

# THE RIDER

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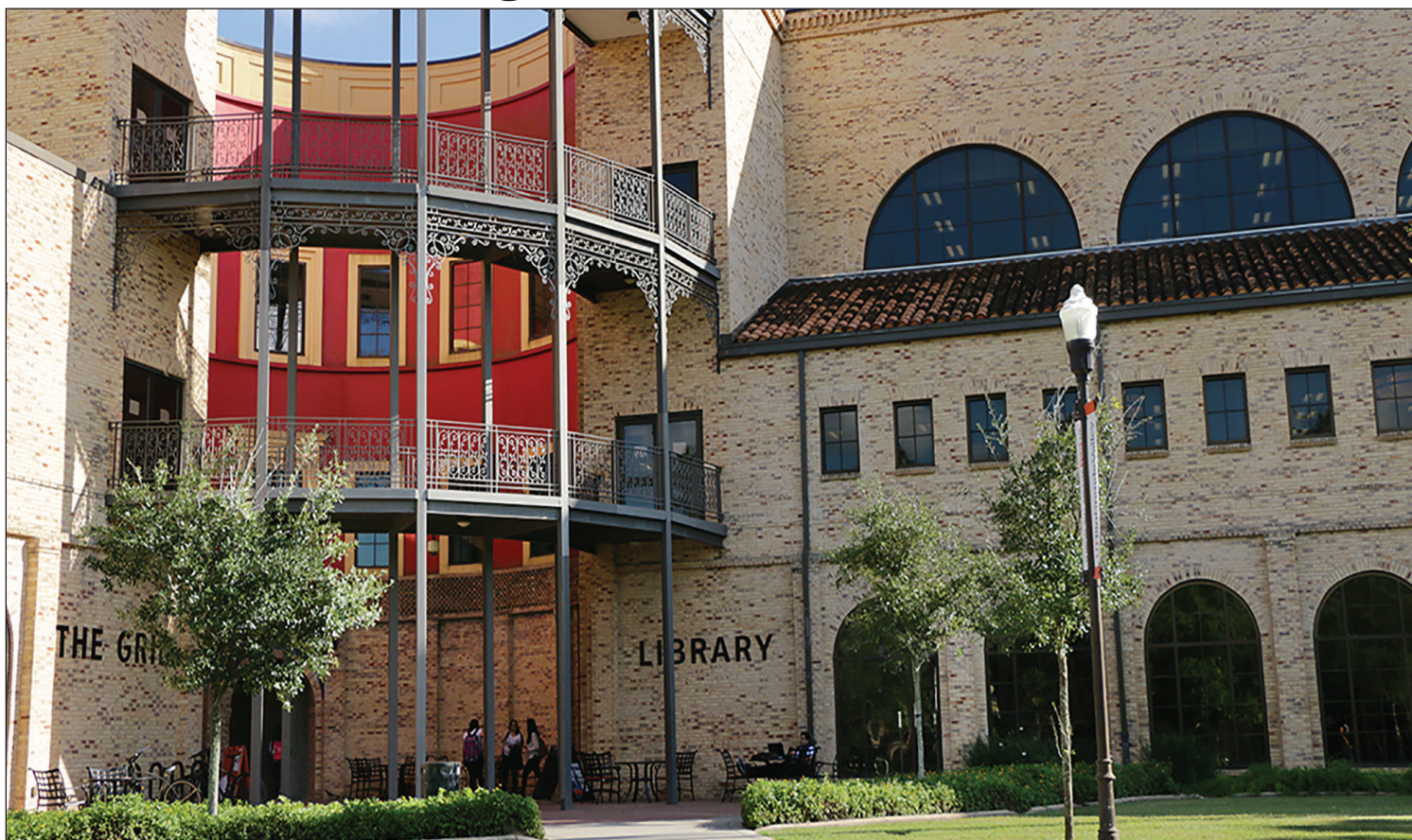
## OPINION

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# CHECK IT OUT

## Library extends regular service hours in Brownsville



Ana Cahuiche/THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has successfully worked with University Library officials on the Brownsville campus to increase the library's hours of operation. The extended schedule has been in effect since Nov. 13.

### Britney Valdez

THE RIDER

At the request of the students, Brownsville library extended its Monday to Thursday hours by two.

The original hours were from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and now it's open until midnight. The change took effect Nov. 13 and aims to better correlate the hours for the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

The Student Government Association, with the help of University Librarian

Paul Sharpe and Associate University Librarian for Resource Management Peter Cortez, took on the project

"It helped to better align library hours of operation, so that both Edinburg and Brownsville's hours could

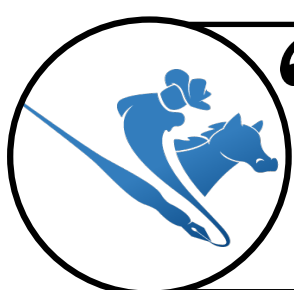
"Since the [UTRGV] merger, I started coming over to Edinburg more, so I started noticing things that

they had over here that we didn't have in Brownsville," Galvan said. "The library is trying to take the approach of, 'anything that is on the Edinburg campus library, Brownsville should have' and 'whatever is in the Brownsville

library, Edinburg should have.' So, they have been working for equal amenities."

SGA, Sharpe and Cortez collaborated to better serve

See **LIBRARY**, Page 2



**"[The library hour extension] also helps with those who were needing a safe place to wait for the final shuttle pickup at 11:45 p.m."**

--Peter Cortez

University Librarian for Resource Management

of extending the Brownsville campus's hours of operation.

"The library hours in Brownsville were recently extended to better serve our students," Cortez said.

reflect each other as much as possible."

SGA President Alondra Galvan expressed her motivation for changing the hours.

# STUDENT: ADD MORE GRAD CLASSES IN BROWNSVILLE

### Nubia Reyna

THE RIDER

Computer science students on the Brownsville campus taking advanced or graduate courses are having to commute to the Edinburg campus to take most of their classes.

Such is the case for computer science graduate student Luis Garay, who wants an answer as to why there aren't more courses in Brownsville.

Garay said if students search through the ASSIST application in myUTRGV, they would notice that most of the

classes for his graduate program are being offered only in Edinburg.

"They promised when schools were merging, that both campuses would have the same courses," he said. "It's three years after the merge and it's still not the case. Why isn't that promise being kept?"

In an article published April 6, 2015, in *The Collegian*, the student newspaper of legacy institution UT-Brownsville, a UTRGV official appeared to have made that promise.

"The main goal is for students to not have to travel," UTRGV Student

Success Vice President Kristin Croyle said in the article. "That's really important. The idea is that a student should be able to finish their degree on the campus of their choice. Of course, if there are some elective classes not required for your degree that you decided you just have to have, then you would have to travel for that one, but it wouldn't be required, that would be the student's choice."

Garay was an undergraduate when UTRGV opened its doors in Fall 2015. Even though both campuses were transitioning into one university, he was

still able to take all his undergraduate courses on the Brownsville campus.

