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# CAMPUS CHANGES



Manuela Ramirez/THE RIDER

The Music, Science and Learning Building, located next to the Main Building on the Brownsville campus, opened in June.

**Victor G. Ramirez**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The opening of new buildings on the UTRGV Brownsville and Edinburg campuses has led to the relocation of some departments and offices.

Marta Salinas-Hovar, Facilities Planning and Operations associate vice

president, said the reason for the changes on the Brownsville campus was

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**New game room,**

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**Page 3**

to move out of the Texas Southmost College lease

spaces and save the university money.

"The departments that have moved recently [on] the Brownsville campus include the music department and some faculty," Salinas-Hovar said. "Mainly, I believe from the Liberal Arts college and these were people that were

See CHANGES, Page 6

## Student enrollment increases

**Zugay Treviño**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV's preliminary numbers reveal 29,238 students are enrolled, and the new freshman class of about 4,600 will be the largest yet.

"Although the numbers are extremely preliminary, we're really excited about the students that we have coming on campus," said Maggie Hinojosa, UTRGV's vice president for Strategic Enrollment. "We know that behind every single one of those numbers is an actual person, and we are impacting, not just the lives of our students, but of their families as well."

The preliminary total includes all undergraduate students, students in the School of Medicine and graduate students.

Last year, the final student enrollment number after census day, the last day to drop courses, was 27,809. Preliminary numbers peaked at the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester with 28,667. This year's preliminary enrollment numbers have increased by an estimated 600 students. All new enrollment numbers will remain preliminary until

See ENROLLMENT, Page 6



Maggie Hinojosa

## Beto in the Valley



Aahliya Garza/THE RIDER

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke speaks passionately about his views on today's political landscape during his campaign stop Aug. 18 at Cine El Rey in McAllen. Story and more photos at utrgvrider.com.

## Legacy degree plan coming to an end

**Eric Montoya**  
SPANISH EDITOR

University of Texas at Brownsville/ Texas Southmost College and University of Texas-Pan American legacy students will have to change to the UTRGV degree plan if they do not complete their legacy degree plan by August 2019.

Legacy students who graduate before the deadline will not be affected by it; however, the remaining students will have to switch to the corresponding UTRGV degree plan.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Student Success Vice President Kristin Croyle said the majority of the legacy students have already graduated and the rest are expected to graduate by 2019.

Asked about the legacy students who will be continuing their education under the legacy degree plan after the deadline, Croyle replied, "For those students, we will work with them to transition them to whatever degree plan best fits their goals and best aligns to their coursework."

She said the university is still evaluating how many students are going to be affected by this change.

"It is a little complicated to get a firm number, because any student that graduates between now and August won't be affected," Croyle said.

When UTRGV was created, the university decided to honor legacy students' degree plans four years after its opening.

Croyle explained that most students had even more than four years to complete their degree under the legacy plan.

"For most students that means that it is at least five years or more," she said. "So, if like a UTB/TSC student started in 2014, he would then have five years on that degree plan and often more if they started earlier than that."

One of the requirements under the

See LEGACY, Page 8



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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MORE THAN A  
NEWSPAPER



Club Spotlight



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

The Exercise Science Club officers include (from left) Historian Jennifer Perez, Vice President Cailey Granado, President Raymundo Chapa, Secretary Brianna Barrera and Treasurer Cesar Trinidad.

*Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the student organizations at UTRGV. This is the first in a series. The Rider interviewed Raymundo Chapa, the president of the Exercise Science Club, for information.*

**Name:** Exercise Science Club

**President:** Raymundo Chapa

**Vice President:** Cailey Granado

**Secretary:** Brianna Barrera

**Treasurer:** Cesar Trinidad

**Historian:** Jennifer Perez

**Advisers:** Lecturer II Guillermo Perez

and Lecturer I Kendra Stine

**What are the membership requirements?** “There’s only a \$5 membership fee requirement and anyone can join and any major is welcome to join the club.”

**For more information, email:** [raymundo.chapa01@utrgv.edu](mailto:raymundo.chapa01@utrgv.edu).

**Facebook:** @utrgvexerciscienceclub

**Instagram:** @ex.sci.club

--Compiled by Joahana Segundo

***Want your club featured? Email us at [TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu) or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today

**Toss for Luck**  
UTRGV students, faculty and staff are invited to

toss coins into the university’s water fountains today through Friday at the Main Water Fountain in Brownsville and at the Chapel of the Lord Fountain in Edinburg. All proceeds will go to a scholarship fund that is to be awarded to future Vaqueros.

For more information, call 665-2660 in Edinburg and 882-5111 in Brownsville.

**Tuesday**

**Picnic with the President**  
Meet UTRGV President **Guy Bailey** and his administration team and get a free lunch during **Picnic with the President**, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the courtyard of the Music and Science Building in Brownsville and at the same time Thursday at the Science Building in Edinburg. The event will also feature music and games. For more information, call Student Activities at 882-5111, 665-7364 or email [studentactivities@utrgv.edu](mailto:studentactivities@utrgv.edu).

**The Stomp**

University colleges, departments, student organizations and local businesses will gather from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus to welcome students back to school.

In Edinburg, **The Stomp** will take place at the same time Thursday on the Soccer and Track & Field Complex. Free food will be provided by the **Campus Programming Board** and live music by **Rockstar Denied**. For more information, call 665-2660 in Edinburg or 882-5111 in Brownsville.

**Welcome BBQ and Resource Fair**

Veterans and their dependents are invited to a barbecue hosted by the **Military and Veterans Success Center** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ballroom in the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. For more information, contact the MVSC at [veteranservices@utrgv.edu](mailto:veteranservices@utrgv.edu) or 665-7934.

**International Meet and Greet**

International and domestic students are invited to the **UTRGV Office of Global Engagement’s International Meet and Greet** from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the University Center Circle in Edinburg. In Brownsville, the event will take place at the same time Thursday in the Main Courtyard. The celebration will include a parade of flags, music, food and games. For more information, contact International Admissions and Student Services at [international@utrgv.edu](mailto:international@utrgv.edu).

**Wednesday**

**UTRGV Day**

Celebrate the university’s anniversary

on the first Wednesday of the academic year during **Best Week Ever** from 10 a.m. to noon in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and from 2 to 4 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

**Thursday**

**Student Employment Job Fair**

The **Career Center** will host a **student employment job fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville and at the same time in the University Center Circle in Edinburg. For more information, contact the Career Center at 882-5627, 665-2243 or email [studentemployment@utrgv.edu](mailto:studentemployment@utrgv.edu).

**The Herd Meeting**

UTRGV’s official student section and spirit organization, The Herd, will host its first general membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. For more information, contact The Herd at [theherd.rgv@gmail.com](mailto:theherd.rgv@gmail.com).

**Friday**

**Men’s Soccer vs. Purdue Fort Wayne**

The **UTRGV Vaqueros soccer team** will face off against **Purdue University Fort Wayne** at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg. Admission is free for UTRGV students with a valid student ID. For more information, call UTRGV Athletics at 665-2221.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 1 and 21.*



**Aug. 1**

**7:13 a.m.:** An officer who was off campus stopped a car for a traffic violation. The officer discovered the license

plates on the car were issued to another vehicle. The officer confiscated the license plates and cited the driver for the violation.

**10:50 a.m.:** A female student at the Visitors Center bus stop in Edinburg reported that an unknown man intentionally tripped her while she attempted to board the shuttle bus.

**Aug. 3**

**5:41 p.m.:** An officer responded to an injured non-affiliated elderly woman at Health and Physical Education Building 1. The woman was walking down the stairs when she tripped and fell, injuring her face. She declined emergency medical services. The woman was transported to the hospital by family members.

**Aug. 7**

**8:05 p.m.:** A faculty member at the Medical Education Building in Edinburg

reported that a student who resides in Harlingen had missed two days of class and had not returned any phone calls. The Harlingen Police Department visited the student at his residence and he was confirmed to be fine.

**Aug. 8**

**5:09 a.m.:** An intoxicated, non-affiliated man was arrested in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus. An officer was conducting a status check of the parking lot when the man approached him. The man allegedly was in possession of Xanax bars in his front-pants pocket. Once at the Edinburg City Jail, officers found that the man had falsely identified himself while being a fugitive from justice. The man was charged with several felonies.

