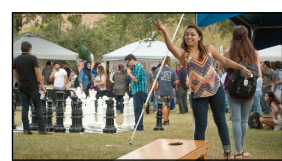


THE RIDER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2016

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2



The Stomp brings community together in festive environment
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Building leaders in science Students aid in Zika virus research

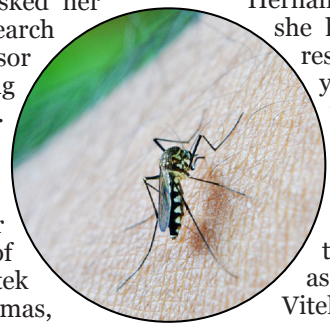
Brenda Garza
 THE RIDER

The Rio Grande Valley is known for having the right breeding ground for mosquitoes, raising the question as to how the insect will react to the Zika

virus. Research at UTRGV is on the verge of explaining just that. “Students who are willing to ask the questions [will] get the answers,” said Joanne Rampersad-Ammons, a chemistry associate professor

and director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant (HHMI). “They see what’s going on and then they start getting involved.” Brenda Hernandez-Barron, a biology senior with a minor

in chemistry, asked her biological research problems professor about helping with research. Now, she is conducting research on the Zika virus under the direction of Christopher Vitek and John Thomas, assistant professors in biology.



Hernandez-Barron said she has been involved in research for about two years, but started working on the Zika virus in early January.

Hernandez-Barron depends on the supervision and assistance of either Vitek or Thomas while

See **ZIKA**, Page 2

¡Feliz cumpleaños, UTRGV!

Monika Garza and Brenda Garza
 THE RIDER

With a mariachi birthday serenade, cupcakes and giveaways, UTRGV celebrated its first anniversary last Wednesday on both campuses.

In 2013, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was created after the Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 24, which consolidated UT Brownsville and UT Pan American. Two years later, UTRGV opened its doors for the first time.

Best Week Ever,
Page 12

UTRGV President Guy Bailey, his administration team and members of the Student Government Association spoke at the event in Brownsville and gave a brief explanation on what the university has accomplished in one year and its future goals.

“Our next goal is to increase the graduation rate of our students,” Bailey said. “We are focusing on student success,



Orange-and-white-frosted cupcakes were served during UTRGV’s first anniversary celebration last Wednesday on both campuses.

LESLEY ROBLES/ THE RIDER

having some new programs and improving our processes.”

Xochitl Estrada, a biomedical sciences major, was among the

attendees at the celebration in Brownsville.

“It’s kind of amazing what See **UTRGV**, Page 10

2 students participate in U of M public health internship

Nubia Reyna
 THE RIDER

This summer, UTRGV seniors Jessica Gonzalez and Limairy Rodriguez attended the Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP) at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

The 10-week residential program encourages underrepresented college students to consider careers in public health. FPHLP funders include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE).

Gonzalez, a rehabilitation services major, said that she is

grateful for this opportunity.

“It was a really good experience because we were not seen as interns, we were seen as part of the staff,” Gonzalez said. “We worked with the population; we talked about obesity and their perception of health.”

Gonzalez’s said her favorite memory is when they did community service in Adrian, Mich.

“I enjoy helping people,” said Gonzalez, who encourages students to leave their comfort zone and consider careers in public health. “Don’t be afraid to try new things. It is definitely worth it.”



Limairy Rodriguez



Jessica Gonzalez

She said public health is a broad field where there is something for everyone.

Among the things Gonzalez enjoyed about the program was the diversity of students.

“I met people from Hawaii, California, people who were from Africa ... or from Samoa,” she said. “I learned about their cultures. ... It is amazing to be able to have connections in different places now.”

Although Gonzalez was happy about not having to wake up at 6:30 a.m. every morning anymore, the last day was a bittersweet.

“I was already used to [living] See **INTERNSHIP**, Page 10



MARIO GONZALEZ/ THE RIDER

Exercise science senior Jessica Perez throws a basketball into an inflatable basket last Tuesday during The Stomp, which took place on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. The Stomp was part of the Best Week Ever festivities to welcome students during the first week of the fall semester.

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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PHOTOGRAPHERS

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**ADVERTISING SALES
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Azenett Cornejo

**STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM
ADVISER**

Carina Alcantara

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Anita Reyes

Ana Sanchez

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ARHU 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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YOUR NEWS IN ONE PLACE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday

Student Involvement Fair

Student Involvement will conduct a fair for students to learn more about the different campus organizations they can join. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chapel 1 on the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the event is set for the same time Wednesday on the Student Union lawn. For more information, call 665-2660.

Animation club fundraiser

Members of the **Japanese Animation Club** at UTRGV will sell pizza, chips, sodas and chili dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Quad BBQ area in Edinburg. For more information, call 371-3306.

Eta Omicron Nu Pizza sale

Members of the **Eta Omicron Nu Honors** will sell pizza from noon to 1 p.m. on the Library lawn in Edinburg.

For more information, call 665-2492 or email greeks@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Corn sale in Edinburg

Members of the **Bilingual Education Student Organization** at UTRGV will sell corn in a cup to raise funds for the organization from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University Library in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-3213.

Free popsicles

The **Multicultural Greek Council** at UTRGV will serve free popsicles from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Student Union East Patio in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-2492 or email greeks@utrgv.edu.

Thursday

Food for sale

Members of the **Society for Human Resource Management** at UTRGV

will sell burgers to raise money for the organization from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Library barbecue area in Edinburg. For more information, call 739-6860.

Brothers of the **Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.** at UTRGV will sell burgers from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Quad in Edinburg. For more information, call 463 3160.

Members of the **Health Occupations Students of America** at UTRGV will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University Library in Edinburg. For more information, email hosa.utrgv@gmail.com.

Members of the **Filipino Student Association** will sell bubble tea from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union West Patio in Edinburg. For more information, call 507-0372.

--Compiled by Monika Garza

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 22 and 28.



Aug. 22

11:42 a.m.: A UTRGV student was stopped by police because the vehicle he was driving appeared to have the wrong license plate. The paper license plate was registered to the same dealership, but assigned to a different vehicle. Police confiscated the license plate, the vehicle was released and the driver was issued a warning for expired registration and display wrong license plate and a citation for no insurance.

Aug. 23

11:40 p.m.: When a police sergeant stopped a driver because of his vehicle's defective head lamp, he saw an unopened box of 12 beer bottles on the rear passenger seat. The occupants of the vehicle were both UTRGV students and under age 21. The driver was given a warning for the defective head lamp and both minors were issued a court appearance citation for possession of alcohol by a minor.

The alcohol was seized and subsequently disposed of properly. The report was forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.

Aug. 24

1:02 p.m.: A UTRGV officer approached a student, who was sitting inside his black Dodge Ram pickup that reeked of marijuana. The student handed the officer a bag of marijuana. He was arrested and transported to the Edinburg Municipal Jail. The case was referred to the Office of Student's Rights and Responsibilities.