Before and during the semester, he emailed Emmett Tomai, the Computer Science interim department chair; Patricia McHatton, the UTRGV interim provost and vice president for academic affairs; Bin Fu, a computer science professor; and UTRGV President Guy Bailey.

Garay received a response from Fu and Tomai on Aug. 24, and met with McHatton on Nov. 1.

In a Sept. 18 email to Tomai, Garay wrote, "The current state of courses offered is unfair, inconvenient, and raises many issues for us Brownsville students. I ask that you offer the Brownsville campus the same courses that the Edinburg campus offers."

Tomai replied on Sept. 27: "We are also exploring and evaluating every option for delivery at both locations."

See **COMPUTER**, 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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## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today**

**Board Game Night**

**Vaquero Ice Cream Bar**

The **Student Union** will host the **Vaquero Ice Cream Bar** at noon in the veranda on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

The **Student Union** will host a **Board Game Night** at 5 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. The same event will be held at the same time in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Wednesday**

**Gingerbread House Contest**

The **Student Union** will host a **Gingerbread House Contest** at noon in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Season's Greetings**

The **Student Union** will host **Season's Greetings** at 6 p.m. in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. There will be a Make-a-Wreath activity and holiday music by the **UTRGV Tuba Euphonium**. The same event will take place at the same time on the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

**UTRGV Jazz Orchestra**  
The **UTRGV Jazz Orchestra** will perform at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

**Thursday**  
**'Get Out and Play'**  
The **College of Fine Arts** will present **"Get Out and Play: A Play about Playing"** in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more

information, call 665-3581.

**Sexual Harassment Panel**

A panel discussion on sexual harassment will take place from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Main 2.502 in Brownsville. Members of the panel will be **Juliet V. García**, former president of the University of Texas at Brownsville and the first female Hispanic to lead a U.S. college or university; **Douglas Stoves**, associate dean for Student Rights and Responsibilities; **James Whittenberg**, an assistant professor of counseling; and **Camilla Montoya**, a psychology lecturer. They will discuss procedures for handling sexual harassment situations, its



## Have an announcement?

Email us at  
**TheRider@utrgv.edu**

psychological effects, how to get help for victims and social causes and solutions. For more information, email Communication Chair **John A. Cook** at john.cook@utrgv.edu.

**Friday**

**Free Play at the Union**

The **Student Union** will host a **Free Play at the Union** from 2 to 4 p.m. in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus and the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

**'The Ugly Princess'**

**UTRGV Opera Theater** will present **"The Ugly Princess"** at 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and senior citizens. The same performance will take place

at the same time and place Saturday. For more information, call 882-7025.

**Ballet Español**

**UTRGV's Dance Program** will perform its **Ballet Español Fall Concert** at 10 a.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and senior citizens. For more information, call 665-2230.

**Saturday**

**Home for the Holidays**

The **Patron of the Arts** will host **Home for the Holidays** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 882-7025.

**Holiday Bazaar**

The **Edinburg Library** will host its annual **Holiday Bazaar** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Activity Center in Edinburg, located at 123 E. Palm Drive. For more information, call 383-6246 or visit [www.edinburglibrary.us](http://www.edinburglibrary.us).

**Sunday**

**Handel's 'Messiah'**

The **UTRGV Master Chorale, Brownsville Festival Chorus** and high school choirs from **Brownsville, San Benito and Harlingen** will perform the **Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah"** with the **UTRGV Symphony Orchestra** and soloists **Cathy Compton, Jasmin De la Cruz, David Sadlier and Daniel Hunter-Holly** at 3 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 882-7025.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

# POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 9 and 13.*



**Nov. 9**

**9:50 a.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Main Building in regard to a non-affiliated woman appearing incoherent in the area. The officer interviewed her and

determined she was not a danger to herself or others. The woman said she had recently been released from Tropical Texas Behavioral Health in Brownsville and wanted to go back to the hospital. She was provided a courtesy transport to the facility.

**Nov. 10**

**1:04 p.m.:** A student fell off his bike and was injured on the Bronc Trail. He was transported to Rio Grande Regional Hospital for a medical evaluation.

**3 p.m.:** A staff member reported receiving a phone call from an unknown man earlier who wanted a message relayed to the university president. In the said message, the man used profanity to express his

displeasure with a recent student walkout demonstration in Edinburg.

**Nov. 11**

**8:10 p.m.:** An officer responded to the Village Apartments in reference to a parent's welfare concern of a student who may be a danger to herself. The student was not located at the apartments but contact was made with her via telephone. She stated that she was with a friend in McAllen and was fine. At the request of the UTRGV Police Department, the McAllen Police Department sent officers to the student's location and confirmed she was fine.

**Nov. 12**

**1:10 a.m.:** An officer observed a group of students surrounding a vehicle in Lot E37 and approached them. A student was in the back passenger seat leaning out of the vehicle vomiting due to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. She refused emergency medical services and was cited by the officer for consumption of alcohol by a minor. She was released to a responsible adult in lieu of arrest on a charge of public

intoxication. This report was referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

**12:14 p.m.:** A woman reported a forced-entry burglary of a UT Health Science Center-Houston office under construction in Weslaco. The burglars ransacked the offices and took several laptops, computers and small office items. The Weslaco Police Department will be the primary agency investigating the incident.

**6:03 p.m.:** Officers responded to the intramural fields in Edinburg to investigate the odor of marijuana coming from some students that were sitting at the bleachers. Contact was made with the students but no narcotics were located.

**Nov. 13**

**1:40 p.m.:** A student reported witnessing another student accidentally collide with two unattended vehicles while involved in a verbal altercation over parking spaces in Lot E26. Contact was made with the involved parties and no injuries were reported.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

**LIBRARY**

*Continued from Page 1*

the students in Brownsville, as well as accommodate those who board the Vaquero Express shuttles during later hours.

"[The library hour extension] also helps with those who were needing a safe place to wait for the final shuttle pickup at 11:45 p.m.," Cortez said.

Students reached out to SGA through social media and in person to express their opinions regarding the difference in both campus's library hours.

"I know that is something that students would say comments about," Galvan said. "I would sometimes see it

on social media or just in conversations since, keep in mind, we are a commuter campus. We do have a lot of students who travel to Edinburg, Brownsville, Rio Grande City. They were noticing that our Edinburg library was open until midnight, so they started wondering and questioning, 'Hey, how come in Brownsville it closes at 10 p.m.?'"

Weekend hours for the Brownsville library are 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-midnight Sunday. In Edinburg, the weekend hours are the same, except for Saturday, when the library is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

The hours for the Harlingen campus

library remain unchanged, from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 1-9 p.m. Sunday.

"I do know that the Mario E. Ramirez, M.D., Library is open to the public and it also helps medical students, as well as UTRGV students," Galvan said. "In our conversation, we specifically just talked about the Brownsville library extension hours."

