bike rack outside Liberal Arts Building South in Edinburg. The case is under investigation.

April 7

8:54 a.m.: A student reported losing his Nigerian passport around August 2015 on the Brownsville campus. The passport was not turned in to lost and found. He filed a police report for documentation purposes.

9 a.m.: A student reported having an anxiety attack in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. He was transported to Rio Grande Regional Hospital in Edinburg.

April 9

12:28 p.m.: A student reported her Apple MacBook Pro laptop was stolen from a Unity Hall study room on the Edinburg campus. A UTRGV detective recovered the laptop April 10 and identified a female student suspect. The case is under investigation.

7:14 p.m.: A student suffered a seizure in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services were called and the student later regained consciousness. She was transported to Edinburg Regional Medical Center.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

Representing the student body



Peter Averack



Alondra Galvan



Gabriela Castorena

COURTESY PHOTO

Karina Aguirre
ONLINE EDITOR

Regardless of their race, gender identity or political view, newly elected Student Government Association President Alondra Lisset Galvan wants students to feel welcomed and safe at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Galvan, a criminal justice junior, served as the Brownsville SGA vice president this academic year.

Peter Averack, a communication senior who serves as the current Edinburg SGA vice president, will remain in his position, and Gabriela Castorena, a political science junior, will serve as the Brownsville SGA vice president.

The winning executive ticket received 765 votes in an election conducted April 4-6. The executive race was uncontested.

"I know people will probably say, 'Oh, Alondra got lucky,' or 'The team got lucky because they were the only ones running.' I don't believe in luck," Galvan said. "I think it was a blessing, a miracle. ... We live in a world that keeps surprising us. Anything can happen, especially in an election."

She said the SGA will continue

to work with Academic Advising to improve its services and accessibility.

The organization also plans to focus on the university's graduate students.

"We have never truly worked or focused so much on our graduate

done regardless if they're an online student or a physical student that goes to campus," Galvan said.

The proximity of the Brownville campus to the U.S. and Mexico border encourages the SGA to continue to

“ I started off as a freshman senator, then I started going up the scale and all these years that I’ve dedicated to student government have truly allowed me to see different ways how a person can truly make a difference. ”

Alondra Galvan

2017-2018 Student Government Association President

school or our graduate students," Galvan said. "We tend to focus more on our undergrads. In other universities, there is housing for grad students but in our school, [there isn't]."

Online students are also among the concerns of the Student Government Association.

"I want to make sure that any online student is able to get the same resources and the same quality work

work on the development of security on campus. The organization is in close contact with University Police to ensure the safety of the UTRGV community.

"Security is one of our top priorities at our university and making sure that our students feel safe ... in Brownsville and in Edinburg and on all UTRGV campuses," Galvan said.

Maintaining equal amenities

on all campuses and ensuring the communication between students, faculty and staff are areas the SGA is looking to focus on this coming term.

A total of 2,967 votes were cast in the 2017-2018 UTRGV SGA election.

Others elected to the 2017-2018 UTRGV senate are as follows:

--Alejandro Saldivar, senator for the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

--Cyana Arredondo, Samantha Garcia and Raul Ordonez, senators for the College of Health Affairs

--Nayla Paredes, senator for the College of Liberal Arts

--Joshua Balladares and Deyanira Verdeja Sosa, senators for the College of Sciences

--Ingrid de la Torre and Ernesto Farias, senators at large (Brownsville)

--Louay Bachnak, Carlo Flores, Francisco Torres Diaz and Erik Webster, senators at large (Edinburg)

"This past election was a special one because there were not many people that applied to be part of SGA and to run for office and maybe the reason is because a lot of people don't know what we do," said Ernesto Farias, senator at large for the Brownsville campus and a political science junior.

See SGA, Page 10

An Island of creativity

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Art Lecturer Julian Rodriguez will take his classes' creativity to another level this week on South Padre Island.

"The idea was to take things out of the classroom, to go to a different setting," Rodriguez said.

Last spring, Rodriguez took his sculpture classes to the Island for the first time to create sculptures with material they found at the beach.

"We felt that perhaps going to the beach would be a good idea and working with just found material," he said. "We are not doing anything with sand; it's not sand castles or anything like that."

Students will challenge their "creative thinking" to craft an art piece made of materials such as trash or pieces of trees.

"Whatever the students find in the trash, whatever people leave, they go out there with no idea of what they are going to find," Rodriguez said. "So, they have no idea of what they are going to make until they gather all the materials."

He said creativity and creative thinking skills transfer to any field.



PHOTO COURTESY JULIAN RODRIGUEZ



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Art Lecturer Julian Rodriguez refines the details of one of his sculptures last Thursday in Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus. Last spring, Rodriguez took his sculpture classes to South Padre Island for the first time to create sculptures with material they found at the beach.

This week, Rodriguez will meet two of his classes on the Island.

"Altogether, there should be about 20 students on different dates," he said.

The sculpture class will meet at the Island with Rodriguez at 10:50 a.m. today and Wednesday and the advanced sculpture class will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Students will break out into teams to create their sculpture for a grade and to practice as a unit.

Fine arts junior Juan Perez said this project will challenge students' abilities.

"It is challenging in the fact that you have to be creative," Perez said. "It is about the fun, spontaneous act of showing up somewhere and being just as creative as you can be with whatever is available to you."

He encourages students to challenge their creativity and join a sculpture class.

"It is challenging but exciting at the same time," Perez said.

For more information about the projects, email Rodriguez at julian.rodriguez@utrgv.edu.

Campus Q&A

What would you ask the SGA and why?



“Because I’m a theatre major, why put so much money in things that aren’t being used? As far as sports, at least I’ve heard that a lot of money is put into sporting events when not a lot of people attend them.”

