

THE RIDER

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HOMECOMING AND CHARREADA

See Pages 6-7



Jillian Glantz/THE RIDER

Joseph Daniel “Danny” Callis contributed articles to the *Edinburg Daily Review*. The day after his death, the publication published an article in his honor and an editorial by Publisher James V. Mathis. The newspaper’s archives can be found at the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg.

‘Labor of love’

Cemetery preserves the history of Edinburg

Jillian Glantz
THE RIDER

The legacy of the black community in Edinburg and the Rio Grande Valley in general is not widely known. However, there are people hard at work in the background, who make sure that their history is preserved.

The Texas Historical Marker that stands on the northbound service road of Expy. 281, just past Richardson Road, states Restlawn Cemetery “is believed to be the only graveyard in Hidalgo County dedicated for African American burials.”

Among those buried at Restlawn are Joseph Daniel “Danny” Callis, a former sports editor of *The Pan American*, the student newspaper at Pan American University, a legacy institution of UTRGV. A large aluminum plaque was placed in the cemetery in Danny’s honor in 2010. On it are his 1967 yearbook photo from Edinburg High School and a description of the many accomplishments he achieved during his short lifetime.

“I was closer to him than I was our next oldest brother, so I spent a lot of time with him, kinda tagging along, See **RESTLAWN**, Page 3

On a million-dollar mission

Medical school receives funding for cancer research

Zugay Treviño
and Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

After having its funding reduced in the last legislative biennium, UTRGV School of Medicine officials say they are looking at better ways to allocate their budget.

“The way we’re trying to mitigate against some of those reductions is really being smarter about where we, from a medical school, are investing our limited resources,” said Michael Patriarca, executive vice dean for the School of Medicine. “We are operating across all of the missions of a medical school.”

On Feb. 12, the McAllen City Commission approved the contribution of \$1 million to the UTRGV School of Medicine to fund research on cervical cancer.

“I think it’s important that we recognize the timing of getting this program up and running, so that when the new research center

gets started, that they have an actual research project to put in it,” McAllen Mayor Jim Darling said.

Sofia Hernandez, the chief of staff of the School of Medicine, said UTRGV is focused on training the next generation of physicians to provide high-quality care in the community.

“Another core mission is advancing research, especially looking at diseases that impact the Rio Grande Valley community,” Hernandez said.

The funding will give students the opportunity to participate in the research process, as well as help the community of the Valley.

“We know that cervical cancer is one of those [diseases] where women in the Valley are three times more likely to die from cervical cancer, so we thought this was something that would be really helpful in looking at potential treatments and other ways to combat the disease,” Hernandez said.

She said she believes

the research will be great for women as it will help improve access to treatment and even potentially attract jobs to the community.

“As we look at new treatments, then you’re talking about attracting pharmaceutical companies and other industries to the community as well,” Hernandez said.

This is not the first time the City of McAllen gives \$1 million to the medical school.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, the McAllen City Commission voted 3-2 on Sept. 25 to allocate \$1 million for the School of Medicine.

However, the school may increase its budget once more.

On Feb. 9, the School of Medicine presented a request of \$77,993.76 before the Student Fee Advisory Committee to help medical students conduct research in a field of their choice.

The university estimates it will collect about \$13 million in

See **MEDICAL**, Page 3

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

FESTIBA 2018 Kickoff

UTRGV will host its **FESTIBA 2018 Kickoff** at 10 a.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The Festival of International Books & Arts runs through April 15 and promotes the importance of literacy, culture and the arts to the local community.

Logo Design Contest

The Good Neighbor Settlement House Inc., a nonprofit, multi-service agency dedicated to assisting needy men, women and children of Brownsville, has launched a **Logo Design Contest**. The winning logo will be used on the agency's website, social media, merchandise and material. The contest is open to individuals, organizations, companies and educational institutions. The winner will receive a \$100 prize, certificate and invitation to the official logo launch. Electronic entries must be submitted to roxanna.g.rosas@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. March 31. For more information, call 542-2368.

'Thor: Ragnarok' Showing

The **Campus Programming Board** will show **"Thor: Ragnarok"** from 7 to 9:10 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El

Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The movie will also be screened at the same time Wednesday on the Troxel Hall Lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7991.

Tuesday

Live Poetry

Student Life will host a performance by Chicago spoken-word artist **Kendria K Love Harris**, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660. The event is part of the university's observance of **Black History Month**.

Trivia Night

The **Student Union** will host a **Trivia Night** on **"Star Wars"** at 5 p.m. in The Loft, located on the second floor of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The event will take place at the same time in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Music Performance

Guest artist **Laurel Swinden**, joined by **Lecturers Oliver Jia** and **Brielle Frost**, will perform music by **Boulanger, Doppler** and **Mendelssohn** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. Admission is free. For more

information, call 882-7025.

Thursday

Keynote Featured Author **Internationally famous Chilean author Alejandro Zambra** will be the **Keynote Featured Author** at noon in the Shary Room of the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The event is hosted by the **NEA Big Read**, as part of UTRGV's **FESTIBA 2018**.

Artrageous!

Artrageous! The Interactive Art and Music Experience will start at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The event will take place at the same time in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center on Friday. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. For more information, call 665-3881.

Graduate Fair 2018

The **Graduate College** will host its **Graduate Fair** from 4 to 7 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-3661 or 882-6552.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 13 and 15.



Feb. 13

3:16 p.m.: An officer responded to an auto-pedestrian accident involving a student in Lot E9. An affiliated driver entered the lot

and struck the student as she crossed the crosswalk. She suffered a minor injury to her left leg and was transported to Rio Grande Regional 24 Hour Emergency Care for further evaluation.

Feb. 14

12:10 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Lot E7 in reference to a disturbance in progress between two students. The male student was instructed to leave the location due to him not living on campus. The officer did not observe any signs of physical violence on either party. The case will be referred to the dean of students for further review.

1:25 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Casa Bella student housing complex in reference to minors consuming alcohol. The officer confirmed that one of the residents had consumed an alcoholic beverage and was issued a citation for consumption of alcohol by a minor. The other two residents at the scene were released without further incident. The case will be referred to the dean of students for further review.

11:52 a.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the cafeteria and snack

bar on the Edinburg campus. Upon further inspection by the Edinburg Fire Department, it was determined the alarm had been triggered by a broken compressor belt causing smoke to generate inside a mechanical room.

Feb. 15

4:28 p.m.: A student reported having been assaulted by her husband while at their residence in New Mexico. She is currently attending classes at UTRGV and her husband resides in New Mexico. She reported the incident had

occurred within a span of three months, reporting she was last assaulted on Feb. 11 before coming back to campus. She has not filed an assault family violence report with the local police department but wanted the UTRGV Police Department to document the incident. The Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention is aware of the incident, and she was referred to the UTRGV Crime Victim's liaison for further assistance.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

MARCH 6, 2018




EARLY VOTING: February 20 – March 2

Early voting booth in the Student Union
on the Edinburg campus

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PONCE
MEDICAL

RESTLAWN

Continued from Page 1

even there at Pan Am,” said Clarence Callis, Danny’s younger brother. “I guess that’s why I remember so much and know so much about him.”

Danny Callis died on Oct. 24, 1968, just six days shy of his 19th birthday. He was a sophomore at PAU. The brothers grew up in the city when it was still a small, dusty town comprised mostly of Hispanics and less than 10 percent African-American.

“It was a good place to grow up,” Clarence Callis said. “A lot of good friendships that have lasted a lifetime.”

This was during the racially charged era of the 1950s and ’60s.

“We were kind of out of the limelight of the South because we were so far south in Texas that we knew what was going on in the ’60s elsewhere, but it didn’t seem to affect us as much. But the racial undertones were there,” Clarence Callis said.

He recalled what it was like in the schools during that time.

“From the time I was in kindergarten to the time I graduated high school, I was the only black child in any of my classes,” Clarence Callis said. “In 1959, when I started Stephen F. Austin Elementary ... it was integrated. I don’t think there were any white children there at that school because of how it was zoned. It was on the side of town that was predominantly Hispanic.”

All of the Callis children grew up bilingual and did a lot of field work, just like the local Hispanic population. Their grandfather lived across the street and owned 11 acres behind his house.

“We not only picked in his fields, we worked for other farmers throughout Hidalgo County. ... We were field workers because that was the kind of work that was available to people of color back then,” Clarence Callis said. “We also did irrigation, where you take the little irrigation pipes and move them row to row to irrigate the fields. We did a lot of that. We worked the fields quite a bit.”

Clarence Callis would also tag along with his older brothers in the summers, lying about his age, so he could work construction jobs with them, including the old science building at Pan American.

“Wherever they went to work, I went to work,” he said.

This was when drive-in theaters were popular. There was even a drive-in across the street from the Edinburg campus where the Walmart stands today. Clarence Callis remembered going shopping at the H-E-B food store with his family and other popular activities at that time.

“As kids growing up, we did spend time in Mexico, because that was the place to go dance,” Clarence Callis said. “And Danny was probably one of the best dancers. He not only was athletic--the boy could dance.”