**Aug. 10**

**3:09 p.m.:** An officer was sent to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in reference to a female student who reported that she was sexually assaulted on campus.

**Aug. 15**

**11:14 a.m.:** A photo-thermal detector triggered a fire alarm in the Child Development Center. Officers and the Edin-

burg Fire Department were dispatched to the building. Edinburg Fire Department officials deemed the building safe for re-entry.

**11:15 a.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Student Union Food Court in Edinburg in reference to a counterfeit bill. The bill was sent to the U.S. Secret Service and confirmed to be counterfeit.

**Aug. 20**

**9:20 p.m.:** An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. Upon making contact with a non-affiliated male driver, the officer detected a marijuana odor inside the vehicle. The officer found marijuana in the vehicle. The man was arrested and transported to the Edinburg City Jail.

**Aug. 21**

**8:23 p.m.:** A female student reported that her bike was stolen from a bike rack outside Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus. The student left her bike unsecured, and she saw an older man run away from the area with the bike. Officers checked the area, but were not able to locate the man.

--Compiled by Ana Trujillo



# Get your game on!

## Brownsville students now have play place



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Student Union Student Assistant Manager Jesus Galindo checks for power Wednesday morning in the future game room on the Brownsville campus. The game room will be located in Student Union 1.10.

### Jessica Mendez

THE RIDER

This fall, students on the Brownsville campus will have another place to eat, play, study and relax with their friends at the new game room in the Student Union.

Since UTRGV opened its doors in Fall 2015, the Brownsville campus has not had an official game room.

Student Union Director Edna Zambrano said the lack of space and the inability to move departments outside the

Union kept the Brownsville campus from having a game room.

“There was nowhere else to move departments and the programs that were in the Union,” Zambrano said. “So, until they built this other building and we were able to relocate people, we were able to open the game room.”

Ov r Garcia, a political science junior, said he thinks students on the Brownsville campus could use another space to hang out.

“Edinburg has a great game

room with several pool tables and I think it’s great that the Brownsville campus is also expanding [because] students need a game room here just to kind of relax,” Garcia said.

Video games, billiards, foosball and board games will be available in the new game room.

Throughout the semester, new releases such as “NBA 2K19” and “Madden 2K19,” along with other popular video games, such as “Fortnite,” will be available for students to play. Video game play is 75

cents for 30 minutes.

Students can earn V-Bucks by participating in monthly billiards and poker tournaments.

Billiards is \$2.50 an hour and board games are free. A UTRGV student ID is required to play.

“We do charge students to play there, and that money is just, basically, turned around and used also to buy equipment,” Zambrano said.

Student Union Event Manager Mabel Cortina-Matos said money is collected and used to replace controllers and board games as well as to purchase new game releases.

“Eventually, we’ll also be purchasing some furniture so the students can actually hang out in there,” Cortina-Matos said. “So, if you are going with your friend that doesn’t want to play pool with you, they can just sit there and eat or hang out.”

To play, students can pay with cash, a Visa or Mastercard credit card or V-Bucks.

“The first week of school we are going to have free play,” Zambrano said. “So, the week after that, if everything is set up and going well, that is when we are going to start charging our students to play.”

The game room is located in Student Union 1.10, the previous location of the Student Media office. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

On the Edinburg campus,

the game room is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday.

“Once we get through the month of September and we can analyze usage of both game rooms, we can review the hours and see if any changes are needed,” Zambrano said via email.

Zambrano said the cost of renovating the game room is about \$17,000.

She said the game room is funded by the Student Union fee UTRGV students pay each semester.

The mandatory fee is \$30 per long semester and \$15 per summer session. The operating budget for the Student Union is \$215,000 for both buildings--\$130,000 for the Edinburg campus and \$85,000 for the Brownsville campus.

“What the game room brings is just another place to hang out outside of classes, and that was lacking in Brownsville,” Zambrano said. “In the game room, the Union, [students] can make all the noise they want to; they can eat, they can bring their food, they can pack a lunch or buy lunch there. So, it’s just going to make a difference as far as giving students another fun place to go, another fun place to hang out.”

For more information, call the Student Union at 665-7989.

# UTRGV changes residential policy

### Zugay Trevi o

THE RIDER

UTRGV’s new housing policy requires first- and second-year students to live on campus--if they do not meet exemption requirements.

Sergio Martinez, director of Residence Life, explained the exemptions to the housing policy. Martinez said the first exemption is for students whose primary residence is in the Rio Grande Valley, which includes Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties.

“[The policy] is for students who live outside of those counties,” Martinez said. “If you live in any one of those counties I mentioned, this policy does not apply to you.”

Students who are married, have dependent children, are 20 years or older or have completed over 30 semester credit hours as a freshman or 60 as a sophomore are exempt as well. Part-time students are also exempt.

Other exemptions and the Housing Policy Exemption Request Form can be found at <https://www.utrgv.edu/housing/en-us/future-residents/first-and-second-year-housing-policy/index.htm>.

Martinez said the new policy had been postponed.

“Since UTRGV was so new, we decided to postpone the implementation for a few years,” Martinez said.

Legacy institution University of Texas Pan American had a housing policy similar to UTRGV’s new one. Martinez explained UTPA had a radius

policy. The new policy was made with UTRGV’s multiple locations in consideration. Martinez said the focus is on counties instead of miles since it would be challenging to measure 60 miles from each campus.

“We felt that it would be an easier way to get the message of what the requirement would be,” he said.

Martinez said the goal was to provide the best experience possible for students who need to live on campus.

“Most of the students that are going to be impacted from this policy are living on campus already,” Martinez said. “Working with enrollment management, we estimated that this policy was going to impact about 60 students ... that did not have plans to live on campus already.”

During the Fall 2017 semester, 862 students lived on campus. This semester, 890 students are expected to live on campus.

Ruben Santibanez, assistant director of Residence Life, said the new policy will help first- and second-year students be more successful.

“The goal of it is making sure that they graduate on time, within the four years ... making sure that [students] have an environment that is not only to sleep,” Santibanez said. “At the department, we try to make sure that we do things that are conducive to their learning environment.”

He also said resident assistants can help guide students during their freshman and sophomore years.

“A lot of students come in, straight from high school, not knowing how



Aahliya Garza/THE RIDER

Resident assistants participate in a staff training/meeting, which took place Aug. 16 in the Darrel Troxel Hall lobby on the Edinburg campus. All RAs are required to live in dorms and be full-time students.

college works,” Santibanez said. “They get culture shocked on how different college is.”

He hopes on-campus residences will be an additional guiding factor for students.

Housing has been updated since the Spring 2018 semester. In Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus, carpeting has been removed and replaced with vinyl tile. Unity Hall and Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus have new furniture in common spaces and study rooms.

“We also purchased some additional mattresses,” Martinez said. “So, we will be replacing and phasing out a series

of mattresses in all of our buildings: Unity, The Village Apartments, Casa Bella and Heritage.”

Casa Bella and Unity Hall offer free tutoring to students who live at the dorms for classes. Tutoring for each specific course available will be posted at the dorms. Unity and Heritage Hall also provide bathroom cleanings every four weeks.

Monica Vera, a marketing senior and lead resident assistant, explained some of the benefits of living on campus.

“If you do live on campus, your room is right there,” Vera said. “So, See RESIDENCE, Page 9



VAQUERO VOICE

Parking Experience



“One time when I was backing up, this other car almost rear-ended me. And then, another time, my boss, she was getting out of her parking spot and she almost hit me when I was parking and then that was it. ... I told her that she almost hit me and I think we should have a bigger parking space.”

Gabrielle Panuelos  
Biology senior



“So, my first semester back, when I was in school up north, we didn’t need visitor parking permits. So, my first semester back I find out we need to get that. I go get it. Right? So, I park. I just decided to park in the parking lot in front of the police department. I was going to get a visitor’s parking [permit]. I walked over there, five minutes later I come back and I already had a ticket. ... I find that hilarious.”