Karina Molina
Theatre/television/film sophomore

“I would ask them, ‘What positive changes will they make around campus?’ So that when we are walking around we can feel more safe or have a more positive attitude. That way, we can carry on a good attitude throughout the day.”



Maria Garza
Exercise science sophomore



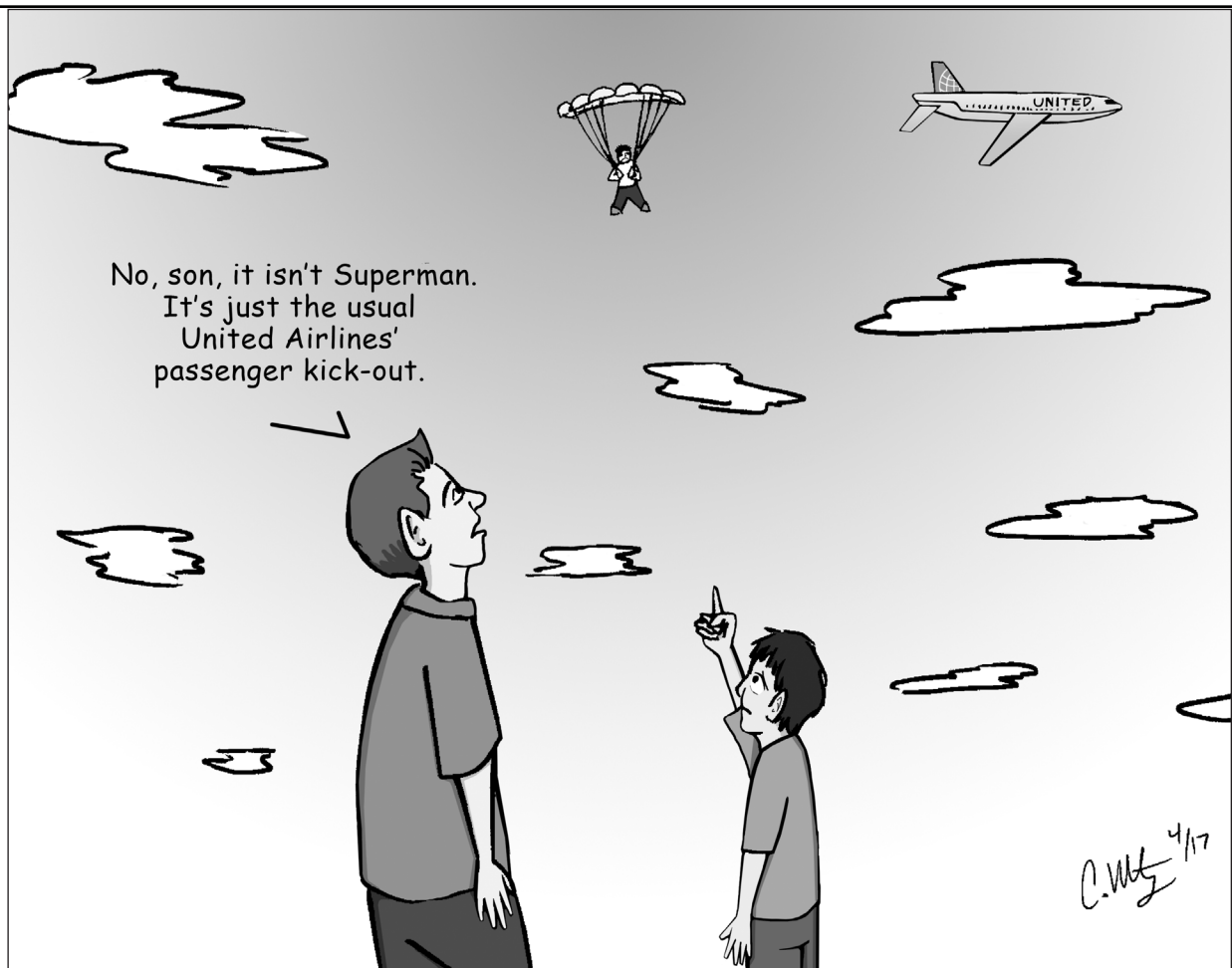
“If I could ask them, I would like to know how do they decide what’s important to spend money on? And how do they make the decision on what to spend?”

Jesus Leal
Theatre/television/film senior

¿“Preguntaría ¿Qué es lo que están haciendo ahorita para los estudiantes? ¿Qué tipo de ayuda? ¿En qué es en lo que están involucrados? Porque después de que se unieron Brownsville y Edinburg, formaron UTRGV, muchas de las organizaciones hasta las que son académicas y ‘staff’ pues están empezando de nuevo y lo chistoso es que ya han pasado dos años y todavía están otra vez volviendo a empezar. ... ¿Qué están haciendo ellos para reorganizarse y que es lo que están haciendo diferente que los otros? ... El problema para SGA, [el gobierno estudiantil,] es que si preguntas a cualquier estudiante, no va a saber que es SGA. Entonces yo preguntara ¿Qué es lo que va a hacer Alondra [Galván], la nueva presidente, para cambiar todo eso? ... Los programas se están preguntando por su cantidad y de lo que van a sacar de los estudiantes no va a ser suficiente para los programas. Entonces, ¿Qué es lo que van a hacer ellos ahí? Como se está usando el dinero? En qué servicios? ... Yo también les preguntara si ellos reconocen que no lo pueden hacer solos. Y que tienen que trabajar con los estudiantes más cerca, ahora más que nunca porque las preguntas que ellos tienen y las preguntas que nosotros tenemos a veces no concuerdan”.