Most of the blatant racism that the Callis brothers experienced would occur when they headed north of the Valley. Every summer, the family drove to Virginia to visit their paternal grandmother.

“In Knoxville, Tennessee, when our car broke down, Danny made the mistake of going over to the [whites only] water fountain and drinking out of [it] while our car was being repaired,” Clarence Callis said. “One of the mechanics said, ‘Hey, boy, you can’t drink out of that water fountain. ... That’s the white water fountain.’”

About a year or two after this incident, Clarence Callis traveled to Corpus Christi with his high school orchestra.

“These white kids in the swimming pool of the hotel



Jillian Glantz/THE RIDER PHOTOS

“We don’t have any water [at Restlawn], so this is more like a ranch cemetery. We planted stuff here, the city forester has planted stuff here, but it’s kind of like survival of the fittest, and so whatever survives, that’s what stays,” said Valerie Ramirez, a member of the Hidalgo County Historical Commission.

we were staying at were using the racially disparaging term--not Negro, but the other word--and so it was kind of odd to hear that, but when I did, I was scared,” he said. “Even just four or five white kids, you know, but it was just one of me and a white girl in the orchestra. ... We were sitting on chairs and talking, and I guess they thought I shouldn’t be talking to her.”

In Edinburg, the racist attitude was there but it was more of a quiet understanding.

“There were people that we knew were, like they say nowadays, hi-and-bye friends, and those were kids at school that you wouldn’t ever be invited to their house or vice versa because the parents didn’t necessarily see eye to eye on things,” Clarence Callis said.

But it wasn’t until one particular incident that he became personally aware of the racism in his hometown.

“I got to the point where I wanted to date. ... I would ask someone out and they would decline, and I didn’t understand why because I saw those same girls dating other guys,” he said. “... I didn’t go to things like my senior prom with someone of another ethnicity. It was the dating issue that really brought it to the forefront.”

Robert Ramirez, the son of Alfredo Ramirez, Edinburg’s first Hispanic mayor, recalls encountering a similar situation.

“When I got to high school there was some prejudice. I remember this one incident where I was kind of interested in asking this one girl out, and I didn’t hear this directly--I heard it indirectly--she had told people it would be social suicide to go out with me,” Robert Ramirez said.

He admits the prejudice he experienced wasn’t on a regular basis, as it was for other people in the Valley.

“I remember a friend of mine that was my doubles partner in tennis finally took me to the side and said, ‘They’re not going out with you because their parents won’t let them because you’re black,’” Clarence Callis said. “It just really changed things. I wasn’t angry. I was more hurt than anything else that it made a difference. ... I could not physically change to be acceptable.”

Overall, Clarence Callis enjoyed growing up in South Texas and didn’t let any racist attitudes slow him down.

“A lot of the theaters in the South, the black kids had to sit up in the balcony,” he said. “They had a balcony at The Citrus [Theater], but we were never forced to sit anywhere other than where we wanted. I think there were just pockets of hatred and ignorance, and it wasn’t universal. I think it was more just different places where people weren’t ready for change. ‘You can’t come in here,’ ‘This group is prohibited’--I don’t remember that, and I’m not looking at it through rose-colored lenses.”

What may have been an even greater challenge for Clarence Callis was growing up in such an isolated region of Texas.

“I call [the Valley] the land that time forgot, because things were behind,” Clarence Callis said. “The one thing that kept us interested in the outside world, and I know that sounds funny, but we were able to get what was called the *Weekly Reader*.”

His uncle delivered the newspaper locally and would make the Callis children read it.

“At the time, we didn’t understand what he was doing. He was giving us perspective of things outside the Valley, and so, that broadened our horizon, and enabled us to see that there was life beyond the county line,” he said.

Writing was something Clarence Callis and his brother enjoyed, as did their father, who often wrote letters to the editor.

“I wrote for my college newspaper and published some poetry and different things over the years,” Clarence Callis said. “It was an outlet for expression for

young people growing up in the Valley that didn’t have a lot of opportunities to do a lot of different things.”

Growing up in a lower-middle class family, education was important to the Callis’. Lewis Callis, Clarence’s father, was the first black postman in Edinburg. And his mother, Leonora Callis, was the valedictorian of her high school class in Madisonville, Texas, in the 1930s. After moving to Edinburg, her family owned property at what is now the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District Transportation Annex, located at 1015 E. Schunior St. The Callis home, which is still standing, was right across the street.

“I’m the only one that graduated from college, but I’m sure that Danny would have graduated from college had he lived. There’s no doubt,” Clarence Callis said. “I’m not sure what his GPA was, but I’m sure it was very high.”

Among other activities, Danny Callis wrote for his high school newspaper, contributed articles to the *Edinburg Daily Review* and had his own column in the university paper titled “Valley of the Broncs.” He also played tennis and was elected sophomore class vice president two weeks before his death.

“He was kind of a big guy, muscular, athletic and whatever he did, he did with vigor and with excellence; there was no halfway with him,” Clarence Callis said. “And quick-witted, oh my god. I mean, you’d better have something to say if you’re gonna mess with him. He didn’t forget things. He didn’t pick on people, but if he remembered you and the things you did, well, that was fair game. Very quick-witted.”

Danny Callis aspired to be a journalist and make a difference through his writing.

“You talk about people being honest, real, open and forthright people--he was one of those guys,” Clarence Callis said.

Danny Callis wanted to move to either Atlanta or Detroit after college.

“That was the place where things were happening for black people, and he wanted to write for a newspaper,” Clarence Callis said. “I think had he moved to a larger city, he would have been such a disruptive force. ... There was no quit in him, and there was no can’t.”

However, tragedy struck and Danny Callis died unexpectedly of what the doctors believed was hepatitis. This happened just seven months after his mother passed away. His father started a journalism scholarship fund at Pan American in his son’s name but was unable to sustain it long term due to lack of funds. Danny’s legacy was not forgotten, though.

In later years, Valerie Ramirez, a member of the Hidalgo County Historical Commission and sister-in-law of Robert Ramirez, lived next door to the Callis family.

“My husband said he would see Mr. Callis pushing his lawnmower down Schunior Street ... but he never knew where he was going or what he was doing,” Valerie Ramirez said.

As it turns out, Lewis Callis was headed to Restlawn Cemetery, which used to be referred to derogatorily as “The Cabbage Patch,” to try to maintain the graves. It was not until her father-in-law, Alfonso Ramirez, told her about the cemetery that she became interested.

“It was just neglected, and really not that many people were aware it was here. ... It was overgrown,” she said.

Restlawn sits on a small plot, in an isolated corner on the far end of the larger Hillcrest Memorial Park, which houses the historic Brushwood Cemetery and paupers’ cemetery. Valerie Ramirez is part of the Baha’i faith, which promotes unity and equality for all people, and it was the local Baha’i community that first began taking on the challenge of restoring Restlawn.

“We broke equipment trying to hack our way



Valerie Ramirez stands on the bridge located on the boundary of Restlawn Cemetery. On the other side is Hillcrest Cemetery. The bridge was built to symbolize a connection of the cemeteries and communities.

VAQUERO VOICE

Crime on campus



"Nothing. Everything's fine. Pretty safe. No suspicious activities. I feel really safe [on] campus. There's nothing that makes me feel threatened. In the news, they make it seem, like, 'Oh, it's hell out there.' But at least here [in Brownsville], it's completely safe."

Juan Cantu
Biology freshman

"I haven't heard of any crime yet and I haven't seen anything at all, which is good. I hope we keep it up 'cause recently, with all the school shootings, it's really bad for our society and for all the kids in the schools. They're really scared. So, I hope our campus stays safe and stays aware of all the dangers that are out there."



Ashtyn Flores
Criminal justice freshman



"Pues es inevitable, aunque se ponga la policía y el PD. Mientras más recluten no [hará] que te sientas más seguro porque hay gente que se siente segura con la policía alrededor y hay gente que no, ya sea independientemente si tienen un criminal record o no, pero en lo personal yo me siento segura, porque se ... que incluso estudiantes han cometido suicidio o han incluso robado. ... Los robos aquí en el campus yo lo considero de lo que más pasa y es de lo que deberíamos estar como que más pendiente. Yo siento que se ponen más pendiente de quien tiene un permiso para estacionarse en cambio a robos, inseguridades que realmente son las importantes".

Lorena Díaz
Estudiante de segundo año de justicia penal

"I do feel pretty safe on campus. Actually, I feel that security does a good job notifying us if there is a crime that has happened. They send out emails, text messages. If anything, the most major crime that I notice is as far as maybe traffic accidents. Students don't really watch when they cross the street and there are lot of cars that speed by through the main Sugar Road here."



James Tall
Mathematics junior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

2/26/18



Rosa Parks

"The only tired I was,
was tired of giving in"

Conflict of tongues



Valeria Alanis
THE RIDER

I've been annoyed more than once when someone tries to disparage indigenous languages by calling them dialects; this attitude toward them is largely a product of a confusion that has clearly arisen from our disinformation about the difference between a language and a dialect, and also from the absurd prejudice of the status of a language, because believe it or not, even languages have a certain status, according to the vision of society.

