

THE RIDER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

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SPORTS



Men's soccer fights for spot in WAC tournament

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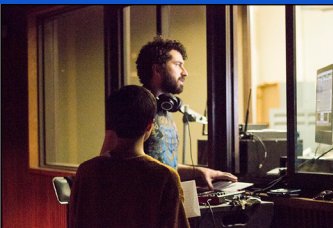
ON CAMPUS



UTRGV Testing Center among top 100 in nation

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A&E



"A Midsummer Night's Dream" opens Wednesday

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UTRGV to honor veterans Wednesday

UTRGV will conduct a Veterans Day Ceremony from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

In Edinburg, the ceremony will take place in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater. In Brownsville, it will be held in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón.

The event is sponsored by the Military and Veterans Success Center and Veterans Upward Bound. For more information, call 665-7934 or 882-8980.

FEE PROPOSALS IN THE WORKS

Forums planned for Nov. 14 and 16



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

UTRGV must submit institutional proposals to the University of Texas System's Office of Academic Affairs by Dec. 4. The university will conduct forums at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 14 in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and Nov. 16 in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus.

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The UTRGV Tuition and Fee Steering Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Student Services Building 4.106 on the Edinburg campus to discuss and vote on requests for new potential fees, which include transportation and athletics.

The Rider asked UTRGV Planning and Analysis

the committee, for details on what it will vote on Tuesday,



UTRGV Mandatory Fees

Mandatory fees at UTRGV include student union, recreation center, medical services, student services and university services fees.

Associate Vice President Juan Gonzalez, who serves in

but was told the committee is not prepared to release any

specific information.

"The current plan is to have open forums on the Brownsville campus on [Nov. 14] during activity period and on the Edinburg campus on [Nov. 16], also during activity period," Gonzalez said. "That's where the recommendations

See **FEES**, Page 10

Thanks for sharing

Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

Every year, H-E-B's Feast of Sharing aims to fight hunger, enrich the community and ensure that all families are able to enjoy the holidays with one another.

This year, the event is scheduled to take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville and from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday in the McAllen Convention Center.

The event provides traditional Thanksgiving meals and entertainment to cities throughout the state and parts of Mexico.

Other feasts will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the Harlingen Community Center, 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 15 at Port Isabel High School, 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 at Fort Ringgold Elementary School in Rio Grande City and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 16 in the St. Joan of Arc Parish in Weslaco.

"The Feast of Sharing is a community dinner that H-E-B has hosted in Brownsville for the last 25 years," said Letty Coronado, the event coordinator in Brownsville. "It brings the community together to enjoy a warm meal, fun and entertainment."

Feast of Sharing is expected to serve more than 10,000 community members and displaced hurricane victims in Brownsville.

"There is a lot of people who came to Brownsville to live with family for a while until things get back to normal where they live," Coronado said, referring to victims of Hurricane Harvey, which struck the Houston area on Aug. 25. "They will be probably be attending the dinner."

About 600 volunteers from the H-E-B food stores, Brownsville Independent School District and community organizations will help serve the meals.

The meal will consist of turkey, stuffing, green beans, pumpkin pie and



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Family and friends gather during last year's Feast of Sharing in the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville.

cranberry sauce.

Live entertainment will also be featured. Family oriented activities, such as face painting, are also planned at all locations.

"Our company owner, [Charles Butt], is big on community," Coronado

said. "He wants to see the community thrive. He wants to make sure that the community knows that, yes, we are a business, but we are here to make sure that we support our community in any way we can."

THE RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A
NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Novi Trio

The **Novi Trio**, featuring Assistant Professor **Krista Jobson** on flute, Professor **Joel Pagan** on viola and Lecturer I **Hector Rodriguez** on guitar, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The concert will feature music from Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other countries in a wide range of musical styles. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Tuesday

Harpichord Festival

Students, faculty and guest artists will perform early music on the **School of Music's** own harpichord. The event will feature pieces composed by **Bach, Scarlatti** and others at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus and Nov. 13 in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Movember

Phi Kappa Theta will host **Movember** to raise awareness about men's health, testicular and penile cancers and mental disorders that men face from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Commons (Brick Wall B) on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 867-5047.

Vaqueros Vote

The Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus will serve as an Hidalgo County polling site for the **Texas constitutional amendments election** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call the **Hidalgo County Elections Department** at 318-2570.

Wednesday

Percussion Ensemble

The UTRGV **Percussion Chamber Ensemble**, under the direction

of music Professor **Mark Joseph Ramírez** and part-time Lecturer **Ron Schermerhorn**, will perform works by **Ramírez, Michael Burritt, Nigel Westlake, Irwin Bazelon, Steve Reich** and others at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Piano concert

Sean Chen, an American award-winning pianist, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. General admission is \$15, \$10 for senior

citizens and \$5 for students. The performance will take place at the same time Thursday in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 882-7025.

Thursday

Student Chamber Ensembles

The **Student Chamber Ensemble** recital will feature the **UTRGV Flute Ensemble**, under the direction of Lecturer I **Brielle Frost**, and the **UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble**, under the direction of Associate Professor **Jonathan Guist**. The **Flute Ensemble** will perform three works by **Christopher Caliendo, Phyllis Avidan Louke** and **David Marlatt**. The **Clarinet Ensemble** will feature student soloists **Kornel Juhasz** and **Tiffany Nerio** accompanied by the ensemble in a performance of **Amilcare Ponchielli's** showpiece for two clarinets. They will also perform works by **Theresa Martin, Peter Schickele** and **Felix Mendelssohn**.

Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Friday

Mariachi Aztlán Concert

The **Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán** and **Ballet Folklórico** will perform traditional Mexican folk music, including **Sones**

Jaliscienses, Huapangos, Canciones Rancheras and **Baladas Románticas** at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 665-3447 or 665-3422. The concert will take place at the same time Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in the same location.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

The **Department of Theatre** will perform William Shakespeare's **'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** at 7:30 p.m. in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus. General admission is \$15 and \$5 for students, faculty and staff. For more information, call 665-3888.

League of Legends Tournament

South Texas Summoners will host

a League of Legends tournament

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. Registration is from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, email utrgv.sts@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 24 and 27.



Oct. 24

11:59 a.m.: A student reported his bicycle stolen from the exterior northwest bicycle rack located at the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus.

The case is under investigation.

12:50 p.m.: A staff member reported

that two unidentified females blocked the entrance to the women's restroom door from the inside with a chair in the Research Education Building on the Edinburg campus. Once she gained entry, she observed both women with their pants and underwear down to their ankles. Both got dressed and exited the restroom. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 25

11:29 a.m.: At the request of Student Rights and Responsibilities, a criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV property was issued to a non-affiliated

male at his residence in Elsa.

4:41 p.m.: A student reported that her vehicle was struck while parked in Lot B1. The vehicle sustained visible damage to the driver's side door. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 26

10:26 a.m.: A staff member reported losing two university-issued keys on the Brownsville campus.

conduct and was issued a criminal trespass warning.

7:38 p.m.: A student reported that another student displayed a photo of his genitals to her during class in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 27

7:51 a.m.: A student reported harassment via phone and electronic messages by her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend while on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

9:49 a.m.: A staff member reported that her Bluetooth speaker was stolen Oct. 25 after she left it charging in the first floor women's restroom of

the Biomedical Research and Health Building on the Brownsville campus.