Alejandro Sanchez
Estudiante de maestría de artes interdisciplinarias

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



Think smart about art



Clarissa Martinez
THE RIDER

Over the past couple of months, the nation has been graced with beautiful political posters by Shepard Fairey via the Amplifier Foundation, Beyoncé’s colorful pregnancy photoshoot pictures and the return of the animated band, Gorillaz, which has bestowed the world with a fantastically colorful and a vertigo-inducing, 360-degree music video. Now, what exactly do these seemingly separate entities and their situations have in common? All of the above have made massive political, social and cultural impacts in our society and the entertainment industry with help from the visual arts.

Art continues to be a force during this era’s political storm, and it is not a new phenomenon. Throughout centuries, art has always been reflective of its time.

Rococo art, though not political, depicted the high life of French aristocracy before the French Revolution and became regarded with distaste for its own privileged existence. Pablo Picasso’s painting, “Guernica,” is a result of the Nazi bombing of Guernica, Basque, and is a massive political statement against war. Feminist art was born during the civil and LG-BTQ rights movements of the 1960s, and challenged the patriarchy as it continued to produce notable works such as “The Dinner Party” as years went by. Before there was the political Banksy, there was graffiti-turned-gallery artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose neo-expressionist work fought against racism through his incorporation of words, poems and symbols.

Though there are hundreds of artists that I failed to mention, the bottom line is this: Art can make an impact.

Young artists have the potential to make impactful

art, just as art has the power to impact those young artists.

This can be through the art of traditional work, digital work, movies, animation, fashion, etc. It’s a result of the age-old phrase, “art feeds the soul.” The right artwork, whether through a textbook or an Instagram post, can lead a passionate student onto a bigger and brighter path.

So, it always frustrates me when a child is discouraged from pursuing art. Parental interference can keep a student devoted to books, and away

“ Art continues to be a force during this era’s political storm, and it’s not a new phenomenon. ”

from color pencils and markers at home. A high school student can enjoy it as a hobby, but not too much because then they might consider it a career. Sometimes school politics get in the way and eliminate that creative outlet altogether.

What are people so afraid of? Unemployment is a risk for everyone, no matter the major.

Also, there have already been countless studies done that prove the importance of fine arts in education. This includes a better proficiency in reading and writing.

Even Ellen Winner and Lois Hetland, who actually found opposite results after conducting their own studies as part of the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Project Zero back in 2000, came to a positive conclusion: “Students who study the arts seriously are taught to see better, to envision, to persist, to be playful and learn from mistakes, to make critical judgments and justify such judgments.”

Without even looking at the educational benefits of having arts in school, why do people still frown upon learning to mold clay? What’s wrong with learning that red and yellow mixed together make orange?

Even if a young art student decides he or she doesn’t want to be the next great fine artist, there are still many other viable careers out there!

Graphic design and animation made that informative and impactful video you saw on Facebook yesterday. Someone made your favorite musician’s album art. Artists are behind the visual outlook of every Disney film. Courtrooms that bar cameras allow artists to capture notable moments of a trial. Broadway musicals wouldn’t be the same without the props, sets and backdrops that make the entire experience worth those incredibly expensive tickets! Do I really have to mention the cartoons, animated movies, children’s books and comic books that keep the kids distracted?

Squashing a child’s dream can cause a negative impact. Don’t be so narrow-minded that it keeps the next great masterpiece from existing in the years to come.

Submit a Letter to the Editor



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

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Meet Ben Wasike



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Name: Ben Wasike
Title: Communication associate professor
Education: Doctorate in mass communication and public affairs from Louisiana State University, master’s in public administration from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La., and a bachelor’s degree from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.
Hometown: Bungoma, Kenya, but now a naturalized U.S. citizen.
How long have you been a professor with the UT System? “Twelve years, UTB and UTRGV combined.”
What made you pursue teaching? “Initially, I wasn’t going to go teach but the Ph.D. program I was in required us to teach before graduation and I got hooked just like that.”
What brought you to UTRGV? “UTB, yes I came here as a fresh Ph.D. student, so this was my first job out of the graduate program.”
And what made you choose this university? “Because the program was young and also I saw the advertisement. [Communication Department Chair John] Cook sent an advertisement to people that he knew and I think he knew one of my professors, so he advised me to apply.”
What would you say most

motivates you to do what you do? “As a professor, you change lives directly because you impact knowledge to young people, so you shape their lives and it’s a lot of people. You do that every semester, so that’s the most motivating thing, that you impact knowledge to growing minds.”
What classes do you teach? “Right now, this semester, I’m teaching Theories of Communication, I’m teaching Intro to Communication, and I’m teaching Public Speaking.”
What are the goals you most want to accomplish in your work? “My goal is to help my students develop as much as they can, not just from class, but outside and to encourage them to further their education. But I also do research, and I want to impact the field of communication as much as I can through research on different subjects.”
Have you written a book, and if so, what inspired you? “I wrote a book during my first year. It’s called ‘The Diffusion of GIS in Journalism: Examining the Diffusion and Adoption of Applied Media Technology.’”
What are your thoughts about the media today? [Laughs] “It is very confusing. Let me use the word, yes, it’s complicated. It’s very, very, very complicated, not just in terms



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

of adapting to new technologies, and now we’re dealing with fake news. Fake news is the big issue right now. ... Fake news is competing with real news for attention and journalists have to figure out how to win. They have to win, because you can’t have people spreading false things, you just can’t. So, the journalism industry has to figure out a way to win and it took them by surprise, they didn’t see it coming.

physique, of course, and yeah. I collect movies, I’m a movie collector. I have a large library of movies.”
What advice would you give to students? “Maximize your potential, because students don’t. We have to push them, they’re all smart kids, but they don’t give it 100 percent. So, students have to maximize their potential.”
--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