To cure ourselves of the first problem that has brought us to this point, disinformation, it is necessary to understand something basic: Languages are alive and changing, they do not remain static and this reality of languages is the source of life for the study of linguistics.

Having grasped the above will facilitate us to go to the next thing, which is the distinction between a language and a dialect. Without more detours, a dialect is simply a different manifestation of a language, with its own

particular characteristics of the region where it arises.

A simple example that would allow us to understand this would be to hear a Mexican speak with a Puerto Rican. Both speak Spanish, but they speak a different manifestation of it. Meaning, they speak dialects of Spanish. However, note that dialects as such have no written form in a formal environment.

Each idiom has a written and spoken standard, although the second is only present in the formal mode of speech.

I would like to clarify that I don't downplay dialects. I am a speaker of one, Mexican Spanish, but I am against those, who in order to despise a language, misunderstand the concept, thinking that a dialect is inferior to a language when they are simply different things. That being said, we can talk about the second reason for this attitude that devalues indigenous languages and some dialects: the prejudice of the status of a language.

In society, it can be observed that the habitual behavior of the majority language group implies an aggressive effort to impose its language on the minority cultural group

or the inevitable isolation of the minority group due to the language barrier.

These actions corner the speakers of the minority language, leaving them two options: Learn our language so that you have greater opportunities or sink into poverty.

This happens in Mexico, the United States, and in every country that clumsily faces the challenge of a multilingual society.

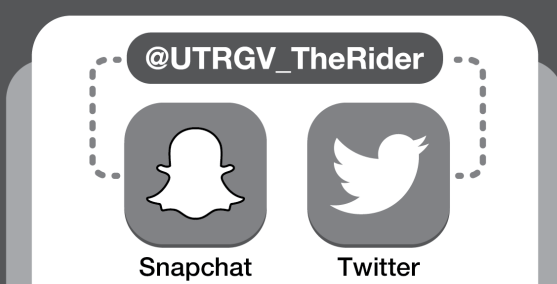
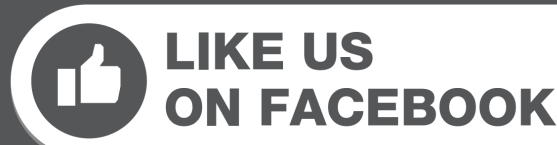
The cases do not necessarily have to be indigenous languages because, right here, I have heard sad testimonies of how minority language speakers have been trampled by speakers of the "most prestigious language" for its language barrier.

These conflicts of prestige between languages must stop and the truth is that in any place where the need of teaching the incalculable value of languages and the cultural and historical richness of each is neglected, ignorance, insensitivity and indifference will continue being a present shadow and the minority languages will continue to be defenseless, facing possible situations of abuse and prejudice.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters 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 letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

FOLLOW US!



Lazos de amistad y unidad

Brownsville, Matamoros se juntan para el Saludo Binacional

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR EN JEFE

El jueves pasado, Mr. Amigo 2017 Pedro Fernández acompañó a los residentes de Brownsville y Matamoros en el Saludo Binacional, un evento anual en el cual se demuestra el sentido de paz y amistad que existe entre las dos ciudades.

“De verdad créanme que durante todo este tiempo que hemos estado en este lugar, han pasado por mi mente muchísimas cosas”, dijo Fernández en la ceremonia que se llevó a cabo en medio del puente Gateway International Bridge que conecta a Brownsville y Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México. “Muchas reflexiones. Escucho todo lo que han expresado cada una de las personas que han tenido la oportunidad de estar en el micrófono y es muy emocionante ver la manera en la que nos expresamos, tanto unos de una nación como otros de otra nación”.

Cientos de residentes de los Estados Unidos y México dieron la bienvenida a Fernández con una ovación de pie.

Las hijas de Fernández, Gema y Karina, acompañaron al Mr. Amigo 2017 en



Victor G. Ramirez/FOTOS THE RIDER

Pedro Fernández, el Mr. Amigo 2017, lanza un beso a sus admiradores el jueves pasado durante la ceremonia Saludo Binacional que tomó lugar en el puente Gateway International Bridge que conecta a Brownsville y Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México.

Ha participado en diferentes filmes cinematográficos incluyendo, “Coqueta” y “Delincuente”.

El cantante también ha protagonizado telenovelas como “Hasta Que el Dinero nos Separe” y “Hasta el Fin del Mundo”. Algunas de sus canciones más populares son

es un tiempo de demostrarle al mundo entero ... lo importante que es que nos mantenemos unidos”.

Durante la ceremonia, funcionarios de ambas ciudades fueron reconocidos poco antes de que el tradicional intercambio de banderas realizado por niños de Brownsville y Matamoros tomara lugar.

Brissa Yamile Del Angel y Fernando Ayala Rangel, de Matamoros, se encontraron en el centro del escenario con Mackenzie Rose Santibañez y Santiago Menchaca, de Brownsville, para intercambiar sus respectivas banderas y presentes.

Poco después en la ceremonia, el alcalde de Brownsville, Tony Martinez, le entregó una cuera tamaulipeca a Jesús de la Garza Díaz del Guante, alcalde de Matamoros, como símbolo de la amistad entre las ciudades. De la Garza también le otorgó un presente a Martinez. Las esposas de cada uno de los alcaldes intercambiaron flores.

Ferdinando Valencia, el huésped distinguido de Matamoros, y Raúl Brindis, el orgullo de Matamoros, también recibieron cueras tamaulipecas de parte de De la Garza.

“Lo primero que veo y reflexiono es que cuando se observan a dos comunidades que por conciencia se aceptan y por principal bandera reconocen entre ellos la amistad, en ese momento dejamos de ver

dos comunidades para ver una sola”, dijo Valencia.

Brindis dijo que cuando era un niño, él viajaba seguido entre Brownsville y Matamoros y que el hecho de estar parado en medio del Gateway International Bridge le trajo recuerdos.

“Cuando yo venía caminando por aquí veía de frente a Brownsville, Texas, y cuando la gente de Brownsville veía de frente a la gente de Matamoros, Tamaulipas, con hermandad, con amistad, con solidaridad”, dijo Brindis. “Yo quiero que las generaciones que vienen próximas también vean de la misma manera, de frente a frente, de cara a cara, a las personas como lo hici-



Mackenzie Rose Santibañez (segunda de derecha), de Brownsville, y Fernando Ayala Rangel, de Matamoros, intercambian presentes durante el Saludo Binacional el pasado jueves en el puente Gateway International Bridge.



Ferdinando Valencia (centro), actor de novelas como “En nombre del amor” y “Simplemente María”, luce una cuera tamaulipeca la cual le otorgó el alcalde de Matamoros Jesús de la Garza Díaz del Guante (izquierda). Valencia es el huésped distinguido de este año.

el escenario.

José Martín Cuevas Cobos, mejor conocido por su nombre artístico, Pedro Fernández, nació el 28 de septiembre de 1969 en Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, pero creció en Villa Corona, Jalisco. Empezó su carrera como Pedrito Fernández a la edad de 7 años con su primer álbum titulado, “La de la Mochila Azul”.

“Aventurero”, “Yo No Fui”, “Amarte a la Antigua”, y más recientemente, “Hasta el Fin del Mundo”. Los géneros musicales de sus canciones abarcan desde ranchera y mariachi hasta pop latino y baladas.

“Es importante que tomemos conciencia de que hoy es un tiempo de sumar y no de dividir”, dijo Fernández. “Que es un tiempo de unirnos y que

Opinión

CONFLICTO DE LENGUAS

Valeria Alanis
THE RIDER

Me he molestado más de una vez cuando alguien intenta desprestigiar las lenguas indígenas al llamarlas dialectos; esta actitud hacia ellas es en gran parte producto de una confusión que claramente ha nacido de nuestra desinformación entre la diferencia de un idioma y un dialecto, pero también del absurdo prejuicio del estatus de una lengua, porque lo creamos o no, hasta las lenguas poseen cierto estatus, según la visión de la sociedad.

Para comprender el primer problema que nos ha traído a este punto, la desinformación, es necesario entender algo básico: Las lenguas están vivas y son cambiantes, no permanecen estáticas y esta realidad de las lenguas es la fuente de vida del estudio de la lingüística. Haber captado lo anterior nos faci-

tará ir a lo siguiente, que es la distinción entre un idioma y un dialecto. Sin tantos rodeos, un dialecto simplemente es una manifestación distinta de un idioma, con características particulares propias de la región de donde surja.

Un ejemplo sencillo que nos permitiría entender esto sería el escuchar hablar a un mexicano con un puertorriqueño. Ambos hablan español, pero hablan una manifestación distinta de este. Es decir, hablan dialectos del español. Pero ojo, recuerden que los dialectos como tales no tienen forma escrita en un ámbito formal.