1:49 p.m.: A student reported his vehicle was struck by another vehicle while parked in Lot E4. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

12:19 p.m.: An officer responded to reports of a man urinating in public near the University Center building on the Edinburg campus. Contact was made with the non-affiliated suspect, who displayed signs of intoxication. He was placed under arrest on charges of public intoxication and disorderly



UTRGV receives \$25 million in college access grants

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

Community health sophomore Wendolyne Tamayo said she's glad to have been a part of the Upward Bound Program at Brownsville's Rivera High School.

"It really did help a lot during high school, but it did help prepare me for college a lot," Tamayo said by telephone Oct. 26 from Texas A&M University in College Station. "Especially right now that whenever I need advice or I need help or any other resources, I still have contact with the advisers and a tutor. I just give them a call and they help out a lot."

Upward Bound at Rivera High School is one of 16 programs whose funding has been renewed for five years, thanks to UTRGV's College Access Outreach Programs, which obtained more than \$25 million in grants for Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science programs at middle and high schools from Rio Grande City to Port Isabel, as well as the College Assistance Migrant and Veterans Upward Bound programs at UTRGV.

These programs serve 3,028 students, giving them an opportunity to attend an



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Beatriz Becerra-Barckholtz, director of College Access Outreach Programs, oversees 19 grants totaling \$25 million that provide students the chance to attend a higher-education institution. "I cannot find the words to tell you that the programming and the services that we have been able, through these grants, to bring to these communities, is beyond anything that they have ever received," Becerra-Barckholtz said.

institution of higher education and assistance beyond their first year in college.

Beatriz Becerra-Barckholtz is executive director of UTRGV's College Access Outreach Programs, overseeing 19 federal grants. She and her team began writing the grant proposals in February 2016 and submitted them in June 2017.

Although UTRGV is the host for these grant programs, the university is "not necessarily recruiting these students to come to UTRGV," Becerra-Barckholtz said. "What we are doing with these grants is preparing students to go into postsecondary education, no matter where."

The grants allow Student Educational Outreach to expand its services for students in areas such as Willacy and Starr counties and continue to serve Cameron and Hidalgo counties, said Sylvia Leal, UTRGV's associate vice president for Student Educational Outreach.

"We're always on the lookout

for grants that can help us meet and fulfill our purpose," Leal said. "Right now, our primary focus is to address some of the underserved areas that we have in the Valley: Port Isabel, Lyford, Raymondville, Rio Grande City. [They] were some of our targets for expanding the services we're already offering in Brownsville, Edinburg and the mid-Valley."

Becerra-Barckholtz said she and her team of writers, consisting of the directors of grant programs, would work after 5 p.m. and during the weekends because U.S. Education Department policy does not allow directors of these programs to assist in the grant writing between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"We had to work a lot of long hours, after 8, and a lot of very long, long weekends," she said. "But we knew that and we were OK with that, so we went ahead and did it. They helped me, they were a big part ... in helping getting data from the schools. They were writing some of the sections, they were editing some of the sections. Again, each proposal was 65 pages long, so we needed to make sure each proposal met all the standards and requirements from [the] Department of Education."

See **GRANTS**, Page 10

UTRGV Testing Center recognized

Eric Montoya
SPANISH EDITOR

Two weeks ago, UTRGV was recognized as one of the top 100 testing centers for the College-Level Examination Program, which is the third consecutive time it has obtained such an achievement.

Melissa Pedraza, Testing Center coordinator for the UTRGV High School to University Programs and Testing Services, said the recognition is based on the number of CLEP tests they administered.

"It is basically just stating that we are one of the top 100 testing facilities in the U.S. that tests the most CLEP exams," Pedraza said.

She said almost 700 UTRGV students took the CLEP test last year.

The CLEP "has been the most widely trusted credit-by-examination program for over 40 years, accepted by 2,900 colleges and universities and administered in more than 1,800 test centers," according to clep.collegeboard.org.

This program allows students to demonstrate their mastery of introductory college-level material and earn college credit. Students can earn credit from any of the offered 33 examinations, according to the website.

Pedraza said any UTRGV student can register for the tests.

"Basically what it is, is you



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Testing Specialists Maria G. Escareño (left) and Lydia Meléndez are shown inside the UTRGV testing facilities located in the Resaca Village Plaza in Brownsville. The UTRGV Testing Center is among the top 100 College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing centers in the nation.

come in ... [and] you take a test. Most tests are 90 minutes long," she said. "And then, depending on your score, we determine how many hours you will be granted credit for. You maybe have, like, previous coursework. One of our most popular ones is Spanish. So, you know, someone who is fluent in Spanish, you can come in, you can take the test, you can earn up to 12 credit hours and that would fill two, three classes that you wouldn't have to pay for and sit in the class and take, because you already have previous experience with the subject matter."

She said the test is beneficial for students because it saves time and money.

"Compared to what you are paying for tuition, that's ... a huge difference," Pedraza said. "And then, not only that, I mean, your time. You are not having to spend, you know, four or five months sitting in a classroom learning something that you already know."

Lydia Meléndez, a testing specialist for the UTRGV High School to University Programs and Testing Services, said in order to register for the exams, students need to pay an \$85 registration fee for the CLEP and \$25 for the UTRGV Testing Center.

Students can take the CLEP test in the Edinburg CESS building, located at 1407 E. Freddy Gonzalez Dr.,

or the Resaca Village Plaza, located at 1601 E. Price Rd. in Brownsville.

Meléndez advises students to make sure they need the courses for their degree plan before taking the exams.

"I recommend that they go to advising first, just to make sure that they are able to CLEP out of a course, meaning that if they take the exam, they won't have to take the course," she said.

The available CLEP exams are principles of accounting, introductory business law, information systems and computer applications, principles of macroeconomics, principles of microeconomics, principles of management, principles of marketing, biology, chemistry, college algebra, calculus, introductory psychology, human growth and development, analysis and interpretation of literature, American literature, English literature, U.S. History I, U.S. History II, American government, introductory sociology, French, German and Spanish.

In order to take an exam, students need to visit clep.org to pay the CLEP fee and then to utrgv.edu/testing to pay the UTRGV registration fee, Meléndez said.

For more information about registration, students can visit www.utrgv.edu/testing or call 665-7570 for the Edinburg campus and 882-8875 for the Brownsville campus.

CAMPUS Q&A

What does Veterans Day mean to you?



"Veterans Day is, basically, a day to remember what people have done for us, [specifically], what have veterans done for us. ... It's very important because it's to remember them and to remember how they served our country, which takes courage and not just [anything that] anybody would do. [Veterans Day is important] 'cause every person ... contributes to something important in our lives, even if we don't notice, even if it's a veteran or a nurse or anyone else. Everyone is just as equally important and that's why Veterans Day is just important to me."

Angela Gomez
Nursing junior



"Significa para mi libertad y patriotismo hacia el ciudadano americano, simboliza mucho lo que es la paz y más que nada la unión entre lo que es el ciudadano al patriota, lo que es el ciudadano al soldado, lo que es el ciudadano al héroe. Más que nada lo que es el día de los veteranos es un recuerdo de quien está ahí afuera peleando por ti, quien está peleando por ti, contigo, para ti ...".