Mario Portales  
Criminal justice sophomore



“I have seen two people almost get in a fight. One girl was going into a parking spot and another one stole it and she got down and wanted to tell the other person something, but the other person stayed in the vehicle and she finally left and she stopped.”

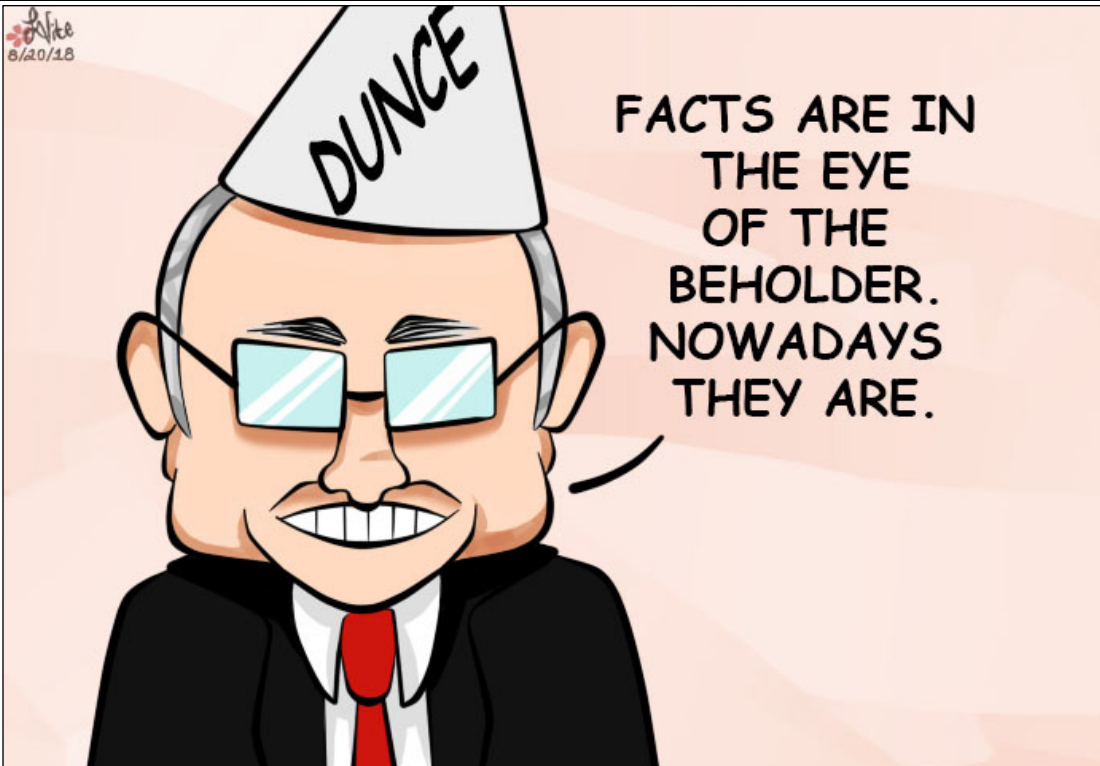
Brianna Escobar  
Graduate student in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling



“When I was here trying to turn in all my requirements, like TSI and meningitis shots, I had parked here many times and never got the warning ticket to show that if I come back here without the parking permit I would get a ticket. And recently, I just got a ticket and I had to pay \$35 and I never really got the warning.”

De land Lee M. Dalac  
Civil engineering freshman

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Phillip D. Garcia



Letter from the editor



Victor G.  
Ramirez  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome home, Vaquer@s!  
Fall 2018, a returning semester for some and a new semester for others. Whatever the case may be, welcome to Vaquero nation!

It is the fourth year of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, which means that we are the youngest university in the UT System.

The university is growing and it’s growing fast! With the addition of the Music, Science and Learning Center (BMSLC) and the Interdisciplinary Academic Building (BINAB) on the Brownsville campus and the new Science Building and the Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Studies Building (IEASB) on the Edinburg campus, UTRGV is expanding rapidly.

As we witness the growth

of UTRGV, we should take advantage of this opportunity to make history for future Vaquer@s to come.

This is the time to be involved, take risks and make the most of your school year.

On that note, let me introduce myself: I am the new editor-in-chief for *The Rider* newspaper.

This will be my second year working for *The Rider* and all I can say is that we have a talented, dedicated and determined staff.

Through my leadership positions, I have learned that “there’s no ‘I’ in team” and without our staff and you, the reader, we wouldn’t be able to publish our weekly newspaper.

*The Rider* is a student-run newspaper that publishes every Monday and is available on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg. We consider ourselves to be the student voice of the University

of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Our team will be providing you with campus news, *noticias en español*, entertainment features and sports.

You can also visit us on our online website at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com), where you will be able to find our previously published issues, *The Rider*’s staff and online-only stories. Some of our online stories will include video packages.

Additionally, you can have us on demand with our app, available for iOS and Android.

We want to hear your voice, so don’t be afraid to express your opinion. I encourage you to submit a letter to the editor or send us an email with your story ideas at [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu).

UTRGV may be two main campuses that are 65 miles apart, but we are a united student body.

Letter to the Editor

Error in soccer article

Congratulations to UTRGV for this win! Let’s hope it marked the start of a great season.

I must point out an error in this article [“Third time is the charm,” Aug. 17, [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)]. UTPA began a women’s soccer program in 2014, which was that university’s final year of existence. UTPA played a match with Texas Southern University. But UTRGV did not exist until 2015. That means Friday’s game was only the second time these schools have played each other. Not the third.

I understand that UTRGV inherited UTPA’s NCAA designation. However, that designation

was not retroactive. Back in 2014, UTPA played its first (and only) season of women’s soccer. Meanwhile, UT Brownsville had been playing women’s soccer since 2006, finishing with an all-time record of 102-36-11, which included five years nationally ranked by NAIA and one year reaching the national title match.

From a Brownsville perspective, *The Rider*’s (inaccurate) description of 2014’s upstart Edinburg program as if it were UTRGV could be interpreted as disrespectful and biased.

Kip Austin Hinton  
Associate Professor  
Bilingual and Literacy Studies

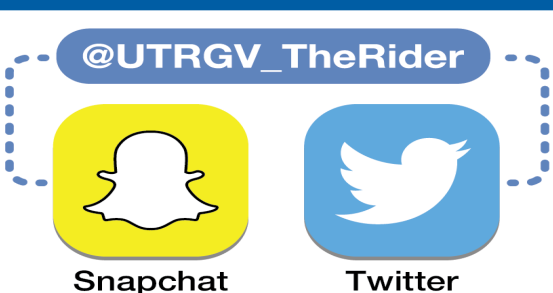
Are you ready to start the Fall 2018 semester?

Yes 60%

No 40%

utrgvrider.com poll

FOLLOW US!





# Expandiendo fronteras

## Oficina en Matamoros en proceso

**Eric Montoya**  
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

UTRGV se encuentra trabajando con funcionarios mexicanos para crear un centro de servicio en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, para asistir a la población estudiantil que vive en el otro lado de la frontera.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Janna Arney, delegada del rector de UTRGV, dijo que este centro u oficina ofrecerá servicios relacionados a las inscripciones o asistencia de ayuda financiera.

“Si un estudiante vive en Matamoros o en México y tiene una pregunta y no desea tener que venir a uno de los campus, este sería un buen lugar a donde ellos podrían ir y hablar con alguien”, dijo Arney. “Es para proveer servicios a los estudiantes en una ubicación más conveniente, para que de esta forma no tengan que venir al campus para trámites, preguntas o información”.

Se le preguntó como espera que este centro afecte a UTRGV, ella contestó que estos servicios ayudarían a los estudiantes a continuar su educación y a graduarse.

“Ya sea que los [estudiantes] estén empezando ... o continuando su educación, esperamos que, proporcionando nuestros servicios de una forma más conveniente, esto hará posible que puedan continuar siendo estudiantes de UTRGV y se gradúen”, dijo Arney.

UTRGV ya ha identificado



Manuela Ramirez/THE RIDER

UTRGV planea abrir un centro de servicios en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, para los estudiantes que residen ahí. Esta oficina les facilitará a los estudiantes obtener información e interactuar con la universidad sin tener que

una posible ubicación en Matamoros que podría convertirse en el nuevo centro de servicios.

