

THE RIDER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017



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VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

WHERE IS YOUR MONEY GOING?

Bailey to review student services fee recommendations

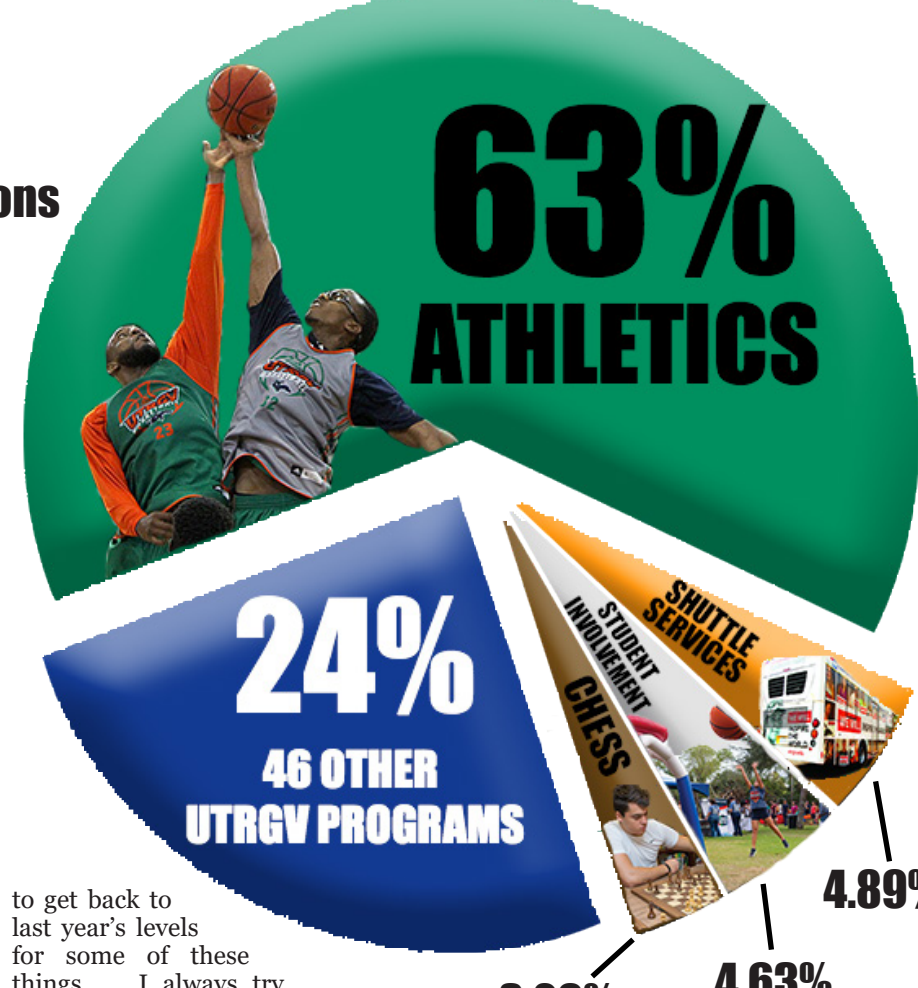
Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an interview with *The Rider* last Thursday, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said he will review the funding recommendations for Fiscal Year 2018 submitted by the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC).

Last spring, 55 UTRGV programs submitted funding proposals totaling \$14,421,054. However, the projected student services fee revenue is \$12,358,626. Projected fees are based on enrollment.

As of press time Friday, UTRGV reports showed 28,727 students enrolled. Last fall, UTRGV's enrollment was 27,953.

"Our enrollment will be up, so the fees situation may not be quite as tight," Bailey said. "We may be able



to get back to last year's levels for some of these things. ... I always try to wait and not think about this until census day because, then, we have a better sense of the revenue."

At UTRGV, students pay a \$249.96 student services fee per long

semester, which is \$20.83 per hour capped at 12 credit hours.

Programs funded through the student services fee are based on

recommendations of the SFAC.

Student services fees are collected for activities that are

See FEES, Page 7



Sergio Garcia/THE RIDER

Members of Tau Kappa Epsilon and Phi Iota Alpha help organize food, utensils, hygiene products and cleaning supplies donated by student organizations for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The collection of donations ends at 6 p.m. Thursday. All items collected will be taken to Habitat for Humanity in McAllen, which will deliver them to Houston.

#TexasStrong

UTRGV, Brownsville among entities to aid Harvey victims

Reprinted from *utrgvrider.com*

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

After last weekend's devastating Category 4 hurricane, Harvey, more and more people are joining together to help its victims in any way they can.

The Rio Grande Valley is pitching in with water, food and toiletries.

"We initiated the donation drop-off at the Main Library Branch Monday of this week," Roxanna Rosas, City of Brownsville public relations manager, said last Thursday afternoon. "As of today, we have

Harvey hits close to home,

Page 11

collected over 50,000 items from the community, including from residents to local businesses. We've received an enormous amount of support from the community."

Abcnews.com reported that the hurricane, which struck Rockport Aug. 25 and flooded Houston and surrounding communities, has left more than three dozen people dead, nearly 94,000 homes damaged or destroyed, with 325,000 people registering for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"We are accepting water bottles, toiletries, non-

See TEXAS, Page 2

3 campus construction projects in progress



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

The Interdisciplinary Academic Building is scheduled for completion in 2019 and will consist of two two-story wings and a courtyard. The building will be located in Main parking lot by University Boulevard in Brownsville.

Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

As of late 2016, UTRGV

has been expanding both of its main campuses with three

new buildings: the Brownsville Interdisciplinary Academic Building (BINAB), the Brownsville Music, Science & Learning Center (BMSLC),

and the Edinburg Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Studies Building (IEASB).

See PROJECTS, Page 10

Swag, sweets and a strategic plan



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

UTRGV Men's Basketball forward Mike Hoffman shoots into the UTeach beanbag game Thursday, which was one of The Stomp activities on the Edinburg campus. UTeach prepares science and math majors for STEM teaching.

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

Students ate lunch served by President Guy Bailey, decorated flip-flops and became more familiar with the university through other fun activities throughout The

Best Week Ever at UTRGV.

The event began Aug. 24 with Freshman Move-In on the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the move-in was delayed two days due to the threat of Hurricane Harvey. However, students who

See BWE, Page 3

THE RIDER

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

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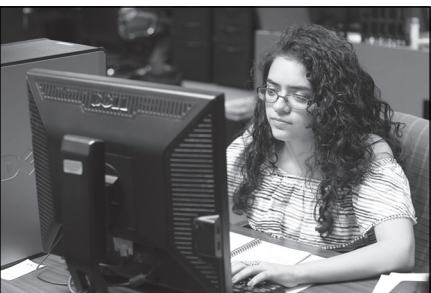
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MORE THAN A
NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

First Day With LTA

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. will host a karaoke and arts and crafts night at 8 p.m. in ESTAC 1.101.

Tuesday

Vaquero Ice Cream Bar

The **Student Union** will serve free ice cream with toppings from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Discover MGC

The **Multicultural Greek Council** will host its first Discover MGC from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union in Edinburg.

Access for Sex-Education

A tabling event will be held to inform students about the importance of sex education at 11 a.m. in the Student

Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email accessforsexed.utrgv@gmail.com.

Student Involvement Fairs

The **UTRGV Office of Student Involvement** will host an Involvement Fair from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the event will be held the same time Wednesday in the Main Courtyard. For more information, call 665-2660 or 882-5111.

Active Bystander Training

Student Rights and Responsibilities will host an Active Bystander Training in observance of **National Campus Safety Month** from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in ESTAC 1.101. For more information, call 665-5375.