Aug. 25

3:33 p.m.: A staff member reported hackers overran her university email account and sent several emails to other UTRGV employees. The employee contacted Information Technology (IT), who confirmed she had been hacked. Employees involved were asked to change their passwords and have their computer checked by IT personnel. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 26

2:38 a.m.: A sergeant stopped a driver

that ran a red light and smelled the odor of marijuana inside the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle yielded a usable quantity of pot and a fraudulent driver's license. The driver was booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail on the charges of misdemeanor of possession of marijuana and tampering with a governmental record.

Aug. 28

8:53 a.m.: While on patrol, a protective service officer saw three men exiting the former Brownsville Art Museum and rapidly leaving the area in a white sedan. He reported the suspicious activity to UTRGV police. Afterward, a university officer spotted the same vehicle speeding and stopped it, but the men exited the vehicle and fled the scene. A U.S. Border Patrol agent later apprehended one of the suspects who was an undocumented immigrant. The Border Patrol issued an immigrant detainer and UTRGV Police charged the suspect with evading arrest.

--Compiled by Megan Gonzalez

ZIKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conducting her research. While Thomas cultivates the virus, she will hatch, rear (feed) and introduce the Zika virus to the mosquitoes. She said this needs to be synchronized, otherwise, it will be a waste and must be redone. Once she interprets all the results, she will write a manuscript.

Zika can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika.

Asked if she had any fears when working with the virus, she replied, "Zika. Fear? It's an adrenaline. It's really exciting more than I am afraid of it. To be able to handle that mosquito that has Zika in it ... it's exciting!"

Hernandez-Barron said she got started in research after approaching Vitek.

"You really have to approach a professor and ask them, 'OK, so I'm really interested in doing research and I would like to work with mosquitoes, or genetics or working in ecology, or crop management, but you have to approach a professor because if you don't know, they can guide you in the right direction,'" Hernandez-Barron said.

Her dream and life goal is to work for the CDC.

"I want to work with more dangerous viruses," she said. "I want to get my work published."

She will present her extensive research on the Zika virus at the end of the month at the International Congress of Entomology in Florida.

Hernandez-Barron will graduate

in December and though her original plan was to be a pre-med student, after conducting research, she switched her major and will attend graduate school in the hope of acquiring her doctoral degree in entomology. She will concentrate on mosquitoes and how they interact with viruses.

Under the HHMI program, Hernandez-Barron receives a stipend to work with researchers.

"My grant will be over in December when I graduate, but we are waiting

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

Source: cdc.gov

on pins and needles for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, which is a long-term grant that will help fund the research."

The \$3.5 million proposal that was submitted to the NIH by Vitek and his associates in the summer of 2015 would focus on what is going on in the Rio Grande Valley and its mosquitoes.

Vitek, Thomas and other researchers from Texas hope that this grant is approved, as it will help them to further study the Zika virus.

"In the Rio Grande Valley, there have been no known cases of the Zika virus," Vitek said.

But at the State of Texas Active Response to Zika Virus Conference (STARZ) in McAllen on July 1, researchers said, "It's not a matter of if it gets here, it's a matter of when. That is why the research is so important,"

according to Hernandez-Barron.

There are more than 2,500 known cases in the United States, according to the CDC. There are 125 cases in Texas, yet none in the Valley.

"Zika has been around since the 1940s as a disease in Africa, but it was not historically known until 2015, when it was introduced to South America," said Vitek, who is studying 80 different mosquitoes from around the Valley.

Kuzy Zarzosa, a senior biology major and research assistant, collects

mosquitoes from north Mission.

"[Zarzosa] is in a long-term project," Hernandez-Barron said. "She brings mosquitoes from the outside, freezes them and then analyzes them to see what species they are and in what specific area, what are their numbers and how many there are during rainy and dry seasons."

Zarzosa said she was also a pre-med student but after doing research on fruit flies, she became fascinated and changed her major to biology and, like Hernandez-Barron, she will go to graduate school to obtain her doctorate.

"The HHMI program's name is 'Leaders in Science,'" Rampersad-Ammons said. "I am training you to be a professional."

Students are required to be in lab on time, meet goals and are held accountable for the tasks they are responsible for. "All bad habits will be lost," she said.

"The university is interested in getting experiential learning embedded in the classroom, across the curriculum, getting kids involved with experiential learning after school which makes us the best kept secret on campus," Rampersad-Ammons said.

The Stomp impresses community



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences junior Gracie Carrillo (left) and senior Deborah Jones enjoy a ride last Tuesday at The Stomp. The event took place on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Kinesiology sophomore Malia Irvine competes to see how many push-ups she can do at The Stomp, held last Thursday in the University Recreation Building on the Edinburg campus. Irvine completed 35 push-ups.

Megan Gonzalez

THE RIDER

From student organizations to local businesses, The Stomp brought everyone together for one night to celebrate the new school year.

Due to inclement weather, the Edinburg campus moved the celebration from the Quad to the University Recreation Building.

“Everybody enjoys the REC anyway,” said Julius Marquez, a supervisor for the Intramural Sports Department. “They might not even know The Stomp is going on, but they may be coming over to work out and they’ll notice this is going on. So, that’s probably the reason why we have so many people.”

It was the first time the university invited businesses to the event and after witnessing

the student body, they will be ready for next year.

“Obviously this is a good opportunity to mingle with students and show you what we’re all about,” said Mario Luvianos, an AT&T retail sales consultant.

Red Velvet, a Brownsville cover band composed of Chris Garcia, Adolfo Garcia, J Cifuentes and Freddy De La Garza, performed on stage.

“We thought it was a great event,” said Chris Garcia, the lead vocalist. “The turnout was better than we anticipated and the response we got from the crowd was fantastic. The students were very welcoming.”

For more information on Red Velvet, visit www.facebook.com/REDELVELVETTHEBAND/

A similar event was held in Brownsville last Tuesday.

National Recovery Month

September dedicated to raising addiction awareness

Bryan Ramos

THE RIDER

Recovery from addiction is an uphill battle. It can be a quiet, slowly suffocating struggle that may or may not be seen by others on the outside.

September is National Recovery Month, raising awareness and understanding surrounding the fight that is recovery and addiction. The Collegiate Recovery Program at UTRGV will host free events throughout the month intended to engage the entire Rio Grande Valley community in a productive and thoughtful discussion about recovery.

The program is dedicated to helping students suffering from any type of addiction. Services offered include 12-step meetings, recovery support groups and Smart Recovery, which is based on the stages of change.

“The Collegiate Recovery Program here at UTRGV is designed to help students who are looking for recovery,” said Kristina Canfield, program

coordinator. “Someone who is maybe struggling with drug addiction while they’re here on campus, we can help connect them to the right resources so they can get clean and sober, so they can continue their education and succeed here

screened at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus and Sept. 22 in the Plains Capital Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. The film is directed by Greg Williams, who is in recovery himself.