La dirección específica no ha sido difundida al público, pero dicha ubicación estaría localizada cerca de lo que ahora es el Parque Cultural Olímpico y el nuevo Consulado General de Estados Unidos en Matamoros que se encuentra en construcción, de acuerdo con Arney.

Lilibeth Pesina Avalos, una estudiante de posgrado en psicología clínica, es una de los muchos estudiantes de UTRGV quienes residen en la ciudad vecina de Matamoros.

“Son muchos los estudiantes que vivimos en Matamoros y cruzamos todos los días a Brownsville”, dijo Pesina. “A veces, para hacer cualquier trámite ... tenemos que cruzar y a veces son varias horas de espera en la fila del puente”.

Ella dijo que este centro hará las cosas mas fáciles para los estudiantes como ella.

Arney dijo que el proyecto se encuentra apenas en su etapa inicial.

“Seguiremos teniendo conversaciones con nuestros colegas [en Matamoros]”, ella dijo. “Queremos diseñar algo que funcione para ellos, así que las pláticas tendrán

que continuar para que podamos entender que es lo que necesitamos, o lo que [los estudiantes] necesitan--sobre todo”.

Éxito Estudiantil, Inscripciones Estratégicas (Strategic Enrollment) y la Oficina de Compromiso Global son los departamentos de UTRGV que han estado involucrados en las conversaciones respecto al centro, de acuerdo con Arney.

Pesina le comentó a *The Rider* que sería muy útil que esta oficina ofreciera otros servicios como el Instituto de Idiomas, asistencia para los estudiantes internacionales y

asesoramiento.

Ella recuerda como en cierta ocasión el hecho de no haber tenido una oficina disponible en Matamoros le trajo dificultades.

“Tenía que dar un pago, hice demasiado tiempo en la fila y cuando llegué, ya estaba cerrada la universidad”, dijo Pesina. “También me ha pasado que ... tengo cita con un adviser ... y no llego a la hora porque a veces el tiempo de espera puede ser de 20 minutos, puede ser una hora o pueden ser dos, entonces varia mucho”.

Experiencias similares le ocurrieron a Beatriz Vela Villanueva, una estudiante de último grado en física que solía vivir en la ciudad de Matamoros hace dos años.

Vela dijo que el centro hará las cosas mas accesibles para la gente en Matamoros que está interesada en recibir su educación en el Valle del Río Grande. También le gustaría ver una oficina dentro del mismo centro dedicada específicamente para los estudiantes internacionales.

Ella le comentó a *The Rider* que debido a la inestabilidad política que se presenta en EE. UU., este centro sería una gran oportunidad.

“Cuando apenas acababa de ser admitida tenía que venir a hablar con un consejero a ver en que parte estaba mi proceso de admisión”, dijo Vela. “Para tener soluciones a preguntas tan pequeñas, tenía que cruzar, literalmente, un país”.

# Plan de estudios terminará en 2019

**Eric Montoya**  
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Estudiantes provenientes de University of Texas at Brownsville/ Texas Southmost College y University of Texas Pan American tendrán que cambiarse al plan de estudios de UTRGV si no completan su plan de estudios actual antes de agosto 2019.

Estudiantes legado (también conocidos como *legacy students*, en inglés) quienes se gradúen antes de la fecha límite no se verán afectados por este cambio; sin embargo, el resto de los estudiantes tendrá que cambiarse al plan de estudios de UTRGV correspondiente.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, la vicerrectora de Éxito Estudiantil Kristin Croyle dijo que la mayoría de los estudiantes legado ya se han graduado y se espera que el resto lo haga antes de 2019.

Al preguntarle acerca de los estudiantes que continuarán su educación en su plan de estudios actual después de la fecha límite, Croyle respondió, “Para esos estudiantes, trabajaremos con ellos para moverlos al plan de estudios que mejor se acomode a sus objetivos y mejor se ajuste a sus cursos”.

Ella dijo que la universidad todavía está evaluando cuantos estudiantes se verán afectados por este cambio.

“Es un poco complicado obtener un número fijo porque cualquier

estudiante que se gradúe entre este momento y agosto no será afectado”, dijo Croyle.

Cuando se creó UTRGV, parte del acuerdo fue honrar los planes de estudios de los estudiantes legado cuatro años después de la inauguración de la universidad.

Croyle explicó que la mayor parte de los estudiantes tuvieron incluso más de cuatro años para completar su plan de estudios bajo el plan diseñado para los estudiantes legado.

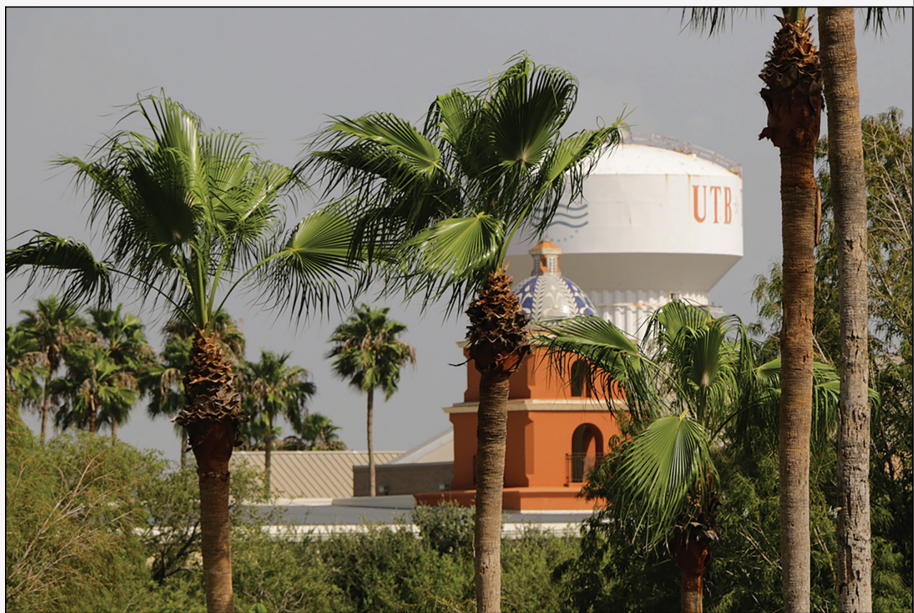
“Para la mayoría de los estudiantes esto significa que son al menos cinco años o más”, ella dijo. “Así que, si, por ejemplo, un estudiante de UTB/ TSC empezó en 2014, este tendría cinco años en su plan de estudios y en algunas ocasiones incluso más si comenzaron antes”.

Uno de los requisitos del plan de estudios de UTRGV es completar por lo menos 25 por ciento del plan de estudios en UTRGV.

Por esta razón, estudiantes legado de UTB/TSC o UTPA quienes se transfieran al plan de UTRGV después de la fecha límite tendrán que tomar más cursos para así alcanzar el porcentaje mínimo de 25 por ciento.

Estudiante de último año Elsa Torres es una estudiante legado de UTB/TSC quien, como muchos otros, decidió quedarse en el plan de estudios diseñado para estudiantes legado.

“Me daban la opción de cambiar mi *degree plan* al de UTRGV, pero como



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

La torre de agua en el campus de Brownsville muestra el logo de lo que fue algún día UTB/ TSC. Los estudiantes legado quienes originalmente se inscribieron en University of Texas at Brownsville o en University of Texas Pan American y que no se han cambiado al plan de

me iba a tardar dos años más, parece, decidí quedarme con UTB”, dijo Torres.

Ella espera graduarse este semestre de otoño en el plan de estudios de estudiantes legado. Por lo tanto, ella no será afectada por la fecha límite de 2019.

Torres dijo que la transición al plan de estudios de estudiantes legado fue tranquila, pero si enfrentó un

obstáculo en cuanto a la equivalencia de sus cursos.

“Más que nada, lo que me pudo haber afectado es que algunas clases ya no eran válidas para UTRGV, entonces tuve que tomar dos clases más”, ella dijo.