Cada idioma tiene un estándar escrito y hablado, aunque lo segundo solo está presente en la modalidad formal del habla.

Me gustaría aclarar que yo no desmerito los dialectos. Yo misma soy hablante de uno, el español mexicano, pero lo cier-

to es que yo estoy en contra de aquellos que, con el fin de menospreciar una lengua, malentienden el concepto, pensando que un dialecto es inferior a un idioma cuando simplemente son cosas distintas. Dicho esto, podemos hablar del segundo motivo de esta actitud que desvaloriza las lenguas indígenas y algunos dialectos: el prejuicio del estatus de una lengua.

En la sociedad, se puede observar que el comportamiento habitual del grupo de la lengua mayoritaria implica un esfuerzo agresivo por imponer su lengua al grupo cultural minoritario o el inevitable aislamiento del grupo minoritario debido a la barrera del idioma.

Estas acciones acorralan a los hablantes de la lengua minoritaria, dejándoles dos opciones: Aprendan nuestro idioma para que tengan mayores oportunidades o húndanse en la pobreza.

Esto sucede en México, en los Estados

Unidos y en cada país que enfrenta torpemente el reto de una sociedad multilingüe.

Los casos no necesariamente tienen que tratarse de lenguas indígenas pues, aquí mismo, he escuchado testimonios tristísimos de cómo hablantes de lenguas minoritarias han sido pisoteados por hablantes de la “lengua más prestigiosa” por su barrera del idioma.

Estos conflictos de prestigio entre idiomas deben parar y la verdad es que en cualquier lugar donde se continúe ignorando la necesidad de enseñar el incalculable valor de las lenguas y la riqueza cultural e histórica que poseen cada una de ellas, la ignorancia, insensibilidad e indiferencia seguirán siendo una sombra presente y las lenguas minoritarias seguirán viéndose indefensas, enfrentando posibles situaciones de abuso y prejuicio.

UTRGV, TSC welcome Mr. Amigo, Pedro Fernández

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Around noon last Thursday, more than 900 people welcomed Mr. Amigo 2017 Pedro Fernández to the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

“Thank you, thank you. How are you? Actually, talking is not my business,” Fernández said in Spanish while the audience gave him a standing ovation. Fernández is a singer, actor, television host and songwriter who started his international career at age 7 with his film and album, “*La de la mochila azul*.” He has recorded 38 albums, starred in seven *telenovelas*, or soap operas, 25 films and continues “captivating the public around the whole world,” according to the official Charreada at UTRGV and TSC pamphlet. Fernández has also received three Diamond Awards, 37 gold and 26 platinum album awards.

Each year, the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen to promote international friendship and goodwill between the U.S. and Mexico. The honoree is recognized during Brownsville’s Charro Days Fiesta. Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, holds *Fiestas Mexicanas* at the same time. Previous Mr. Amigos include Cantinflas, Juan Gabriel, Verónica Castro, Lucha Villa and Arath de la Torre.

“Thank you for this distinction, thank you for inviting me and recognizing the work I have achieved through a very long time,” said Fernández, who was dressed as a Charro. “Forty years sound easy but in reality they have been 40 years of hard work and I am very happy that God is allowing me to celebrate this year 40 years of my career.”

Accompanying Fernández on the stage were Sergio Martinez, president of the Mr. Amigo Association, and his wife, Cristina Martinez; Veronica González, UTRGV Community Relations vice president; Janna Arney, UTRGV deputy president; Alondra Galván, UTRGV Student Government Association president; Raúl Brindis, radio announcer and *orgullo de Matamoros*; Crystal Reynaga, TSC Student Government Association president; Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, president of TSC; Adela Garza, TSC board of trustees chair; and Patricia Solís Pérez, Fiestas Mexicanas president.

The songwriter thanked the Mr. Amigo Association. “This person ... was calling me every day. He called me even more times than my wife does,” Fernández said with a laugh. “I want to thank [Miguel Patiño] for having created this link that allows me to be here celebrating Charro Days and, obviously, to be Mr. Amigo.”

The singer also thanked his fans, who he said are the most important part of his artistic career.

“But besides thanking God, I obviously thank the public and the fans who have always been a fundamental part of my career,” Fernández said. “Because without the public’s support, without the support from my fans, none of this would be possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

After his speech, the public joyfully shouted at Fernández, asking him to sing one of his many famous songs.

“Which one do you want me to sing?” he asked, smiling at the audience. Fernández sang part of his song “*Amarte a la antigua*” a capella while the audience stood up to sing along to the famous song. At the end of the ceremony, Fernández sang the song that launched his musical career, “*La de la mochila azul*,” accompanied by UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán.

On behalf of UTRGV, Galván gave Mr. Amigo an official poster, which commemorates the 81st Charro Days anniversary.

“Today we have ... a gift that we want to give you. ... We hope that you like the gift a lot,” Galvan said in Spanish.

Before the ceremony started, more than 100 UTRGV and TSC campus community members participated in a Walking Parade. The procession began outside the UTRGV Student Union’s PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón and ended at the TSC Arts Center.

“We are so pleased to be partners in this incredible celebration,” Arney said. “For the past 81 years ... Charro Days continues to be such an important part of our community.”

Before Mr. Amigo’s arrival, there were performances by Mariachi Siete Leguas, Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán and children from the TSC Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center.

They danced to “*El aventurero*” y “*Yo no fui*,” hit songs of Mr. Amigo. “Thank you to all and each one of you,” Fernández said in Spanish. “Thank you for the support, I hope to be back in Brownsville soon.”

Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

After the UTRGV Men’s Basketball game, students and faculty witnessed one of the greatest Homecoming traditions, the burning of the UTRGV letters last Thursday in the parking lot of the Fieldhouse. Dancing, free food, outdoor games and a photo booth were also among the festivities.



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Members of UTRGV’s Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán dance to “Cielito lindo” last Thursday in the TSC Arts Center as part of the Charreada at UTRGV and TSC.



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Children from the TSC Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center perform to a medley of songs by Pedro Fernández onstage last Thursday in the TSC Arts Center in Brownsville.



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

The UTRGV Career Center participates in the Walking Parade held last Thursday in Brownsville. Members of the UTRGV and the TSC campus communities participated in the parade, which was part of the Charreada celebration.



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Dancers dressed in the traditional costume of Jalisco, Mexico, and charros are shown last Thursday as they celebrate the Charreada at UTRGV and Texas Southmost College outside the Oliveira Student Services Center. The event featured music, food booths and games, as well as a grito contest.



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

Brianna Tacla and Cirilo Carrasco, mass communication sophomores, play “Movin’ on Up” on Feb. 19 during the Tip-Off Party on the Brownsville Library lawn. The event was part of the Homecoming Week 2018 celebration and provided free food and music.



Steven Hughes/THE RIDER

The community participated in games provided by various booths, such as the University Recreation’s sombrero toss last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus during the Charreada.



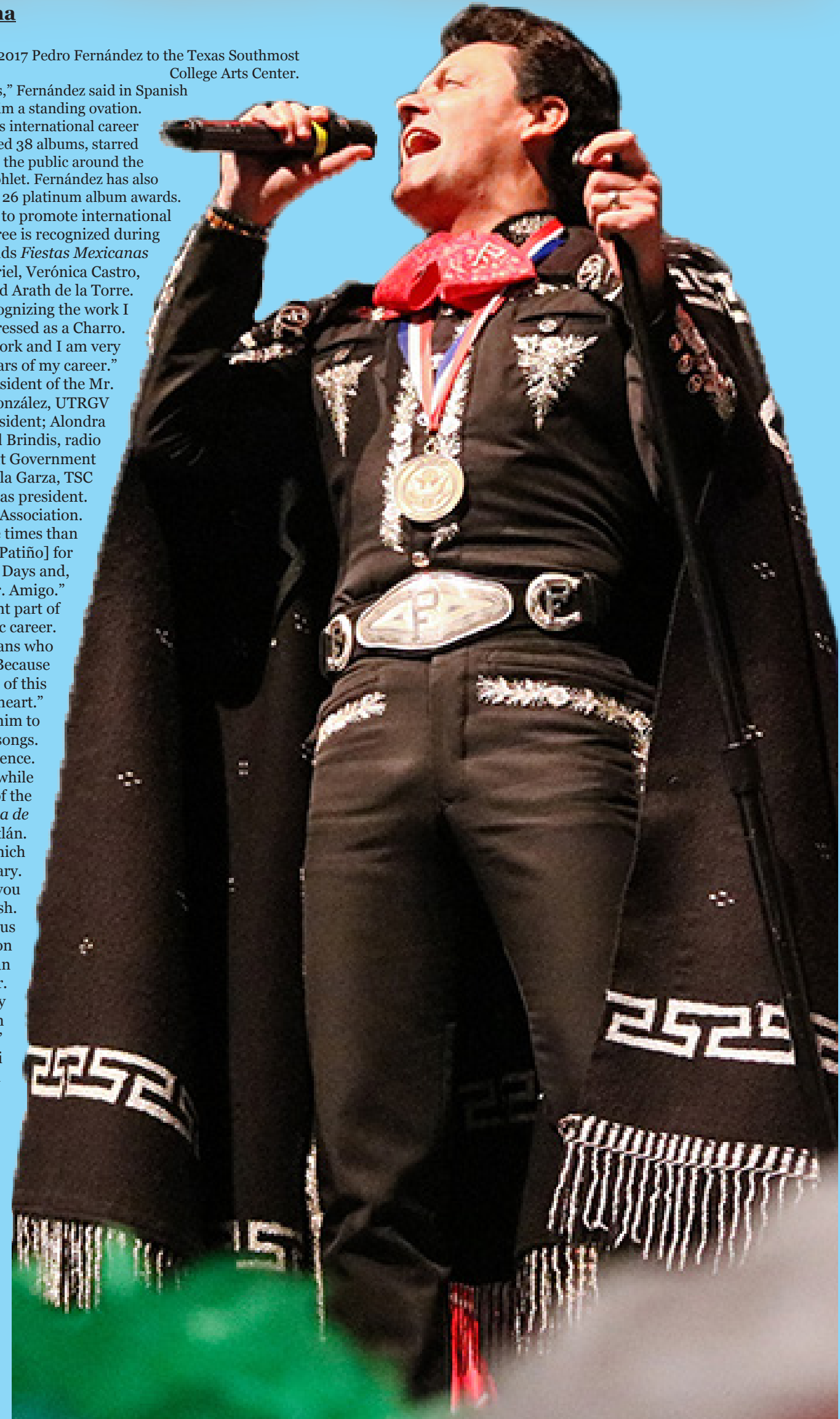
Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Education junior Karina Kowalski serves a volleyball at the Vaquero Olympics held last Tuesday on the Casa Bella lawn in Brownsville. Kowalski represented the International Student Organization.