Club Spotlight

Name: Human Environment Animal League (HEAL)-Edinburg
Purpose: To protect all animals by helping people recognize the connections related to their actions that may bring harm to themselves and those they cannot directly see. We will achieve this by bringing together like-minded individuals to spread awareness and alternatives.
President: Zachary Hurtado
Historian: Britania Tamez
Treasurer: Beatriss Flores
Sergeant-at-arms: Marisol Cervantes
Secretary: Erika Buenrostro
Adviser: Cynthia Jones, associate philosophy professor
Activities: Animal rights protests, movie screenings, food giveaways, health tabling, runs and health concern conferences. Also active in the RGV Diabetics Association and plant-based cooking classes.
Meetings: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. every second and fourth Tuesday every month in the Student Union’s Oleander Room on the Edinburg campus.
Membership requirements: None.
For more information, email: zachary.hurtado01@utrgv.edu
--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza



PHOTO COURTESY OMAR CASAS

Members of the Human Environment Animal League (HEAL) include (from left) Historian Britania Tamez, Secretary Erika Buenrostro, President Zachary Hurtado, Treasurer Beatriss Flores and Sergeant-at-arms Marisol Cervantes.

A photograph of a two-story apartment building with a brick and light green facade, white balconies, and red doors. Several palm trees are in the foreground, and bright pink flowers are in the immediate foreground.

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Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Los dos candidatos para vice presidente asociado de Vida Estudiantil y decano de estudiantes hablaron de sus planes para mejorar el ciclo de vida de los estudiantes durante sus presentaciones de la semana pasada. Rebecca Gadson y Jeffrey Ederer compartieron sus visiones en foros abiertos y sesiones de preguntas y respuestas del 10 de abril hasta el pasado jueves en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg.

Gadson y Ederer discutieron las cuestiones emergentes que las unidades de Vida Estudiantil deben prepararse para resolver en los próximos dos o tres años para apoyar el éxito estudiantil.

Algunos de los temas que discutieron fueron la cambiante demográfica estudiantil, el costo de la educación superior, la conducta y bienestar de los estudiantes.

Durante sus presentaciones, Gadson y Ederer mencionaron el alto número de estudiantes pertenecientes a la primera generación universitaria, 61 por ciento, y sobre lo que podían hacer para ayudarlos.

Ederer, que es primera generación universitaria, dijo que es importante ayudar a los estudiantes a “hacer las preguntas correctas” y ayudarlos a entender que “pertenecen aquí”.

Gadson dijo que le gustaría encontrar maneras para ayudar a las familias, ya que son el apoyo principal de los estudiantes en esta “primera vez”.

Gadson, quien ha servido como vicepresidente asociado de Vida Estudiantil y decano de estudiantes interina desde agosto del 2015, dijo estar familiarizada con la escuela.

“Abrir la puerta como una nueva institución fue un reto en términos de asegurarnos de estar creando experiencia igualitaria para los estudiantes y asegurarnos



Jeffrey Ederer

BRYAN RAMOS/THE RIDER

de darles la escala apropiada para ayudarlos a alcanzar sus necesidades, para llevarlos a su alcance y construir comodidades para que sea más fácil para ellos continuar en la universidad”, dijo ella. “Siento que estoy familiarizada con quienes somos como institución. Estoy familiarizada con nuestra población de estudiantes; estoy familiarizada con nuestra población de estudiantes; estoy familiarizada con los diferentes tipos de procesos de negocios y con los retos tipo detrás-del-escenario o con las oportunidades en las que estamos trabajando”.

Gadson también abordó la cuestión del costo de la educación.

“Es importante que seamos buenos administradores de las finanzas que tenemos, que aseguremos que los tipos de programas, servicios y oportunidades que proveemos, estén alineados con lo que los estudiantes identifican como los que tiene mayor necesidad”, dijo ella. “Cómo podemos ayudar a los estudiantes a alcanzar sus metas personales, académica y profesionalmente, y que estemos comunicando y

demonstrando el aprendizaje que las personas están ganando de estas oportunidades que resultan de la inversión”.

Los foros estuvieron abiertos a la comunidad del campus. Boletas de evaluación fueron distribuidas a las personas que asistieron.

Ederer, quien se desempeñó como el decano de estudiantes en Johnson & Wales University en Denver y como director en Socios del Aprendizaje en la University of Denver, dijo querer que los estudiantes se gradúen con más de con lo que llegaron.

“Un estudiante viene a la universidad, y lo que está esperando es que va a obtener una buena educación aquí”, dijo él. “Lo que yo espero, es que lo que sea que piensen por lo que vinieron aquí, sea más que eso”.

Durante su presentación, Gadson habló sobre el camino hacia la graduación y lo comparó con el juego de mesa, Candy Land, ya que presenta pozos para llegar hacia la meta.

“Cuando estaba pensando en los caminos que los estudiantes experimentan una vez que están en la universidad,



Rebecca Gadson

ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

están llenos de una infinidad de oportunidades y tienen la oportunidad de hacer muchas decisiones, y vienen con diferentes habilidades y talentos”, dijo Gadson. “No es un camino derecho, el de la inscripción a la graduación.

“Los estudiantes necesitan explorar su entorno, incluso tomar algunas decisiones que van cambiando en el camino, tal vez hasta cometer un error aquí y allá, pero hay personas a lo largo del camino que sirven como guías y parachoques para poner a la gente de vuelta al camino”.

Similarmente, Ederer habló sobre las dificultades para estudiantes con familias.