Se le preguntó como fue notificada acerca de la fecha límite, Torres

**Vea LEGADO, Página 8**



# 6 | ON CAMPUS

## ENROLLMENT

*Continued from Page 1*

census day, Sept. 12.

Students are enrolled in 12.5 credit hours on average. Majors in the College of Health Affairs are the most popular among the freshman class. The college will change its name to the College of Health Professions on Sept. 1.

UTRGV has 25,671 undergraduate students. The School of Medicine has 155 students enrolled as first-, second- and third-year students.

The Graduate College has also experienced an increase, with 3,412 students enrolled.

“Last year we had 3,072 students enrolled,” said Parwinder Grewal, the interim dean of the Graduate College.

Grewal said the increase was mostly in students pursuing a master’s degree. “We are close to a 10 percent

increase in our enrollment,” he said. “The university’s goal is to increase graduate enrollment and also increase graduate programs that are offered.”

The university has added a new master’s program in civil engineering and political science. Additionally, a doctoral degree in clinical psychology is now available.

Grewal said new programs will be added in the future and especially ones in health affairs.

“The Graduate College has really reorganized its structure,” he said, “and the structure is designed to provide better service to the students and to the faculty. ... So, we have a new unit that we are calling GradCentral.”

Grewal said GradCentral is similar to U-Central. GradCentral will answer questions about the Graduate College from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at (883) 887-4842. Students

can also call from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday or email [gradcollege@utrgv.edu](mailto:gradcollege@utrgv.edu).

The Graduate College will also offer Presidential Graduate Research Assistantships funded by \$1 million approved by UTRGV President Guy Bailey. The award will be for full-time students who will conduct research.

“That will provide a very competitive, very nice, two-year assistantships to the new master’s students,” Grewal said. “The idea is to recruit outstanding students to UTRGV.”

Students have been applying for almost two months. About 50 students will be accepted.

The Graduate College offers 53 master’s programs and five doctoral programs. Two of the most popular graduate programs are the master’s in educational leadership and

the doctorate in curriculum and instruction.

“Our goal is to, maybe, double the enrollment to around 6,000 students eventually.... We will continue to enroll students into the spring semester and then to the summer semester as well,” Grewal said.

He said another key change the Graduate College has made is implementing a rolling admissions system.

“For most programs, we do not have a deadline,” Grewal said. “So, graduate students can apply any time, and they can be admitted to the nearest possible semester.”

For more information about applying to graduate school, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/future-students/how-to-apply/index.htm#item1>.

## CHANGES

*Continued from Page 1*

in the music, in some of the TSC lease spaces that involved the Music Building, Eidman Hall and the [SET-B MO] building.”

In Brownsville:

- Student Media moved to the second floor of the Student Union (BSTUN 2.16)
- the UTRGV Chess program also moved to the second floor of the Student Union (BSTUN 2.28)
- Veterans Upward Bound moved to Cortez Hall 220
- the Counseling Center moved to the Student Union 2.10
- the Learning Center moved to Music, Science and Learning Center 2.107
- Engaged Scholarship and Learning moved to Student Union 1.20B
- Culture for Diversity & Inclusion is a new office that will be located in Student Union 1.20A
- the Game Room reopened in Student Union 1.10
- the Student Union office reopened in Student Union 1.16

- Student Organizations moved to Cavalry 100
- IT moved to Casa Bella Building 6

When contacted about the changes on the Edinburg campus, the Facilities office told *The Rider* that the relocations in Edinburg were not as impactful as the ones in Brownsville.

According to an article published by *The Rider* on Feb. 19, UTRGV is also expanding its main campuses with two more projects: the Brownsville Interdisciplinary Academic Building (BINAB) and the Edinburg Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academics Studies Building (IEASB). Both are under construction.

University Police changed its emergency phone number and is integrating a new mobile app.

The department changed its emergency numbers to accommodate students on both campuses.

“The reason is that the numbers we had were from the previous institutions, UT Brownsville and UT Pan American ... so we need to consolidate them,” Police Chief Raul Munguia said. “The thing is, if our students are coming across the Rio Grande Valley to the

different sites and we didn’t want them having to think, ‘Where am I right now? [How do I] get a hold of the UTRGV Police Department?’ So, that’s why we consolidated to one number, so it’s not confusing for them.”

The University Police new numbers are 882-7777 for its directory and 882-4911 for campus emergencies.

Additionally, the department introduced CampusShield, a free app that aims to increase and ensure student, faculty and staff safety.

“It’s an opt-in and basically [has] several features on the app,” Munguia said.

According to the University Police website, CampusShield’s key features include an emergency button, anonymous report option, FriendWatch, Safe Walk and shuttle schedule.

For more information about CampusShield and its functions, visit the UTRGV Police website.

The UTRGV Career Center also transitioned its Career Connection application on the university’s website to Handshake during the summer.

In an interview with *The Rider*,

Career Center Associate Director Lourdes Servantes said Handshake is the newest job and event management system that allows students to look for jobs, network with fellow peers and request appointments with the department’s staff.

Asked why it changed to Handshake, Servantes replied, “Sometimes you are given systems and they don’t always meet the needs of our student body and the system [Career Connection] that we had previously, although it was a good system and it had its purpose, it necessarily didn’t have some of the features that this system [Handshake] has. It increased functionality [and] improved services for our students.”

Handshake is more user-friendly, offers a mobile platform and makes job recommendations based on students’ interests, majors and skill, according to the Career Center’s website.

“It is much more user-friendly, now that it also comes with an online mobile app, which at this point in time is only available only for iOS users, Apple users, but now there is a mobile app,” Servantes said.

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# DRAWING A CROWD

## Student artist creates narrative gallery experience



COURTESY PHOTOS  
“How Yellow Behaves” by Alexandria Canchola

**Britney Valdez**  
A&E EDITOR

Graduate student Alexandria Canchola will host a gallery starting today, featuring paintings and installations that allow the viewer to navigate as if they were a character in the story.

Production of the show, titled “Not that Tragic,” began one year ago and uses visual artwork to illustrate a story she also wrote.

“Last year, I [began] working on a book project called “Not that Tragic,” so a lot of my master of fine arts show is about the book I’m trying to create,” said Canchola. “I’m trying to let the viewer experience a narrative in a different format, so a lot of it has different inspiration and this idea that you’re essentially walking through a book or the world of a book, transforming the experience you’ll get from holding a book and reading the book, the solitude, the loneliness you would experience and transforming that into a 3-D atmosphere.”

In order to convey the story, which focuses on the documentation of the human experience, through images and structures alone, Canchola had to



Alexandria Canchola stands in front of her artwork. The works demonstrate her love of color, which is prominent in her show as well.

strategically lay out the works and utilize the gallery space efficiently, she said.

“I’m trying to create a labyrinth throughout the gallery,” Canchola said. “So, [in a way,] I’m choosing the way the viewer will experience the work, but everything was very strategic and planned out, keeping the space in mind.”

The works were produced using mediums such as cardboard and gouache paint.

Robert Gilbert, an associate professor of graphic design, who serves as one of Canchola’s graduate advisers, admires her versatility in use of mediums and appreciation for the classic arts.

“Something that has impressed me

about her as a graduate student is her interest in working with different media,” Gilbert said. “For instance, in her show she has words she has cut out with a laser cutter and she also works with gouache, which is a water-based paint and not a lot of people use it. It’s a very old-fashioned medium many people do not use now. She’s also interested in typography, image-making and printmaking. She also did an artist’s residency at the Otis College of Art and Design, which is one of the top art institutes.”

Canchola appreciates the opportunity to host the gallery, as well as the experience she gained from it.

“It has been a real learning opportunity



“How Yellow Behaves” by Alexandria Canchola

for me,” she said. “Usually, I work very small, gouache paint on paper, so a lot of my work is all illustrated. So, it’s been difficult trying to figure out how to change what I do well, like how to make them feel more real as if you’re walking through [them].”

The process, although enjoyable, has presented difficulties that Canchola overcame by adjusting her creative process.

“Usually, color is a big part of my creative process, so when figuring out how to create that with a painting, you have a rectangle,” she said. “It’s an ongoing growing process and you can see how it’s always changing and how the decisions being made affect each other, so you put one color down and the next color. This situation has been really different in that I’m having to use my imagination to put all these puzzle pieces together--like how do they all fit? Because it’s no longer on that piece of paper with the rectangle, so it’s been a completely different process. I’m enjoying it; it is challenging.”