Jose Maria Chiu
Biology sophomore



"It's just a day to really celebrate those people who went to go fight for us, [who] went to go, y'know, put their lives on the line for us and things like that. To honor the ones that have passed away, especially, just to, y'know, recognize them for all they have done for us."

Nayeli Garcia
English education senior



"Veterans Day means to me that there are men who are brave enough to go fight for the people they love and the country that they love. It's that simple."

Jesus Abrego
Kinesiology senior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

FICTIONAL PRESIDENT IS
HELD ACCOUNTABLE MORE
THAN THE REAL ONE...



*BS LV OVER 9000

11/6/17

Two passions, one love



Albert Monrroy
THE RIDER

As a photographer, I didn't see myself doing much writing other than the usual cutlines and descriptions. This column gives me an opportunity to try to put into words how I feel about two important things in my life.

I'm a mass communication major at UTRGV and I love everything that it offers. Photography, television, radio, journalism, public relations, you name it, I'm into it. Another thing I'm passionate about is music, specifically choir.

In fact, I was in choir for seven years of my life. I loved having somewhere to go, a

purpose and a group to belong to. I loved it, but I didn't see it as a career. Since graduating from high school, I haven't participated in any sort of performing art since. Not because I hate choir, but I've always known that there's a difference between what you like and what you love.

I wasn't the best singer, but I wasn't bad either. My choir director would tell me, "You should pursue a career in music." My friends would tell me the same, but I didn't see myself doing anything related to music for a living. I saw myself as someone who would tell stories. Someone who would be behind the scenes or in the spotlight. Someone who could capture a moment and share it. I saw myself as this person even before I had joined choir. It was engrained.

I decided to follow my passion for choir alongside my passion for communication, but when it came down to applying to college, I had to choose. Should I pursue what I like to do, or what I love?

I decided to do what I love. Do I regret it?

No.

I'm still passionate about music, but now I'm working toward my bachelor's degree in mass communication with a concentration in broadcast. I've had many of my friends and colleagues tell me that I have a future in this field, that I've done a great job with what I do. That they can see the work I've put into projects.

It means a lot that people are able to see and appreciate the work I do and it helps me know that I made the right decision.

Have a story idea?

Let us know at

882-5143 or 665-2541

Submit a Letter to the Editor

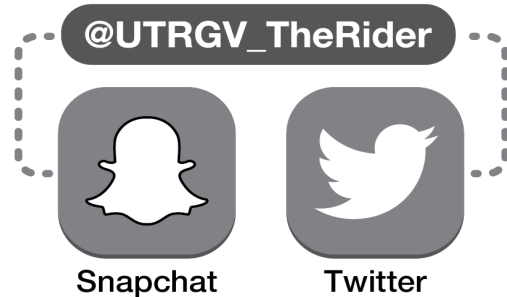
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Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

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Pulling the trigger

ACJA hosts criminal justice competition



PHOTOS COURTESY ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

UTRGV student Ignahely Barajas participates in a physical agility competition constructed by the Cameron County SWAT team during the ACJA Region 2 Conference, where students from chapters across Texas competed in criminal justice challenges.



Evelyn Barajas takes part in a physical agility competition. UTRGV's ACJA students have been preparing since November of last year to host the event.

Zugay Treviño THE RIDER

On Oct. 26, UTRGV's American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) chapter, Iota Kappa Chi, hosted the Region 2 Conference, where students from chapters across Texas competed in criminal justice challenges.

One hundred ten students from UTRGV and three other universities competed over three days. Forty-five of the students were from UTRGV's ACJA chapter.

UTRGV's ACJA students have been preparing since November of last year to host the event. The organization's members raised more than \$10,000.

Joining UTRGV at the competition on South Padre Island were students from the University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University and Collin College. Iota Kappa Chi participated in a couple of events since they were the host.

"Thursday, they just had a general opening session," said criminal justice Lecturer I Mary King, who attended the competition. The event consisted of physical and knowledge tests.

Friday's event was a shooting competition at a Cameron County shooting range. They also were tested on physical agility.

"That was put on by a [Cameron County] SWAT team, including a half-mile run, eight stations of squats, and lunges, and pushups and flipping over monster truck tires," King said.

The test was strenuous enough that emergency medical technicians were kept onsite. The majority of competitors were not able to finish the courses.

On Saturday, students were tested on their knowledge skills. The organization also recreated a realistic crime scene of a dead mother and child. Competitors had to figure out how the two died.

Nu Tau, UNT's chapter, won overall shooting. Iota Kappa Chi scored higher in the physical agility competition. UTRGV's Ashley Villarreal won first place and Erika Reyes won second place in the women's division (ages 18-25) physical agility competition.

All tests, except shooting, took place on South Padre Island. The physical tests took place at the beach. Knowledge testing and crime scene investigation events were conducted in the hotel.

UTRGV's ACJA chapter has attended twice before. However, this is the first time UTRGV students have hosted the event.

"We had the national president from Delaware come to the conference and the regional president from New Mexico come," King said.

The chapter prepared by completing firearms and physical training.

"We did drills that some of the members may experience in their law

enforcement careers such as cardio training, endurance, bodyweight training," said Ryan Lozano, ACJA vice president. "Last year, we were a little bit more tougher. We did have obstacles that we went through, such as we had to jump over walls. We had to go underneath barriers ... things of that nature."

Members raised funds for the competition with events including car washes, T-shirt sales and a rodeo.

Iota Kappa Chi members are also involved in other activities. The organization participates in numerous community service events, including National Night out in Monte Alto, Boo at the Zoo, Wing Fest in Edinburg and Sombrero Fest in Brownsville.

"The students did amazing and put so much work and effort into it," King said.

For more information, contact King at mary.jordan@utrgv.edu.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Name: Korean Language and Culture Association
Purpose: To provide an environment in which students can expand their knowledge of the Korean language and culture through language lessons, cultural activities, traditional music and more.
President: Shinhae Oh
Vice President: Paulina Perez
Secretary: Samantha Terrazas
Treasurer: Hilda Morado
Historian: Mercedes Salinas
Sergeants-at-Arms: Wendy Moctezuma and Yazmin Gonzalez
Adviser: Associate Professor Minhee Eom
Co-Adviser: Lecturer I Mijin Oh-Villarreal
Activities: Language lessons, language exchange with native Koreans, art and cultural activities.
Meetings: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in ESTAC 1.112C.
Membership requirements: \$10 membership fee.
For more information, email: KLCA.UTRGV@gmail.com or visit Facebook at Korean Language and Culture Association.
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Members of the Korean Language and Culture Association include (front row, from left) Rodrigo Padron, Dangela Lucero, Wendy Moctezuma, Shinhae Oh and Mijin Oh-Villarreal. Middle row: Yazmin Gonzalez, Cristal Alameda, Joseline Alegria, Karime Ramirez and Danyelle Valadez. Back row: Gisselle Montemayor, Cloudeth Gindl, Leticia Calzada, Kyle Blanquera, Hilda Morado and Iris Gonzalez.