Game-A-Palooza

The **Student Union** will host free

gaming from noon to 3 p.m. in EL Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Thursday

Rhythm Night

The **Student Union** will host a dance from 6 to 8 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Friday

Casting Call

Director **Tony Broadwick** will hold auditions from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in ELABS 161 for **Iris in Bloom**, a new project that will be filmed in the Rio Grande Valley. Broadwick is calling for men and women between the ages of 20-50 with slim or athletic build. For more information, email irisinbloommovie@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Sergio Garcia

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 21 and 28.



Aug. 21

2:22 p.m.: A staff member reported an odor of smoke in the Student Union. Officers evacuated the building, and the fire department

and the UTRGV Health and Safety coordinator responded to the scene. The building was safe to re-enter after inspection.

Aug. 22

11:40 a.m.: A staff member reported accidentally striking a clearance height sign at an off-campus car wash, resulting in minor damage to a university-owned vehicle.

Aug. 23

8:43 a.m.: A staff member suffered a minor injury during training. He refused emergency medical services and received medical treatment on his own. A first injury report has been initiated.

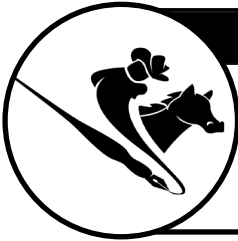
9:44 a.m.: A staff member reported

losing her university-issued office key at her off-campus residence.

4:06 p.m.: A student reported that his bag was accidentally taken by another student at the Life & Health Sciences Building during orientation. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 24

9:12 a.m.: A staff member reported an unauthorized online purchase was



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

attempted on his university-issued procurement credit card. The case is under investigation.

10:04 a.m.: A faculty member reported a lost Apple iPad, which did not contain any sensitive information,

after conducting inventory in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

11:43 p.m.: A staff member reported a suspicious man walking in the E7 parking lot. An officer made contact with the non-affiliated man and records revealed that he had an active misdemeanor warrant for assault family violence from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. A sheriff's deputy took custody of the man.

Aug. 28

10:46 a.m.: A student was bitten by a spider in the Life & Health Sciences Building. Brownsville Emergency Medical Services reported to the scene and interviewed her. She refused transportation and left campus with her mother.

11:17 a.m.: A student reported losing his wallet around the Main Building on the Brownsville campus.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1

perishable foods, including baby products like diapers," Rosas said. "We [also] welcome volunteers. We ask them to call 546-HELP (4357), as we do have a schedule and we assign volunteers as we get called."

The City of Brownsville will resume the drop-off Tuesday and continue collecting items until Friday. The Main Library Branch is located at 2600 Central Blvd.

"We are going to keep the same hours from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.," Rosas said. "The administrative offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Labor Day."

In addition to the drop-off, the city has also deployed six Brownsville Fire Department personnel to assist with Hurricane Harvey rescue and relief efforts in San Antonio, Houston and surrounding communities, according to Rosas.

"We are also working closely with the state to provide needed medical equipment to victims of Hurricane Harvey," she said. "We're accepting items like walkers, wheelchairs, catheters, any type of medical

equipment."

UTRGV psychology senior and Student Veterans Association President Patrick Roberts set the example as he left last Friday to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey in his own pickup truck. "This isn't just a one week deal, we are going to be doing this all month," Roberts said.

He is looking for volunteers who would like to help rescue people from the affected areas.

"If they want to volunteer as far as going up north, they can contact me directly so that way, they would not be going by themselves because there are inherent risks," Roberts said, "such as your vehicle getting damaged, your tires getting torn or popped, people getting lost and not knowing where to go."

To volunteer for the rescue, the person must have a pickup truck, spare tire, tow strap and gas money.

"They can contact me whenever they find the information, but we would be going on the weekends," Roberts said.

Students can also volunteer by using their vehicle to transport collected supplies from the university to the transportation drop-off points, by

spreading word of what is happening and by collecting supplies.

"The best thing to do would be to go the Military and Veterans Success Center in the University Center 113 for Edinburg or Cortez Hall 244 in Brownsville," Roberts said. "That is where they can drop off goods."

The association has partnered with Greek organizations and Student Involvement, who will be accepting volunteers and items throughout the month.

"For the Student Veterans Association, it can be a monetary donation," Roberts said. "We need baby formula, wipes, diapers, any type of hygiene, feminine products, clothes and food."

He will also help the families that have been and will be brought to the Valley from the affected areas to be put into hotels.

"Think about the situation and donate anything [you] can," Roberts said. "The families up north, most of them have lost everything, so even if you do not have a lot, donating something small that seems insignificant to you could mean something big to them."

For more information about volunteering, contact Roberts at patrick.roberts01@utrgv.edu.



Interdisciplinary studies (bilingual education) senior Roxana Pecina, management senior Josie Balderrama and political science senior Giovanni Escobedo throw coins into the Chapel's fountain Aug. 28 on the Edinburg campus to gain good fortune for the semester in the annual Toss for Luck event organized by Student Involvement.

The university's events will continue this week with the CPB Bash Tuesday in Edinburg and Wednesday in Brownsville. Late Nite is scheduled Thursday at the UREC on the Edinburg campus and Sept. 14 in the Texas Southmost Recreation Center in Brownsville.



A large, rectangular cake, likely for a group, is shown. It is covered in white frosting and decorated with a central logo that reads "I AM UTRGUL". The cake is surrounded by a decorative border of frosting and has a white paper liner with a floral pattern.

English sophomore Yelitza Saenz speaks with Student Union employee Samantha Alvarado as she receives a snack prize during the Swag event in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus.

VAQUERO VOICE

Best Week Ever



"It's a great week where students can get to know the university life and a great week that gives us students the opportunity to get to know organizations, school departments and also new people! It's what actually stands out from the semester and really gives you the excitement to start a new semester."

Ashley Millan
Interdisciplinary studies
(special education) junior

"The Best Week Ever, *en mi opinión, es una semana de eventos muy buena para la comunidad de estudiantes. Está llena de actividades divertidas que ayudan a los estudiantes de nuevo ingreso a sentirse cómodos en su primera semana de escuela*."



Jesus Zapata
Estudiante de último año en español



"Well, I mean, I think it really speaks for itself. There's, like, a bunch of free food and you meet all these new people and I think it's just really great. It's a really great icebreaker for all the freshmen that are kind of scared about it. I just, I really like it. It really helped me make a lot of friends last year."

Celine Guerrero
Marine biology sophomore

"Well, I think it's pretty good. It's a pretty nice atmosphere. I guess what would make it a little better is to have more students come out here, just enjoy the atmosphere that's here. I guess the best way is to offer food and just munchies. Maybe to bring out their clubs, like, what they have to offer to the students. That would be a good way."



Efrain Martinez
International business freshman

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy



Advice from a Vaquera

I was sexually harassed my freshman year



Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

I was taking the shuttle bus back from Edinburg after a long, grueling day of class. Around me were many exhausted students, several of them falling asleep in order to endure the tedious hourlong ride ahead of us.

I turned over and slouched in my seat, ready to sleep too, not before noticing that the man next to me, who was in his late 30s, had also fallen asleep before we even departed from the campus. When I awoke about 40 minutes later, the man was still asleep, but he was holding my hand in his lap.

At first, I laughed it off as a silly misunderstanding. I thought that maybe he had just moved around in his sleep and accidentally grabbed onto me. I tried to pry my hand out of his grasp, but as I did, his grip on me tightened. That was when I realized that this wasn't an accident.

The uneasy feeling I had intensified when we arrived to our destination. I rushed onto campus, but he followed and eventually caught up to me.

He proceeded to ask me my age, and tried to get my phone number, despite me clearly telling him "No!" multiple times as politely as I possibly could.

As we reached the

make an emergency phone call, but his phone didn't have service, so me being naive, lent him mine. As expected at this point, he used my phone to call himself in order to obtain my phone number.