“ People who are struggling with addiction are human beings first and addicts second.”

Kristina Canfield
College Recovery Program Coordinator

during their time at UTRGV.”

National Recovery Month kicks off with the Recovery Showcase from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Plains Capital Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. Two alumni will share their experiences with recovery and how the Collegiate Recovery Program at UTRGV helped them.

Popcorn & A Movie: “The Anonymous People” will be

“What’s happening in our country right now is we’re realizing that we can’t change the stigma about addiction if we don’t talk about [it],” Canfield said. “This film helps spread the word because we have to talk about it to change it.”

Refreshments will be served at the events.

National Recovery Month ends with the Recovery Walk-a-thon, scheduled from 11 a.m.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL MATA

to 1 p.m. Sept. 28 in Edinburg; check-in will be at the Student Union in Edinburg. The same event will take place the following day at the same time on the Brownsville campus; check-in will be on the Student Union lawn. T-shirts will be given to the first 25 participants at each campus, and water and snacks will be provided.

“Come walk in honor of those we’ve lost to addiction or to celebrate those who are in recovery,” Canfield said. “If you’re struggling yourself or maybe have a friend who’s struggling with addiction, come

join us because we need to raise awareness.”

“People who are struggling with addiction are human beings first and addicts second,” Canfield said. “Everyone deserves love and passion and I really feel that’s what our program does.”

For more information about the National Recovery Month events and the Collegiate Recovery Program, visit University Center Room 102 in Edinburg or call 665-2574.

CAMPUS ? Q&A

How did high school prepare you for college?



“I mostly took advanced courses and those courses pretty much gave me an idea of what college should be like. So, more or less, it was just the advanced placement courses that I took in high school. Some of them were dual enrollment. For example, I think it was macroeconomics and also government. I think those were required for the general education core. Once I took care of those, I didn’t have to take them in college. ... I’m glad I did that.”

Kevin Dimasuay
Mathematics senior

“There was a lot of college classes offered to me in high school. Although I didn’t take them, I’m pretty sure I would have if I knew how much they would’ve helped me now that I’m in college. I see people that are now graduating much earlier than I am because of those courses, but either way, they did prepare us and had classes about college, like, what it was like, what you should do and etcetera. I think they did a pretty good job.”



Charlotte Avila
Early Care and Early Childhood Studies junior



“*La preparatoria me dio los útiles necesarios para poder seguir y organizar mi tiempo. Aprendí hábitos de estudio y como organizar en los calendars y planners. Más que nada, creo que me ayudó conocerme para saber qué es lo que quería y en donde quería llegar.*”

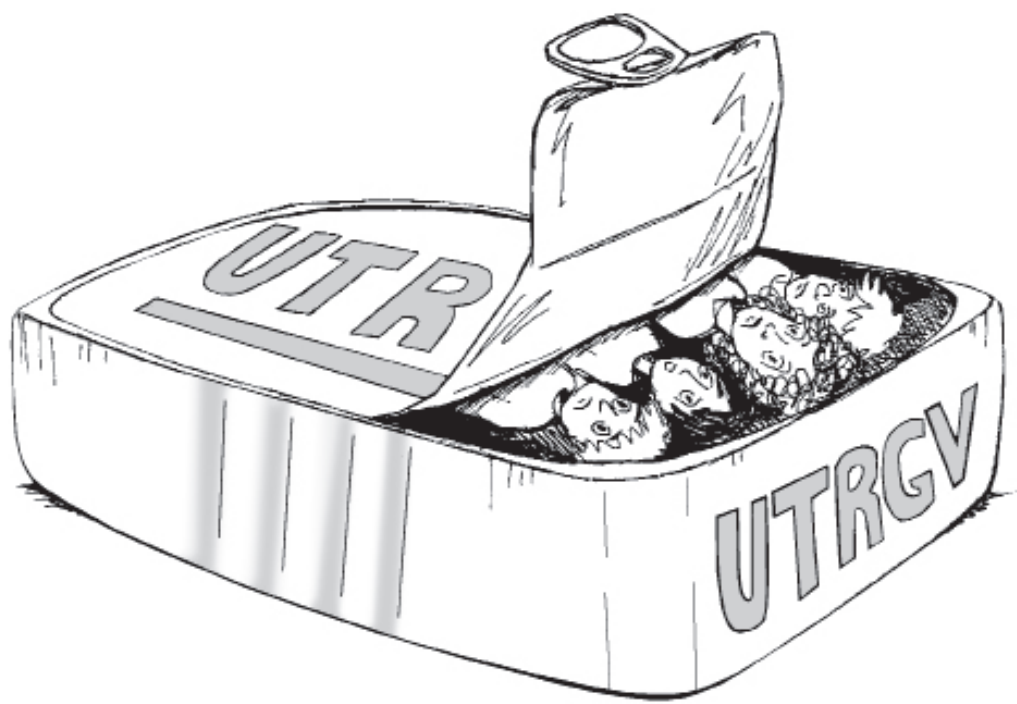
Juan Leonel Cantu
Estudiante de economía y finanzas de último año

“High school provided me with a college adviser who had a lot of knowledge in the different resources on campus. Not just that, but my high school provided me with a College Awareness 5K, which was a scholarship for students. My high school also provided different resources like budgeting, opening an account, getting our email done, financial aid assistance, and TAFSA help for most of us. They also gave us a tour to different universities. It was super fun to learn about the different colleges and what they had to offer.”



Jacqueline Sanchez
Finance and marketing senior

--Compiled by Lesley Robles and Mario Gonzalez



"Crowded Campus"

C. Ortiz

You are not the likes you get



Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Millennials don’t know life without technology. We were born with it. As children, instead of going out on the streets to play with our friends, we would sit in front of the TV for hours, playing video games or watching cartoons after finishing our homework. And every now and then, we would invite our friends to play video games with us, but only every now and then.

We grew up surrounded by technology. With technology improving and becoming more affordable every day, 92 percent of the adult population owns a phone, according to the Pew Research Center.

However, they are not used just to talk anymore. They are used to share any aspect of our life.

We can take, edit and share photos in less than a minute. We can stream a live video of a concert, of vacations, or whatever we think would appeal to our social media “friends.”

We don’t share the important things in life anymore. We share what we think will get us the most likes and views.

But, what of this is actually real?

We see girls with “perfect” bodies, “perfect” hair, eating the most “delicious” food, living what apparently is the “good life.”

We see guys with big biceps and ripped abs enjoying and loving their time at the gym, taking shirtless selfies in the mirror.

We see gym couples, travel couples, festival couples, all of them looking deeply in love, projecting a perfect relationship on social media.

But again, what of this is actually real?

People tend to show only the good side of their life on social media.

We don’t see couples arguing because the guy flirts with other girls. We don’t see them arguing because the girl wants to check his phone.

We don’t see all the time and effort a girl put in to get a good selfie: her hair, her makeup, taking 20 selfies before getting a good one and, of course, after getting a good one, choosing a filter.