The show continues through Sept. 4 in the Visual Arts Gallery on the Edinburg campus. The opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

6. A path in Edinburg to help guide you to your classes
8. Type of loan that incurs interest while you are in school
9. Software used to apply for jobs on campus
11. Can escort you to your car when you feel unsafe
12. SGA President \_\_\_\_\_ Palacios
14. Where to get Chick-fil-A on the Edinburg campus
15. Official representation organization

### DOWN

1. Type of loan where the government pays off the interest until you graduate
2. Provides free check-ups
3. UTRGV President
4. UTRGV Brownsville convenience store, The \_\_\_\_\_
5. Cost of Zone 2 parking permits
7. Service center for students including Financial Aid, Registration, Admissions and the Bursar’s Office
10. Assists students in need by providing nutritional supplements, \_\_\_\_\_ Pantry
13. UTRGV Brownsville dormitories \_\_\_\_\_ Bella

## Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



Answers will be published in The Rider’s next issue.

By Britney Valdez and Laia Vite



LEGACY  
*Continued from Page 1*

UTRGV degree plan is to complete at least 25 percent of the degree at UTRGV.

For this reason, UTB/TSC or UTPA legacy students who transfer to the UTRGV plan after the deadline will have to meet this requirement by taking more courses to meet the 25 percent minimum.

Psychology senior Elsa Torres is a legacy student from UTB/TSC who, like many other legacy students, decided to stay on the legacy degree plan.

“They were giving me the option of switching my degree plan to UTRGV’s but since I was going to take two more years with them, I think, I decided to stay with UTB,” Torres said in Spanish.

RESIDENCE  
*Continued from Page 3*

you can go back and forth to class. You can take time and go to your room and lounge around or get some work done. At the same time, if there’s an event on campus, it’s very easy to go to that event in the evening.”

Vera also said it is easier to become involved with the university.

Housing is still available in Unity Hall and Casa Bella; however, the Village Apartments and Heritage Hall

LEGADO  
*Continuación de Página 5*

contestó, “De hecho, al principio [un consejero] me había dicho que para los que no se graduaran antes del 2018 iban a perder todo su progreso de UTB”, ella dijo. “Entonces yo me apuré con mis clases, pero ya después me enteré que tenían hasta agosto del 2019”.

Croyle dijo a *The Rider* que los estudiantes que sean afectados por esta fecha serán notificados durante

She is expected to graduate this fall semester under the legacy degree plan. She will not be affected by the 2019 deadline.

Torres said that the transition to the legacy degree plan was smooth but she did encounter an issue with the equivalency of her courses.

“I think that what affected me the most was that some classes were not valid for UTRGV, so I had to take two more classes,” she said.

Asked how she was notified about the deadline, Torres replied, “In fact, at the beginning [an adviser] had told me that the ones who would not graduate before 2018 were going to lose all their progress in UTB,” she said. “Therefore, I hurried up with my classes, but later I found out that I had until August 2019.”

are full.

“If we have spaces, we’ll gladly assign it to a student,” Santibanez said. “We probably do have a few spaces, but it may not be the ones [students] want.”

UTRGV can house about 1,300 students and is currently housing 900 students. Additionally, the IT department has offices in Casa Bella. Santibanez said the department uses around two floors and will likely remain at Casa Bella for about a year.

“We had some occupancy available,

los próximos semestres.

Ella dijo que UTRGV trabajará duro para que el cambio no perjudique a los estudiantes legado quienes se cambien al plan de estudios de UTRGV.

“En ciertos casos, los planes de estudios serán más cortos”, dijo Croyle. “Y en ciertos casos, se puede necesitar una pequeña modificación al plan de estudios, como, por ejemplo, si tomaron un curso años atrás que ha cambiado en cierta forma en cuanto al contenido. ... Podemos hacer una modificación al plan de estudios para asegurarnos que este curso se les

Croyle told *The Rider* that students who might be affected by this deadline will be notified during the upcoming semesters.

She said that UTRGV is going to work hard so that legacy students who switch to the UTRGV degree plan are not extremely affected by this change.

“In some cases, the degree plans will be shorter,” Croyle said. “And in some cases, it might require a little modification of the degree plan, like, if they took a course years ago that has changed somewhat in content. ... We can do a modification of the degree plan to make sure that that course is still counted for them and that they don’t have to take another one to replace it.”

Torres said she is not concerned about her degree plan, but that is not

and there was an opportunity to work with IT to house them temporarily,” he said.

Housing fees have increased about 1 percent since Fall 2017 for the new academic school year. Santibanez explained the increase covers cost of inflation and other areas such as utilities.

“For example, in Heritage Hall, they saw a \$20 increase,” he said.

For this academic year, a double room, where a student has a roommate, in Heritage Hall costs

cuenta y no tengan que tomar otro para reemplazarlo”.

Torres dijo que no está preocupada por su plan de estudios, pero esta no es la misma historia para algunos de sus amigos quienes también están en el plan de estudios de los estudiantes legado.

“Tengo amigos que cambiaron su *major* y se iban a tardar más”, ella dijo. “Entonces, como ellos seguían en [el plan de estudios de UTB/TSC], si me preocupé, más que nada por ellos. Pero no, yo estuve tranquila porque yo seguí con mi plan de terminar para el 2018”.

the same story for some of her friends who are also on the legacy degree plan.

“I have friends that changed majors and are going to take longer,” she said. “So, since they were still in the [UTB/TSC legacy degree plan], I was worried mainly for them. But no, I was calmed because I continued with my plan of finishing by 2018.”

She also said she feels proud of being part of the UTB/TSC legacy.

Croyle encourages students to visit the Advising Center or her office for questions.

For more information regarding the legacy degree plans, visit or contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Success or Academic Advising. A graduation helpdesk is also available at the UTRGV website or at [graduationhelpdesk@utrgv.edu](mailto:graduationhelpdesk@utrgv.edu).

\$1,850 per semester. A double in Unity Hall costs \$2,100 and \$1,920 in Casa Bella.

Freshmen Move-In Day took place last Thursday in Edinburg and last Friday in Brownsville. Returners moved in last Saturday.

For more information about housing, visit UTRGV’s website at <https://www.utrgv.edu/housing/en-us/index.htm> or call the Residential Life office at 665-3439 in Edinburg or 882-7191 in Brownsville.

También dijo que se siente orgullosa de seguir siendo parte del legado de UTB/TSC.

Croyle alienta a los estudiantes a visitar el Advising Center o su oficina para preguntas.

Para más información acerca de los planes de estudios, visita o contacta la Oficina de la Vicerrectora para el Éxito Estudiantil o Academic Advising. También puede encontrar asistencia e información sobre graduaciones en el sitio web de UTRGV o en [graduationhelpdesk@utrgv.edu](mailto:graduationhelpdesk@utrgv.edu).

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# THREE TEAMS, ONE GOAL

## Volleyball, women's and men's soccer begin preseason

**Juanita Maldonado**  
THE RIDER

The start of a new school year means the beginning of the fall sports, volleyball, women's and men's soccer. The teams share two common goals, to defend their home turf and be named Western Athletic Conference champions.

In 2017, the UTRGV Women's Volleyball Team had a stellar season with an overall record of 17-12 (10-4 WAC record). The biggest accomplishment for the Vaqueras was finishing second in the WAC tournament.

The team is looking for redemption after the loss against California State University in the WAC tournament finals. Head Coach Todd Lowery said his team learned and grew from the loss against CSU. The loss fueled the team with hunger for the 2018 season.

"I think that loss sticks in our girls' minds for sure," Lowery said. "With a very senior heavy team and everything, I think this season really started that night last in November. The girls worked really hard in spring and they really got focused together and really set goals to get back to that WAC championship match and leave it all on the court that night."

This year, the team is composed of 17 players, 15 of whom are returning. The Vaqueras welcomed two freshmen to the team, right side hitter Pamela Moreira of Franca, São Paulo, Brazil, and setter Carter Helmcamp of McAllen. Leading the team is senior middle blocker Alexandra Ecker, who was named captain for the season.