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COORDINATING BOARD
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

APPLY HERE: <http://bit.ly/2zwvKmE>



UTRGV STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
EDINBURG: 956.665.2517 | BROWNSVILLE: 956.882.5111 | SGA@UTRGV.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT SGA@UTRGV.EDU

THE LUNATICS, THE LOVERS AND THE POETS

UTRGV Theatre set to perform ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Walking into the backstage of the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre is like falling down the rabbit hole and landing into the theatre’s own personal brand of wonderland. No longer does it feel like the usual surroundings of students and stress, but instead, as if time has stopped and you have been transported into their design of magical mayhem. Sounds are coming from all angles, people yelling to each other what they need completed, a vine of flowers springing from the main stage aisles, paint flying from brushes, and above all, smiles from each person you come

Despite the challenge, Smither said the experience of working with such a big cast has been quite thrilling. “I’ve got 27 people in the show, and they all bring special gifts to it,” he said. “I’ve been very, very fortunate to have all the right people show up to audition. What can I say?” Smither was inspired to direct the play due to the overall message it sends, but more so, because of the theme that incorporates people of all backgrounds coming together. “We all have something to offer, and we can all learn from each other, but no one wants to stop and listen; they just want to be angry, it feels like,” he said. With a rigorous schedule, practices

stage. Luevano was able to get into character by identifying with his role, saying, “We’re just teenage boys looking for love, and everything is so dramatic.” Theatre performance sophomore Devin Rivera got into his role of Francis Flute by getting into the character’s emotional and psychological mindset. “I kind of write down what I feel my character is going through, because my character has lost someone in the past and I try to implement that into when I’m acting, and that especially shows in the end,” Rivera said. He describes his character as someone he relates to due to their similarities in personality.

good.” The costumes for the show were designed by Jennifer Saxton, head of theatre production and costume lab manager, and are based in the Regency England era. Design drafts go back to April and started being produced in shop by students early last month. Saxton saw the play as an exciting opportunity for student designers and technicians due to the historical costumes they get to create in the workshop. She and Smither were inspired by differences and wanted to incorporate that theme into the overall designs. “There’s a wonderful thing in all of our differ-



Jennifer Saxton, head of theatre production and costume lab manager, discusses the labor that went into the costume design and creation. Saxton started in April with sketches and designs, selected fabric in the summer and began production of the costumes after “Venus in Fur” closed. The play is designed in the Regency England era, making it the perfect historical project for her students.



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Theatre performance majors Donovan Luevano (right) and Devin Rivera (left) discuss their challenges while rehearsing the play.

into contact with. Quite quickly, it’s apparent that the students have merged with the play they are putting on, creating an air of blissful magic. William Shakespeare’s comedic classic, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” is underway at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, set to premiere Wednesday. The story centers on four lovers, a group of wacky actors and some extremely mischievous fairies. Directed by Kent Smither, the play is set to open with a bang, being the largest production so far into the theatre’s fall lineup.

were done five times a week, for up to three or three-and-a-half hours. Theatre performance freshman Donovan Luevano, who plays one of the lovers, Lysander, describes his experience with Shakespearean language as a challenge he’s had to overcome. “This is my first Shakespeare performance that I’ve ever been a part of,” Luevano said. “So, getting used to the language of old Shakespearean English was a challenge.” To prepare his role of the noble, he researched other Shakespeare performances in order to get the hang of the speech and physical tidbits actors do on

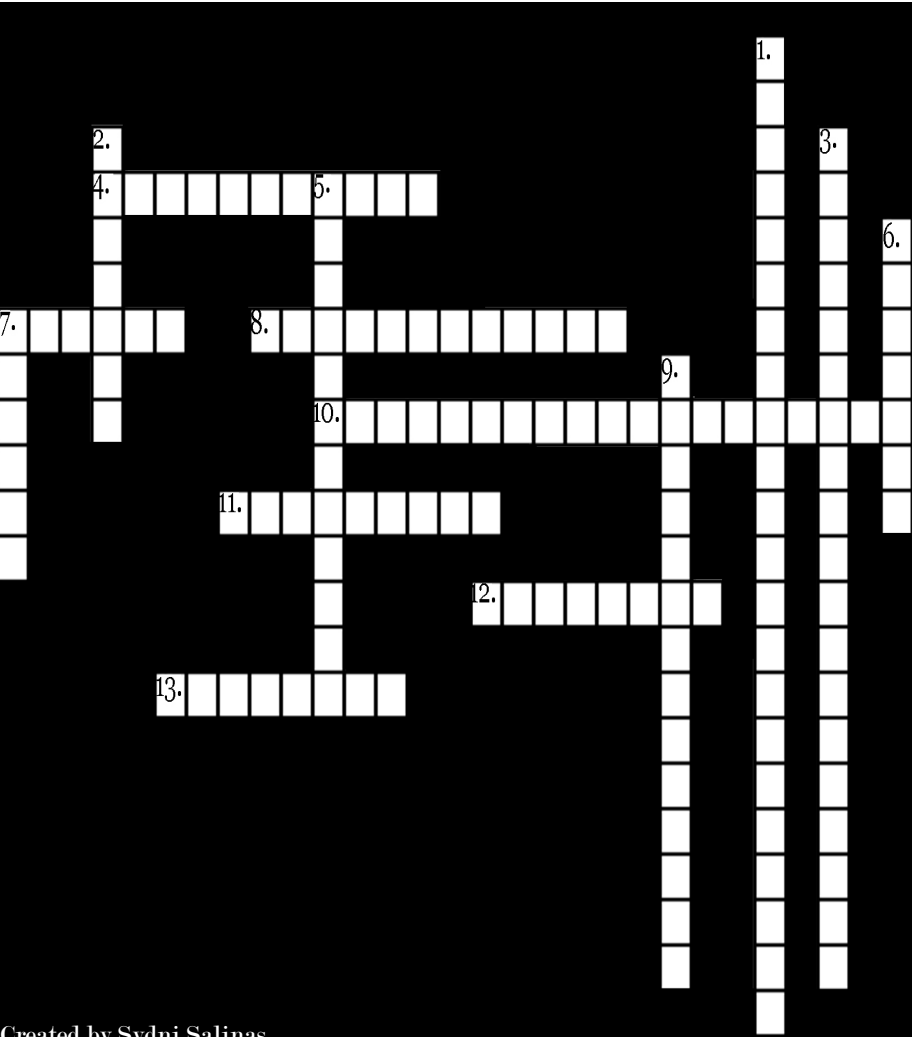
“He’s an introvert, but very open-minded,” Rivera said. The play includes an original score written by Edinburg native Julian Ramirez. Ramirez spent a lot of time collaborating with Smither in order to create the musical mood they wanted to set for audiences. “We sat together a lot and just bounced ideas off each other,” Ramirez said. “We kind of want people to feel, like, they walk in, and they walk out, but not into the same world, you know. They walk out with different eyes or rose-colored classes, inspired to do

ences,” Saxton said. What she’s most excited about? “I’m dying to see what an audience makes of it, because we’ve lived with it so long,” she said. If you, too, want to get thrust into the magical world UTRGV Theatre has fashioned, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will run at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus. General admission is \$15 and \$5 for UTRGV students, faculty and staff with ID. Fall down the rabbit hole, you won’t regret it.