In addition to the new regular hours, SGA also plans to have both Edinburg and Brownsville libraries open for 24 hours during finals week, from Dec. 10-13.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO COURTESY GRANT WALSH-HAINES

Members of Treble Thrivers include (front row, from left) Andre De la Tejera, Secretary Marien Alvarado and Roanna Stubbs. Back row: President Gabriel Galvan, Micquella Lopez, Vice President Julian Perez, Loretto Estefania Almazo and Katalina Rodriguez.

**Name:** Treble Thrivers

**Purpose:** A show choir focused primarily on a cappella and acoustic music performances.

**President:** Gabriel Galvan

**Vice President:** Julian Perez

**Secretary:** Marien Alvarado

**Adviser:** Lecturer I Kevin Galaviz

**Activities:** Live performances, such as at the Museum of South Texas History for its Día de los Muertos event and Treble Thriver Thursdays at the Student Union Commons in Edinburg.

**Meetings:** 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Performing Arts Center on the Edinburg campus.

**Membership requirements:** Auditions are held for qualifying musicians, dancers and singers each semester.

**For more information, email:** [treblethivers@gmail.com](mailto:treblethivers@gmail.com).

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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

## COMPUTER

*Continued from Page 1*

This will take some time to accomplish. In the meantime, students can pursue the courses on the Edinburg campus."

For Spring 2018, Garay will take all of his graduate courses, which is 12 credit hours, on the Edinburg campus.

"I am not trying to be disrespectful. I just want to know why aren't we getting classes down here," he told *The Rider* earlier this month.

Garay also said services, such as interactive television (ITV) and online courses, would benefit Brownsville students who have to commute to their classes.

"We are exploring the use of ITV as a means of delivery, but this is based on availability and appropriateness of the courses," Tomai wrote in the email to Garay.

Next semester, 12 computer science graduate courses are being offered; eleven are Edinburg-based and one is ITV.

In the meeting with McHatton, Garay said he brought up his main concern, such as why online or ITV classes are not offered on the Brownsville campus. She replied that professors require special training to teach online

or ITV classes, Garay said.

In a Nov. 15 interview with *The Rider*, McHatton said there is a minimum requirement of 10 students to open a graduate course, which has not been met by Brownsville computer science graduate students.

"There is a need to have a certain number of students in a course," she said. "I think we all understand that you can't run a course when you only have a couple of students. So, one of the things that we need to do is think about how can we increase the number of students on the Brownsville campus who are interested in computer science. That's a conversation that we've had as to how can we best generate more interest on this campus, so we can increase the number of students, making it more possible for us to be able to offer all courses in one location."

Regarding the same issue, Tomai told *The Rider* the department is experimenting and working with different modes of course delivery, such as online and ITV, to see what the responses are like and then expand from that.

"For example, this summer, we offered a master's ITV class in Brownsville because we wanted to [know], 'OK, how's this gonna work, what's the demand like, what's the

delivery gonna be like, how will students respond to it, what will the learning outcomes be like,' and, unfortunately, only three people in Brownsville signed up for it," Tomai said. "So, we moved to it and we offered another class, ITV, for Brownsville that is running this fall and, again, only two or three people from Brownsville signed up for it. So, that's just part of the process of expanding."

He said the department will keep trying to encourage demand from the Brownsville campus, but it cannot run a class with two or three students.

"In terms of class availability, with all of our courses, undergraduate, graduate, we are all looking at how do we best offer these classes to meet the student demand to deliver the highest quality of education," Tomai said. "We are expanding. We are going to keep trying to find ways to make that more convenient, make that more accommodating, but, you know, any student who is beginning the master's program has to know that at this time, the master's programs are offered in Edinburg."

Asked why computer science online and ITV courses are not offered in Brownsville, McHatton replied that those

# ON CAMPUS3

## WHAT SHOULD I MAJOR IN?



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

**Major:** Criminal Justice

**School:** Liberal Arts

**Interim Department Chair:** Professor Benjamin Brown

**Prerequisites:** None

**Total credit hours needed to graduate:** 120

**What is criminal justice?** "I would say our goal is to make sure that students understand the key components of the criminal justice system, and how they are interrelated. By key components, I mean the law, the courts, the police, the law enforcement and corrections."

**Which classes can students expect to take?** "Everyone has to take a course on criminological theory, research methods and a course in statistics. You'll need a course on constitutional law and a course on corrections."

**What skills will students learn by the time they graduate?** "Hopefully, they will improve their writing skills, as writing is essential to the field of criminal justice. It doesn't matter whether you are a police officer, a probation officer or a lawyer, you are going to spend a lot of time reading reports and filling out reports. You are going to need to be able to express yourself in written form and communicate in written form. It is very, very important."

**What are some possible careers?** "I would say a number of careers in the areas that I have mentioned. Some folks go into probation or parole, some go into law enforcement--local, state or federal. Some go to law school and become attorneys. Some work for the county sheriff's office. Any number of federal offices. The [U.S.] Border Patrol is certainly a major presence."

**What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation?** "That depends entirely on the agency they work for. A lot of [students] start off with a smaller agency, let's just say for example, the Port Isabel Police Department. And I am not in any way, shape or form trying to be critical of the Port Isabel Police Department, but their salaries and benefit packages are not going to be equal to a larger agency, such as the Border Patrol. The salary will depend, pretty much, on the agency that they go to work for."

**Are there any student organizations related to criminal justice?** "I know, for example, we have the American Criminal Justice Association. We also have Criminal Justice Student Association. Alpha Phi Sigma, which is the Criminal Justice Honor Society."

--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

two options are not "as simple as they sound."

"Sometimes the idea is, 'Well, you got a course, all you have to do is record your lectures and just put them online and that's it,'" McHatton said. "That's not the way in which online courses are designed. There is particular pedagogy that's aligned with courses that we need to follow; it has to go through quality measures to make sure it handles best practices. So, there's a design process and that takes time in order to be able to do that for every single course and not all courses are conducive to be delivered online."

"Same thing with the ITV. It's another possibility and, in fact, we've increased the number of ITV classes that we have now, so we've got more available. So, we are able to use that delivery option more often and I think at least one of the computer science classes has been delivered through ITV already. They're working on trying to do more, but that's also a design process."

She said the university would love to have the sufficient number of students on the Brownsville campus to be able to expand the courses. UTRGV's main goal was to expand educational opportunities across the Rio Grande Valley, she said.

"We wanted to make sure that students from both campuses had an opportunity, one to the extent possible to take classes at their home campus, but also to have an opportunity to expand program offerings by having transportation available should students want to go one location or another," McHatton said.

Even though transportation is provided to commute from one campus to another, the Vaquero Express Campus Connector's schedule has a three-hour gap from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., making graduate students who get out of class at 8:20 p.m., such as Garay, wait two hours for the next shuttle.

"It is surprising to me that the shuttles are not aligned to the classes," Tomai said. "One of the things we are looking at is try to align class times better with shuttle schedules. That's a good solution to that problem."