"We have pretty much the same team as last year," said Ecker, a biology major. "We only have a few new girls, so



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Senior outside hitter and defensive specialist Barbara Thais Krug sets up the ball during the UTRGV Volleyball Team practice for its game at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Vaqueras will face the Islanders at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

we're just adding them into our same system. We built last season and during the spring, so we're just excited to have them here and get them into the gym with us and start developing that championship team."

The season has just begun and the Vaqueras are already making a name for themselves. The team finished second in the WAC Preseason Coaches' Poll. Some individual players also making a big impact are senior outside hitter Ragni Steen Knudsen, who was selected as the WAC Preseason Player of the Year and Preseason All-WAC selection. Joining Knudsen in the Preseason All-WAC award are Ecker and right side hitter Barbara Silva.

The Vaqueras began their journey last Friday as they faced Louisiana Tech University, Prairie View A&M University and Houston Baptist University at the preseason HBU tournament in Houston. Conference games are set to begin at 9 p.m. on Sept. 20

against CSU Bakersfield in Bakersfield, Calif.

Sharing the same vision as the volleyball team is the women's soccer team. Last season, the Vaqueras finished in third place with an overall record of 9-8-3 and WAC record of 4-2-1. The team qualified to the WAC tournament but, unfortunately, lost in the quarterfinals to Grand Canyon University with a score of 2-1 in overtime.

"We want to win as many games as possible and, of course, we want to compete for a WAC championship," Head Coach Glad Bugariu said. "I think that's the goal every year. You know, I think we're within striking distance. Last year we were and, hopefully, we can replicate that this year."

Hoping to lead the team of 28 to the WAC championship game are captains Tuva Rolstad Nilsen and Diandra Aliaga. Since there are nine freshmen entering the team, Aliaga said her primary focus is to instill leadership skills in

them.

"I just hope that we can instill accountability and leadership and that others rise to the occasion," said Aliaga, a senior kinesiology major. "I don't want it to just be me. I want a team full of leaders. I think that's when we'll have our best team."

Among the nine freshmen are six women who come from Texas, three of whom are Rio Grande Valley natives. Forward Emily Zapata is from Laredo; defender Baylee Endsley, from Kyle; and goalkeeper Mariah Scott, San Antonio. From the Valley are defender Kryssie Rivera of Brownsville, midfielder Kaitie Watson of Sharyland and forward Isabella Marinero of Mission. The remaining three are midfielder Emma Lien Hapnes from Oslo, Norway; midfielder Elina Seppala of Vaajakoski, Finland; and midfielder Jordyn Castillo of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The Vaqueras officially began their preseason by hosting the UTRGV Tournament

on Aug. 12. The tournament included Texas Southern University, Oral Roberts University and Portland State University. UTRGV defeated Texas Southern University 4-1 and fell to Oral Roberts University 1-0, earning the Vaqueras a second-place finish.

The first conference game will take place at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 in Edinburg against Texas Lutheran University.

In the 2017 season, the men's soccer team finished fifth in the WAC. The overall record for the team was 7-7-3 and 4-4-2 in WAC. This season, the men are aiming to finish at a lower spot and qualify for the WAC tournament. In order to do this, the men looked for reinforcements and signed 12 new athletes.

Head Coach Paul Leese said that when he looked for players, his main focus was to find players to fill in positions and help out the team.

"Typically, we're always looking for the areas where we're missing players because of graduation or we need a little bit of extra depth and for us it was very clear that we did not have enough fire power up top, so our forwards were the biggest area," he said.

In the list of newcomers are forward William Akio of Nairobi, Kenya; midfielder Jaime Arcila of Bucaramanga, Colombia; defender Matt Beaulaurier of Spokane, Wash.; forward Rooby Dalusma of Atlanta, Ga.; goalkeeper Trevor Schneider of Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada; and forwards Kyle Edwards and Azinho Solomon of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Texas natives are midfielder Noe Ochoa of Houston, defender Luis Rubio from Edinburg, midfielder Julian Espinoza of Brownsville, forward Jonathan Gutierrez of La Joya and midfielder Damian Ma-

See TEAMS, Page 11

# A student's guide to UTRGV rec sports

**Robert Benavidez Jr.**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV students on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses can team up with their friends and face off against each other in sport competitions throughout the semester.

"It's just that old school, you know, back in the day when you were back as a kid and played and you had a good time," said Fernando Labra, UTRGV coordinator of intramurals and club sports in Edinburg.

Flag football, softball, kickball (co-ed), indoor volleyball and soccer, as well as tennis doubles and singles are among sports offered in Edinburg. Tournaments and one-day events in other sports will be available throughout the fall.

The registration deadline for flag football, indoor volleyball and tennis doubles is Sept. 11. Play starts Sept. 17.

For indoor soccer, softball, tennis singles and kickball

(co-ed), the registration deadline is Oct. 23, with play starting Oct. 29.

Deadlines for tournaments and one-day events in Edinburg are as follows:

- beach volleyball tournament, 11:30 p.m. Aug. 28
- preseason flag football tournament, 11:30 p.m. Sept. 6
- lawn game Olympics at Unity Hall, 11:30 p.m. Sept. 9
- pingpong, 11:30 p.m. Sept. 12
- badminton tournament, 11:30 p.m. Sept. 13
- lawn game Olympics at Heritage Hall, 11:30 p.m. Oct. 7
- 3-on-3 basketball tournament, 11:30 p.m. Nov. 4
- racquetball, 11:30 p.m. Nov. 11
- 4-on-4 flag football, 11:30 p.m. Dec. 2

Students may register at imleagues.com under University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

The Brownsville campus will offer flag football, indoor soccer, Ultimate Frisbee and basketball. Volleyball, softball, pingpong and dodgeball tournaments will take place

throughout the semester.

Registration deadlines for sports activities in Brownsville are as follows:

- flag football league, 5 p.m. Sept. 6
- volleyball tournament, 5 p.m. Sept. 12
- softball tournament, 5 p.m. Sept. 26
- indoor soccer league, 5 p.m. Oct. 4
- Ultimate Frisbee league, 5 p.m. Oct. 4
- pingpong tournament, 5 p.m. Oct. 31
- basketball league, 5 p.m. Nov. 1
- dodgeball tournament, 5 p.m. Nov. 7

To register for sports on the Brownsville campus, visit imleagues.com under Recreation Center.

All participants must be registered UTRGV students to compete. Texas Southmost College students can also participate in leagues and tournaments on the Brownsville campus.

On both campuses there are "free agent" programs in



Robert Benavidez Jr./ THE RIDER

Students can team up to play sports against others in the university through intramurals on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. Various leagues, tournaments and one-day events will be hosted throughout the fall.

which students who do not have a team can be picked by other teams missing members. If there are enough free agents, then the free agents will be placed together in a team.

"It's a great way to network and meet new people, also a great way to relieve stress

while having fun outside of the gym atmosphere," said Agnelia Hernandez, coordinator of intramural sports for the Recreation Center. "You know, not everybody likes to go run on the treadmill."

For more information, call 665-7808 or 882-7176.



# OVAVP

Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention

The Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention works with students, staff, faculty and community partners to strive for a campus free from gender-based and interpersonal violence and to facilitate services for victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and interpersonal violence.

## OVAVP Provides

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- Confidential advocacy services.
- Educational activities and prevention programs.
- Assistance in navigating campus and community resources such as legal aid, law enforcement help, medical or health assistance, mental health support, housing assistance, etc.
- Direct victim and survivor support services, such as weekly support groups.
- A critical voice for promoting change in beliefs and policies that marginalize members of the campus community who identify as survivors or victims of interpersonal violence.

**ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY OVAVP ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

For more information, contact us at:

Edinburg ELCTR 156: (956) 665-8287

Brownsville BNOBL 106: (956) 882-8282

[www.utrgv.edu/OVAVP](http://www.utrgv.edu/OVAVP)

[facebook.com/OVAVP](https://facebook.com/OVAVP)

[OVAVP@utrgv.edu](mailto:OVAVP@utrgv.edu)



# Shuttle stop added in Weslaco

**Leslie Medrano**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services will begin utilizing a new and independent shuttle bus that will transport students to Weslaco from Brownsville and Edinburg, effective today.