“Si tienes 18 años y no tienes esas responsabilidades, el mundo es un cielo azul de oportunidades”, dijo él. “... Alguien que a lo mejor es unos años más grande, que tiene niños y un trabajo de tiempo completo, ellos quieren asegurarse de que no están perdiendo su tiempo, así que creo que necesitamos asegurarnos de que se esté valorando su tiempo aquí. Ese es el enfoque con este tipo de estudiantes”.

Acerca de la importancia de las organizaciones

estudiantiles, Ederer las definió como una manera de los estudiantes de participar.

“Ayuda a los estudiantes alcanzar su potencial. ... A lo largo del camino, van a aprender a dirigir una junta. A lo largo del camino van a aprender a desarrollar un presupuesto, aunque sea uno pequeño”, dijo él. “Van a aprender cómo trabajar con la gente y cómo encontrar el éxito, y es por eso que hay organizaciones estudiantiles”.

Christopher Albert, director de Servicios Psicológicos y de Consejería, estuvo entre las personas que asistieron las presentaciones de candidatura.

“Cada miembro del personal que asiste puede tener un poco de información sobre cómo piensan [los candidatos], y quizás aprender algo de quien podría convertirse en el decano de los estudiantes”, dijo Albert.

La fecha límite para la evaluación de Gadson fue el pasado viernes y la de Ederer debe ser entregada a más tardar el martes en el Centro Académico Estudiantil (STAC), cuarto 3.107, en Edinburg y en Cortez Hall, cuarto 213, en Brownsville.

VISIÓN

INTERNACIONAL

ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Nombre: Danielle Marques
Edad: 25
Especialidad: Comunicación con especialidad en negocios
Clasificación: Estudiante de último año
País de origen: Brasil
¿Qué idiomas hablas? “Portugués (lengua materna). Aprendí inglés cuando me vine para acá y sé una cantidad decente de español”.
¿Por qué decidiste estudiar en E.E.U.U? “Obtuve una beca. Me ofrecieron una beca completa para jugar voleibol, así que no pensé dos veces cuando la asistente de entrenadora nos contactó a mí y a mi hermana. El primer contacto fue de los EUA porque ellos siempre están reclutando jugadores brasileños de voleibol, así como a los de futbol”.
Menciona algunos platillos típicos: “Yo soy [del estado] Minas Gerais. He escuchado de otras personas que somos considerados uno de los mejores lugares para la comida, es lo que ellos llaman ‘Comida Mineira’, y nuestros platillos principales son arroz, frijoles, ‘farofa’, carne, ensalada, papas fritas. Por supuesto tenemos mucha más comida, pero eso es en lo que puedo pensar cuando pienso en casa. Pienso en arroz blanco y frijoles negros.
Platillo favorito de aquí: “Hamburguesas”.
¿Cuáles son los lugares turísticos en tu país? “Yo creo que el lugar principal es Río [de Janeiro]. ... El verano pasado fui de turista y es hermoso. He estado en varios lugares en EUA y he estado en Inglaterra, he estado en Italia, Francia, pero honestamente, hay una razón por la cual Río es considerado una de las siete bellezas del mundo. Claro, tiene sus lados malos, hay pobreza, crimen, pero si vas a las atracciones principales como las playas, el Cristo, es muy diferente. Creo que Suramérica en general

es muy diferente de USA y Europa. Tiene su propia belleza, es simple, la naturaleza es muy bonita. La gente de Brasil es muy cálida. En total, creo que Río es el lugar más bonito de Brasil”.
Lugar favorito aquí: “Estoy enamorada de la Isla del Padre [Sur]. Me gusta ir a la playa, creo que es pacífico. Llevo cinco años viviendo aquí y todavía me emociono cada vez que voy a la isla. Esa es una de las razones por las que cuando UTB se acabó, me quise quedar aquí, no quería dejar la isla. Me encanta la mezcla de culturas de aquí, Hispana y Americana”.
¿Qué diferencias y similitudes encuentras entre tu país y E.E.U.U? “Honestamente, no veo ninguna similitud. Aunque solía pensar que los americanos serian fríos, pero siempre me han tratado muy bien. La gente siempre está muy interesada en saber de dónde soy y como es Brasil y como llegue hasta aquí”.
¿Cuáles son algunas ideas erróneas que la gente tiene sobre tu país? “En todo el mundo retratan a la mujer brasileña como símbolos sexuales. Claro, si vas a Brasil, vas a ver gente chaparrita, alta, fea”.
Anécdota: “La primera vez que fui a un restaurante aquí, la única cosa que podía decir era ‘chicken’. Estaba esperando unas piezas de pollo y luego me traen medio pollo. Estaba un tanto asqueroso. No me lo pude comer”.
¿Cuáles son tus planes después de graduarte? “Me voy a graduar en mayo y voy a solicitar este programa para estudiantes internacionales, OPT. Así que espero encontrar un trabajo en el campo de la comunicación y con suerte que me acepten para la visa de trabajo de seis años”.
--Recopilado por Rebeca Ortiz

Final Test

Women's golf hopes to make every stroke count

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

A year of training is about to be put to the test for UTRGV women's golf. The culmination of its efforts will be the Western Athletic Conference tournament this weekend in Mission Hills, Kan.

Coach Risë Alexander will select her five-woman roster and take them to compete against golfers from the conference's six universities.

One of those is expected to be Emma Mesta.

Mesta is in her sophomore season. A year ago as a freshman, Mesta was the surprising bright spot of the golf roster. She finished tied for 15th during the 2016 WAC tournament. Her freshman year also included an individual championship during the Grand Canyon University Invitational with a three round score of 221.

This year has been more of a struggle for the golfer from Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico. Her best finish was 11th back in October.

"I'm really trying to focus on my mental game," Mesta said. "I really think last year I was mentally stronger. I like the pressure, it's a challenge and I like the feeling. Last year, I was handling the pressure and being successful with it. This year, it's kind [of] been off. I think that this year I have a lot more potential than last year, if you can believe it."