“My advice to everyone would be to adopt a more assertive demeanor in college in order to avoid being taken advantage of, like I was.”

most traffic heavy area of campus, he pulled me into a spontaneous side hug and held onto me. It was at this point where I shoved and yelled at him, hoping that he'd leave me alone or at least get the attention of the people around us.

He let go of me, but still stuck around.

He continued to call me "beautiful" and insisted that we should go on a date. I kept denying his advances, but he persisted nonetheless. He then told me that he had to

I didn't report the incident to the police until the next day. I didn't think that anything that happened was worth reporting because the man technically didn't break any laws. At 18 years old, I was legally an adult, so I figured that things like this were just a part of life.

In hindsight, I know that I was being too

polite, too passive. I should've stood up for myself and bluntly let the man know that I wasn't interested and left the situation completely. I wish I would've known what I do now, but at the same time, I'm grateful that it happened because it made me open my eyes and realize that I should be more aware of dangerous situations and less hesitant to report them.

My advice to everyone would be to adopt a more assertive demeanor in college in order to avoid being taken advantage of, like I was.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

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



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882-5143 or **665-2541**

Student acquires skills to learn about PTSD at conference

Gabriel Galvan
THE RIDER

Psychology senior Reymundo Ortiz was one of 10 students from across the nation who attended a conference in June at Syracuse University in New York on how to research the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on veterans.

During an interview, Ortiz spoke about his passion for helping those affected by this disorder.

“I have a passion for working with PTSD because I’m a veteran and I am a sufferer of PTSD and I know a lot of people who suffer with PTSD,” he said.

Ortiz is a former U.S. Army corporal who served in Iraq and Egypt from 1984 to 1994.

He picked psychology as a major because he thought it “was the only way that I could see myself helping other victims of PTSD.”

Asked about his experiences at Syracuse, Ortiz said that he learned a lot.

“Much of the time we were there, they trained us in doing research. Data collection, and morality and research, important things I would need to know to do research on PTSD,” Ortiz said.

He elaborated on the importance of ethics in research.

“It’s important that you have a sense of ethics when doing studies, especially when talking about PTSD and vets,” he said.

Four of the 10 attendees were veterans. The conference was oriented to help them conduct research in PTSD.

“I intend to bring what I learned back home with me,” he said.

Ortiz is researching drug abuse within PTSD, as well as social and



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Reymundo Ortiz, a research assistant and veteran, was granted the opportunity to attend a conference at Syracuse University in New York this summer and learn more about his interest in PTSD. In the near future, he hopes to help individuals affected by this disorder.

emotional support for those with the disorder. He is conducting two studies, which are in the preliminary stages.

Asked when they will be completed, he replied, “It’s hard to say when they will be completed, that’s how it is when you conduct research.”

Since Ortiz is an undergraduate, he will work alongside his mentor, Ruby Charak, an assistant psychology professor and researcher at UTRGV.

Charak is in charge of the Adversities in Childhood and Trauma Studies Lab. She heard about the research opportunity and emailed the lab members.

“It was Reymundo who took the opportunity, he really went for it,” she

said. “I think he’s being modest giving me and [Associate Dean of Students for Student Support] Michael [Banegas] all the credit. He was the one that went for it and I give him all the credit for it.”

Ortiz also has concerns regarding his fellow students. At Syracuse University, he felt like the other students had stronger support from their universities.

“My concern is, why are we any different?” Ortiz asked. “We have the same kind of funding, we have the same type of donors, we have the capabilities of being an R1 university. If only things were administered the

proper way.”

He said the university has many resources to help students.

“Why put obstacles, why put deadlines, why can’t we just have an open forum? We need a central body to govern the finances to help students get to these internships,” he said.

Banegas, who also mentors Ortiz, said, “Is there always more that we can do as a university? Yes. The university prides itself in helping students. We made partnerships with other organizations, be it federal or local, and these partnerships help us assist students to make sure that they’re successful.”

Asked what can be done to help students find success, Banegas replied, “The first line are the professors in the classrooms. They’re the ones who have access to the students and know what their potential is. As soon as they find an opportunity for a grant, they should come up to the [Office of Student Support] so we can help them and get them to the right people.”

Banegas said Ortiz’s efforts makes it easier for students because “he opened new doors for future students who may want to do what he has done.”

Ortiz credits his success to his mentors, Banegas and Charak, as well as his academic family at the ACT Lab. Asked what other students should do to find success in research, Ortiz said, “You need a CV, a good GPA, and you need to be grounded in statistics and methodology. ... Do not just apply to one internship or fellowship; you need to apply to several. Get your feet wet and start looking for these internships.”

Two for one

Professor’s poetry to be published in English, Polish

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

Poetry has an ability to give voice over the roar of the world. Communication Professor Sharaf Rehman has been sharing his experiences through many art forms, including poems.

“The Vietnam War was going on and it was a big concern for the young people and, of course, I was very vocal about that,” Rehman said. “The Civil Rights Movement was going on in this country, which means, the tension between the white people and black people and the discrimination and prejudice was there. Those are kind of things that made me write about some of the things and some of the poetry came from that.”

Rehman is originally from India, lived in Europe for most of his life, and came to legacy institution UT Brownsville (now UTRGV) nine years ago. He has multiple degrees ranging from education to communication.

He has published poetry and plays, including the drama “Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: A Love Story.”

His latest poetry collection, “The Naked Clown,” will feature English and Polish text. It is scheduled for release around October.

“It is my poetry that I have written over the last 50 years,” Rehman said. “There are poems about love, there are poems about prejudice and discrimination and anger and war and human suffering and so on and so

forth. And it’s trying to, as you know when we write, especially when we are trying to write poetry, we are trying to look at ourselves in a mirror and see ourselves for what we really are and I think poetry is an excellent way ... of getting to know yourself.”

Rehman previously published a collection called “Looking for Company,” which is available for sale online.

“Somebody in Poland saw that and they asked me if they can translate some of them into Polish,” he said. “And I was, of course, flattered and very pleased to hear that ... and they took some poems from that collection and then I gave them some newer poems.”

The publication of the work will be made possible by people who wanted to help Rehman with editing and translating.

Janna Dzionek, who translated the work, is an accomplished writer.

“She’s editor-in-chief of a journal, an academic journal in Poland,” Rehman said. “A Polish professor of literature has written an essay that also will be in the book and he has described richness of the language in her translations.”

UTRGV English Professor Mimosa Stephenson edited the English version and also wrote the introduction to the book. “It is going to be a bilingual book,” he said.

Lodz University Press in Poland will publish the collection, which is in the final stages of production.

“The earliest poems in there are from



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Communication Professor Sharaf Rehman’s latest collection of poetry, “The Naked Clown,” is set for publication in October.

1968 ... and some of them are as recent as from mid-last year,” Rehman said.

In compiling the collection, he would look at his past work and want to change it.

“I had an opportunity to go back and change some of the text in the old poems because now, they’re going to now, you know, it becomes a new thing,” he said. “It is a nice feeling, it is a good sense of accomplishment, and one hopes there aren’t any typos in it, you know, and there aren’t any silly little mistakes like that in the book, but I have token faith and trust in the people that are putting the book together.”

Rehman hopes the book will be completed in time for an exhibition UTRGV will have in October.

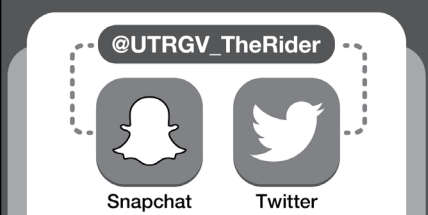
“[The publishers] are hoping to have a release of the book in October sometime and they are trying to work it, so the university is trying to have an exhibition of my photographs,” he said.

Rehman believes that anyone can be a writer.

“I’d say just write, keep writing. ... Write every day, make it habit. You do not become a tennis player in one day,” Rehman said. “Why would we think you can become a writer in one day, right?”