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Biology sophomore Alejandro Torres competes in the Climbing Challenge during the Vaquero Olympics on Feb. 19 in the UREC on the Edinburg campus.



WELCOMING YOU TO THE DIALOGUE

A talk with ‘FOLD’ curator, Raheleh Filsoofi



Sydni D. Salinas/THE RIDER

UTRGV Assistant Professor Raheleh Filsoofi is shown before the opening of “FOLD” exhibition “2,” located in the Visual Arts Gallery in the Visual Arts Annex on the Edinburg campus.

Sydni D. Salinas

A&E EDITOR

When I traveled to the International Museum of Art & Science to write this story, I got stuck staring at “Ouroboros” by artist Anja Marais, being displayed with the “FOLD” collection.

Taken aback by the powerful image, I was completely engulfed in the artist’s work, letting time and people pass me by completely.

Not soon after realizing I had perhaps been there too long, a man approached me before I could walk away from the piece.

His body language all over the place, and a quick glance at the piece, then to me, he asked me for my interpretation of what it meant.

I looked at it once again and said ever so admiringly, “The repression of women’s voice. Look at her mouth, this openness as if she is screaming to be heard. The blood dripping and duplicated image as if she’s shifting into two people and losing her life simply by talking.”

Laughing at my response, he shrugged his shoulders and said matter-of-factly, “Those darn men, huh?” like if it was the ending joke in a ‘70s family sitcom.

He flashed me a smile that curled to his cheeks, quite instantly reminding me of a hungry cougar I once saw from my binoculars in the mountains of Yosemite as a young girl.

The admiration vanished from my face, and what replaced it was a look that if could kill, would’ve robbed this cat of his life.

Scurrying away from me once noting I was in no mood for his antics, I was left alone again with “Ouroboros.”

Looking at it this time, I couldn’t help but think of myself, and all the women before me, who had to scream until blood came out of their mouth in order to be heard over the ignorance and obstacles that stood in their way.

“FOLD,” a bold endeavor curated by Raheleh Filsoofi, a multidisciplinary

artist and assistant professor, features 13 female artists and lectures from seven UTRGV scholars. The exhibit is part of this year’s Festival of International Books & Arts (FESTIBA).

The events are spread out in multiple locations and galleries, making it one of the biggest exhibitions the Rio Grande Valley has seen.

Discussing the exhibition and feminism, Filsoofi took time to chat with *The Rider* and elaborate on the inspiration behind her work.

Q: What inspired this collection?

A: “The inspiration comes from the book called “FOLD,” which is by a French philosopher, Deleuze. I read that book in 2016. I had some discussions with friends and my mentor, and I, because I am an artist myself, wanted to see how it’s related to my work. Deleuze talks about complexity in the universe, and he had a lot of questions, and he gave reference to another philosopher from the 18th century. To me, it was interesting that one philosopher takes the idea of another philosopher, that idea travels through time, gets developed, and then it gets to somebody like us, artists, who work without coming just with a theory. We make artwork, which is a tangible way of approaching issues. ... Most philosophers were questioned of not including women in their studies, or not addressing women’s issues, so it was interesting for me to bring all these female faculty and female artists together for this expanded conversation, and also to show the contribution of women scholars, women artists and women intellectuals.”

Q: What do you think are the strengths of this exhibit in its entirety?

A: “I see a lot of strengths, not that it’s because it’s my work, because honestly I just brought everybody together. This is the work and contribution of a lot of people. This is the work of many individual scholars and intellectuals. We have two of our scholars that are

men. We invited them to join and they loved it, but the majority of our participants are women, and for me, the strengths of it come from the location that we are in. I came to the Rio Grande Valley two years ago, and I didn’t see a vibrant art community. ... And here to me, there is a nice community, but they need to push the limit, and we were hoping that this was going to inspire the new generation of the artists that are living in the Valley. I have a lot of female students that don’t know what they can do with their art, and such a great impact they can have on their community. This is mostly for my students. Some of them have never traveled outside of the Valley, and we were hoping to bring whatever other women artists are doing somewhere else, to bring it to them, for them to get inspired and hopefully, their work is going to travel on the other side of the world.”

Q: What message do you hope the collection sends to locals and visitors?

A: “We got a lot of good feedback, but we also received a lot of negative impact. Some people were saying we’re a bunch of feminists, using art as a ‘specific agenda.’ They do not realize that we just need to be heard. There are stories that all these artists and scholars have. Something brings them together. We have a scholar who talks about domestic abuse and violence against women. We have another artist,

biggest issue of all time. This is a right. Some people do not understand that, this is a shame. That’s why I invite them to come read the statement, listen to the scholars carefully, before judging them, judging us, a group of women who are trying to do something important for other women.”

Q: What is art to you?

A: “That’s a hard question because I’ve dedicated my life to my practice for over 20 years. So, because of my artwork, I compromise my time for my family. Art is my life. It is an essential part to who I am. Art is something that connects everything to me, like, I can’t separate myself. It’s everything for me in my life. That’s why I’ve dedicated my life to it. This is one of the reasons I teach. It’s because I am an artist. I believe in how art is part of the education.”

Q: Do you have any advice for student artists?

A: “If you want to become an artist, you need to have dedication and commitment. You cannot be a good artist if you cannot go all the way. You need a lot of compromise. I believe there are two professions that they need to put their professions first, doctors and artists. Personal life sometimes doesn’t have any meaning, because you make a commitment to people’s health and mind, to the practice of who we are as humans. If you want to be a good artist, you have to dedicate yourself entirely to what you do. And you have



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER

Sibel Kocabasi, a contemporary visual artist who lives in Palm Beach County, Florida, focuses on women’s symbolic use of clothes. Her piece, “Objects Are Closer Than They Appear #1-5, 7” is being shown in the International Museum of Art and Science in McAllen.

who is one of my painters, beautiful installation, it’s a beautiful painting, but she is feeling the anger of how she was sexually abused. These are the issues that all the women are dealing with, and so many people do not want to talk about it. We have two different ways of communicating this. This is not about, I mean, I want to be known as a feminist scholar and artist myself, because this is something needed. I am a woman and I know women’s issues. Rejecting feminism, and rejecting advocating women’s issues, is the

to believe in it. If you don’t believe in it, nothing is going to come out of it.”

“FOLD” exhibitions are located at the IMAS in McAllen, the Visual Arts Gallery in the Visual Arts Annex in Edinburg, with the third exhibition opening Tuesday in the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus. At 5 p.m. Tuesday, panel discussions on immigrant identities, sexual victimization, feminism and “FOLD,” and unfolding the UTRGV students will be conducted in the Visitors Center.

■Review

Long live the king

Leslie Medrano

THE RIDER

Buckle your seat belts. With the release of “Black Panther” on Feb. 16, we are officially en route to the highly anticipated Marvel Cinematic Universe’s 10-years-in-the-making film, “Avengers: Infinity War.”

However, do not hit the gas just yet and pump the brakes as we review and rate “Black Panther.”

MCU’s “Black Panther” showcases the coronation of T’Challa, portrayed by actor Chadwick Boseman, as rightful king of Wakanda after his father, T’Chaka (John Kani), is murdered in a terrorist attack led by Helmut Zemo (Daniel Brühl) in 2016’s “Captain America: Civil War.”