Last year, she finished in 15th place in her first WAC tournament in Blaine, Wash.

Alexander is leading UTRGV into its third conference tournament under her direction. She was brought on as head coach in 2014 after 24 years with Oregon State University.

She outlined why playing a recent tournament in the same region would be an advantage.

"Obviously, it's always windy in Kansas, and it's always windy here, too, so for us it's not as hard to navigate," Alexander said. "It's really good to have that familiarity with the types of grasses and elevation changes and just temperatures that we're going to go back to [this] week."

Golfers can expect high winds in the Kansas plains, but that's nothing new to the golf roster, who are used to windy RGV courses.

Also heading to Kansas with the team is Jessica Young, a junior. She



Sophomore Emma Mesta hits the ball toward the hole March 7 at the UTRGV Invitational in McAllen. Mesta was UTRGV's top golfer during last season's Western Athletic Conference Championship tournament.

was UTRGV's top performer in its last regular season tournament in Kansas City.

Her two-round score of 153 was only six strokes behind the leader and the Oregon native was in fifth place. She sputtered in her final round, dropping 10 spots but finishing 15th was still best among Vaqueras.

Young's putting was what kept her score low last week during the Kansas City Shootout.

"Putting is so important because it's a good way to make up strokes," Young said. "It's also really key to having a good score. It's something that I work on a lot and coach just bought us a Putting Stick, which has helped me stay with it."

The team hopes Michelle Moroles is fine to play after staying home ill during its last tournament.

Moroles had the Vaqueras' best individual score of the season during the UTRGV Invitational. She finished tied for eighth with her three-round 229 during the home tournament.

The first round takes place Wednesday at the Indian Hills Country Club and will continue through Friday.



Sophomore Shweta Mansingh follows through after hitting a ball toward the putting green during the March 7 UTRGV Invitational at the McAllen Country Club. The team is preparing for the WAC Championship tournament Wednesday in Mission Hills, Kan.

Hunting for Larry O'Brien

NBA playoff preview



Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

The NBA playoffs are upon us and all those meaningless regular season games from October through April finally mean something. The matchups are set and this year's postseason looks to be the most exciting they've been in years, so I'm going to make my predictions round by round and they're so money, you don't even know it, word to Vince Vaughn.

Let's start in the Eastern Conference. Only kidding, the East has stepped up its game this season to actually provide LeBron and the Cavaliers some competition. The Boston Celtics and their leprechaun leader Isaiah Thomas are the one seed and are taking on the eighth seed Chicago Bulls. Former Celtic Rajon Rondo is now with the Bulls and will be in full-on revenge mode, in hopes to show the entire city of Boston it broke up with the wrong one. In the end, I can't see Jimmy Butler's Bulls doing enough to beat the deep Celtics team--Boston in six.

To much surprise, the Cavaliers finished as the two seed this year to match up with the seven seed Indiana Pacers.

The regular season and early postseason rounds have to be boring to LeBron by now, and he, Kyrie and shirtless J.R. Smith will yawn their way into the second round with ease--Cleveland in five.

The Toronto Drakes earned the three seed to play the young Milwaukee Bucks. The Raptors made a good midseason move in acquiring Serge Ibaka, who could be the missing piece they need. The thing they for sure do not need is Drake trash-talking players from his courtside seats, writing checks with his mouth the Raptors will have to cash. How about sitting down and writing another sad song, bro? While the "Greek Freak" Giannis Antetokounmpo is emerging as one of the most dominant and unique stars in the league, the baby Bucks will have to wait another year to sneak into the second round--Drake in five.

In the four-five matchup, the Washington Wizards are up against the Atlanta Hawks. John Wall has turned the Wizards into legit competitors with his blazing speed and finishing ability, while Bradley Beal has emerged as the threat he was seen when drafted out of Florida. The Hawks and Paul Milsap will not be enough to advance, and if they are, Trump will rig the series in favor of Washington because that's how he gets down--Wizards in seven.

In the Western Conference, to absolutely nobody's surprise, the Warriors are the No. 1 seed again. Golden State has been the favorite to win the championship all year and with Kevin Durant jumping on the bandwagon, their haters are ready to Jordan meme them to oblivion if they fall short of the NBA title this year. Big Game Dame Lillard called his Blazers winning the series in six, but Draymond Green's feet have other plans--Golden State in four.

The second-seeded San Antonio Spurs are playing the Memphis Grizzlies in what could be the snooze-fest of the first round. This series does have some exciting storylines, though, like the Gasol brothers squaring off, maybe Manu's last season and the possibility of Zach Randolph mauling somebody. Meanwhile, Kawhi Leonard and Greg Popovich look like they will straight up Dexter you and go on about their business of racking up wins--Spurs in five.

In a series showdown between MVP candidates, the Houston Rockets are facing off against the Oklahoma City Thunder. James Harden and the bro-die Russell Westbrook, after both posting historical seasons, will go blow-for-blow in this exciting matchup. The series should be an electric factory from beginning to end, I fully expect Russell to continue his nightly triple-doubles, Harden to flail into people and Steven

Adams to demoralize opponents with his mustache. In the end, the Rockets team talent will be too much for Durant's ex--Rockets in seven.

The fourth seed Los Angeles Crybaby Clippers matched up with the fifth seed Utah Jazz is truly a tossup between the two teams. Chris Paul and Blake Griffin are notorious for coming up short in the playoffs and the Jazz have the right sound to dismantle the Clippers with Gordon Hayward, Rudy Gobert and my guy Bobo Diaw--Utah in seven.