Garay told *The Rider* he hopes that in the near future, the university can provide transportation between campuses at least every hour so students can get home earlier.

"Hopefully, that can alleviate the transportation issue," he said. "But, in regards to the courses, they just said they're trying."

## VAQUERO VOICE

### End of the Semester



"Well, this is my first semester here, so it was really different from coming, like, into high school having to go, like, every single day, compared to my schedule now, it's going only, like, for two classes on campus. The rest were online ... so that was kind of hard. I had to balance my time better, 'cause you have so much free time doing whatever you wanted, but over the semester, I learned to balance my time a lot better."

**Brianna Gutierrez**  
Mass communication freshman

"I think it's a lot more stressful [than] it was at the beginning, but it's OK, like, it's doable. I'm not too worried about any of the finals, because a lot of my classes are ... spaced out to have a lot of time and I think to, like, get through the semester, it's a lot of time management. ... Other than that, I really liked the university, and I think this end of the semester is going to go good."



**Juan Ramirez**  
Biology sophomore



"That it's looming. It's coming up and the finals are coming up. I'm nervous. We're trying to get those B's into A's."

**Alehi Silguero**  
Biomedical science junior

"I'm looking forward to it. I just finished some midterms. I actually just took one on Thursday and, yeah, I'm excited for a break. Christmas break, Thanksgiving break, just grinding out the studying."



**Fernando Montes**  
Exercise science junior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

Office  
11/27/17



## The pursuit of happiness



**Robert Benavidez Jr.**  
THE RIDER

Every day, I come across many choices: the choice to skip class because "one day won't hurt," the choice to get ahead of my homework or go out with my friends, but the biggest choice of all, is deciding what career I want to pursue.

Before college, I was dead set on becoming a high school math teacher and taking pictures as a hobby. Yet, I soon realized that I was going to need a job to pay for college and gave photography a shot. I applied to be a photographer for *The Rider*.

If there's one good decision I made in my life, it would have to be this one. I never thought I would enjoy working every day, but being a photographer has given me this feeling. My friends have always described work as dull, boring and repetitive, but I have never come across that problem.

In the news media, no two days are exactly the same. New events occur every single day and it is our job to stay up to date, so we can keep the students informed. One day, I can cover intramurals at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center, such as flag football, basketball or soccer. But, the next day, I could be taking pictures at one of the Brownsville City Commission meetings.

I truly enjoy every single day on the job--taking pictures, meeting new people, conducting interviews or even sitting in the office editing my pictures before they go up.

At the moment though, I am not focusing purely on photography. I am also giving teaching a shot. I am currently enrolled in the UTeach program here at UTRGV. Through this course, I have the opportunity to learn how to make lesson plans and teach students at different schools.

Even though I have only taken introductory courses, I have come to really enjoy

teaching and have realized that teaching is something I could pursue as a career. I see myself teaching high school math and being an assistant coach for basketball. For this particular reason, I will continue with this program until I get to teach the high school courses next year to see how I feel about it.

My way of thinking can best be represented by Chinese philosopher Confucius' saying, "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

I feel as if I have found that in teaching and photography, so I am at a conundrum. But, I am in no rush to make this decision. I am living my life day by day and seeing what else life has to offer by keeping an open mind to ideas and opportunities. After all, isn't that what life's all about?

If you've made it this far, take a moment to ask yourself if the career you're pursuing is something you would enjoy doing day in and day out.

Visit us online at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

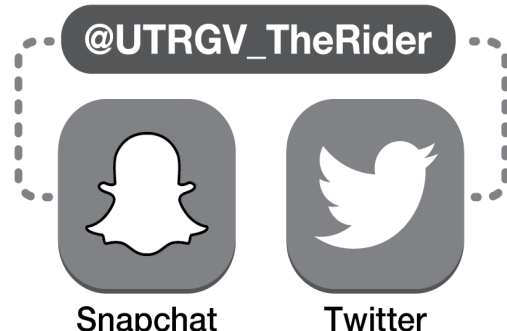
*The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu). All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, 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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# Envueltos por las letras

## Escritores y comunidad homenajean a autor mexicano

**Eric Montoya**  
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

La pasada tarde del viernes 17 de noviembre, Texas Southmost College fue la sede del XVI Congreso Binacional “Letras en el Estuario” donde el reconocido escritor mexicano Héctor Carreto fue homenajeado.

En medio de un ambiente tranquilo y acogedor, el público fue deleitado por obras literarias en español de varios escritores invitados. Dicho evento tomó lugar en el salón de conferencias SET-B Lecture Hall de TSC.

El Congreso Binacional que contiene las lecturas de narrativa, poesía y ensayo, es producto de la colaboración de varias organizaciones literarias mexicanas con TSC, vínculo internacional que se dio bajo los auspicios del Ateneo Literario José Arrese desde que este era conocido como Círculo Literario Manuel F. Rodríguez Brayda. El grupo de escritores está localizado en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México.

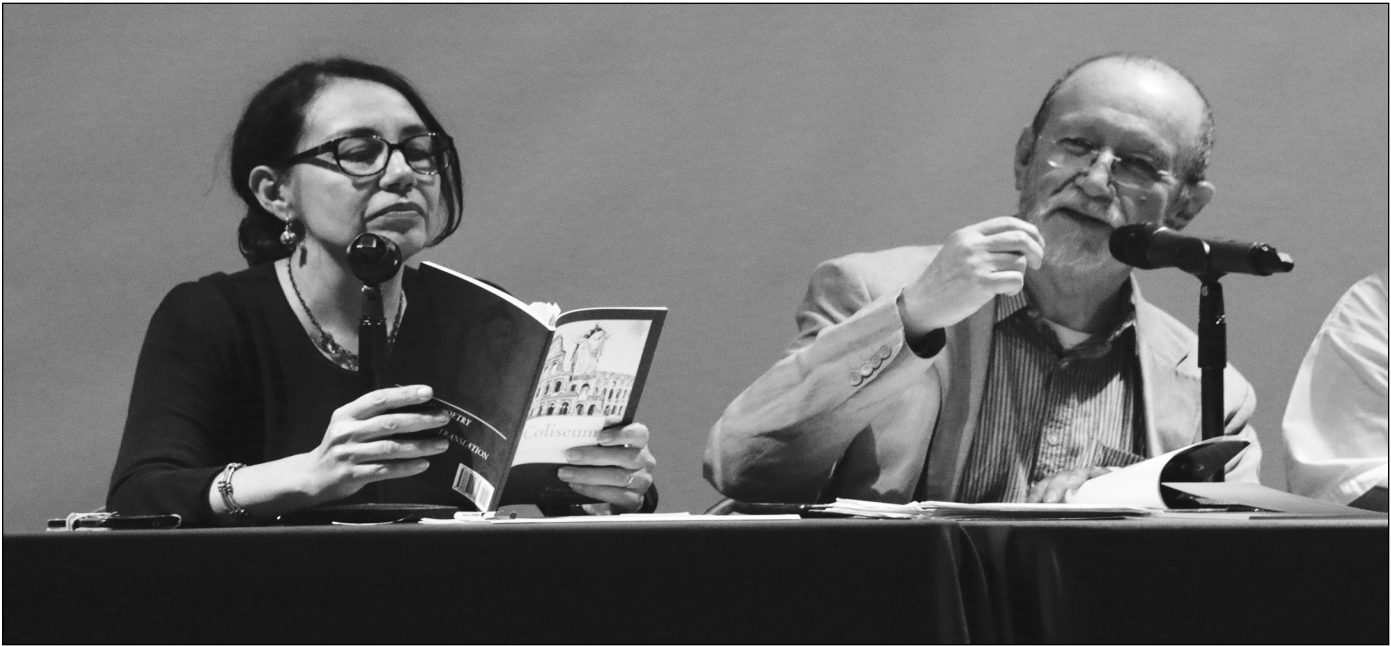
En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Carreto dijo que sus poemas están basados en su vida cotidiana. También dijo que actualmente se encuentran trabajando en un libro de epigramas.