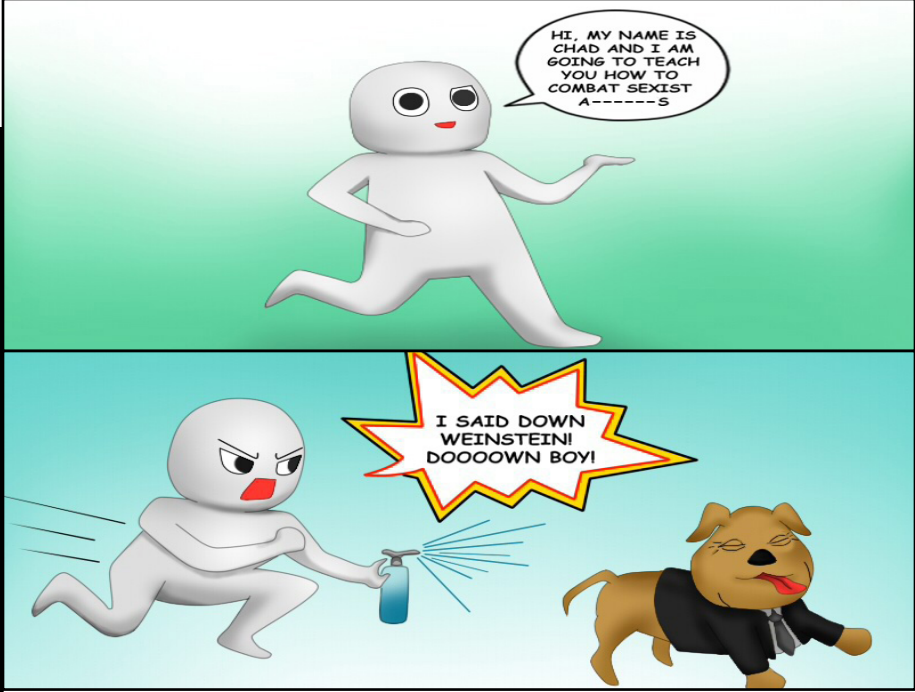
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SHAKESPEARE



Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



ACROSS

- 4. The sorcerer, Prospero, rightful Duke of Milan, plots to have his daughter Miranda claim her rightful position with his “magical” illusions and tactics
- 7. “To be, or not to be: that is the question”
- 8. “Beware the Ides of March”
- 10. “All that glisters is not gold”
- 11. “Love is not love / Which alters when it alteration finds”
- 12. An old king decides to step down from his throne and divide his kingdom into three halves for his three daughters, disowning one. He spirals down into the world of madness and tragedy
- 13. “So long as men can breathe or eyes can see / so long lives this, and this gives life to thee”

DOWN

- 1. The play UTRGV theatre will perform from Wednesday through Sunday
- 2. This tragedy centers on a Venetian general, and his ensign, Iago
- 3. A popular comedy, the main plot focuses on a “shrew,” Katherina, and her courtship by Petruchio
- 5. Centers on twins, Viola and Sebastian
- 6. A man told by three witches that he will be the King of Scotland one day goes on a murdering rampage to secure his “prophecy”
- 7. One of Shakespeare’s historical plays, telling the story of King Henry V of England
- 9. “Parting is such sweet sorrow”

TSC observes Day of the Dead



During Texas Southmost College’s first Day of the Dead parade last Thursday, Behavioral and Social Sciences students, the Spanish and Psychology clubs, and students from Rivera and Veterans Memorial high schools wore makeup representing skulls and crafted Day of the Dead-themed art projects. Martha Warburton, a social work instructor at TSC, credits the work of students; the Office of Student Affairs; Armando Ponce, director of Student Life; Mike Shannon, vice president of Student Services; Sonia Treviño, instructor of criminal justice and chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences Division of Humanities; Monica Hernandez, instructor for psychology; and Leslie Meyer, instructor of sociology. “They [helped me] coordinate this whole thing,” Warburton said.

Steven Hughes/THE RIDER PHOTOS

During the Day of the Dead parade hosted by Texas Southmost College, participants walked across campus to shed light for the soldiers who fought during the Mexican-American War in 1846. Martha Warburton, a social work instructor at TSC, said the event also showcased Fort Brown’s Old Morgue. “[If] you’re going to do the Day of the Dead, you have to go by the Morgue,” Warburton said.



What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the fourth in our second annual series. The Rider interviewed Clyde Barrow, professor and interim department chair of Political Science, for information.

Major: Political Science
School: College of Liberal Arts
Interim Department Chair: Professor Clyde Barrow
Prerequisites: None
Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120
What is political science? “Political science has a variety of meanings, whether it be about political economy, political theory, globalization or other ideas. But, it typically involves governments and theories of policy.”
Which classes can students expect to take? “Well, students have to take the U.S. and Texas Government courses, which I believe they have to take anyway. We also have a lot of courses that introduce students to what they could expect in political science that are in the 2000s level, courses like Introduction to Political Theory [2340] or Introduction to Globalization [2330].”
What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “Political science is a growing major, which is different from many other majors on campus, and a lot of the classes that we have here on campus focus around



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Clyde Barrow, interim department chair of Political Science, teaches about political parties during his Texas Government and Politics course in ELABN 103 on the Edinburg campus.

critical thinking and writing.”
What are some possible careers? “Political science has an eclectic selection of careers. About 25 percent

of our political science majors go to law school. A lot of the other students go into a variety of other fields. Journalism is a popular one. But

other fields include lobbying, working in a consulate abroad or working for corporations that need to understand government.”
What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “At the low end, you may make very little, like \$28,000. It’s hard to say, because of the variety of jobs, but I’d say the median income is anywhere between \$48,000 to \$68,000 a year. But in the high end, it is limitless, because political science majors may go into law or lobbying.”
Are there any student organizations related to political science? “PSA [Political Science Association] is the main one. But, we also have organizations that are associated with political parties, such as the young Democrats [The Progressive Young Democrats] and young Republicans [The College Republicans].”
For more information: contact the Political Science Department through Administrative Assistants Julie Madrigal (882-8890) or Carmen Arizmendi (665-3341).
--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

Reconocen al Centro de Pruebas de UTRGV

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Hace dos semanas, UTRGV fue reconocida como uno de los 100 mejores centros de pruebas por el College-Level Examination Program (Programa de Exámenes de Equivalencia Universitaria), siendo esta la tercera vez consecutiva en cumplir dicho logro.

Melissa Pedraza, coordinadora del Centro de Pruebas del UTRGV High School to University Programs and Testing Services, dijo que el reconocimiento se basa en el número de pruebas de CLEP que han administrado.

“Es básicamente una forma de decir que somos uno de los 100 mejores centros de pruebas en los Estados Unidos que ha realizado más exámenes de CLEP”, Pedraza dijo.

Ella dijo que casi 700 estudiantes de UTRGV tomaron el examen de CLEP el año pasado.

El CLEP “ha sido el programa de crédito por examen más confiado por más de 40 años, aceptado por 2,900 universidades y administrado en más de 1,800 centros de pruebas”, de acuerdo con clep.collegeboard.org.

Este programa permite que los estudiantes demuestren su dominio del material introductorio de nivel universitario y obtengan créditos universitarios. Los estudiantes pueden obtener crédito de cualquiera de los 33 exámenes que se ofrecen, de acuerdo con el sitio web.

Pedraza dijo que cualquier estudiante de UTRGV se puede inscribir para los exámenes.