We don’t see a guy feeling sore, struggling to walk after leg day, deciding whether to eat a fatty meal or lean protein for his muscles.

We only see their perfect selfies with more than 200 likes. With social media, people can twist their reality. They get to become who they want to be, not who they really are.

We all feel the pressure to look “perfect” on social media. We want our “friends” to feel jealous of how good we look and how much fun we are having.

Sometimes it seems like getting more than 100 likes in our pictures is the only way to get approval from our social media friends.

We get so distracted by trying to project this perfect life that we forget that our self-worth is not measured by the number of likes we get on Facebook and Instagram, it is measured by the difference we have made in the lives of others.

Why do people want to get so many likes, anyway?

Submit a Letter to the Editor



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

Stay updated!

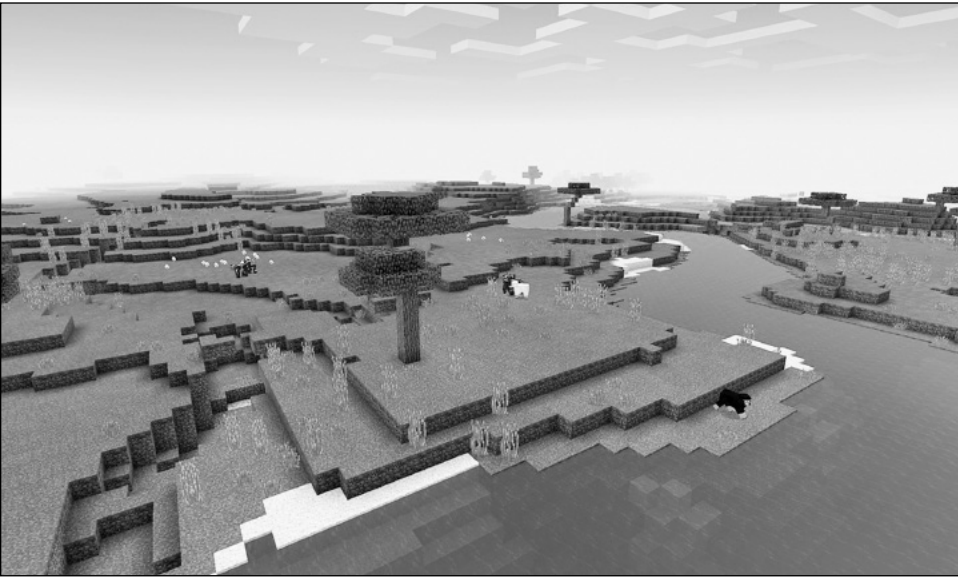
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Like us on Facebook

Title being generated ...

A closer look into what procedural generation is and how we use it



Screenshot from Minecraft

Gabriel Mata
THE RIDER

“Minecraft,” “Starbound,” “Diablo,” “Spore,” “Left 4 Dead” and “No Man’s Sky.” All these games deserve a spot in today’s Gaming Hall of Fame for one reason or another.

Aside from what those reasons might be, they’re all procedurally generated. What exactly does this mean? Procedural generation, at its core, is creating rules for a program, looking for an edge, and then letting the program run wild.

Although these games may use that concept differently, it’s all the same.

Games like “Minecraft,” “Starbound” and “No Man’s Sky” use a random seed in order to generate entire worlds/solar systems/universes.

While creating entire universes is cool, “Left 4 Dead” uses procedural generation to create an army of zombies. Although they have the same attributes, making zombies look different from each other would be incredibly tedious to program in one-by-one.

Other examples of this is Peter Jackson’s “The Lord of the Rings.” Procedural generation was used in order to create giant fighting armies, another thing that would be difficult to animate and texture manually. Procedural generation is slowly becoming a normal technique to use and it’s extremely useful and versatile. As we use it more, we’re only discovering the amazing things that we can do with it.

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the second in a series. The Rider interviewed Undergraduate Coordinator and computer science Associate Professor Emmett Tomai for information.

Major: Computer science
School: College of Engineering and Computer Science
Department Chair: Zhixiang Chen
Prerequisites: Calculus 1
Total credit hours needed to graduate: 125
What is computer science? “Computer science is concerned with studying what is possible with computers. So, in a practical sense, it is about making things with computer systems. Computers run the world, and the people who know how to run them are in good shape for the future. It is not just about writing programs for today, but also thinking about what are the limitations of what is and is not possible for the future. That’s where the science comes in. We’re studying computation as an idea and then we are also creating cool things like the internet.”



Which classes should students expect to take? “So, in engineering majors, there is a progression through classes. All students start with an introductory sequence where they learn the base of all engineering. Then, the upper sequence is where they can choose their area of interest. So, in the upper sequence there are classes such

as databases, web development, game development, artificial intelligence, visualization, security and networking. There is a range of different areas you can specialize in. You have elective choices towards the end where you kind of choose what you want to go into. For engineering, there is a generous amount of electives allowed where you get up to seven classes where you’re choosing what you want to take.”

What are some possible careers with this degree? “There are a lot of entrepreneurial possibilities with computing like the Silicon Valley stuff. You can be a freelance developer who creates systems for people. You could also work for any large company as a software developer. A lot of students intern with Walmart because we have a connection there and they are such a big company that they develop a lot of software for their own use, package software development like the software we use. It’s common, as a career path, to start as a programmer and then move into a management role where you manage a tech team. There is also a game developer, but it’s one of the harder jobs to get into. There’s also a lot of active research, so most people go onto graduate

See **MAJOR**, Page 10

10

Must-have phone apps for college students

The Rider surveyed 50 UTRGV students from the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

Sergio Garcia
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

1. Blackboard

This app enables you to access and view your courses whenever you want regardless of your location. The advantage of this application is that it lets you view your grades, upcoming assignments, papers that need grading. It also gives you access to documents uploaded by the professor, such as calendars, syllabi and study guides.

2. Chegg

Access to study guides, instant homework help, textbook solutions and online tutors are only some of the services offered by the Chegg app. It also allows you to sell and rent books in hard copy and digital formats. As if that weren’t enough, the app also offers scholarships and internships for students.

3. Quizlet

With more than 40 million study sets, the Quizlet app offers user-generated flashcards that help users study. Many of the sets available in the app offer textbook solutions while others provide users with custom-made study guides for a wide range of topics. From chemistry to art, the Quizlet app is a complete database that contains a vast amount of information.

4. Gmail

Gmail is an email service that was developed by Google for the general public. The app enables students to have easier access to their email. Also, having a Gmail account is convenient because many websites let you sign up for their services using your Gmail account information.

5. Google Drive

Google Drive, another service by Google, offers cloud storage. Google gives you 15GB of free space that can be used to store files in the format of your choosing. Since everything is stored in the cloud, students have access to their documents if they have access to the internet.