Second round matchups--Boston over Washington in seven, Cleveland over Toronto in six, Golden State over Utah in five and San Antonio over Houston in seven.

Conference finals predictions--Cleveland over Boston in six and Golden State over San Antonio in seven.

NBA Finals prediction--a third Finals matchup in a row between the Warriors and Cavaliers where LeBron will cement his legacy as the greatest player to ever grace the hardwood when Cleveland wins the NBA championship for the second year in a row--Cavaliers in seven.

Whether or not all my picks are right (they are), the 2017 NBA playoffs will be filled with drama, excitement, and maybe a kick in the nuts or two.

10

EARTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It includes breakfast and a chance to meet and talk with the guest speakers before their presentations: Humberto Sanchez, a former NASA engineer; Isaac Azuz Adeath, a professor from the University of Ensenada in Mexico; Matthew Garcia, senior science and technology policy fellow from the U.S. Energy Department; and Abraham Quiroga, Business & Employee Development Division manager for Magic Valley Electric Cooperative.

Humberto Sanchez’s presentation is titled “Sustainability and Space.” NASA hired him in 1980 and he used to work in the Constellation’s Operations and Test Integration office.

“We have [a] former NASA engineer coming to talk to us a little about space and sustainability and the research of space and how it helps us understand a little bit better about the natural resources that are being depleted on our planet,” Franklin said. “It also helps us understand what’s happening out in space and some of what is happening with reference to research in space with reference to water and food systems for space and other planets.”

April 17, 2017

THE RIDER

for students to learn about services and products in the Rio Grande Valley that help the environment. The department of Parking and Transportation Services will showcase the Bike Share Program.

A dinner and a movie from 6 to 8 p.m. in the International Trade and Technology Building on the Edinburg campus and in El Gran Salon on the Brownsville campus will end the Earth Fest. “Episode 6: Winds of Change,” from the National Geographic’s “Years of Living Dangerously,” will feature America Ferrera talking about clean energy and the “battle over the future of renewable energy in the United States.”

The fest is open to the public. For more information, call 665-3030 or email sustainability@utrgv.edu.

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SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

“People see us as a government club and they don’t really understand what the student government does for the students and for the university and how we represent their needs.”

Farias said the election ran smoothly due to the experience that the SGA has gained through previous elections.

“Very few, if any of the seats were actually contested,” said David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities and SGA co-adviser. “The students who did run are very highly qualified, very energetic and very motivated to do well.”

Asked why the seats were uncontested, Marquez replied, “Most of the time, what we hear is there’s many students who want to participate. It’s just that they do recognize that it’s an important commitment and it’s going to require their full attention. The task is important, representing the interest of the student body.”

Though elections are now done, Marquez encourages students who are interested in joining the SGA to contact current members to ask for a list of positions that are available.

Vacant positions in the SGA will be announced in the near future, Galvan said.

The vacancies will be filled by

appointment of the president, subject to a two-thirds approval of the senators present and voting, according to the SGA constitution.

Any student interested may apply for appointment to a vacant position on the SGA V Link page.

“I am really thankful for all the opportunities that the university has given me and being able to represent the entire student body,” Galvan said. “I started off as a freshman senator, then I started going up the scale and all these years that I’ve dedicated to student government have truly allowed me to see different ways how a person can truly make a difference.”

LAVENDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in his life, when he was kicked out of his home for coming out as gay.

His recollection of his coming out experience was a powerful reminder that advancement in LGBTQ rights does not mean every heart will change.

Even with a touching story of his own, Sepulveda wanted to bring awareness of the issue of queer youth putting their education on the backburner as they live alone.

“An estimated 1.6 million youth are homeless each year,” Sepulveda said. “Considering the fact that LGBTQ individuals make up only 7 percent of the overall youth population, these numbers are disproportionately high. If they are being abused or mistreated in the home, safety and security have now become the main focus and the idea of studying for a test feels like a joke.”

Sidney Charm De Guzman Reyes had trouble holding back tears as she told a story of a medical mission trip in her native country of the Philippines. She spoke of a rural doctor in his 60s who provided care to poor regions of the island country. She broke down multiple times talking about the gay doctor who made an impact on her life.

“He earns the respect of others against the bigoted mindset that plagues many,” Reyes said. “In the mountainous little corner of the world, he proves that LGBTQ people, and we humans, have a lot to offer.”

The biology major identifies as bisexual and hopes to be a physician and part of the queer workforce making a professional and social impact.

The intimate setting included around 30 friends and family of the graduates.

The evening’s keynote speaker was Rebecca Gadson, interim associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students. Gadson mentioned inclusivity and how damaging being excluded from the public eye can be.

“When those who have the power to name and to socially construct reality choose not to see you, hear you, whether you are dark-skinned, old, disabled, female or just on your sexual orientation,” Gadson said, “when someone with the authority describes the world and you’re not in it, there’s this moment of psychic disequilibrium. As if you looked into a mirror and you see nothing in it. And I want to say tonight, graduates, I see you. UTRGV sees you.”

Gadson shed some light on the origin of Lavender Graduations, which date back to 1995, when the University of Michigan held the first ceremony.

Kevin Galaviz is receiving his master’s in rhetoric and composition. He told of the huge weight off his shoulder when he came out to the people closest to him.

“I’ve gained much experience that I’m now great at so many things, and that I haven’t really given up who I am in order to pursue everything I’m interested in,” Galaviz said. “And, for me, being queer is integral to who I am. It’s a part of me in every step and breath I take.”

Ciara Perez, a double major in dance and anthropology, also was honored and spoke earlier in the evening.

Student-athlete Andreyra Barrera was also honored but the UTRGV women’s soccer player wasn’t in attendance to be a part of the ceremony.