“Básicamente lo que es, es que llegas ... [y] puedes tomar el examen. La mayoría de los exámenes tienen una duración de 90 minutos,” dijo ella. “Y entonces, dependiendo de cuál sea tu puntuación, nosotros determinamos por cuantas horas se te dará crédito. A la mejor tienes, como, conocimiento previo. Uno de los más populares es español. Así que, tu sabes, alguien que habla fluidamente el español, puede venir, puedes tomar el examen, puedes ganar hasta 12 horas de crédito y eso abarcaría lo de dos, tres clases



Valeria Alanis/FOTO THE RIDER

Especialista de Pruebas Jo Dana Elizondo (de izquierda a derecha), Coordinadora del Centro de Pruebas Melissa Pedraza, Especialista de Pruebas Gracina Garcia, y Especialista de Pruebas Jesus Garcia posan dentro del Centro de Pruebas de UTRGV en Edinburg. El año pasado, casi 700 estudiantes tomaron la prueba de CLEP en UTRGV.

que no tendrías que pagar [ni] sentarte en la clase y tomarla, porque ya tienes experiencia en la materia”.

Ella dijo que el examen es beneficioso para los estudiantes porque les ahorra tiempo y dinero.

“Comparado con lo que pagas de colegiatura, es una ... gran diferencia”, dijo Pedraza. “Y entonces, no solamente eso, quiero decir, tu tiempo. No tienes que pasar, tu sabes, cuatro a cinco meses sentado en un salón aprendiendo algo que ya sabes”.

Lydia Meléndez, una especialista de pruebas del UTRGV High School to University Programs and Testing Services, dijo que, para poder inscribirse para las pruebas, los estudiantes tienen que pagar una cuota de inscripción de \$85 para el CLEP y \$25 para el Centro de Pruebas de UTRGV.

Los estudiantes pueden tomar el

examen de CLEP en el CESS Building en Edinburg, localizado en 1407 E. Freddy Gonzalez Dr., o en la Resaca Village Plaza, localizado en 1601 E. Price Rd. en Brownsville.

Meléndez aconseja a los estudiantes a asegurarse de que necesiten esos cursos en su plan de estudios antes de que tomen los exámenes.

“Yo recomiendo que vayan a asesoría primero solo para asegurarse que van a poder tomar el CLEP para evitar el curso, me refiero a que, si toman el examen, ya no tengan que tomar el curso”, ella dijo.

Los exámenes de CLEP disponibles son principios de contabilidad, ley de negocios introductoria, sistemas de información y aplicaciones informáticas, principios de macroeconomía, principios de microeconomía, principios de administración, principios de mer-

cadotecnia, biología, química, algebra universitaria, cálculo, introducción a la psicología, crecimiento y desarrollo humano, análisis e interpretación de la literatura, literatura americana, literatura en inglés, historia de EE.UU I, historia de EE.UU II, gobierno americano, introducción a la sociología, francés, alemán y español.

Para tomar un examen, los estudiantes necesitan visitar el sitio clep.org para pagar la cuota de CLEP y luego necesitan ir a utrgv.edu/testing para pagar la cuota de inscripción de UTRGV, dijo Meléndez.

Para más información acerca de la inscripción, los estudiantes pueden visitar el sitio web www.utrgv.edu/testing o también pueden llamar al 665-7570 para el campus de Edinburg y al 882-9975 para el campus de Brownsville.

Nombre: Jesus Arzate
Edad: 18 años
Clasificación: Estudiante de segundo año de economía y finanzas
Ciudad y país de origen: Toluca, Estado de México, México
Idiomas: Inglés y español
¿Porque decidiste estudiar en los Estados Unidos? “Pues creo que porque [aquí] hay más oportunidades que en México, y bueno, esta escuela... creo que me ofrece mejores oportunidades que otras en México por el mismo precio más o menos”.
¿Cuáles son algunas tradiciones de tu ciudad de origen? “... El Día de Muertos ... ‘el grito’, o sea, festejar la Revolución y la Independencia [de México]...”
Menciona ciertos platillos típicos de tu ciudad: “Chorizo [es lo más característico de Toluca], dulces típicos, o sea de limones con coco y cosas así”.
¿Cuál es tu platillo favorito de esta región? “Chipotle, yo creo. Esta como Tex-Mex, como ese tipo de comida. [El] Chipotle me gusta”.
¿Cuáles son algunas atracciones turísticas de tu ciudad de origen? “... Creo que es la ciudad que más museos tiene de México, o sea, después de la Ciudad de México. Tiene el estadio “La Bombonera” del equipo de fútbol de Toluca [llamado formalmente Estadio Nemesio Díez], el [Jardín Botánico] Cosmovital. ... El [Museo] Torres Bicentenario, la Catedral [de San José] y Los Portales [de Toluca] también son importantes”.
¿Cuál es tu lugar favorito del Río Grande? “La Isla del Padre”.
¿Qué diferencias encuentras entre tu ciudad de origen y los Estados Unidos? “Bueno ... en esta parte de Estados Unidos pues si es diferente cultura, o por ejemplo, tienen nombres para objetos que allá son diferentes. Por ejemplo, para el pasto, para el césped, aquí le dicen zacate y pues yo al principio no sabía qué era eso o así Como varias palabras, como juntas o mixtas de qué inglés y español, y lu-



Valeria Alanis/FOTO THE RIDER

ego, pues no sabía que era. [Y] tradiciones pues nada más como *Thanksgiving*. Ese tipo de cosas que allá no festejamos. ... Mi primer año me preguntaban que: ¿qué iba a hacer en *Thanksgiving*? Y yo decía, ‘Pues nada, ¿Qué se hace en *Thanksgiving*?’ Y pues me decían no pues que una cena y tal cosa, y el día de Acción de Gracias. Y no hice nada, pues no es como mi tradición. [Otra diferencia es] también la seguridad”.

¿Cuáles son algunas ideas erróneas que por lo regular tiene la gente tiene de tu país? “Tienen ideas muy erróneas de cómo son la ciudades



creo o del transporte, o sea, que mucha gente cree como que es demasiado viejo México, pero hay ciertos lugares que no. O creen que es un país muy, muy marginado, pero no es tan pobre. Que también tiene muchas atracciones México y una idea errónea, pero no tan errónea, es que ... sales a la calle y te asaltan, pero, o sea, si pasa, si podría pasar, pero a mí nunca me ha pasado, sinceramente, pero si conozco gente que le ha pasado. Entonces como que sí llega a pasar pero no es tan recurrente”.

¿Qué es lo que más extrañas de tu país natal? “La comida, un poquito la gente, [aunque] no tanto porque pues aquí hay mucha gente de Monterrey, Reynosa que sigue siendo México. Y pues la familia, mi familia porque me vine a vivir solo aquí”.

¿Cuáles fueron algunos obstáculos que tuviste que vencer para poder venir a los Estados Unidos? “Tomar clases en inglés, exámenes en inglés, dejar a mi familia, a mis amigos, a mi perro; sí, más que nada eso”.

¿Qué consejo tienes para otros estudiantes internacionales? “No tener miedo como a involucrarse en el ambiente de la escuela, porque conozco varios amigos que también son internacionales, o que hasta son residentes de aquí, pero vivieron toda su vida en México, o sea, fueron criados en México, pero que no se meten a nada. O que vienen a clase y se van, y no hacen nada más. Entonces no se en-

GRANTS
Continued from Page 3

On May 31, Becerra-Barckholtz and her team were told they received nine Upward Bound grants, five more than the four existing grants.