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Brownsville: Student Union 1.20

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM (CAMP)

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 138

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Edinburg: Student Academic Center 3.128

LEARNING CENTER

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MILITARY & VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 224
Edinburg: University Center 113

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT

Edinburg: Student Services Building Executive
Tower 3.104

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 213
Edinburg: Student Academic Center 3.107

P-16 OUTREACH

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 214
Edinburg: Emilia Schunior Ramirez Hall 2.201
& 2.206

PHILOSOPHY

Brownsville: Main 1.414
Edinburg: Liberal Arts Building South 341

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 129
Edinburg: University Center 108

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 213

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Brownsville: Student Union 1.28
Edinburg: University Center 205

STUDENT LIFE & DEAN OF STUDENTS

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 204
Edinburg: University Center 323

STUDENT MEDIA

Brownsville: Student Union 1.16
Edinburg: Liberal Arts Bldg. South 170

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 204
Edinburg: University Center 315

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM/ASPIRE

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 105

U CENTRAL

Brownsville: The Tower, Main 1.100
Edinburg: Student Services Building First Floor

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Brownsville: Cortez Hall 140
Edinburg: Student Academic Center 1.101

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Brownsville: Brownsville University Library
Edinburg: Edinburg University Library

WRITING CENTER

Brownsville: Brownsville University Library 3.206
Edinburg: Student Academic Center 3.119

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✱ Fall collection coming Monday, September 4! ✱

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FEES

Continued from Page 1

separate from academic functions and that directly benefit students. The fees help support various programs and departments across the university that serve students.

Funding requests are divided into two sections: ongoing requests and one-time requests. Ongoing are proposals that must be funded with incoming revenue, so that they are sustained by the student services fee budget. For Fiscal Year 2018, \$14,298,053 was solicited for ongoing requests.

For FY 2018, the SFAC recommends allocating \$7,785,934.38 to Athletics, which is 63 percent of the total allocation of student services fees.

Athletics requested \$8,527,833, but the SFAC recommends a \$741,898.62 reduction "in order to balance the budget and fund other student activities" supported by the committee.

According to documents obtained by *The Rider*, the committee is "concerned about the proportion of fees allocated to Athletics in comparison to other student programs/activities."

The committee recommends an increase of \$27,073.89 in funding for the Pep Band's travel expenses to the Western Athletic Conference Tournament.

Bailey said he considers programs that build school spirit when reviewing the student services fees recommendations.

"You got Pep Band, you got Athletics, all of those things build school spirit," the president said. "Other things that create camaraderie and build relationships among students, those are things you want to see covered by your student fees."

Previously, funding for the Pep Band had been approved as one-time requests, but the SFAC recommends "for it to be a budgeted permanent request."

Similar to the Pep Band, UTRGV Opera had been funded through one-time requests. However, the

committee recommends \$5,000 to be allocated for operatic productions.

The SFAC recommends increasing Chess' funding by \$16,880.36 and allocating \$34,300 to the Hauser Communication Research Lab.

It recommended decreasing the student newspaper's funding by \$2,956 and Pulse magazine's budget by \$10,790.

Other changes include the splitting of funds from Sexual Health and Alcohol Awareness to two projects to better record transactions.

The SFAC also recommends the shifting of funding among Student Activities and Student Involvement for budgetary purposes.

Five new funding requests were submitted to the SFAC for FY 2018, but none were recommended for approval. The Student Services Center asked for \$54,345; Academic Advising, \$52,500; the Counseling Center-TAO, \$24,000; the Residence Housing Association, \$6,000; and the UTRGV Concerto Competition, \$5,000.

To view the SFAC FY 2018 recommendations, visit utrgv.edu/sfac.

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

Louay Bachnak, a biology senior and Student Government Association chief of staff, and Peter Averack, a communication studies senior and SGA Edinburg vice president, were among the student representatives in the SFAC.

"There were far more requests than available funds this year and it was a great responsibility to do the best we could in distributing these funds under these heavily restricted circumstances," Averack said. "As a student representative, I sat on the committee to answer any questions and offer any insights from a student's perspective."

Bachnak told *The Rider* the committee took into

consideration how a program affects students on all UTRGV campuses and locations.

"If a project is requesting an increase, how are those increases affecting students on all the campuses?" Bachnak asked. "Are they expanding to other campuses? Or are they limiting themselves to one campus?"

Besides Averack and Bachnak, SFAC members for the 2017-2018 cycle are

- Cristina Castillo, committee chair
- Jacob Camacho, a student representative
- Joseph Rayner, a student representative
- Allison Burrola, a student representative
- Karla Loya, a university representative
- Marcela De León, a university representative
- Douglas Stoves, a university representative
- Joe Lacher, a university representative
- Frances Rivera, ex officio

Stoves, who serves as associate dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities, said the primary consideration when allocating the student services fees revenue is the impact value for students.

"The bottom line is students are paying money into these fees and we have to allocate them accordingly," Stoves said. "One of the things I enjoy about this committee is that the majority of it is students."

Castillo, UTRGV financial manager, said she encourages students to participate in all SFAC meetings and, if possible, become members of the committee.

"Please participate in this committee," she said. "This committee is very important and I encourage [students] to attend the meetings and involve themselves with voicing their concerns and communicating any questions and issues they might see on their side because this committee can only involve five students."

Castillo said students can apply to become part of the SFAC via VLink.

To download a Fiscal Year 2019 SFAC Funding Request form and view meeting dates and agendas, visit utrgv.edu/sfac.

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Intercambio cultural

Universidad da la bienvenida a estudiantes internacionales

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

A pesar del caluroso clima el jueves pasado, más de 100 personas se reunieron para presenciar el evento OGE International: Meet and Greet que tomó lugar en Main Building en el campus de Brownsville.

Al comienzo del evento, varios bateristas de la universidad tocaron sus tambores para dar paso a una fila de estudiantes internacionales y voluntarios que cargaban las banderas de cada uno de los países que son representados en UTRGV.

“Nuestro propósito es traer la internacionalización al campus y queremos mostrar los países que son representados por UTRGV”, explicó Samantha López, directora

de la unidad Servicios para Estudiantes y Admisiones Internacionales, la cual es parte de la Oficina de Compromiso Global (OGE).

El evento fue organizado por la Oficina de Compromiso Global y sus unidades. De la misma manera, estudiantes, trabajadores y voluntarios contribuyeron para la realización de dicho evento.

“Este evento es ... para que los estudiantes conozcan gente de otras culturas e intercambien cultura, idioma, valores, y esta es una gran oportunidad”, López dijo. “Lo organizamos el año pasado [el evento]. Fuimos invitados por el comité de Best Week Ever y ellos nos preguntaron si queríamos participar. Así que pensamos que era una gran oportunidad para recibir a todos los estudiantes del se-



Ana Caluiche/FOTOS THE RIDER

El grupo de tamboristas de UTRGV dio inicio al evento OGE International: Meet and Greet en Main Building el pasado jueves en el campus de Brownsville. El evento se realizó con el propósito de unir y conocer a las diferentes culturas que forman el cuerpo estudiantil.



Integrantes del grupo de tamboristas de UTRGV de Brownsville tocan bajo la dirección del profesor Joe Moore e interpretaron durante Meet and Greet, que forma parte de una serie de eventos Best Week Ever.

mestre de otoño y para darles a saber que el mundo está en UTRGV”.

Estudiantes internacionales abundaban a lo largo del evento. Entre ellos estaba Lesslie Hernández, estudiante internacional cursando su tercer año en educación bilingüe proveniente de Monterrey, Nuevo León, México. Hernández dijo que la Oficina de Compromiso Global la ayudó mucho para poder hacer su documentación.