Dijo que lo más gratificante de escribir es “que salgan bien las cosas. ... Que uno quede, pues que quede digamos, satisfecho, en la medida de lo posible con lo que uno escribe. Que uno pueda expresar, que quede uno convencido”.

El poeta dijo que son varias cosas las que lo inspiran a escribir sus obras.

“La vida cotidiana, puede ser una mujer, puede ser la ciudad, pues algún acto de indicación”, dijo Carreto. “La lectura también me ayuda mucho. Leo, y muchas veces lo que leo también me inspira, me motiva, digamos, me da ideas para escribir algo”.

Ramiro Rodríguez, escritor y profesor titular en la cátedra de español en Texas State Technical College en Harlingen, además de ser uno de los organizadores y promotores de dicha conferencia, dijo que el XVI Congreso Binacional es organizado por el Departamento de Bellas Artes e Idiomas



Ana Cahuiche/FOTOS THE RIDER

El escritor mexicano y profesor de tiempo completo de la Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México, Héctor Carreto (derecha), lee varias de sus obras en el XVI Congreso Binacional “Letras en el Estuario”, evento en donde también se le rindió homenaje. Elvia Ardalani, docente en el departamento de lengua y literatura de UTRGV y traductora del libro Coliseo de Carreto, tradujo al inglés los poemas conforme el reconocido autor los leía.

feesor titular de la cátedra de español en Texas Southmost College, dio la bienvenida a Carreto quien tomó asiento en el estrado. También recibió a los ponentes, al igual que a toda la audiencia, la cual era de alrededor de 50 individuos.

Posteriormente, González cedió el podio a Javier Villarreal, profesor jubilado de español de Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, el cual introdujo a los poetas Alejandro Rosales Lugo, además pintor y profesor en la Universidad La Salle de Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, México; Edna Ochoa, profesora de literatura hispánica en UTRGV; y Elías David, profesor egresado de normal superior originario de Reynosa, Tamaulipas, México. Dichos poetas compartieron varios de sus poemas al público.

Después de la sección de poesía, Roberto de la Torre, escritor e investigador independiente y autor del libro *El Vampiro de Rio Grande*, tomó el podio para invitar a los escritores de narrativa Miriam Romero, recién egresada de la

ra publicada y maestra en San Benito Independent School District; Manuel Murrieta, autor con muchas publicaciones en las áreas de cuento y profesor de lengua y literatura hispánica y estudios chicanos; y Octavio Quintanilla, profesor de creación literaria en Our Lady of the Lake University en San Antonio y actualmente trabajando en una antología de poesía del Valle del Río Grande. Estos escritores leyeron varias de sus obras literarias del género poesía-narrativa.

Una vez concluida esta parte del evento, se dio un receso de aproximadamente 30 minutos. Se ofrecieron café y panecillos en la recepción del salón de conferencias.

Para dar continuación a “Letras en el Estuario”, se le dio la bienvenida oficial al rector de TSC, Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, quien contribuyó en gran parte para la organización de dicho evento.

Un par de minutos después, González invitó a los escritores Elvia Ardalani, docente en el departamento de lengua y literatura de UTRGV, de la Torre, Quintanilla, Rodríguez y Villarreal, a tomar asiento en la mesa junto con Carreto.

Cabe mencionar que Ardalani es quien tradujo al idioma inglés la obra *Coliseo* de Carreto.

Los mencionados escritores leyeron varios poemas del autor homenajeado y también platicaron acerca del escritor. Ellos leyeron obras como *Habitante de parques públicos*; *Mi poema, esa bestia*; *El poeta regañado por la musa*, y varios más. Quintanilla deleitó al público con la lectura de diferentes poemas del autor en español y en inglés. Estos poemas fueron traducidos por él mismo con el permiso de Carreto.

Actualmente, Carreto es profesor de tiempo completo de la Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México. Él es el autor de piezas literarias como *¿Volver a Ítaca?* (1979), *Naturaleza Muerta* (1980), *La espada de San Jorge* (1982), entre otros. Además, Carreto ha sido galardonado con varios premios, por ejemplo, el premio Efraín Huerta en 1979, Raúl Garduño en 1981, Carlos Pellicer para obra publicada en 1983 y el Premio Nacional de Poesía Aguascalientes en el año 2002. Cabe destacar que también recibió el X Premio de Poesía Luis Cernuda en 1990, en Sevilla, España.

Carreto leyó varias de sus obras en la conferencia. Unas de esas piezas literarias fueron *Nacimiento de Venus*, *Caballo de Calígula*, *Coliseo*, *Mal de Amores*, entre otros. Ardalani lo acompañó traduciendo sus lecturas al inglés conforme él las leía.

Carreto dijo que una de las razones que lo instaron a venir al Valle de Texas fue transmitir el conocimiento, “Venir a transmitir lo que a mí me

gusta en otro país. Es interesante ir a otro país y compartir las cosas”, dijo él. “Siempre es importante la convivencia, el intercambio cultural. O sea, que sepan lo que hacemos allá, y yo saber lo que hacen aquí también. Es importante porque ... es un enriquecimiento mutuo”.

González, quien es también uno de los principales promotores y organizadores de este evento, dijo al *The Rider* que “Letras en el Estuario” es importante porque atrae a estudiantes y a la comunidad para que se acerquen a la literatura, “que es la forma más alta de expresión en el idioma”.

Dijo que el Congreso Literario Binacional: Letras en el Estuario fue creado desde el 2001 por el Ateneo Literario José Arrese y ha sido llevado a cabo anualmente desde entonces.