Wakanda is a fictional East African nation that harbors many advanced technological weapons that have the ability to change the world. Most of Wakanda’s technological advancements come from the abundance of the

fictional metal, vibranium, which is what Captain America’s shield is made of and the strongest material in the MCU.

T’Challa’s strength, endurance, perseverance and heart are put to the test when he is crowned king. He is challenged with the idea of not knowing how to be a great king, as well

as the fear of disappointing his people and ancestors.

As king of Wakanda, T’Challa must also take on the role of Black Panther, who is the protector of the fictional nation.

The throne is threatened when an unfamiliar, but familiar at the same time, face steps foot in Wakanda.

Erik Killmonger, played by actor Michael B. Jordan, challenges T’Challa for the position of king, placing the fate and safety of the Wakanda people and their technological advances at risk.

After the death of his father at the hands of T’Chaka, Killmonger lives his entire life waiting for

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Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



THE SEASONS CONTINUE

Five home games this week

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With the third annual Homecoming Week in the books, UTRGV's sports teams will focus on their upcoming matchups, including five at home.

The Vaqueros will battle against the No. 25 Mississippi State University Diamond Dawgs at 7 tonight at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

On Tuesday, the Vaqueros will shift their attention to the No. 3 Texas Tech University Red Raiders at noon as they defend their field.

Days later, the men's squad will travel to Beaumont to face the Lamar University Cardinals in a three-game series starting Friday.

As of press time Friday, the Vaqueros' overall record was 4-1.

UTRGV played against the University of Illinois-Chicago last weekend in a three-game series. Results were unavailable at press time.

Basketball

Both teams will face the New Mexico State University Aggies Saturday in their last conference match of the regular season, with the men playing at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse and the women at 3 p.m. away.

As of press time, the



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

UTRGV guard Lew Stallworth attempts to score a field goal while UTRGV guard Xavier McDaniel Jr. boxes out for a rebound. The Vaqueros had an unfavorable Thursday night as they lost the game, 83-59.

Vaqueras' overall record was 13-14 and 3-9 in WAC play, while the Vaqueros stood 14-15 overall and 5-7 in conference.

Golf

Today, the men will play in the Colin Montgomerie Invitational in Houston, while the women's team tees off at the Islander Classic in Corpus Christi.

In other golf news, Alvaro Hernandez was named the Western Athletic Conference Men's Golfer of the Week for Feb. 14 through last Tuesday.

Tennis

The women's team will take part in the South Texas Showdown against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi at 2 p.m. Tuesday at home. The Vaqueras will

travel to the Islanders' turf for the final match at 2 p.m. March 9.

From Feb. 12-18, three Vaqueras garnered conference honors: Junior Dominique Ibarra was named the WAC Women's Tennis Singles Player of the Week and the duo of senior Dominique Esparza and junior Doris Aleksovska earned the Doubles Team of

the Week distinction.

On the men's side, the Vaqueros will finish the South Texas Showdown when they battle the Islanders at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Edinburg.

UTRGV fell 4-3 to Corpus Christi in their first matchup Feb. 16.

On Friday, the rivalry will continue as the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team faces the Islanders in the H-E-B Tournament of Champions in Corpus Christi.

Track & Field

The men's and women's track & field teams competed in the WAC Indoor Championships in the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho, last Thursday through Saturday.

On the first day of competition, freshman Dobri Stalev placed second in four events of the men's heptathlon with a total of 2,799 points.

Stalev finished second in the 60-meter dash (7.35 seconds), earning 762 points; third in long jump (6.76 meters), 757 points; third in shot put (11.91 meters), 601 points; and fourth in high jump (1.86 meters), 679 points.

As of press time Friday, both UTRGV teams were still competing in the WAC Indoor Championships. Visit goutrgv.com for results.



Aaron Dees is an exercise science junior and outfielder for the UTRGV Baseball Team. This is his first year with the Vaqueros.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? "I'd be a great white shark because they're predators of the sea."

What show or series are you currently into? "I'm watching 'The Walking Dead' again for the second time, and I'm on the last season already."

Who is your personal hero and why? "My personal hero would be my mom for all she's done for me over the years."

Who makes you laugh the most on the team? "Probably my roommate, Ben. He's a really silly guy."

What is the best advice you've received recently? "The best advice I've received recently was to let a bad performance go, and to come back and forget it the next day."

If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? "All the Small Things' by Blink-182. I like that song."

On your off time, what do you like to do? "I like to work out with my buddies."

If you had one superpower, what would it be and why? "I like to be able to fly, so I could get around faster."

If you weren't playing baseball, what sport would you be playing? "Table tennis."

You can have one meal with one celebrity, what is your meal and who are you eating with? "I'd have clam chowder with Brad Pitt."

How are you feeling about the season this year? "I'm feeling really good. We have great chemistry and we got off to a really good start, which is really important."

--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

MEDICAL
Continued from Page 1

student services fees, but the total funding requests add up to about \$15 million, according to Nick Weimer, the assistant vice president for Student Success and Student Fee Advisory Committee chair.

"The committee had asked for presentations from everybody who had submitted budget requests from those they wanted to learn more about what they were requesting, the purpose of it,

how it benefits," Weimer said. "I feel the meeting went pretty well. All of the presentations were really great from everybody in the meeting."

Funding distribution recommendations will be made by the Student Fee Advisory Committee. The committee will present its recommendations to UTRGV President Guy Bailey, who will make the final decision. The funding requests will be approved or denied by April 1, Weimer said.

The School of Medicine requested

funding to help 30 to 35 of its medical students who want to conduct research, which involves community outreach and global medicine or global outreach, according to Patriarca.

Its budget request was led by Dr. Beatriz Tapia, assistant dean for faculty development; Beine Herrera, the School of Medicine Student Government Association president; and Patriarca.

"We specifically talked about a process for evaluation of these proposals," Patriarca said last Wednesday. "That was part of the presentation as well,

what that vetting process will be, and how we'll look at those proposals. Priority will be given to proposals that essentially bring third-party funding to the table and those that are local in nature ... and/or making use of current research programs."

He said the program would help keep medical students working on projects that are Valley or community-outreach focused. The program would also allow others to see the research UTRGV students are conducting.

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REVIEW

Continued from Page 8

the day he could one day dethrone the king of Wakanda and fulfill his father's plan of world domination.

Hailing from the same royal bloodline as T'Challa, Killmonger has a right to fight for the throne.

Eventually, T'Challa is faced with a question imposed by ex-girlfriend Nakia, portrayed by actress Lupita Nyong'o, which is "what kind of king [he] wants to be."

The timing of the movie could not be more perfect. The pride behind each major character gives important reasoning and awareness as to why February was the ideal release month.

With February's observation of black history, the film contributes to the monthlong celebration with most of its cast being African or African-American, including director Ryan Coogler.

There was no one better to direct and star in the movie than those who did. Huge props to Coogler. The wardrobes, makeup and choreography were gorgeously modernized to fit and express African culture. This truly gave the movie a wonderful feel and closer look into the beauty African culture has to offer.

Rapper Kendrick Lamar produced "Black Panther: Album," which is the film's soundtrack. The musical tracks do a good job at setting the tone for several of the film's scenes.

I really enjoyed the small-scale battles that took place within the film. Not only was I able to follow along, but I was able to understand and embrace the background and reasoning behind each of them. I'm glad the film provides the small-scale battles as it leaves room for the MCU to further develop each character in future films.

All of their motives also made sense, which is a plus.

Now, let's dive into the film's most exemplary performances.

First and foremost, the women of Wakanda. T'Challa was told to surround himself with those whom he trusts the most. He did so by keeping his mother, Queen Ramonda, sister and Princess of Wakanda, Shuri, ex-girlfriend and spy, Nakia, and the *Dora Milaje*, a team

of fantastic women trained expertly in martial arts and weaponry, close throughout the movie and his life. Although all characters demonstrated immense power, strength, independence and love for Wakanda, one character stood out the most to me.

Shuri, T'Challa's younger sister and princess of Wakanda, portrayed by actress Letitia Wright, depicts an absolutely brilliant teenage girl who uses vibranium to produce advanced technology for her nation. Her mind is her weapon. As much as I love Tony Stark, I'm sure Shuri can outsmart him any day. The young generation are the future, so I am more than glad to see Shuri portrayed as she is. Good job, Marvel.

Secondly, Jordan is by far one of the, if not, the best villains the MCU has ever created. His personal charisma made his character one of the biggest highlights of the film.

Killmonger's motivation throughout the movie is inspired by his upbringing as an African-American growing up in the U.S. and the loss of his father.

With Wakanda's advanced technology at his fingertips, Killmonger dreams of ending what his father and he believed to be the oppression of African and African-American people across the globe.

Jordan's character is arguably the best and worst thing about the movie. By worst, I mean the life of his character was ended too soon.

The MCU is typically criticized for not being able to develop great villains. As soon as Marvel had a believable and fantastic villain in its hands, the character was killed.