“Ellos son muy amigables [OGE] y siempre están ahí cuando necesitamos ayuda”, dijo Hernández. “Ellos hacen lo mejor que pueden para ayudarnos”.

Hernández también agregó que lo que más le llamó la atención fue el desfile de las banderas.

Además de promover la internacionalización en el campus, OGE International: Meet and Greet también dio información a estudiantes en general. Por ejemplo, Yash Matnur, estudiante cursando su tercer año en el programa de biomedicina, dijo que gracias a este evento aprendió acerca de los diferentes clubes que ofrecen.

“He estado conociendo personas aquí y muchas personas les hacen falta conexiones”, dijo Matnur. “Todos aquí son sociables así que este es el me-

jor lugar para socializar”.


Hot dogs, papas fritas, pizza y entre otros, fueron proporcionados a los estudiantes que asistieron al evento. Además, diferentes actividades, como juegos en los cuales los estudiantes tenían la oportunidad de ganar premios, fueron llevadas a cabo.

Otros eventos como este serán llevados a cabo durante el año. Uno de ellos es el International Education Week que será en noviembre.

“Tendremos eventos en los dos campus [Edinburg y Brownsville] durante la mañana y la tarde”, dijo López. “Todo se trata de hacer sentir a los estudiantes en casa”.



Nombre: Carlos Alexis Hernández
Edad: 22
Clasificación: Estudiante de maestría en ingeniería mecánica
País de origen: Reynosa, Tamaulipas, México
Idiomas: Inglés y español
¿Por qué decidiste estudiar en los E.E.U.U.?
“Decidí estudiar en Estados Unidos porque mi papá agarró una oferta de trabajo muy buena que está en Indiana. Entonces desde los 13, 14 años me fui a vivir a Indiana durante dos años, y después me regresé al Valle, ahí fue donde estudié en la high school en Valley View y después me vine aquí a estudiar a UTRGV”.
Platícame sobre el proyecto en el que participaste para crear un aparato que ayuda a pacientes de la enfermedad conocida como Parkinson:
“El proyecto fue hecho hace dos semestres ... en una clase que se llama Senior Design. Es una clase que toman los estudiantes de ingeniería para hacer research y un prototipo ... o una aplicación para mejorar algo. Entonces yo elegí a mi adviser que es la Dra. [Karen] Lozano y nos dijo que la contactó una señora llamada Chris, que su mamá tenía Parkinson, y pues quería saber si la podíamos ayudar. Entonces obviamente dijimos que sí al momento que nos enteramos. Ya agarramos un poco de reconocimientos. Y vamos a platicar con un doctor que nos puede ayudar más para saber sobre el Parkinson y sobre mejorar nuestro prototipo que tenemos”.
¿Cuáles son algunas tradiciones en Reynosa?
“Algunas tradiciones son como celebrar el Día de Muertos, el 16 de septiembre, la Batalla de Puebla. Esas son algunas de las tradiciones de Reynosa”.
Menciona algunos platillos típicos:
“Platillos típicos serían pues obviamente los tacos, mole. Mi abuela es de Veracruz. Entonces también crecí con la tradición de que cada domingo eran ‘picadi-



Alain Lestarpe/THE RIDER

tas’, que son como gorditas, y barbacoa ... y carnes asadas”.

Platillo favorito de aquí: “Los tacos ... alitas de Wingstop, Whataburger ... y pizza”.

¿Cuáles son algunos atractivos turísticos de tu ciudad? “El parque cultural, y ahorita por la actividad criminal que está sufriendo la frontera de México, pues está un poco difícil salir allá, pero pues diría que también pues me iba mucho al periférico, o a las películas”.

Lugar favorito de Edinburg: “Pues sería la escuela porque voy de ocho de la mañana a ocho de la noche. Me levanto, voy al gimnasio, de ahí me voy al laboratorio para hacer mi research con la Dra. Karen Lozano, y después voy a mis clases ... en las tardes”.

¿Qué diferencias y similitudes encuentras entre tu país y E.E.U.U.? “La diferencia sería el lenguaje y una que otra tradición. Por ejemplo, yo crecí hablando español y ya cuando me fui allá a Indiana pues el inglés no era mi lenguaje. Entonces ellos me ayudaron, ósea mis amigos de allá de Indiana ... a hablar un poco más el inglés. Y pues las tradiciones serían como ... celebramos en México el Día de los Muertos mientras aquí se celebra más Halloween. Las similitudes que encuentro es que las personas se ayudan mucho entre ellas. Cuando fui a Indiana me ayudaron mucho a aprender el inglés. Y ya cuando

me vine al Valle también me di cuenta que aquí todos, como dicen *la raza*, es muy buena onda con las demás personas”.

¿Cuáles son algunas ideas erróneas que la gente tiene sobre tu país? “Una idea errónea es el estereotipo mexicano de que el mexicano es muy flojo. Pero los mexicanos somos unas personas muy trabajadoras, trabajamos mucho, tratamos de salir adelante ... y pienso que ese es un estereotipo que está muy mal”.

¿Qué es lo que más extrañas de tu país? “Lo que más extraño de México es obviamente mi familia, mis hermanos. Dado el hecho de que estoy aquí, y como estoy un poco ocupado con la escuela en la maestría no puedo estar pasando [a México] todos los fines de semana. Entonces hay veces que no los miro por mucho tiempo”.

¿Cuáles fueron algunos obstáculos que tuviste que superar para poder estudiar en E.E.U.U.? “El obstáculo más grande sería el cambio de lenguaje. Mi lengua natal es el español y tuve que aprender el inglés. Pero gracias a Dios, estoy aquí y pues ya estoy haciendo hasta mi maestría”.

¿Qué consejo tienes para otros estudiantes internacionales? “Mi consejo sería que si tienen preguntas y necesitan ayuda, pues hablen. Cualquiera persona aquí en el Valle es muy amigable. Aquí especialmente en el campus de Edinburg todos se ayudan el uno con el otro. Todos tratan de mejorar tanto en lo personal como en lo académico”.

Anécdota: “Estoy trabajando en el International Student Buddy program [de la Oficina de Compromiso Global]. En teoría soy mentor o tutor o más que nada una persona a la que ellos [estudiantes internacionales de nuevo ingreso] pueden acudir para preguntas. Me asignaron a cuatro personas. Les di mi información por si necesitaban ayuda ...porque muchos de ellos ... son de diferentes países. Hay un chavito que se llama Joshua y que es de Ghana y estábamos platicando de nuestras culturas. Me impresionó mucho porque él decía muchas palabras en español y le dije como sabes tanto español, y me dice, ‘No, pues es que yo estaba viendo una serie de Netflix, se llama la serie de ‘Narcos’, que es una serie muy popular en Netflix, pero los protagonistas hablan español, y él aprendió español por esa serie”.

--Recopilado por Eric Montoya

Mysteries of the shaved ice

A preview of professor’s opening exhibit, ‘American Raspa’

Reprinted from [utrgvrider.com](#)

Sydni Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Summer never ends in South Texas, and even when the fall breeze blows, or the one-day winter freeze makes an appearance, a raspa will always sound like a good idea for locals.

Paul Valadez, an artist and art professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, would agree.

Valadez’s newest collection, “American Raspa,” celebrates the life and unique experience of raspa stands in the Rio Grande Valley.

He found inspiration in his experiences as a child trying to understand the “mysterious” language of Spanish, and then stumbled upon wanting to do something with the unfamiliar.

“I was thinking about mysteries, and I was thinking about this idea of things that were mysterious, and raspa stands came to haunt me, because they would seem to never have any posted hours, and you would never know exactly when they were open,” Valadez said.

Reminiscing on the strange adventures of trying to find a stand, he said, “It would be

this very strange thing. You’re driving at night, and all of a sudden there’s like a glow, and it was, ‘Oh, yeah, a raspa stand,’ and not everywhere has these raspa stands.”