6. Outlook

Developed by Microsoft, the app serves as a professional email account, and it also enables users to access other functionalities such as a built-in calendar to manage your time. Using the Outlook app students can access their UTRGV email accounts.

7. WhatsApp

This mobile application enables users to send messages
See **TEN**, Page 10

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Campus Programming Board officers include Homecoming Committee Chair Melanie Reyna (from left), Pop Culture Committee Chair Louay Bachnack, President Bianca Zapata and Adviser Daniela Venegas.

Name: Campus Programming Board
Purpose: The Campus Programming Board (CPB) provides a well-rounded university experience by promoting student involvement, school spirit and campus traditions, which foster a sense of belonging, affinity for the institution and supports student success and retention in Brownsville and Edinburg.
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Movies Committee Chair: Melissa Lamas
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Activities: Hosts events on campus throughout the year
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For more information, email: cpb@utrgv.edu
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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La marcha de las banderas



REBECA ORTIZ/ FOTOS RIDER

Participantes del desfile descansan después de caminar desde la Unión Estudiantil hasta el Gran Patio del Edificio Principal en el campus Brownsville.

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORIA DE ESPAÑOL

El ambiente estaba cargado de energía; la multitud de jóvenes formó una fila y el desfile multicolor dió inicio. Formado por más de 110 estudiantes y encabezados por una banda de guerra, las 85 nacionalidades acogidas por UTRGV marcharon.

“Es la primera vez que este departamento, la unidad de Compromiso Global, hace un evento en *‘Best Week Ever’*”, dijo Samantha Lopez, directora de Admisiones Internacionales y Servicios Estudiantiles. “Tenemos 85 países alrededor, más de 900 estudiantes internacionales en UTRGV. Queremos que ellos vean y se den cuenta de la diversidad que existe aquí.”

‘Best Week Ever’ es una serie de eventos para celebrar la primera semana de clases del semestre de otoño del 2016, la cual abarca de agosto 28 al 2

de septiembre, de acuerdo a su página oficial.

El desfile de bienvenida tomó lugar el jueves pasado en el

Edificio Principal.

El evento como tal, fue el fruto de la colaboración del Instituto de Lenguajes, Programas y Asociaciones Internacionales, Admisiones Internacionales, Servicios Estudiantiles y Compromiso Global.

Durante dicho evento se pudo disfrutar de música en vivo y una comida completa, entre otras actividades.

Rebecca Villanueva, estudiante local de último año en contabilidad, dijo no estar enterada del evento pero que le pareció una bienvenida muy interesante para los estudiantes.

Al preguntarle si este era un evento merecedor de asistir, Villanueva contestó, “Absolutamente, lo recomendaría para que puedan expandir sus fronteras alrededor del mundo”.

“Parte de este evento es mostrar el apoyo que tenemos para nuestros estudiantes internacionales, queremos que ellos se sientan en casa, que ellos puedan sentir un pedacito de su país aquí en UTRGV, que su país es reconocido aquí en los estados unidos.”

Samantha Lopez

Directora de Admisiones Internacionales

campus Brownsville, y comenzó en la Unión Estudiantil, pasando por el Edificio de Vida y Ciencias de la Salud, atravesando el puente al sureste de la Unión Estudiantil y finalizando en el Gran Patio del



Samantha Lopez, directora de Admisiones Internacionales y Servicios Estudiantiles, da las palabras de bienvenida mientras la banda de guerra de UTRGV toma un descanso durante el Desfile de Bienvenida.



La banda de guerra de UTRGV ameniza el evento de bienvenida.

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Bear down

Volleyball beats Big 12 foe



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

UTRGV outside hitter Fernanda Faustino sets up to practice her serve Aug. 29 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The team was preparing for its upcoming games in New Orleans.

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

A strong start is crucial in every sport. A few decisive road wins and solid performances in early tournament play certainly helps as well. UTRGV volleyball accomplished all that and more in its opening weekend during the Baylor Invitational in Waco.

Matched with host Baylor University in its season opener, volleyball did something that hasn't been done by any UTPA/UTRGV women's team since the NCAA started to govern women's sports--beat a Big 12 Conference opponent.

The Vaqueros' win over Baylor sparked a first-place finish in the tournament. The win serves as a huge boost and Head Coach Todd Lowery knows the effects can be long lasting.

"It is a huge win for the program, not just this group

of girls," Lowery said during practice. "The kids start to believe. The community starts to build like we've been selling a process for the last year and

Senior outside hitter Alisha Watson had a strong game that evening, racking up a career-high 23 kills. Also contributing to the offense was fellow outside

“ I think having those great results early is a great indicator we’re going in the right direction.

Todd Lowery
Volleyball Head Coach

a half. To get there in the short amount of time that we have to knock off a team like Baylor is big for us and it gives us strength in recruiting.”

The Vaqueros beat the Bears 3-1. The set scores were 25-23, 20-25, 28-26, 25-21.

hitter and sophomore Ragni Knudsen with 10 kills; she also recorded 13 digs. Junior setter Tina Sekulic was the facilitator of the offense, assisting 47 times during the upset victory.

Lowery also said he “hadn't seen a defensive game out of

[Sekulic] like that in the two years he has coached her.”

Watson, who is starting her fourth season with the team, said she hopes this season all the pieces fit together.

“With a lot of new players, I think it's really good to be successful early because we've always been told we have a lot of the right pieces, and just seeing that actually come into play, we practice for so long,” said Watson, a Round Rock native. “I think having those great results early is a great indicator we're going in the right direction.”

UTRGV lost its next match in five sets against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The team was, however, able to beat Prairie View A&M University in its tournament finale in straight sets.

The 3-0 win was important because sets were used to determine a tournament champion. UTRGV's eight set wins and only four set losses gave it first place.

The Vaqueros' two standouts were recognized for their play in North Texas. Bojana Mitrovic was awarded “Best Attacker,” while Alisha Watson was named WAC Player of the Week on Aug. 29.

Success on the road is also vital for the team as it spends its first 13 matches away. Lowery, who is at UTRGV for his second season, is ready to apply what he learned from traveling last season.

“For us, what we learned last year as a staff, in the WAC it's really who can manage travel best,” Lowery said. “Who can manage the odd serve and pass times, the odd lunch times. To be up there and go up on the road and get a win, that just kind of sets the tone for the season.”

UTRGV will compete in a total of four tournaments before conference play starts. The team will travel to New Orleans, Lubbock and Boca Raton, Fla.

The first time the Vaqueros will be in front of the home crowd will be Sept. 20 when they host Prairie View A&M.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Alisha Watson

Sport: Volleyball

Position: Right side hitter

Classification: Senior

Major: Pre-med biology

Age: 21

Hometown: Round Rock

Who is your favorite athlete?

“Ray Lewis because he is one of the greatest leaders we've had in any sport. He really knows how to light a fire in people, and I would like to do the same.”

Who is your role model?