Regardless, Killmonger was able to break the MCU's trend of lackluster villains, not to mention Jordan's Greek-godlike physique. Am I right, ladies?

Nonetheless, I am overall impressed and satisfied with the film. It can be enjoyable to even those who are not Marvel fanatics and are looking to invest in a great storytelling, action-packed and thrilling movie.

As far as the MCU's future is concerned, I am curious and excited to witness the interactions and possible brilliant collaborations among Shuri, Tony Stark and Bruce Banner.

Rating: 4.5 out of five stars.

RESTLAWN

Continued from Page 3

through," Valerie Ramirez said, explaining that juveniles from the Homer Salinas Boot Camp cleared the overgrowth. "In June 1993 is when we had the first ceremony here."

Rising Star Church, one of the two historic black churches in the Edinburg community, chose the name Restlawn for the cemetery.

"The [Hidalgo County] Historical Commission sponsored the ceremony and the [local chapter of the] NAACP had just formed and they donated plants," Valerie Ramirez said. "... That was our first year. And with a lot of effort, we've been able to maintain it, and we keep having a ceremony every year. This will be our 25th year."

It's been no easy task. It wasn't just brush that needed to be cleared away. There were multiple unmarked graves. Valerie Ramirez and other volunteers, including UTPA faculty and students, put in long hours and even used ground-penetrating radar to uncover unmarked burials. She recalled the incident that occurred upon the death of Lincoln White, Danny Callis' uncle.

"When he was buried, they were digging the grave, and there was somebody there already--they hit bones; they were just wrapped up in a carpet," Valerie Ramirez said. "So, they stopped and just put Lincoln on top because his request was to be buried at the feet of his mother and father. But that's part of the problem here, is that we don't totally know where people are buried."

One year, people came through and vandalized Restlawn Cemetery. They knocked over the homemade wooden crosses and broke Lincoln White's headstone.

"Lincoln was the first one of his family to come down here," Valerie Ramirez said. "He came down here and then he told his dad. ... He said they just left their stuff in the field and they came. For a lot of these black families it was just more opportunity here ... and little by little they became established in the community. ... There were a few families that were, like, bedrocks of the black community here; the church people, and the church was the heart of the community, and so that's who the Whites were in the community."

Onesectionoftheblackneighborhood here was called The Flats, and in it lived a memorable woman named Bernice Mahalia. She died the same month and year as Danny Callis' mother. Mahalia was referred to as La Tomasa by the Hispanic community. Her house was a popular gathering place for both ethnicities.

"In English, they would call her Ms. Tommy. ... I never really heard the people from the black community call her that but that's what the Spanish-speaking would say--La Tomasa," Valerie Ramirez said. "Especially her place, was one of those places where people would come together; [Hispanics] would come into the black community. The black community was always going out because they were the workers, but this was the place where people would come in."

Valerie Ramirez has worked tirelessly for the last 25 years to search out and preserve the stories of the people of Restlawn Cemetery. Their stories create a history for the black community of Edinburg and other parts of the Valley.

"There have been years where it just felt like I couldn't make another phone call," she said. "I was at the end of my rope and I felt like 'Man, I am really tired of doing this.' ... But then you kind of get over that hump, and now it's so encouraging because it feels like [Restlawn] is getting a life of its own."

The preservation of the cemetery has become a community effort that surpasses race and ethnicity. Each year for Juneteenth, the day that commemorates the abolition of slavery in Texas, Restlawn holds a ceremony.

"Doing this every year is an opportunity to open up the door a little bit more," Valerie Ramirez said. "I know that things are better now, and they're still not perfect--there's still a

lot to do, but it's definitely better than it was. It's more than just a black/white issue. It's an issue of humanity."

Robert Ramirez has attended the Juneteenth ceremonies at Restlawn over the years, and has witnessed its transformation.

"I think it's a wonderful labor of love that Valerie has carried out over the past 25 years," he said. "I went to one of the observances and my dad was speaking. ... He was kind of very emotionally choked up, commenting on the fact that people were so prejudiced that they couldn't even allow certain individuals to be buried next to each other. That's pretty prejudiced. So even though restoring the cemetery pulled that ugly side up for people to look at, it's also a tribute to how the community responded at the time by setting aside the cemetery's place and especially how Valerie and the rest of the community responded in restoring it, recognizing the people that are there, documenting what happened. ... It's really commendable."

Restlawn holds the remains of successful businesspeople, workers, educated people, infants, children, people who were born in the slavery era, war veterans and people who were pioneers of their time in the community here. Without Restlawn and people making an effort to preserve it, this vital history would essentially be lost in time.

"I've gotten some strange reactions. Some teachers that didn't want their kids coming here, taking them to the cemetery," Valerie Ramirez said. "I don't feel like it's a morbid place. There's no other place you're gonna go and find this information so easily and accessibly."

If anything, walking through the cemetery is like walking through a museum. It takes visitors through the decades of the black community in Edinburg. Valerie Ramirez recognizes her father-in-law as the vital link to her connection with Restlawn.

"He was the mayor from 1963 to '65. He was the first Hispanic mayor of Edinburg, and he only won by 14 votes," Valerie Ramirez said. "So, he ran the second time to see if he had done a good enough job, and he was re-elected the second time from '65 to '67."

Alfonso Ramirez was a civil rights activist who included members of the black community in the dialogue during his time in political office. Years later, those relationships he forged with them would help his daughter-in-law restore Restlawn.

"He opened the door for so many things for me, and that's why I feel like I need to make sure to give him credit for what he did," Valerie Ramirez said.


In 2010, during the annual Juneteenth celebration, Valerie Ramirez, members of her family, Clarence Callis, and several friends and classmates from 40 years earlier all gathered at Restlawn to honor Danny Callis with a special plaque.

"He lived a very short life. But the impact he had on his classmates and others is reflective of how they honored him there at the cemetery," Clarence Callis said. "It's amazing how after all those years there were still folks that cared, people that were instrumental in finding out the information. I was amazed at how they were able to put it all together."

This October will mark the 50th anniversary of Danny Callis' death. Clarence Callis is 64 years old, having lived in Houston for the majority of his adult life. He's a retired police officer and still has the class ring that his brother is wearing in his high school yearbook photo. Clarence Callis named his daughter Leonora, after her grandmother. Just like her dad, uncle and grandfather, she loves to write.


"She's got a lot of her uncle in her, and I tell her that all the time," Clarence Callis said.

Even though Leonora Callis never got the opportunity to meet Danny, her uncle's legacy lives on thanks to the stories passed down by his family, as well as the community effort to preserve the hidden gem that is Restlawn Cemetery.



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MONDAY - SATURDAY FEB. 26 - MARCH 3

FOLD EXHIBITION
Edinburg / Visitors Center
Artists: Misoo Filan, Gulia Huber, Sibel Kocabasi, and Golnar Shahyar
Opening Reception: Tuesday, February 27
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

IMAS / McAllen
Artists: Laleh Mehran, Sibel Kocabasi, Giannina Coppiano Dwin, and Anja Marais

Visual Arts Gallery / Edinburg, Annex
Artists: Linda Behar, Isabel Gouveia, Rojhaneh Hosseini, Dorotha Grace Lemeh, and Amber Scoon

Donald Lyles Paintings
Edinburg / PAC Lobby Gallery
UTRGV Art Faculty Group Exhibit
Edinburg / Charles & Dorothy Clark Gallery
Icons and Symbols of the Borderlands
Featuring works by guest artists
Brownsville / Rusteberg Hall
The Dandelion a vehicle for the expression of the immigrant
Donna Sweigart and Erum Javed
Visual Arts Building: Lobby
and VABL 1.223 / Edinburg Annex Faculty Panel
Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Galleries open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

LA TRADUCCIÓN DE LA POESÍA EN LOS TIEMPOS DEL MURO
Gabriel González Núñez
Brownsville / Main 2.526
1:55 - 2:55 p.m.
SEYMOUR THE TROLL, Staged Reading
David Carren, Peter Mikolasky
Edinburg / ELABS 107
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
FLAMENCO SHOW
Niurca Marquez, flamenco dancer, Jose Luis de la Paz, award winning guitarist.
Edinburg / PAC Lobby
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$5.00-\$15.00; patron.utrgv.edu
Call 956-665-3881 for more Information
JAZZ PIANO CONCERT
Dan Cavanagh
Brownsville / TSC Arts Center
7:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

IN AN ERA OF FAKE NEWS, NEWSPAPERS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO IGNORE
Edinburg ELABS 179
8:00 a.m.
CREATIVE WRITING SHOWCASE I
Edinburg / EHABW 1.122
9:25 - 10:40 a.m.
MUSIC KNOWS NO BORDERS
Dr. Liudmila Varlamova & students
Edinburg / EPAB 1.131
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
IMPACT OF POPULAR MUSIC ON CULTURE
Mr. John Ferris
Brownsville / University Library Room 1.118
10:00 a.m.
THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY CIVIL WAR TRAIL: TRAVELING TRUNK FOR K-12 EDUCATION
Roseann Bacha-Garza / CHAPS
Edinburg / ELABS 304
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF TERROR: WRITING THE UNRECORDED HISTORY OF LA MATANZA OF 1910-1920 IN THE FRONTERA OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY
Dr. Christopher Carmona
Brownsville / University Library Room 1.118
12:15 p.m.
GALLERY MAGAZINE PRESENTS SEHBA SARWAR AND CONTRIBUTORS
Edinburg / ELABN 103
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