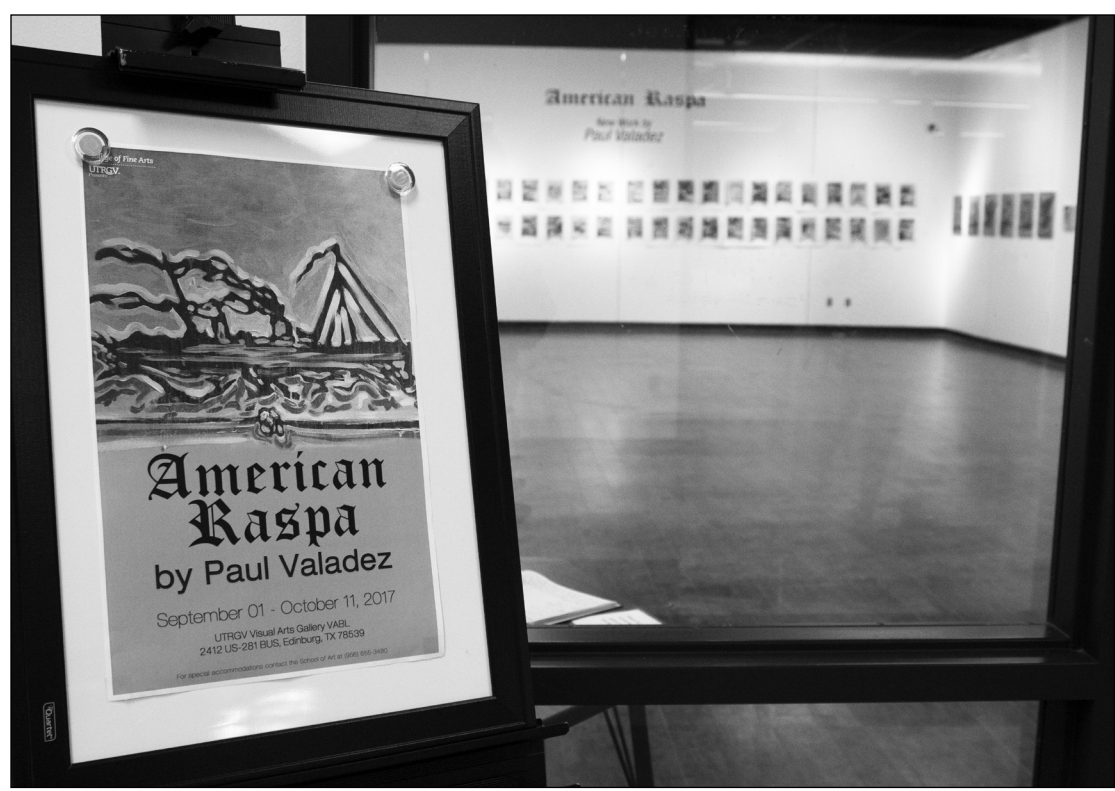
Shaved ice is popularly known to have originated in Yokohama, Japan, during the late 1800s. Known as “kakigori,” it soon became a popular attraction by the 1920s, according to the Big Island Shaved Ice website.

In America, shaved ice started to appear in the 1850s, with ice wagons and carts ready to serve some shaved ice.

All over the world, variations of the treat popped up, with names such as “copos” (Costa Rica) and “gola” (India), but only in South Texas and Northern Mexico can one find the raspa.

Pickles, gummy bears, Kool-Aid, Lucas candy, all the toppings and flavors you can think of get combined into a swirl of iced fun, and like that combination, the raspa itself is a symbolic representation of the blending of cultures here in the Valley, thus creating something new.

“Why would we think of this as a Mexican thing when it actually has nothing to do with Mexico? So I thought,



“American Raspa,” by UTRGV Art Professor Paul Valadez, will be on display until Oct. 11 at the UTRGV Visual Arts Gallery.

it’s an American thing, it’s this American mystery, it’s this thing that is uniquely to this area,” Valadez said.

The collection is ongoing, with Valadez still in the process of creating more pieces in his office. Currently, there are 50 to 60 works of art.

With different mediums being used, “American Raspa” incorporates raw material, sheet music, paint, ink, and pencil into most of its pieces.

As for Valadez’s process, he says, “The trick is to not think at all,” and to just make art. “American Raspa” opened

Friday in the UTRGV Visual Arts Gallery, also known as VABL, located at 2412 S. Closner in Edinburg. The free exhibit will close Oct.11.

For more information, contact the UTRGV School of Art at 655-3480.

Sergio Garcia/THE RIDER

A flute-iful feature

Ensemble to debut lecturer’s arrangement

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

The ringing of tones from flutes can be heard in Eidman Hall on the Texas Southmost College campus as the UTRGV Flute Ensemble practices for its performance at 7 p.m. Thursday in the TSC Arts Center.

The ensemble has performed in many locations, from the Rio Grande Valley to Minneapolis for the

National Flute Association Conventions.

Music Lecturer Brielle Frost conducts the ensemble and gives members the experience needed for their futures in the music world. She prepared the ensemble for their performance.

“I think it will be just a great performance right off the bat and it will only ... build on what we’ve established as an ensemble,” Frost said.

The performance will

feature a new arrangement by Lecturer Hector Rodriguez, who teaches applied guitar and conducts the Guitar Ensemble. He produced the arrangement of “Gavota” by Mexican composer Manuel Ponce.

Rodriguez said Assistant Professor Krista Jobson asked him to create a guitar portion for the flute ensemble. “So, [the guitar ensemble] were working with the flute ensemble with the pieces

they’ve submitted to the National Flute Association and they have a duet with Dr. Jobson,” he said.

He said they asked permission from the arrangers of “Malagueña” by Ernesto Lecuona.

“This piece is very famous because it’s written, originally, for piano and it’s one of the most famous pieces for piano, and actually played on the guitar a lot, but this is a very nice arrangement that another flute player made,” Rodriguez said. “Her name is Ann Cameron Pearce. She is a professional flute player. She gave me permission to write the part.”

Rodriguez has created

a collection of new arrangements, mostly for guitar ensembles. At a university in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, he created a collection of arrangements for the university because, “it’s hard to find new music for this kind of ensemble,” he said.

“Sometimes it’s not very common and sometimes you have to create new things,” Rodriguez said.

The ensemble is getting different pieces together that will make the performance engaging to the audience.

“Expect just a lot of fun music, a lot of energy in the pieces, a lot of great playing, a lot of great ensemble playing

See FLUTE, Page 10

■Review

Game of grand entrances and exits

Sydni Salinas
A&E EDITOR

If it’s one thing Game of Thrones knows how to do, it’s to leave its viewers in complete shock, then patiently wait for the next week’s episode as if life will only continue until that moment comes. This season was a roller coaster and a bittersweet realization that the ride is almost over.

Whether it was the family reunion we had all been waiting for, or watching show favorites Jon Snow and Daenerys come together, viewers were never quite sure what was going to happen, and who was going to die.

With much to digest and discuss, let’s talk about the main points.

Arya chose to go home to her family rather than

continue with her list of people to murder, signaling the importance of what the “pack” would mean this season. There should have never been a point where we questioned her intentions, because Arya decided to be Arya, no longer a “girl.”

Reclaiming her identity meant reclaiming her loyalties.

As for Sansa, it is important for viewers to realize that she is not a victim anymore, but a woman taking her femininity and control back. The death of Littlefinger/Petyr Baelish symbolizes the death in Sansa that was childish, lost, afraid and a pawn in the big game.

The lone wolf dies, but the pack does survive in terms of what lessons Ned and Catelyn Stark taught their children.

Next, there is Bran and the

white walkers.