“You don’t understand, we were, like, over the moon because we didn’t know or didn’t think that it was going to be possible to get all nine,” she said. “I mean, we were very hopeful, but in the back of our [minds] we’re like, ‘It might be not likely that we’ll get all nine of them.’ We knew for sure that we were going to get the existing [grants], which were four, but then the five new [grants]. It’s always just a shot in the dark even though we presented really good data.”

Becerra-Barckholtz said receiving this number of Upward Bound grants has never happened before in legacy institutions UT Brownsville or UT Pan American.

Two of the grants, the College Assistance Migrant Program and Veterans Upward Bound, assist students attending UTRGV.

CAMP helps 45 students on each campus every year with housing, books, transportation, food and childcare.

“Once a student gets into the CAMP program ... there’s no way that the

student could not be successful their first year because everything is provided to them,” Becerra-Barckholtz said. “The only thing that’s part of that equation we can’t control is their *ganas* [desire] to be successful their first year. Everything else, we give them. We provide mentoring, we provide tutoring, monthly meetings, food, everything they could possibly need.”

Kristin Croyle, vice president for Student Success, said obtaining the grants was a team effort.

“We have some excellent staff in our Student Educational Outreach area, as well as support from our colleagues that support grants throughout the institution and at the same time our educational partners [school districts] in the Valley,” Croyle said. “For each grant that we prepared, that we worked on, we had to have educational partners that were fully prepared to ... partner with us to support their students. It’s both the staff in our institution and the staff and teachers in the local school districts that these grants will be serving.

She also credited the Valley’s legislators in Washington, D.C.

“These are federally funded grants and it’s very helpful that our legislators continue to keep in mind

the educational needs of the Valley in supporting funding for programs like these,” Croyle said.

The grants are awarded to universities every five years.

“If we didn’t write this time, we would have waited for the next cycle to become available, which would have been in 2022,” Becerra-Barckholtz said.

Among the many grants College Access Outreach Programs has, the Upward Bound grants have been in existence for 45 years in Edinburg and 20 years in Brownsville.

“The years are very important to understanding that these grants are not just a one-time thing where you just write [those] grants and ‘Oh, you have them for life,’” she said. “But it’s about understanding that every year the Department of Education holds us accountable to meeting all the objectives of the grants and if we’re not meeting them, it’s unlikely that we receive them.”

In addition to these grants, Leal said the department is on the lookout for more grants to expand in underserved areas.

“Our job is to go out there and help them expand and enhance the work they’re already doing by helping to create pathways for the students, help

students understand through our advising, through our workshops that we do with parents and students and to really help the school districts maybe come up with innovative ideas on how to create better pathways for students to college,” she said.

Becerra-Barckholtz said her passion for what she does comes from being a first-generation college student, much like the students the grants assist.

“I have witnessed firsthand how [the grants] affect our students,” she said. “I think that our South Texas Rio Grande Valley community’s high schools are in such great need that I want to be able to do everything that I can in my position here at UTRGV to bring those opportunities for us because I feel I’m just one of many people who should be fighting for these opportunities for them.”

Tamayo said she uses the skills Upward Bound taught her in high school for college.

“They did prepare me in a big way for college, especially with, like, the environment, what to experience, [and] how difficult it was gonna be,” she said. “They give us a lot of tips, study skills, and it’s actually helped a lot here. I still carry it with me.”

VISIÓN
Continúa de Página 9

teran como de eventos, no conocen más gente o cosas así. Entonces, ese sería como un consejo, no tener miedo a involucrarse como en actividades o investigar cosas, o sea, siempre es como bueno saber en qué edificio hay tal cosa y cosas por el estilo”.

Anécdota: “Cuando estaba en México, cuando seguía en la prepa, mis amigos me decían ... que padre que te vas a ir para allá, pero al mismo tiempo como que me metían un poco de mie-

do como que ... todo es en inglés, tus exámenes, todo, ¿Cómo le vas a hacer? Y yo decía, ‘No, pues yo allá veo’, porque mi escuela no era bilingüe... y nunca había tomado como cursos, por ejemplo, matemáticas en inglés. ... No lo había tenido nunca o no sabía casi nada de la historia de Estados Unidos. Entonces, me empezaron como a meter miedo y ... como un mes antes de que empezaran las clases yo ya no me quería venir. Mi mamá me dijo ‘¿Cómo que no te vas a ir? Ya falta un mes, ya pagamos un chorro de cosas’. ... Ya como que estaba apalabrado mi

depa y todo, y yo de que ‘No, yo no me quiero ir’. ... Ya no me iba a venir, y te juro de que yo estaba bien necio de que no me iba a venir y dos semanas antes de que empezaran [las] clases ... ‘Si me voy a ir’. Y ya me vine y de que llegamos a comprar cosas así para vivir aquí y todo. Y si, al principio, estuvo raro porque como que en México los edificios ... como que están en cuadros, así como que más organizados, y aquí tienes como por todos lados. Entonces al principio pues sí me perdía. Una vez me perdí en ... este edificio [ELABS] o el de mate porque no sabía cómo salir,

porque no sabía dónde estaba la entrada principal, y yo había entrado por una puertita de las de afuera. ... Entonces, yo estaba en el ... tercer piso, bajé hasta el primero, y pues ... me volví a meter ahí porque no sabía que había una puerta para salir. Pensé que eran como para emergencias. Entonces, como que me metía y yo como que ‘Donde está la salida’. Y me subía por el otro lado y volvía a hacer lo mismo, y me perdí así como que 20 minutos, y ya después que vi a alguien que se salió por ahí, dije ... ¡Ahí está!”
--Recopilado por Valeria Alanis

FEES
Continued from Page 1

will be presented.”

Gonzalez referred *The Rider* to Rick Anderson, UTRGV Finance and Administration executive vice president, for information on the potential athletics and transportation fees.

The newspaper tried to contact Anderson for comment on the topic but as of press time Friday, he had not returned calls or emails.

Athletics Director Chris King will present an athletics fee proposal before the committee on Tuesday as well, said Alondra Galvan, president of the Student Government Association and member of the committee.

The Rider tried to reach King for comment, but he was unavailable.

Galvan said Campus Auxiliary Services Assistant Vice President Letty Benavides presented a request for a new transportation fee a couple of weeks ago. The newspaper tried to contact Benavides Friday morning but she was unavailable.

The Rider requested from Gonzalez a copy of Benavides’ presentation and those of any other person who has

come before the committee with a proposal during previous Tuition and Fee Steering Committee meetings, but as of press time, had not received the documents.

Currently, funding for Athletics and transportation comes from the UTRGV student services fee.


As previously reported by *The Rider*, for Fiscal Year 2018, Athletics received \$7.7 million, which is 63 percent of the total allocation of student services fees, while shuttle services was awarded \$604,341, or 4.89 percent.


Forums will be conducted at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 14 in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and Nov. 16 in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus.


Fee proposals must be submitted to the University of Texas System by Dec. 4.


In February 2018, UTRGV officials will present proposals to the UT System board of regents.

Later that month, the regents will vote on proposed tuition and fees rates for its institutions for Academic Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, according to the UT System website.



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Teachers JOB EXPO

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS - Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017
PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salon (Student Union) | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

EDINBURG CAMPUS - Friday, Nov. 10, 2017
CESS Building, 1.300 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Bring your résumé and dress professionally.
This event is open to the community.