“My mom is my role model because she is the embodiment of strength. She's had a lot of things thrown her way. It would be so easy just to sit down, and not to change your own circumstance, but we've made the most out of the cards we've been dealt.”

What was the best advice you've been given and by whom?

“The best advice I've been given was by my aunt, and she told me that life doesn't give a crap about your plans, you know. Wherever you want to go, you will end up there. You just have to enjoy your journey.”

When did you begin playing volleyball, and why?

“I started in seventh grade. It was part of athletics, and I thought it would be really fun, so I just picked it up and became progressively better. The sport became something I was very interested in.”

Did you win any awards?

“I have won WAC Player of the Week twice in my career.”

What are your academic goals?

“I am applying for medical school in May, so I want to get into medicine. And, a 4.0 this semester.”

How do you feel about being part of this team?

“It feels amazing, you know. It feels like a family, so you feel really welcomed. I'm excited for what we have to offer because being in a university makes us have a whole lot to prove.”

What are your personal goals for this season?

“To win the WAC championship, obviously. And, my personal goals are just to contribute what I can. I want to be a leader on the court, but also be more of a friend, or a sister, off the court.”

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

Ready for some football

2016 NFL season set for kickoff



Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

Hear that? It's the sound of meat sizzling on the barbecue pit, ice being poured into coolers filled with drinks and Cowboys fans sobbing. The 2016 NFL season is finally here.

Last year was a whirlwind of players hitting the Dab, Whip, Milly Rock and disappointment in Dallas that ultimately ended with the Denver Broncos winning Super Bowl 50 over the Carolina Panthers.

During the offseason, the NFL said goodbye as “The Sheriff” Peyton Manning, “Megatron” Calvin Johnson and “Beast Mode” Marshawn Lynch retired. Don't worry; the league still features amazing nicknames like “Honey Badger,” “Muscle Hamster” and “Black Unicorn.”

With Commissioner Roger Goodell holding the reins of the No Fun League, or as I like to call him, the Wicked Witch of the Crest, there is sure to be controversy.

Wear neon green cleats to honor mental health awareness in a game rather than the standard black ones? Fined. Like your balls a bit deflated? Suspended. Photographic evidence leaks and you're charged with domestic violence? Don't worry, Goodell will have his head investigator Ida Kno Nuffin on the case and you'll receive a stern

“ Hey, NFL, maybe pay some respect to a hero? RIP, Harambe.

talking to. The Donald Trump of the NFL is a joke, but I digress.

Let's start off in Dallas where heartbreak is already setting in and the torturous regular season Cowboys fans have become so familiar with hasn't even started yet. Tony Romo's body is breaking down before our very eyes and it's depressing. The team's

2016 first round pick Ezekiel Elliott showed up to the draft wearing a suit and a half shirt, which is cute and all but there's no room for belly buttons in football, only concussions. Oh, well, when in doubt blame Jerry.

Elsewhere in the NFC East, cornerback Josh Norman joins the team in Washington that refuses to change its name but also refuses to be good at football. Norman matching up twice a year with both Dez Bryant and Odell Beckham Jr. is must-see TV and I know I will yell “Worldstar!” at least once while watching one of those games.

The J.J. Watts made some key acquisitions to improve their team but they also signed a quarterback named Brock. Let me guess, he gets the girl in the end, they have beautiful babies and live happily ever after? That's so hacky, I hope they never win.

Up in Seattle, quarterback Russell Wilson is playing step daddy to Future's son after marrying pop singer Ciara. The couple took a vow of celibacy while dating and being engaged, and if you've ever seen Ciara's “Ride” music video, this proves Wilson has godlike willpower. The two gave up their vow of celibacy after their July marriage. We'll see if the strategy pays off.

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 10

MAJOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

school to study stuff like bioinformatics, which is computer science and medical combined.”

Which skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “The students will learn programming, math, analysis, problem solving and other things of that nature.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “Computing, in general, tends to rank in the top five careers to have in terms of salary and quality of life. There are a ton of opportunities with computing. You would expect starting salaries to be in standard engineering to be in the

10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through Wi-Fi or phone data free of charge. Students use it to connect with each other and share images, documents and form group chats.

8. Dropbox

Dropbox is popular among students because it allows them to store large-size documents for free. These documents can be accessed through any computer or phone that is connected to the internet. Files stored in the app can also be shared

INTERNSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over there,” she said. “Saying our goodbye was a bittersweet moment. ... I really enjoyed it, I learned a lot.”

After graduating, Gonzalez plans on getting her master’s and focusing on mental health.

“I want to work at a rehab clinic or even a retirement home for veterans,” she said.

Rodriguez, a biomedical sciences major, also enjoyed her internship in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It was an amazing experience” she said. “It was absolutely rewarding for me as a person.”

Thanks to the internship, Rodriguez was able to find her real passion and grow as a person. “My passion does lie within public health.”

Rodriguez learned the real meaning of public health.

“When you think of public health you think health, physical, vaccines, but public health is way more than just that,” she said. “There are so many things to consider when you are thinking about a person’s overall health. ... among all the things that affect a person’s health, violence is an important one.”

The 40 interns were paired and placed

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

A movement is sweeping the nation as 23,528 people have signed an online petition to change the Cincinnati Bengals team name to the Cincinnati Harambes. Hey, NFL, maybe pay some respect to a hero? RIP, Harambe.

Also in Ohio, or a bar near you, you might find a Pokémon named Johnny Manziel. The first round pick of the Cleveland Browns has partied his way right out of the league and become a regular on TMZ. Seriously, when your family is worried about you living past the age of 24, the fun and games are out the window. Pulling for you, Johnny. (He’ll see this, he’s a regular reader.)

Bill Belichick and Tom Brady are ready to unleash hell on the league after Brady was suspended the first four games of the 2016 season over Deflategate. I like to imagine when Tom Brady looks in the faces of defenses he will play against this year. All he will see are 11 Roger Goodell faces.

Colin Kaepernick recently sat down to

\$60,000-\$80,000 range. It varies wildly based off what you go into.”

Student clubs related to the major: “Yes, ACM, Association for Computing Machinery, is our longest lasting club. There is also an ACMW group for women, which is a diversely focused group. We have a newer club called Hack and Make. There are regional hack-a-thons that they have been active in the past few years. They go up to Dallas or Houston for competition on weekends where they make something and show it off.”

For more information: contact Emmett Tomai, undergraduate coordinator, at emmett.tomai@utrgv.edu or call 655-7229.

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

with other Dropbox users.

9. CliffsNotes

The database offered by this application offers a series of study guides written by real teachers and professors. Students may use this app to study and prepare for upcoming tests.

10. Mathway

From geometry to calculus, this app serves as a problem solver. The app not only gives you answers to difficult problems, but also offers step-by-step explanations on how to get the answer.

in a specific field, except for Rodriguez.

“I was by myself. ... My deal was to create an action plan for them to know where to start the job,” she said. “It was a lot of work.”