Bran has fully conformed to his role of Three-Eyed Raven, and will be a huge player in the next season because of the information he holds for Jon’s true origin, and to keep tabs on the white walker development.

The Night King has taken hold of Daenerys’ dead dragon, Viserion, fully equipped with new blue fire to counter his brothers.

Can we expect a wild Viserion, or are we to be surprised that despite his rise from the dead he can still recognize his mother’s call?

Cersei stays as crazy as she always has been, and does not yield when presented with proof of the Night King’s army. She never seems to see the bigger picture if it does not fall under her version of

it, and fails Jamie with her final selfish act of lying about helping out the North and Daenerys.

Children or not, Cersei still remains willing to have others die so that she may stay in control.

Will this be her final downfall? It would be appropriate, that the “true enemy” to her family is herself.

Last but not least, we have Jon and Daenerys.

With the revelation in season 6 that Jon is the child of Lyanna Stark and Rhaegar Targaryen, season 7 confirmed this and revealed that he is not a bastard child at all, but the true heir to the iron throne due to their secret marriage. As his relationship developed with Daenerys, viewers had to ask themselves, are

they weirdly OK with incest because the characters are so great together?

Whether viewers were cool with it or not, there is no denying that there were some Oedipus themes going on there!

Also, what will this mean for Tyrion and Daenerys? He gives that longing look to Daenerys’ door as he watches Jon walk in.

Was, perhaps, he in love with her himself? Or is he worried how their relationship will affect the coming wars?

With many questions for season 8, we can assume that Game of Thrones will continue to keep viewers at the edge of their seats until the remaining moments of the series.

However, one thing is for sure--winter has come.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Name: Medical Brigades at UTRGV Brownsville

Purpose: Medical Brigades is a global organization that seeks to provide free medical care to underrepresented communities located in Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras. Members shadow medical professionals, get clinical experience and learn from community members.

President: Nitchelle Rodriguez

Vice President: Vanesa Cavazos

Secretary: Maria Vaca

Treasurer: Carina Calvillo

Marketing Officer: Angelica Leal

Advisers: Dr. Maria Castañeda, lecturer, and Dr. Hugo Rodriguez, assistant professor

Activities: Fundraising, training workshops, educational workshops for communities, "Charlas" in Brownsville.

Meetings: Biweekly meetings; dates and hours TBA

Membership requirements: Biomedical sciences student, 3.0 GPA or higher.

For more information, email: nitchelle.rodriguez01@utrgv.edu, medicalbrigades.brownsville@gmail.com

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche



Biomedical sciences senior Hector Filizola consults an elderly woman from the community of "El Zapote" in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, during the first Medical Brigades trip.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of the Medical Brigades are (front row, from left) President Nitchelle Rodriguez, Graciela Alvarez, Secretary Maria Vaca, Melanie Vance and Marketing Officer Angelica Leal. Middle row: Daniela Vidal, Shaira Perez, Graciela Carrillo, Vice President Vanesa Cavazos, Carina Calvillo, Alessa Ramirez, Roxanne Guzman and Amanda Salas. Back row: Dr. Maria Castañeda, Adrian Maldonado, Jasmin Luke, Guillermo Acosta, Matthew Mercado, Carlos Huerta, Alberto Arroyo, Edgar Capistran, Hector Filizola, Sachin George, Lakshman Vigneswaran, Shiann Montalvo, Viviana Quintero and Dr. Hugo Rodriguez.

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



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV Flute Ensemble members Barbara Tapia (from left), Deborah Rodriguez, Alysabeth Longoria and Director Brielle Frost rehearse various pieces for their concert, which is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center on the Brownsville campus.

PROJECTS

Continued from Page 1

The BMSLC, located east of Main Building, is expected to be completed in 2018, and will cost about \$54 million. It will be used for general academics, science labs and study space for students.

The BINAB is being built on the existing parking lot directly across from the Main Building. Its cost is estimated at \$36 million.

Both buildings are being financed through tuition revenue bond proceeds. TRBs are bonds that are repaid by the state. The MPAC will provide instructional space for multiple areas of study, with a focus on physics, and will be completed in January

2019. The loss of parking will be offset by the newly constructed lot located across the Casa Bella student housing complex.

The IEASB, located west of the University Library and north of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus, is also set for completion in January 2019. The IEASB will provide classrooms and computer labs primarily for STEM students. At a cost of about \$35 million, the IEASB is financed primarily by TRB proceeds. Unlike the buildings being constructed on the Brownsville campus, it received additional funding from the Permanent University Fund (PUF), which is a public endowment.

The Brownsville construction sites did not acquire this funding since it would not have been enough for all three buildings under construction.

The ongoing construction of the Academic Building in Brownsville, and the IEASB are affecting students and staff alike. In Edinburg, students have complained about getting to the Student Union, as well as determining whether the eateries inside were open. To solve this, Marta Salinas-Hovar, the associate vice president for Facilities Planning and Operations, said the university installed signs to direct and inform students.

Problems similar to this have risen on the Brownsville campus as well. The construction of the MPAC, which resulted in a loss of parking space, has evoked a fairly strong response from the campus community.

The main concerns are traffic and the long walk from the new lot to campus.

FLUTE

Continued from Page 9

and a variety of fun music," Frost said.

Besides "Gavota" and "Malagueña," the selections include "Rhumba," by Michael Coolen; "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba," by Handel; and, "Londonderry Air," by Percy Grainger.

Ensemble member Deborah Rodriguez, a junior music major, feels confident in her ensemble's ability to perform at its highest level.

"I think it's going to be very fun, I know that it was unexpected for us to set up, so we're just trying to roll with the wind, I guess," Deborah Rodriguez said. "The flutes, at least in Brownsville, not sure about Edinburg, didn't know about [the concert] until a week or so before school started."

The TSC Arts Center is located at 90 Taylor Ave. in Brownsville. Admission to the concert is free.

"... While it may be a little bit of a distance for them to walk, it's really not very far because it is right across from the student housing and adjacent to the other parking lot that is right there on the campus as well. We worked really hard to mitigate any serious issues," Salinas-Hovar said.

Additionally, the Vaquero Express Campus Shuttle stop that is outside the Casa Bella clubhouse will also be used to transport students, faculty and staff to the campus if needed.

UTRGV plans to have the STAR-GATE radio frequency technology park completed by early to mid-October. UTRGV is leasing the land from SpaceX, which is building a rocket launch site at Boca Chica Beach.

Hurricane Harvey hits close to home for UTRGV athletes

Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

The UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team was supposed to open its regular season Aug. 25 in Houston as part of the Houston Baptist University Invitational.

However, when tragedy strikes like Hurricane Harvey did Texas less than two weeks ago, sports takes a backseat to the devastation, unity and heroic efforts that shine through in times of difficulty.

Four members of the men’s soccer team—junior Isaiah Hinds and sophomores Sergio Loredó Jr., Ángel López and Andy Ríos—and their families call Houston home. Six hours away from loved ones, the group quickly realized this was a historic tropical storm turned Category 4 hurricane, and began to worry.

Hinds, whose grandmother’s house flooded up to the stairs with nearly 6 feet of water before they were rescued by boat, said he couldn’t believe the severity of the situation going on where he spent half his life.

“My initial reaction was I didn’t really think it was going to be anything that big; I just found out it was a tropical storm, I didn’t find out it was an actual hurricane, so my initial reaction was OK, it’ll be fine,” he said. “When I saw the images and stuff I was, like, in shock. I couldn’t believe what I was actually seeing. Houses were underwater, the highways were all underwater ... I couldn’t fathom.”