“If you’re a student living in, say, Alamo or Mercedes and you need to get to Edinburg, why would you drive all the way to Edinburg, go through the traffic, congestion, delays, when you can just go to Weslaco, take a bus and go there without worry,” said Gabriel Zuñiga, director of Transportation Services.

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship requested the new bus route to better accommodate students taking upper-level courses in the Center for Innovation and Commercialization in Weslaco.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Jorge Gonzalez, associate professor of management and acting program director for the College of Business and Entrepreneurship doctoral program, said the Center for Innovation and Commercialization in Weslaco will house the college’s program, which will have about 70 students.

The center, located at 322 S. Missouri Ave., is near Weslaco City Hall, which is the pickup and dropoff site for the new shuttle stop.

“This shuttle is going to allow [UTRGV campus community members] to [move] around the Valley,” Gonzalez said. “Some of them do not have cars, or they might choose to just take the shuttle.”

	Edinburg	Weslaco	Edinburg
	8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
	10:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	12:45 p.m.
	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	*3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
	Brownsville	Weslaco	Brownsville
	8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
	10:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	12:45 p.m.
	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	*3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday * Last departure on Friday is at 3:30 p.m.			
	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.

Source: UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services

Laia Vite/Rider Graphic

Although nursing junior Anays Duque will not use the new shuttle stop herself, she is excited to learn about the addition.

“I’m really glad they added this shuttle bus because it gives back and I think it is going to benefit the students,” Duque said.

Zuñiga said the new route can benefit not only the students from the College of Business & Entrepreneurship, but also those in the mid-Valley.

“Once people get wind of this route, that it goes from Weslaco to Edinburg and back, as well as to Brownsville to Weslaco and back, people in the mid-Valley area that have to go to those campuses might use that facility to

drive there, park there and then get to their campus,” he said.

The addition of the shuttle stop will not lengthen the Campus Connector route as it is an independent shuttle.

Each shuttle will be labeled accordingly to help students identify their designated shuttle.

The estimated cost of the new route is about \$191,000 for both semesters. Because of the partnership between UTRGV and Valley Metro, Parking and Transportation will seek a 50 percent reimbursement for operations.

However, the reimbursement is not guaranteed.

The College of Business & Entrepreneurship is paying the full

# PARKING FEES GO UP

**Ana Trujillo**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV has hiked fees for two parking zones and established one for housing students who park their cars on campus.

Parking and Transportation Services increased fees for Preferred Zones 2 and 3, and set one for Resident.

Future increases for Zone 2 are already planned.

Rodney Gomez, executive director of Parking and Transportation Services, said they are in the second year of a three-year plan for Zone 2.

“We presented the plan to the Parking and Traffic Advisory Committee and they approved the plan,” Gomez said.

“For Zone 2, we are going to increase it by \$20 over three years. This is the second year, so it’s now up to \$100 and next year it will go up to \$120 and that’s as far as we’ve planned.”

The revenue that is going to be collected from these new fees will be used for more parking spaces on both campuses.

“Hopefully, this fall we are going to get started with a study and [it] will allow us to project into the future. ... It’ll give us an idea of when we will need something like a parking garage

and what it will cost and how we can go about funding it,” Gomez said.

During the last academic year, around 200 parking spaces were added on the Brownsville campus, and last summer, 200 spaces were added to the Edinburg campus, according to Gomez.

The newly created Resident Zone fee is \$100; Zone 2, \$100; Zone 3, \$200.

Zone 1 remains at \$60 and there is no plan to increase the fee in the future.

“We plan to remain constant, especially ... with those [Texas Southmost College in Brownsville] parking spaces that we share and we wouldn’t want to have any other price that they don’t,” said Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services.

Freshmen are now allowed to purchase a parking permit either in Zones 1 or 2. Previously, they were allowed access only to Zone 1.

“We wanted to give students more options [and] we didn’t see that there is really a good reason to disallow freshmen from parking just in specific spaces,” Gomez said. “Everybody should have the opportunity to park either in Zone 1 or Zone 2.”

Gomez and Aguilar said they have been receiving good feedback from students and staff about the new parking fees.

team culture, and so they are getting in a lot of information,” said Faber, a management major. “We’re mixing teams up so the new guys are playing with the older guys and then off the field, I spend almost my whole day off the field and in the field with the team and so the bond is getting made.”

Coach Leese wants to break the stereotype this year and elevate his team to a third- or second-place finish in WAC play. Leese said he hopes the new players bring in the missing piece of previous seasons.



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Parking permit fees have increased for Zones 2 and 3, as well as resident lots, on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses to fund future parking improvements.

However, not everyone is happy with the new fees.

“I’m actually pretty annoyed [with the new fees]. ... I’ll probably just have to add it to my credit card, which already has quite a bit of debt,” said Jose Sias, a mass communication senior. “It’s annoying, but I have to do it.”

Sias also said it is hard to find a parking spot, especially in Zone 2.

“I’m from Brownsville and I have to take the bus, so I have to get there early,” Sias said. “One time I had to drive all the way to Edinburg, because I missed the bus, [and] I couldn’t find a parking spot.”

To avoid some parking issues, students are encouraged to use remote parking zones and then use the campus

“I think the missing piece that prevented us from maybe jumping up a few more positions was our inability to score goals,” Leese said. “We didn’t have the right forwards. We were playing with midfielders in our forward positions, unfortunately. I think that was a block that, hopefully, this year we can get over. Certainly, our forwards now have the ability to score goals with the new players that we brought in.”

Besides winning conference, Martinez said one of the team’s main focus is to defend its home turf.

amount, according to Zuñiga.

As far as other changes, UTRGV Parking and Transportation is slowly revamping its transportation system.

Bus shelters have been added, bus pullouts have been created and planning has been done to create big canopies at all three main campuses.

As of now, the department is focused on university grounds; however, it is working on expanding its services in late 2019 or early 2020, to further accommodate the UTRGV community and general public who lack regular transportation.

“Eventually, we will have to branch out to areas that are not UTRGV, [such as] shopping centers, grocery stores, theaters, things like that,” Zuñiga said.

Seventeen transportation vehicles will be in service and available to run throughout the year.

Each Campus Connector will be equipped with Wi-Fi. Last spring, UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services updated the routers on the bus to connect up to 60 people simultaneously.

For Fiscal Year 2018, the Vaquero Express ridership was 197,025 and is expected to increase across the board.

“We’re adding a lot of different benefits,” Zuñiga said. “We just overhauled all of our brochures, and I also apologize, we have not uploaded them to our website, but if you go to our Twitter account, all of them are listed there, including the 2018 fall and 2019 spring times.”

For more information on shuttle times, routes and availability, visit UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services’ Twitter page @UTRGV\_PTS.

shuttle to get to class. On the Edinburg campus, students can park in Lots E34 and E33, and on the Brownsville campus, Lot B4 and TSC lots are open as well.

“Use the remote lots and to plan ahead. ... There is enough parking in the remote lots,” Gomez said. “You have to make that trade-off, ‘Am I going to pay a citation or am I going to plan a little bit ahead?’”

Students are also encouraged to not park off campus in restaurants or other businesses.

“We are trying to minimize that. We are adding more parking ... and keeping the remote lots at a low cost to increase participation. ... We really want people to be safer,” Aguilar said.

“Just to finish up in the top three spots in WAC and win as many games at home because it’s our home,” he said.

The Vaqueros began defending their home turf on Aug. 19, as they took on St. Edward’s University to a scoreless draw. WAC play will begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 in Edinburg against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

With one goal in mind, all of the teams are ready to begin their journey toward WAC championships.

## TEAMS

*Continued from Page 9*

gallan Jr. of Valley View.

Leading the newcomers and the rest of the team are captains Michael Faber, a junior defender, and Isidro Martinez, a senior forward midfielder. Faber said he is welcoming the newcomers by working on different tactics on and off the field.

“Off the field, we have various lectures on attacking principals, defensive principals, shape, the way we play,



• E A T •

UTRGV

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