Rodriguez attended meetings with the police department in which she was asked to give an opinion.

“I felt like I was part of the team,” she said.

Asked about her favorite memory of the internship, Rodriguez replied it was hard to choose one.

“There were a lot of favorite memories of mine,” she said. “But I would definitely say, creating a friendship with another person with a different cultural background.”

Rodriguez encourages fellow students to be willing to explore the unknown side of them and go far with their dreams.

“You can do so much more than just work every day and get a lot money,” she said. “You can go so far. We all have the capacity.”

Even though 10 weeks may seem a long time for most of us, Rodriguez was not happy that the internship was coming to an end. “I wanted it to continue, I wanted it to last longer.”

For more information about the internship, visit <http://fphlp.sph.umich.edu>.

take a stand that sparked a controversy that spilled out of just the sports world. When he chose to remain seated during the playing of the national anthem before a 49ers preseason game, he stood for what he believes in. He refused to stand for the flag of a country who he feels oppresses black people and people of color, and unless your head has been buried in the sand for the last 300 years, it’s hard not to agree with him. Having freedom of speech and using your platform to stand for your convictions is as American as it gets and the hate-filled, racist backlash he’s received reveals a troubling hypocrisy within the supposed greatest country in the world.

What would football be without some drama, right?

The NFL season is upon us and it’s the most wonderful time of the year, when every team and their respective fan bases still think their team has a shot to win it all.

Sundays are for football, trust me. The big man upstairs has two television screens going at the same time on Sundays, one devoted to gospel, the other devoted to the NFL.

UTRGV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UTRGV has accomplished,” Estrada said.

Members of the SGA noted the numerous achievements the university has accomplished in its first year, including a freshman retention rate of about 82 percent, an increase in new student applications, and being ranked the third highest UT System institution in Forbes magazine’s 2016 “America’s Top Colleges.”

However, UTRGV is still in the process of improving many departments, organizations and finding more ways for students to engage in college life.

“We need to improve our business processes; it needs to be easy for you to be advised, to enroll, to pay,” Bailey said.

He said in the years to come, everything needs to be easy for students in every way possible.

“Even though it’s been, like, a difficult transition, I feel like they really pulled through and they had a successful first year,” said Elisabeth Roberts, a nursing sophomore on the Brownsville campus.

In Edinburg, hundreds of orange-and-white-frosted cupcakes filled the tables at the University Ballroom.

UTRGV’s Pep Band performed as more than 200 people filled the ballroom in honor of the university’s first year.

The campus community gathered to hear Bailey and Student Success Vice

President Kristin Croyle speak about the university’s accomplishments throughout the year.

Also speaking were SGA President Denisse Molina-Castro and Vice Presidents Peter Averack of the Edinburg campus and Alondra Galvan of the Brownsville campus.

Bailey spoke about UTRGV’s achievements, including the chess team

“One in five of our freshmen were in the top 10 of their high school graduating class.”

Guy Bailey
UTRGV President

class,” he said.

Bailey said it has been a dream of the Rio Grande Valley to acquire a medical school since 1947.

“Starting the medical school was a big deal,” he said. “Medical schools don’t start up every day.”

The UTRGV School of Medicine opened this summer with 55 students.

“The dreams of the Valley are coming true in UTRGV [and] we want your dreams to come true,” Bailey said. “We are going to do great things together. Thank you for making this the best first year.”

Attendees on both campuses received a soft gray 2016 Anniversary T-shirt and helped themselves to punch and cupcakes as the UTRGV mariachi performed.



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Strolling and strumming

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

As the sun set on Aug. 27, artists and vendors placed their works and goods on tables and people of all ages started to gather on East Adams Street in Brownsville for the Downtown Walkabout.

It was the third walkabout, which is hosted by the Downtown Brownsville Collaborators (DBC).

“The walkabout is about exposing and sharing what artists, local businesses and nonprofits have to offer to the community,” said Cianna Perez, co-founder of DBC. “It’s a great way to kind of get together and enjoy each other and get to know who you are living with.”

The organization is composed of more than 50 artists, business owners and entrepreneurs who aim to support the arts and history of downtown Brownsville, bring pride and engage the community in activities, she said.

Walkabouts, which take place on the third Saturday of each month, are centered on East Adams Street, between 11th and 13th streets. It was first hosted on June 10.

Perez said about 150 people came throughout the night.

“Since it started I think this has been



MARIO GONZALEZ/ THE RIDER

Jewel Marie (left) and Adrian Puente from local folk band The Blitz perform for the audience during the Downtown Brownsville Walkabout –Last One For The Summer!

a tremendous outcome,” said Frank Morales, co-founder of DBC. “I know it is a lot of effort from the whole community and we’re expecting to grow even more. ... We’re looking at a growth of maybe around 300 or 400 people that are engaged.”

Danica Peña, an essential oil wellness advocate, handed out samples as well as information brochures on their use as an alternate form of health care.

“People in Brownsville are used to taking medications and pills and it’s good to try to different ways,” Peña said. “All the oils have different properties; they have anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal or anti-inflammatory.”

Some attendees visited the downtown

restaurants and venues, including Hueso de Fraile, located at 837 E. Elizabeth St.

Amber Silverman, who helps run El Hueso de Fraile, said the coffeehouse has seen a increase in business during the walkabouts.

“Definitely, people start coming because, you know, the walkabout is about promoting downtown growth,” Silverman said. “We’re always here. This place is all about culture, it invites everybody, and this place promotes a wonderful environment for everybody.”

She described El Hueso de Fraile as a “cultural preservation center” where live music plays every night and local artists sell art.

Other places people can visit during

the walkabouts are Galeria 409, located at 409 E. 13th St., and Kraken Lounge, located at 1123 E. Adams, Suite C.

The next walkabout is set for Oct. 22 and will be in collaboration with the Brownsville International Film Festival (BIFF), which will also be free to the public.

BIFF aims to promote the growth and exposure of independent films and arts in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, while increasing awareness of its history and culture, according to the festival’s website, www.bifftx.com.

“Our plan is we’re going to be screening films in at least three venues downtown,” said Catheline Froelich, a BIFF co-director. “Locationwise, they are physically a few blocks from each other. ... We are planning on actually putting [the festival] directly in line so you can actually walk from one venue, then walk through the art walkabout, then directly to another venue.”

The venues are Hueso de Fraile, Kraken Lounge and the Half Moon Saloon, located at 1101 E. Adams St.

Documentaries, narratives and film trailers can be submitted through withoutabox.com/BIFFTX or www.filmfreeway.com/festival/BIFFTX. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 2 and directors will be notified of acceptance by Oct. 17.

For more information on the festival, visit www.bifftx.com or send an email to bifftx@gmail.com. To join the Downtown Brownsville Collaborators, email the group at DBC4help@gmail.com.

High-tech art

First art exhibit brings an interactive element

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

As you enter the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville, you will see more than 10 canvases with only words written on them. A closer look at some of the pieces in the first exhibit of the semester will reveal a QR code.