“En las comunidades donde vivimos, que son eminentemente rurales y pequeñas, no hay muchas oportunidades de poder escuchar a las grandes plumas, a los grandes autores,” dijo González. “Entonces, algunos de nosotros que nos hemos movido por razones del trabajo ... pues hemos hecho la amistad como para formar un circuito. ... Por ejemplo, estuvimos en un evento en la Ciudad de México ... y ahí pude ver al profesor Carreto, porque él estaba representando a su unidad, y a muchos otros autores que conozco, y de esa manera, este, pues vamos abriendo las puertas para que la literatura pase, se instale, vaya a los salones, inspire a los jóvenes para que entren también en el medio y puedan fructificar también”.

Para finalizar el evento, Carreto dedicó unos minutos para platicar con la audiencia y contestar sus preguntas. Una persona del público le preguntó al autor si el hecho de haber ganado el Premio Nacional de Poesía Aguascalientes en el 2002 lo cambió personalmente.

“Yo me sigo sintiendo un obrero de la poesía”, Carreto contestó. “O sea, uno no puede decir ‘Ya, ya llegué’, ‘Ya gané este premio y ya soy importante’. No ... yo estoy muy agradecido con la poesía, pero bueno, es que es el trabajo también. ... Yo digo ‘Bueno, qué bueno que pasen estas cosas’, pero digo ‘Bueno, ya vino la pachanga, ya me gasté el dinero, ya me publicaron el libro ... borrón y cuenta nueva, lo que sigue’. Porque si no, ahí nos quedamos nada más”.

Carreto aconsejó a los estudiantes a que se interesen en el tema de la literatura.

“Es importante para la formación”, dijo él. “Que el estudiante venga a las conferencias, venga a las lecturas, vaya a ver buen cine, asista a buenos conciertos, que vaya a los museos, porque eso es lo que los enriquece para la vida”.



Durante el evento, varios escritores leyeron varias de sus obras literarias y también obras del autor Héctor Carreto. Se muestra en el podio a Juan Antonio González, escritor y profesor titular de la cátedra de español en Texas Southmost College. En la mesa se encuentran los escritores (de izquierda) Javier Villarreal, profesor jubilado de español de Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Roberto de la Torre, escritor e investigador independiente y autor del libro *El Vampiro de Rio Grande*; Elvia Ardalani, docente en el departamento de lengua y literatura de UTRGV; Carreto; Ramiro Rodríguez, escritor y profesor titular en la cátedra de español en Texas State Technical College en Harlingen; y Octavio Quintanilla, profesor de creación literaria en Our Lady of the Lake University en San Antonio.

de TSC y El Ateneo Literario José Arrese, Café Literario Autores con Palabras, ALJA Ediciones y TSTC.

Cabe mencionar que todo esto fue llevado a cabo con el apoyo de la organización Humanities Texas.

Rodríguez dijo que el propósito de estas conferencias es difundir la literatura en la comunidad.

El evento tiene “el propósito de reunir escritores de México y de Estados Unidos que escriben en español. Ese es el propósito principal: reunir a los escritores y que haya lecturas tanto en instituciones educativas de Matamoros, y bueno, también acá del Valle de Texas” dijo él.

Para dar inicio a la conferencia, Juan Antonio González, escritor y pro-

University of Oklahoma con un doctorado en lengua y literatura hispánica y ahora profesora en el mismo instituto; Perlita Salazar, maestra de Harmony School of Innovation en Brownsville; y Jorge Sáenz, estudiante de literatura hispanoamericana en UTRGV, a tomar su lugar en el escenario.

Los escritores de narrativa entretuvieron al público con lecturas de fragmentos de sus obras literarias.

Sáenz compartió un fragmento de una novela de su propia creación que planea publicar en un futuro.

Al finalizar las lecturas de narrativa, Rodríguez introdujo a los escritores Santiago Daydi-Tolson, profesor de español en la University of Texas at San Antonio; Gloria Rodríguez, auto-

# NOT PLAYING AROUND

## Student-directed work premieres Thursday

**Zugay Treviño**  
THE RIDER

On Thursday, UTRGV’s Theatre department will premiere “Get Out and Play: A Play About Playing,” a play about children who are sent on a quest to get their Wi-Fi password back.

Mark Rodriguez, who wrote the play, is an alumnus of the Theatre department. “Get Out and Play” has a special message for the audience to value family and not be on phones too much.

“I really enjoyed the message of the script,” student director and theatre senior Sabrina Rodriguez said. “... It was definitely a story that I wanted to tell. ... When I was given the opportunity to be able to direct it, I knew that I definitely wanted to execute it.”

The student director said actors prepared by using tongue twisters and other acting exercises. They also paid attention to their characters’ specific personality traits, age, appearance and background.

“We ask that they keep those things in the back of their mind to influence their characters and their characters’ choices throughout the show,” she said.

The cast consists of eight people, including UTRGV students Rick Guajardo, Jesus Salaiz, Jonathan Tamez, Gabriela Perales and Paulina Solis, and alumni Lauriel Perez, Kimmy Narro and Bialca Aenna.

Solis is the play’s female lead, Jenny. She said it is easy for her to relate to her character, who is also an older sister just like her.

She also related to the play’s theme of not prioritizing phones. “My parents are always working,” Solis said. “They’re always on their phone. ... I just took from my real life, and I was able to connect with it in that way.”

She said she liked how her character grows throughout the play.



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Theatre senior and student director Sabrina Rodriguez guides the actors as they rehearse their lines for the play, “Get Out and Play: A Play About Playing,” which will be performed in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

Rodriguez also said her favorite part of the play is Jenny’s heartfelt moment at the end.

The cast has been rehearsing for a month. The costume designer created 11 costumes.

“[The audience] should look out for the extravagant characters, the ones that are coming out from the imagination,” the student director said.

The costume designing process was

extensive. After reading the script, Roman Rossetti, a UTRGV theatre sophomore and the play’s costume designer, said he had to make initial thumbnails, or rough sketches. Although the cast has eight people, a couple of characters require multiple costumes. After sketches were completed and approved, Rossetti made final renderings in watercolor.