For more information or if special accommodations are needed, please contact the Career Center at Edinburg (956-665-2243) or Brownsville (956-882-5627).





Vaqueros vying for tourney spot



Redshirt-sophomore and team captain Jaakko Hietikko attacks the San Jose State University defense in UTRGV’s 1-0 loss Oct. 22 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

Bryan Ramos

SPORTS EDITOR

Editor’s Note: This article was written before UTRGV’s Saturday match against the University of Incarnate Word. The results were not available at press time.

Head Coach Paul Leese has had the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team on a steady climb from the ground up since the program’s revival in 2015.

After the Rio Grande Valley went 17 years without Division I Men’s Soccer, which ended with UTPA in 1997, UTRGV went 5-12-1 overall and 2-8 in conference play in its first season back in action, finishing dead last in the Western Athletic Conference.

A season ago, the Vaqueros finished sixth in conference with a record of 4-4-2 and 6-10-3 overall, qualifying for the conference tournament. The finish was good enough to qualify for the WAC Tournament in just the program’s second year.

Now in year three, the Vaqueros find themselves 6-6-3 (3-4-2) and fighting for a spot in the WAC Tournament before the team’s regular season finale Saturday against the University of Incarnate Word. Leese believes his squad has performed well thus far and is focused on getting them to execute and lock in for the full 90 minutes.

“We’ve got a core group that really understands what we’re trying to do,” he said. “They’re probably in a good rhythm of playing here, so I’m very happy with the performance. Once we started WAC play, I think we had a really good understanding of what we’re trying to do. We’ve been saying the same things, find a good rhythm within our style, make sure our work ethic is high for the entire 90 minutes and stay focused, so you don’t make mistakes.”

For the first time in WAC Tournament’s history, due to Grand Canyon University now being postseason eligible, seven teams will qualify for the field with the No. 1 seed receiving a first-round bye.

UTRGV entered Saturday in seventh place, just ahead of Utah Valley University, which shares the same conference record as the Vaqueros at 3-4-2 with 11 points. Right on their tail with nine points

each are University of Missouri-Kansas City and UIW, which UTRGV could knock off and clinch a postseason berth.

The season finale doesn’t appear as favorable for the two teams directly trailing UTRGV, as UVU must get through second-place Seattle University while UMKC hosts first-place U.S. Air Force Academy.

UTRGV was 6-6-3 overall before Saturday’s meeting against UIW, which is 5-10-1 on the year. The teams exchanged wins on each other’s home field in 2016, with the Cardinals winning a 2-1 friendly last August and the Vaqueros getting revenge in conference play



Sophomore midfielder Dimitris Strantzalis sends a ball into the box in UTRGV’s 1-0 loss to San Jose State Oct. 22 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

with a 2-0 win in October.

If UTRGV were to pick up a win, it would lock up a WAC Tournament appearance, but if they were to lose or draw to UIW, they will need help from other teams to help the Vaqueros squeeze into the postseason.

The team had a good showing in its first WAC Tournament match a season ago, but fell in the first round with a 3-2 loss to the University of Nevada,



Bryan Ramos/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Sophomore defender Michael Faber looks for an opening in the San Jose State University defense in UTRGV’s 1-0 loss Oct. 22 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

Las Vegas. Leese believes last year’s experience can benefit the group this season, especially in goal with 6-foot-3-inch redshirt-sophomore Esa Aalto, who had four saves in that match.

Junior Isidro Martinez, a Brownsville native, scored one of UTRGV’s two goals in that match and returns along with eight other players who have WAC tourney minutes under their belt, including team captain and redshirt-sophomore Jaakko Hietikko.

“I think we have a nice rhythm with all the guys who are able to score goals,” Hietikko said. “We don’t miss many chances and we score from the little chances we have. We definitely have to bring a very strong performance. We don’t have anything to lose.”

Sophomore forward Ilias Kosmidis is leading the team in goals with six scored, points with 15 and has pitched in three assists. After UTRGV picked up its first conference road win 3-1 over Houston Baptist University on Oct. 26, the team’s most dangerous scorer believes they now have confidence and are focused on getting another road win to guarantee the team another game in the WAC Tournament.

“We’re going to San Antonio and we have to get three points; that’s the only goal right now,” Kosmidis said. “I feel like we’re playing pretty well right now. We’ve been unlucky with some of the results, we hope for the win and we’re only going to hope for that and to get into the tournament and see how far we can take it from there.”

The WAC Tournament will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., at Peter Johann Memorial Field and is set to begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday as the four and five seeds will meet in the first round, followed by the three and six seeds at 4 p.m., with the last match of the day between the two and seven seeds kicking off at 7 p.m. All matches can be seen on the WAC Digital Network.

“To be quite honest, we’ve already said the tournament has already started for us because if we lose, we go home,” Leese said. “So, this is the tournament. If you want to keep going, you have to win, so we’re in that mentality. We just have to make sure we’re focused.”

■ COLUMN

History Earned in Houston



Bryan Ramos

SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in the team’s 56-year history, the Houston Astros have been crowned World Series champions.

All it took was an insane seven-game series with unbelievable heroics from players on both the Astros and the Los Angeles Dodgers, who together put baseball back in the spotlight.

I’m not gonna front and act like I’m the biggest baseball guy. I used to be deep into the Astros years ago during the “Killer B’s” era when Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell and Derek Bell played in the Astrodome, all the way through the team’s previous World Series trip

where Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte and Roy Oswalt ruled the mound.

Then, all my favorite players either retired or moved on to other teams as the Astros entered rebuilding mode, which means they stunk. Flat-out stunk. The team lost more than 100 games a year from 2011-2013 and the Astros fanfare slowly faded away, as not even people in Houston were paying attention. The team drew a 0.0 Nielsen rating twice during those years. Absolutely nobody was watching.

Now, everybody has seen the new-look Houston Astros, as Game 7 of the World Series drew 28.2 million viewers, and how could you not root for them?

Since the devastation Houston endured after Hurricane Harvey struck in August, the Astros have been a bright

light in a dark situation, giving hope to fans and providing an escape from reality, even if for just nine innings at a time.

The Astros have built from the bottom up, and in doing so, rolled out the most lethal lineup in the MLB this season with their league leading 896 regular season runs. The team’s best player is 5-foot-6-inch, 165-pound soaking wet second baseman, Jose Altuve. George Springer graced the cover of a Sports Illustrated issue in 2014 and was predicted to be the 2017 MVP of the World Series. Funny how that worked out.

Carlos Correa may be the best shortstop in the league, but he couldn’t stop himself from making the biggest mistake ever following the team’s World Series win. Correa proposed to

his girlfriend on National Television, which, of course, she said yes to. It’s like, bro, ever heard of Derek Jeter? Dude wrote the playbook on how to live as the game’s best shortstop, dating the likes of Scarlett Johansson, Adriana Lima and Mariah Carey back when her voice used to be tolerable--now she just goes everywhere breaking glass when she speaks, but that’s another column for another day. Stay tuned.

Even Justin Verlander, one of the greatest pitchers of this generation, got himself a ring. OK, I understand if you’re not rooting for Verlander. Dude is an ace and married to Kate Upton. Like, you can’t have everything, bro, settle down. You ain’t the Jeets.

So, now that the Astros have earned history with a World Series ring, here’s to making more in 2018.

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