TRANSCENDING SENSORY BOUNDARIES SYNESTHESIA IN THE ARTS
Dr. Rebekah Hamilton, Writing Center
Edinburg / EPAC B1.121
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
IMPACT OF POPULAR MUSIC ON CULTURE
Mr. John Ferris
Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
2:00 p.m.
UTRGV COMPUTER SCIENCE and ARTS STUDENTS
Present: A GAME SHOWCASE
Edinburg Visual Arts Building (Annex at 2412 S Closner Blvd) / EVABL 1.303
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
CREATIVE WRITING SHOWCASE II
Edinburg / ELABS 309
4:40 - 7:10 p.m.
THE VAQUERO: TRADITION AND BORDER CROSSINGS IN SOUTHERN TEXAS AND NORTHERN MEXICO
Presenters: Karen Benavente and Caroline Miles;
SPAN 3307-02
Brownsville / BMAIN #63 2.420
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
WORDS + PICTURES GROUP COMICS DAY
Session 1: Understanding Healing Graphics through the works of Author Jackie Schuld
Dr. Jing Zhang
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.206
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Session 2: Let's Talk About Pop Culture!
Mary Ann Escamilla, Marlene Galvan, Carlton Nelson and Topacio Santivanez
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.206
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Session 3: Transcending Borders in Visual Culture from Graphic Novel to Film
David Carren and Carl Nelson
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.206
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Session 4: Words + Graphics Transcending Art's Borders with Narrative
Carl Vestweber; Erika M Balogh, Elizabeth McCormack-Whittemore
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.206
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Session 5: Point of View in Comics
Dr. Jean Braithwaite
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.206
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Session 6: Comic Book Documentaries from Kanopy
Edinburg / ELIBR 2.114
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
FOLD EXHIBITION PANEL UNFOLDING SOCIAL ISSUES
Panel Moderator: Dr. Friederike Brühöfener
Panelists: Dr. Young Rae Oum, Dr. Ruby Charak, Dr. Cathryn Merla-Watson, Dr. Mariana Alessandri
Edinburg / Visitors Center
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
DR. LAUREL SWINDEN , FLUTE CONCERT
Brownsville / TSC Arts Center
7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
IMPACT OF POPULAR MUSIC ON CULTURE
Mr. John Ferris
Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
10:00 a.m.
WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THE PREHISTORIC PEOPLES OF SOUTH TEXAS FROM THEIR STONE TOOLS?
Brandi Reger, Dr. Juan L. Gonzalez
Edinburg / ELABN 101
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
SONGS OF THE HOMELAND
Documentary
Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
2:00 p.m.

CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY PANEL
Edna Ochoa, Peter Browne, Lino Garcia, Elvia Ardalani, Dolores Mendiola
Edinburg / ELABN 255
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
LA IMPORTANCIA DEL ESPAÑOL MÉDICO EN EL VALLE
Dolores Mendiola & Medical Spanish Students
Edinburg / ELABS 255
4:30 - 6:45 p.m.
TEACHING TO TRANSCEND BORDERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PANEL
Dr. Amy Cummins, High School teachers
Edinburg / ELABS 256
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
IN THE HEIGHTS, MUSICAL
Edinburg / Jeffers Theatre
ELABS 106
7:30 p.m.
Post-Performance Q & A - Dr. Brian Warren
For more information or tickets: 956-665-3888

WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY FEB. 28 - MARCH 1
Gear Up Days at UTRGV
Students from the UTRGV GEAR UP program will visit the UTRGV campus locations in Edinburg and Brownsville and attend presentations and performances. Featuring renowned authors Angela Cervantes and Alejandro Zambra, and UTRGV faculty.
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY - FRIDAY MARCH 1 - 2
TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL READING ROCK STARS PROGRAM
Authors: Juana Martinez Neal, Duncan Tonatiuh, Anna Meriano, John Parra, and René Colato Laínez
Schools for 2018:
March 1:
Morningside Elementary (Brownsville, TX), Carl Waitz Elementary (Alton, TX), Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary (Edinburg, TX);
March 2:
Rodolfo Silva Jr. Elementary (Weslaco, TX) and J.W. Caceres Elementary (Donna, TX)

THURSDAY, MARCH 1
SONGS ABOUT THE BORDER
Aracely Esparza and SPAN 2315 students
Brownsville / Sabal 2.110A
8:00 - 9:15 a.m.
THE BORDER: CULTURAL BEE
Aracely Esparza and SPAN 2315 students
Brownsville / LHSB 1.602
9:25 - 10:40 a.m.
VISIONES: LATINO ART AND CULTURE
Documentary
Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
10:00 a.m.
SHORT FICTION SHOWCASE
Robert Moreira and ENGL 4352 students
Edinburg / ELABN 203
10:50 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
FIKE FARMS: A PORCIÓN OF EDINBURG
Alvino Flores, Jessica Tanguma, Ana B. Hernandez
Edinburg / ELABS 304
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
BIG READ KEYNOTE PANEL
Ways of Going Home
Alejandro Zambra, award winning author
Dr. Steven Schneider, moderator
Edinburg / Shary Room - ELIBR 1.206
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
CHACHALACA REVIEW
Spring 2018 Borderlands Issue
Dr. Christopher Carmona
Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
12:15 p.m.
COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES
Documentary Brownsville / University Library
Room 1.118
2:00 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: BILINGUAL ED IN BORDER TOWNS
Aracely Esparza and SPAN 3304 students
Brownsville / Sabal 2.110A
3:00 - 4:20 p.m.
FILM STUDIES & THE BORDER
Moderator: Dr. Ed Cameron; Presenters: Dr. David Anshen, Dr. Linda Belau, and Dr. Ed Cameron
Edinburg / ELABS 173
3:05 - 4:20 p.m.
72 HOUR FILM RACE
Film Screening
Lawrence Gise, Peter Mikolasky
Edinburg / ELIBR 1.308
5:00 p.m.
AUTHORS & PRESENTERS RECEPTION
Edinburg / PAC Lobby
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
ARTRAGEOUS! THE INTERACTIVE ART & MUSIC EXPERIENCE
Edinburg / Performing Arts Complex
6:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets at patron.utrgv.edu
Call 956-665-3881 for more information
IN THE HEIGHTS, MUSICAL
Edinburg / Jeffers Theatre
ELABS 106
7:30 p.m.
Post-Performance Q & A - Dr. Brian Warren
For more information or tickets:
956-665-3888

FRIDAY, MARCH 2
LIBRARIANS & EDUCATORS DAY
Edinburg / Ballroom
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
AND THEN THE ARMY WAS GONE: RIO GRANDE CITY AND FORT RINGGOLD IN THE 1930s AND 1940s
Nick Taylor
Edinburg / ELABN 101
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
FEATHERED SERPENT, DARK HEART OF SKY: MEXICAN MYTHS
David Bowles
Edinburg / Borderlands Room EEDUC 2.102
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY PROGRAM
Mariachi Mario: Translating Video Game Music
Michael Austin, Howard University
Edinburg / PAC Mariachi Hall
10:00 a.m.
MARIACHI FESTIVAL WORKSHOP
Edinburg / Performing Arts Complex
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
For more information: 956-665-2353
IN THE HEIGHTS, MUSICAL
Edinburg / Jeffers Theatre
ELABS 106
7:30 p.m.
Post-Performance Q & A - Dr. Brian Warren
For more information or tickets: 956-665-3888
ARTRAGEOUS! THE INTERACTIVE ART & MUSIC EXPERIENCE
Brownsville / Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center
6:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets at patron.utrgv.edu
For more information: 956-665-3881
FESTIBA COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
Edinburg City Hall and grounds
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3
MARIACHI COMPETITION & CONCERT
Competition:
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - \$5.00
Concert:
7:00 p.m. - \$10.00 - \$20.00
Edinburg / Performing Arts Complex
For more information: 956-665-3881
IN THE HEIGHTS, MUSICAL
Edinburg / Jeffers Theatre ELABS 106
7:30 p.m.
Post-Performance Q & A - Dr. Brian Warren
For more information or tickets: 956-665-3888



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This event is open to the community.

Brownsville Campus

Tues., March 6, 2018

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

El Gran Salón (Student Union)

Edinburg Campus

Wed., March 7, 2018

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

University Fieldhouse (EHPE 1)

For more information or if special accommodations are needed,
please contact the Career Center at (956) 882-5627 or (956) 665-2243.
Visit us at utrgv.edu/careercenter.