“A lot of my inspiration came from

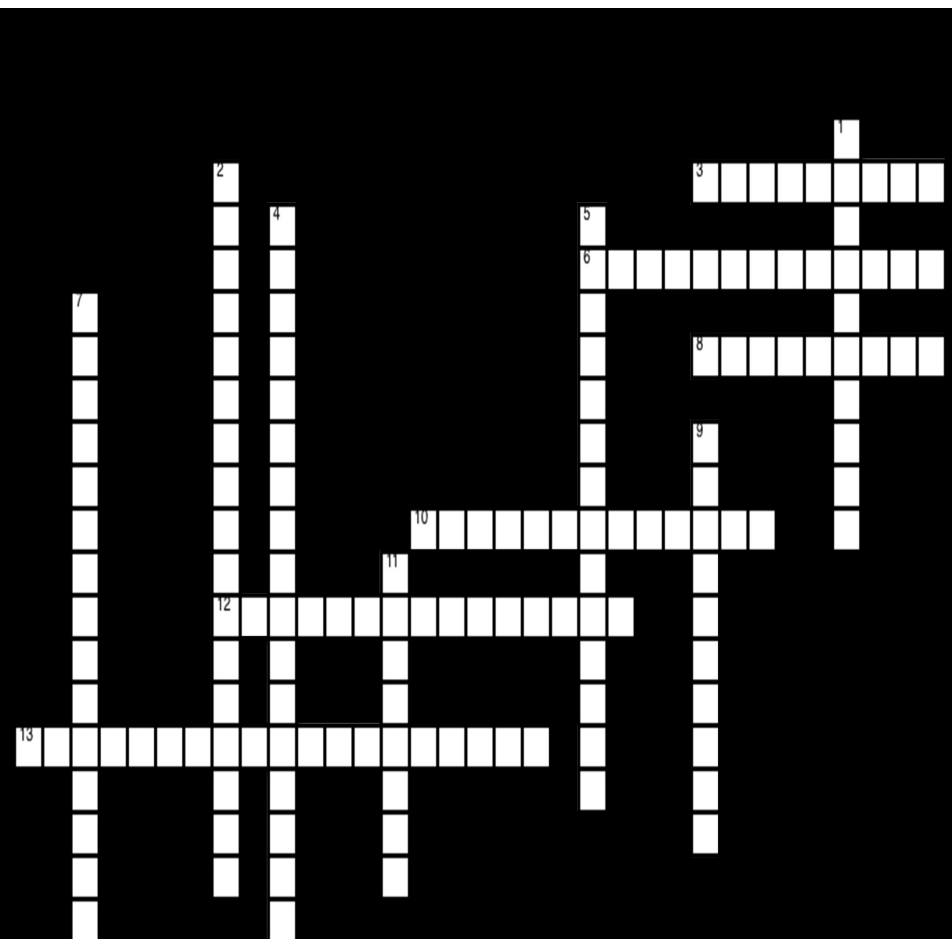
storybook characters,” said Rossetti, who also drew inspiration from the story’s plot. “Since the play is about a quest set in place by the parents, I definitely wanted to go for a whimsical, yet sort of realistic touch.”

“Get Out and Play” will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5.



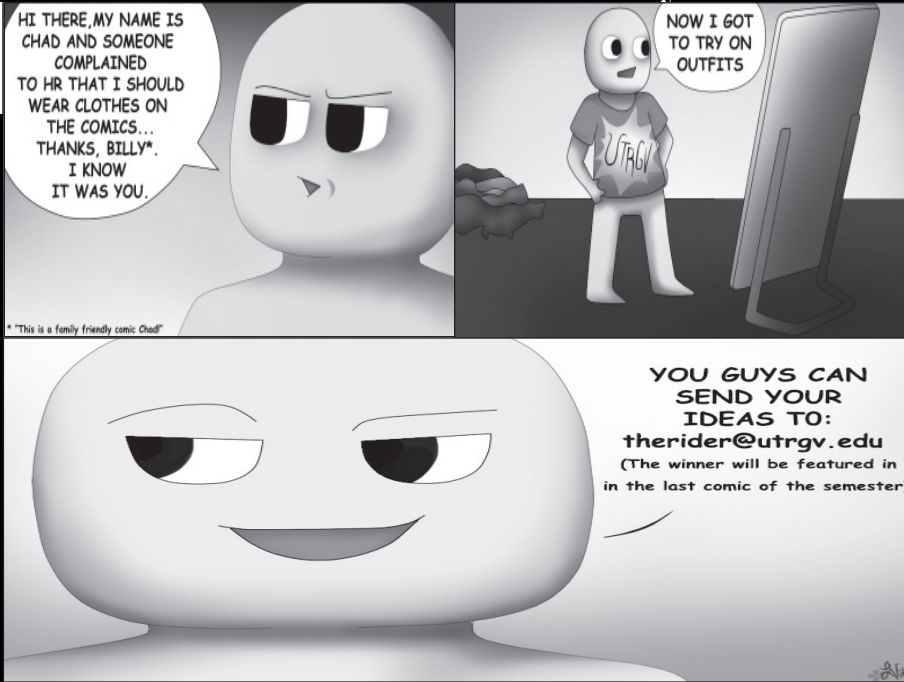
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## CLASSIC FAIRY TALES



## Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



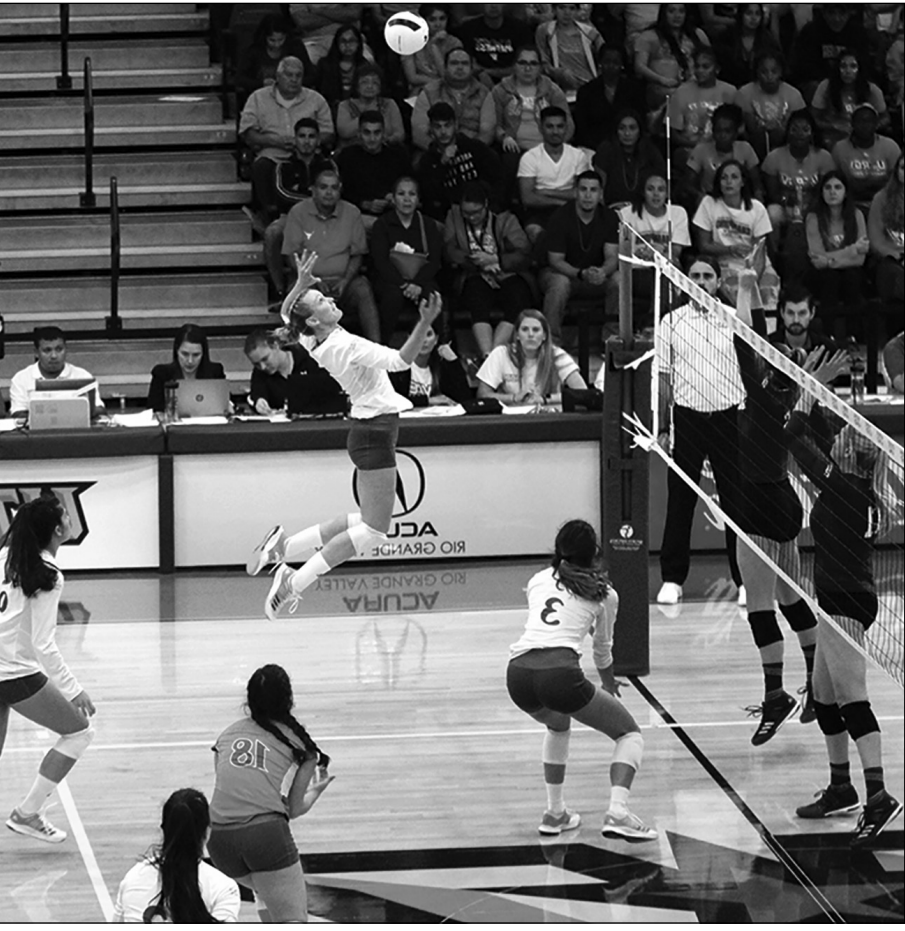
### ACROSS

3. She had a little help from her friends, the seven dwarfs
6. The story of a little mermaid willing to give up her voice in order to spend her life on the surface
8. A young woman is sent to marry her neighbor, whose former wives have all mysteriously disappeared--to her horror, she finds out why
10. A tale in which a princess befriends a frog, only to kiss him and find out he’s a prince
12. Two siblings are kidnapped by a witch who wants to eat them
13. “Oh! Grandmother,” she said, what big ears you have!”