These students will walk across the stage again in a few weeks to commemorate their studies. Even as they celebrate again and as they move into their communities to try to make the impact they dream of, they’ll have Thursday night to look back on as a symbolic event that honored not only their achievements, but the struggles they overcame came to reach them.

The entire ceremony can be viewed on the UTRGV Student Equality Alliance’s Facebook page.

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Orchestras, operas, recitals, oh my!

UTRGV Patron of the Arts to host performances all week

Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Patron of the Arts program this week will present performances by orchestras, as well as a faculty recital and operas.

The events will take place in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville, and the Performing Arts Complex and the Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus.

At 7:30 tonight, the UTRGV Jazz Orchestra will perform in Brownsville. Also performing will be the Harlingen High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ronnie Rios, which is ranked as one of the top high school jazz ensembles in the country by the National Association of Jazz Educators.

The Jazz Orchestra, directed by Lecturer Albert Lo, will feature local jazz trumpeter Ray Vasquez, tenor saxophonist Michael Ramirez and singer Frank Morris, performing Cole Porter’s “Begin the Beguine,” Michael Bubl  ’s version of “Moondance” by Van Morrison and Gordon Goodwin’s “Sing, Sang.”

Tickets are \$5.

On the Edinburg campus, the Percussion Chamber Orchestra will perform at 7:30 tonight in the Performing Arts Complex. The orchestra will also perform at 7:30 p.m. April 24 in Brownsville. Tickets are \$5.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, music Professor Peter Dabrowski will conduct the University Symphony Orchestra in the Performing Arts Complex.

“This event really combines talent of so many students and at the same time talents of their professors.” Dabrowski said. “This event showcases the quality of education we are providing at the UTRGV.”

The program will feature virtuosic works for violin and clarinet by Vieuxtemps and Rossini. The orchestra will also perform different Jose Pablo Moncayo’s “Huapango,” Johannes Brahms’ “Hungarian Dance No. 5” and “Star Trek Through The Years” by Calvin Custer. Tickets are \$5.

The Faculty Showcase Recital, organized by Krista Jobson, an assistant professor of flute, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Performing Arts Complex. The recital will feature works by Sergio Assad, Eric Ewazen and Fr  d  ric Chopin.

“What’s so great about music is that it is such an intimate sort of art form where the art is being created right in front of you, so it’s really quite exciting to go to a live performance,” Jobson said.

She said the recital will be an evening to share the vast amount of talent represented by the music faculty on both campuses.

“This is going to be a chance for our students, our colleagues and the



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

The UTRGV Jazz Orchestra performs during the Student Ensemble Series last year in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville.

community to join us and be able to hear a wide variety of music and lots of style,” Jobson said. “There is going to be pieces with videos, stereo playback [and] there’s going to be ensembles.”

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and seniors 65 and older.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the Library Auditorium, the University Opera will present Johann Strauss II’s “Die Fledermaus.”

“It is definitely a student-led experience and the show itself is very funny, a comedy that includes the famous ‘can-can’ music.”

Catherine Compton
Lecturer in voice and director of the Bravo company

Assistant Professor David Sadlier, who serves as operatic conductor and stage director, said the event will be the testing ground for voice students as singers and actors.

“That really is the point of what they are training for, is to perform opera, and the only way you can do that professionally is if you get student experience doing it,” Sadlier said.

For instrumental students playing in the orchestra and theatre department students who are helping as stage managers and producers, this event can be a career potential for them, he said.

“Opera is unlike what people think opera is,” Sadlier said. “It’s a lot of fun, it’s a lot of laughing, it’s a lot of ridiculousness. There’s a lot of dancing. Really, just like a great time.”

Preferred seating tickets for adults cost \$20 and \$15 for children and seniors. The tickets include an Act II champagne or sparkling cider toast and dessert.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

The Bravo Opera Company will present “Orpheus in the Underworld” by Jacques Offenbach at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in Brownsville.

Catherine Compton, a lecturer in voice and director of the Bravo Company, said the concert will be a humorous take on the Greek myth.

“It is definitely a student-led experience and the show itself is very funny, a comedy that includes the famous ‘can-can’ music,” Compton said.

The original story narrates a loving couple and in the version presented by this production, the couple will not be in such a happy relationship.

“The most exciting thing about the production, for me, is the level of talent of the students who are performing,” Compton said. “The students are doing a great job at bringing each of their characters to life and conveying the story with a lot of humor and a lot of heart.”

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

All tickets can be purchased online at patron.utrgv.edu or at the box venue one hour before the event.

For more information, call the Texas Southmost College Arts Center at 295-3695 in Brownsville. In Edinburg, call the Performing Arts Complex at 665-3881 and the Library Auditorium at 665-2752.

Award-winning author to visit UTRGV



Andr  s Res  ndez, a Bancroft prize-winning scholar, will deliver a lecture at 6 p.m. today in Engineering Building Room 1.300 and lead a seminar on his book, “The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Slavery in America,” at the same time Tuesday in the International Trade and Technology Building’s International Room on the Edinburg campus.

The Bancroft prize is considered one of the most prestigious honors in the field of American history, according to the Columbia University website.

Res  ndez, a professor at the University of California, Davis, won for “The Other Slavery” (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016). The book argues that it was mass slavery, more than epidemics, that decimated Native American populations across North America.

The events are part of the Global Latin America Lecture and Engagement Series, which was founded by UTRGV history Assistant Professor Bonnie Lucero.

Students interested in participating in the seminar may apply to win a free copy of “The Other Slavery.” To apply, students must write a one-paragraph argument explaining why they want to take part in the seminar and how it will contribute to their graduate education.

To submit paragraphs and for more information, email bonnie.lucero@utrgv.edu.

By Clarissa Martinez

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