This code provides a specific link to a video that is part of the story or statement the piece is making.

In one work, artist Eduardo Ibarra gives his opinion on fellow artist Larry Bob Phillips.

“I kind of mention him and make up things,” said Ibarra, whose interactive exhibit, “False Flag: Operation Amalgam Rant,” opens at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the gallery. “They are not true. Some might be true; some are made up just because they sound funny.”

The work includes the names of three songs Phillips likes.

“I write the songs on the canvas and on each song you have a QR code that will lead you to that song, so you can hear the music while you look at the painting,” he said.

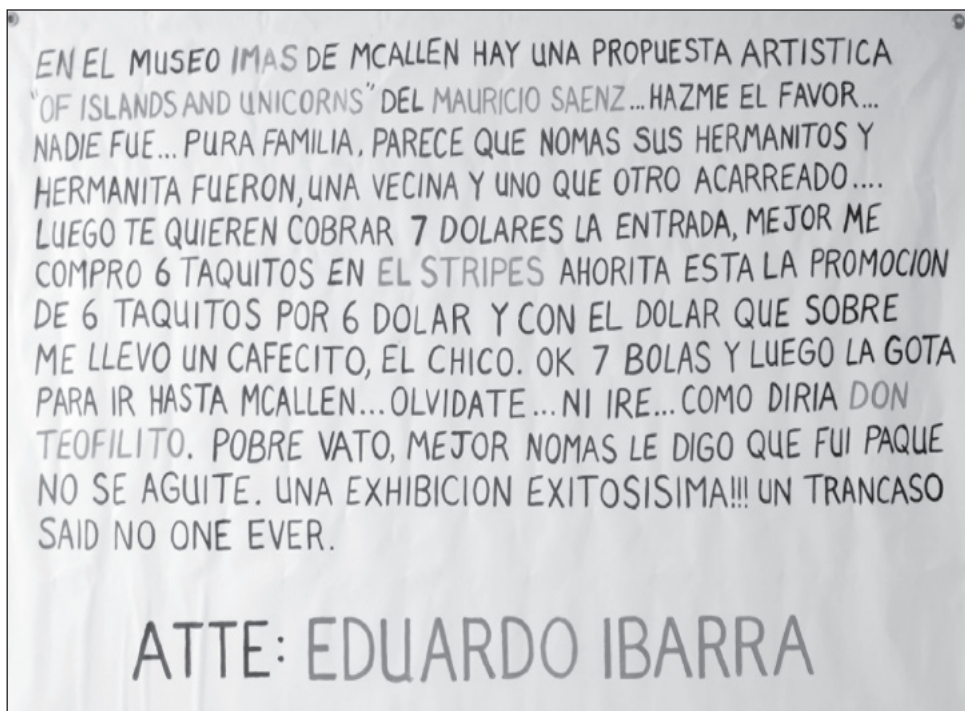
Ibarra, who received his bachelor’s degree in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute, has used QR codes in other showcases but this is the first time he uses them to make a personal statement.

“I always try to do imagery that people haven’t seen before and I try to do a whole show related to that idea,” he said. “When you go see it, it is different.”

The artist said that any QR code reader can be used to access the content in his exhibit.

This is Ibarra’s first exhibit since 2007. Art Lecturer Alejandro Macias remembers attending one of Ibarra’s shows when he was a student.

“He had these very large paintings of people, like, in strange situations, like in trash cans, inside of sharks, inside of



COURTESY PHOTO

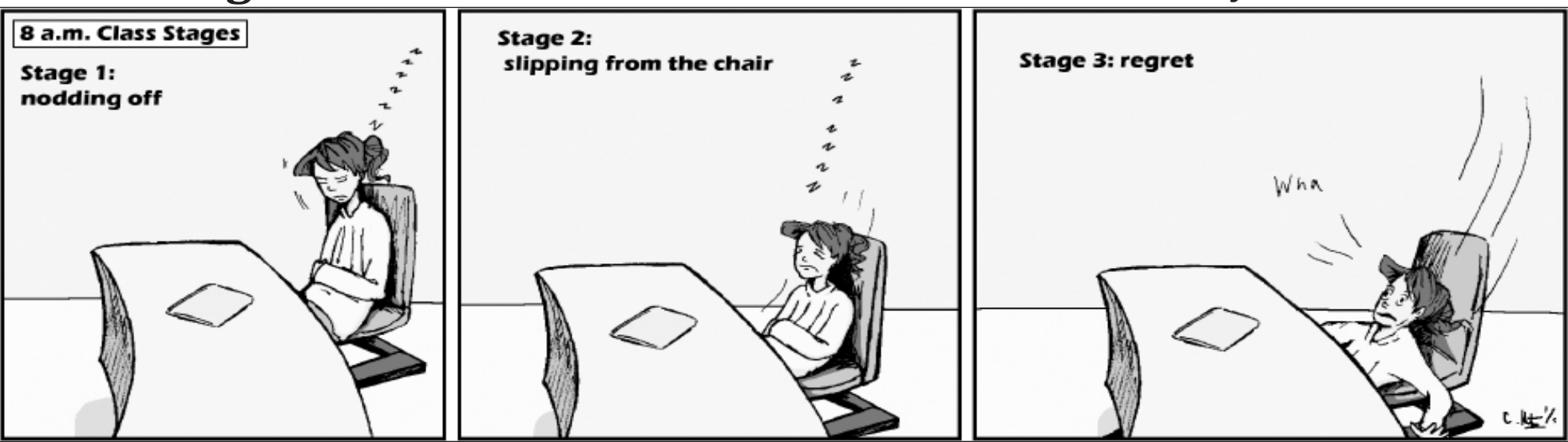
“Of Islands and Unicorns” by Eduardo Ibarra

kangaroo pouches and they were done very well, I remember that,” Macias said. “It’s still stuck in my head.”

The exhibit continues through Sept.

30 and is free to the public. For more information on the exhibit, email Macias at alejandro.macias@utrgv.edu.

By Clarissa Martinez



Burgers with Bailey



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey greets sophomore rehabilitation services major Arely Mendez during Picnic with the President at the University Ballroom in Edinburg.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV students grab free flavored ice cups during Picnic with the President last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

Vaqueros make a wish



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Chrystian Garcia, a marketing freshman, tosses coins into a mobile water fountain during the Picnic with the President event last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus. UTRGV students, faculty and staff are encouraged to toss coins into the university's water fountains for good luck in the new academic year.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Music performance sophomore Albeza Barrera (left) and freshman Vanessa Cano toss coins into the Chapel Fountain in Edinburg for good luck.

Welcome back, veterans



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Exercise science junior Marc Anthony Lucio grills meat for his fellow veteran students and staff during the Veterans BBQ last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

Big-time basketball



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Mass communication sophomore Lew Stallworth shoots a giant basketball into a giant hoop at The Stomp last Thursday.