As of Friday, officials said at least 46 deaths were related to or suspected to be related to the storm, a number that could still rise as the damage clears. The devastation is life-changing and will require strength



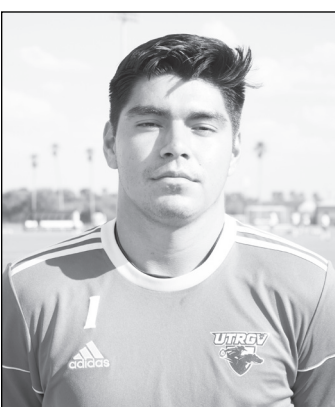
Isaiah Hinds



Sergio Loredó Jr.



Ángel López



Andy Ríos

and resiliency that Texans and Americans share to overcome, resiliency that has been on display by the countless number of Good Samaritans who drove toward the danger to rescue people with boats, jet skis, kayaks and lifted trucks, those who started collecting donations and those who donated, people helping people.

Loredó’s family was out in floodwaters rescuing and evacuating nearby neighbors by kayak. He said he was thankful his family was safe.

“It makes me happy, because obviously I would like to be

there to help others too,” the Houstonian said. “They’re just taking advantage of them being safe and they just want to help others with food, water and help them evacuate to a safer place. It’s nice to see everyone come together, not just this area but everywhere around the country, it’s good to see that people recognize that people are in need and they’re helping out.”

Fourteen student-athletes across the 16 UTRGV sports teams are from the area that suffered severe flooding and evacuations, an area that faces an uphill battle in rebuilding

the place they call home.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, donations of money and supplies have come from all over the country.

UTRGV Athletics teamed up with Food Bank RGV and H-E-B to collect supplies to distribute to the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. With both the women’s and men’s soccer teams hosting tournaments at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on Thursday through Sunday. Fans who donated five non-perishable food items received a free ticket to the games, while students could donate and receive Orange Out for Hunger Action Month T-shirts.

Ríos said while his family, who live in the north Houston suburb of Highlands, was safe, some of his friends had to be rescued. The redshirt sophomore was proud to see the effort UTRGV is making to help the place he and many other Vaqueros call home.

“It’s fantastic, honestly, because I know there’s quite a few people, not only on the soccer team, but around the campus, around all athletics that are from the greater Houston area, so it’s great to see the school and other organizations are trying to help out with the flooding in Houston,” Ríos said. “I think it’s great because not only the community up there but communities elsewhere are all helping out that one area, so it’s great to see the whole state come together to help the community.”

Sports can bring unity in times of struggle; take the first NFL games after Sept. 11 or the

New Orleans Saints first game back in the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina, for example.

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt started a campaign on Twitter that raised over \$15 million to help the city he plays for professionally.

Men’s Basketball Head Coach Lew Hill donated UTRGV shirts and shoes to University of Houston Head Coach Kelvin Sampson, who plans on distributing the collected gear from collegiate programs to kids and families in the Houston area.

López said the families of the four men’s soccer players are friends and have supported each other throughout the difficult time. He’s proud to see the impact universities and celebrities are having in helping Houston recover.

“It’s a really good thing for schools to send donations and clothing. ... I’ve seen on Twitter there’s a bunch of celebrities donating money to Houston and it feels good because everybody’s in need right now,” López said.

Hinds, a Klein High School graduate, said the soccer field helps take his mind off the situation temporarily. While the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team begins its 2017 campaign, the Houston native appreciates what everyone is doing to help the city he loves bounce back.

“To me, I appreciate it, and especially from the people in Houston,” he said. “I’m sure they appreciate seeing people that don’t actually live in Houston but they’re caring and they’re helping and they’re doing everything they can so that it will be a faster recovery for the city.”

Work hard, play hard

Samantha Salazar
THE RIDER

It is only the first week of school and the Men’s Soccer Club has been working hard with no intention of slowing down.

This is the second semester the Men’s Soccer Club is up and running. The club was last active at legacy institution UT Pan American in 2007, when they were crowned conference champions.

If it wasn’t for club President Alejandro R. García, this year’s organization wouldn’t exist. Last year, García tried out for the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team. Unfortunately, he didn’t make the cut, but that didn’t stop his passion for soccer.

“I started the club because I noticed there was a lot of potential here at UTRGV and not a lot of opportunities,” García said.

The club provides opportunities for any male student who would like to play soccer in their free time or develop their skills. The coaches of the team are licensed and give professional help to anyone who is interested in joining.

“They are a group of young adults who are hungry to play,” Head Coach Hugo Zuniga said. “In this part of the Valley, there is a lot of talent that for whatever reason they have not been given the chance to show people what they can do. I come to form a family and teach these



Samantha Salazar/THE RIDER

Members of the Men’s Soccer Club practice behind the UREC last week in preparation for their six-game season. This is the first year the Men’s Soccer Club is back in action since 2007.

young men not only about soccer, but about respect and life.”

Since this is a university club, there is no limit as to how many players can be on the team. Anyone is welcome to practice and play with the organization. The team practices on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings behind the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

Just like García, his teammates have also given all their heart, effort and dedication to the team.

“It’s been pretty hard, waking up at 5:30 in the morning, come work out, shower, pick up breakfast and go to class, stay in class, then come out in the afternoon and give my all to the team,” said Alexis Ovalle, a civil engineering major and goalkeeper for the soccer club.

García’s goal was not only to create the club, but also to help students develop their skills and compete, as well as lead them in the right direction.

“Hopefully, in a year or a year in a half, my players have developed their skills enough that the coach will come and scout some of my players and give them the chance to play at the highest level,” he said.

This team has grown throughout the semester; they plan to work hard and play hard to win every game.

“We have grown as a team together, like a family, and it is wonderful to be around people who love the game just as much as I do and know we are all working for one goal,” said Solomon Koomson Dadzie, a biology major and midfielder on the team.



Jorge Medina is a graphic design senior, Sharyland High School alum, and in his third year with the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team.

If you had a plane ticket to anywhere in the world, where would you travel? “I would travel to Brazil, because it’s very passionate about soccer and I would love to visit the Cristo Redentor.”

If you were an animal, what animal would you be and why? “I would be an eagle because I like how they fly, how they can see everything from above, how they get their food. I love that they are also fast in the air, and it is also my favorite animal.”

If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? “That is tough, because I am a guy that likes different types of music, but right now I am really into reggaeton and it is also my favorite music.”

If you could be any character from any movie or TV show, what character would you be? “I would be Spider-Man, because that’s my favorite superhero and it would be cool being a superhero and a student at the same time, it is like being a student-athlete.”

Who is the funniest person on the team? “I believe--I’m thinking--the funniest--Anton Jarvis. He is a new guy and these past couple of weeks he’s just been making me laugh.”

Do you have any hidden talents? “I am a graphic design major. I like to do Photoshop, Illustrator and I am really good at it.”

If you weren’t playing soccer, what sport would you play? “I have other two favorite sports, one is baseball and the other one is volleyball, but the one I would play besides soccer would be volleyball.”

You can have one meal with one celebrity, what is your meal and who are you eating with? “[Laughs.] One celebrity [continues laughing]--I would like to have a meal with Jennifer Garner. She is my crush. So, I would like to know more about her, and I would say tacos--yeah. [Laughs.]

Would you rather fight 100 duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck? “One horse-sized duck. I know I could do it and I will win.”

--Complied by Samantha Salazar





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ENCORE PRESENTATION OF:
AS I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY 6 P.M.
RGV PREMIERE OF: THE WHOLE 8 P.M.

UTRGV PAC Auditorium

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8TH

**SEAMLESS OR SHOCKING:
EDITING FOR NARRATIVE FILM
WORKSHOP** 2:30 P.M.
UTRGV LIBR 1.307

**SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKEUP
WORKSHOP** 6:00 P.M.
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FILM SCREENINGS 6:00 P.M.
 10:00 P.M.
*Edinburg Conference Center
at Renaissance*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH

FILM SCREENINGS 10:00 A.M.
 3:00 P.M.
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