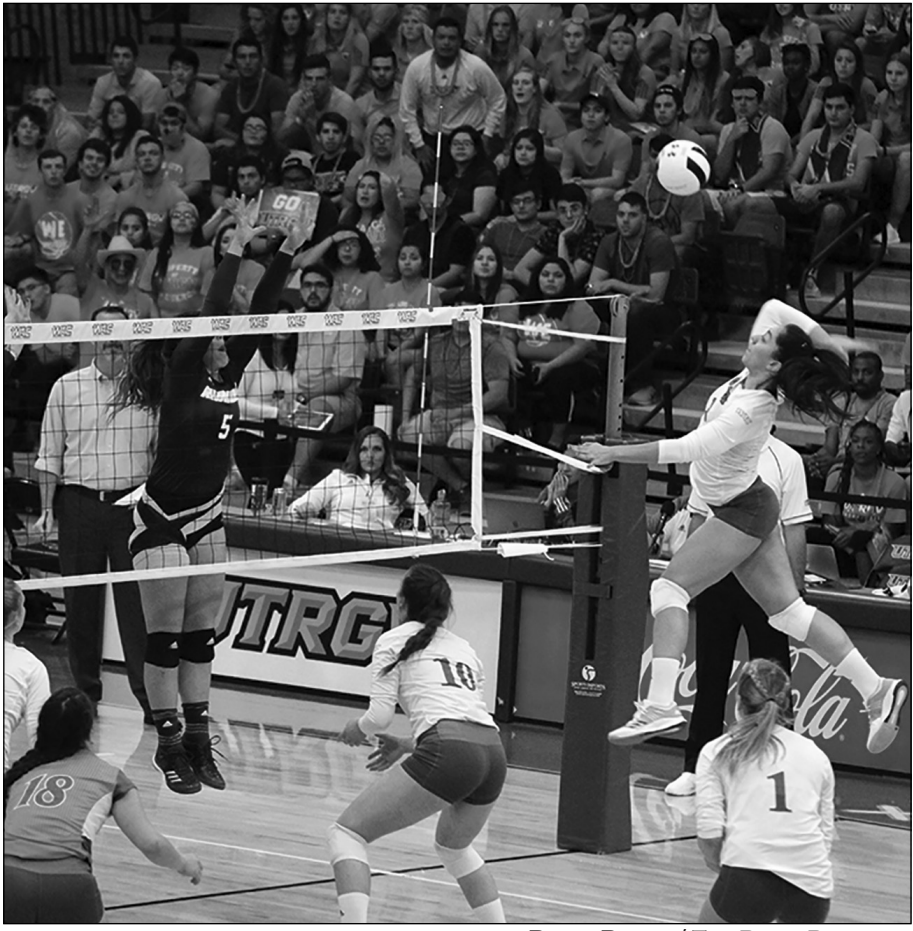
### DOWN

1. She came from a flower as a tiny young girl the size of a thumb
2. Belle saves her father from being imprisoned by a beast by trading places with him, only to later fall in love with the beast
4. “We’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad.”
5. Originally named, “The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood,” this fairy tale has a young princess placed under a sleeping curse by an evil fairy
7. “Then promise me, if you should become queen, to give me your first child.”
9. “When she ran down, had the maiden’s left slipper remained stuck. The king’s son picked it up, and it was small and dainty, and all golden.”
11. Known for letting down her long hair in order to be rescued from her tall tower

# UTRGV falls in tourney championship



UTRGV junior outside hitter Ragni Steen Knudsen leaps to spike the volleyball in the WAC Tournament Championship match against California State University, Bakersfield on Nov. 18 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. Knudsen earned All-Tournament Team honors.



UTRGV outside hitter Barbara Silva elevates for a kill against California State University, Bakersfield in the WAC Tournament Championship match on Nov. 18 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

## Bryan Ramos

SPORTS EDITOR

For the second season in a row, the UTRGV Volleyball Team (17-12) worked its way to the Western Athletic Conference Tournament Championship match.

This time, there was no dancing, but disappointment, tears and a record-breaking crowd dressed in orange, who arrived early and stayed late to show love, win or lose, to the best team UTRGV has seen in years.

The Vaqueras were pushed to their limit but fell short in the tournament final against California State University, Bakersfield 3-1 (27-25, 18-25, 28-30, 18-25), losing for the first time in the UTRGV Fieldhouse all season, finishing 11-1 at home.

In the first set, UTRGV found themselves down 11-6, but fought back to kick off the WAC Tournament final in dramatic fashion. Facing set point, sophomore outside hitter Barbara Silva came up with a kill, which Kellie Woodin, a freshman defensive specialist and McAllen High School alumna, followed up with an ace. UTRGV's next two points came off the arms of senior co-captain and outside hitter Bojana Mitrovic and junior setter Dubravka Vukoja.

In the second set, CSUB's Sydney Haynes and Aleksandra Djordjevic began to enforce their will, as they led the Roadrunners with 19 and 14 kills apiece, while Djordjevic, who was named the tournament Most Valuable Player, also finished with 12 digs and four blocks.

With momentum up for grabs in the third set, the second-seeded Vaqueras and fourth-seeded Roadrunners went back and forth until UTRGV couldn't anymore.

Mitrovic, who had been playing with a partially torn rotator cuff over the past

two seasons while putting off surgery and a six-month recovery process until her collegiate volleyball career was over, had nothing left in her arm. The three-time First Team All-WAC member and All-Tournament Team honoree gave everything she had for her team, which she helped propel to new heights over the last three years, reaching the first NCAA Tournament berth in program history by winning last season's WAC Tournament.

The Serbian native finishes her career as the record holder in kills with 1,159, breaking former UTRGV right side hitter Alisha Watson's record set just a season ago. She is also the all-time points leader at UTRGV with 1,329.5 and fourth on the all-time digs list with 760. While UTRGV only loses two players from this year's squad in Mitrovic and Tina Sekulic, who ranks third all-time in assists, the pair will be hard to replace in the locker room, as the only two



UTRGV senior outside hitter Bojana Mitrovic tips a ball past the outstretched arms of two California State University, Bakersfield defenders in the WAC Tournament Championship match Nov. 18 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

remaining players from Head Coach Todd Lowery's last UT Brownsville team.

On Nov. 4, UTRGV honored

the pair with Senior Day. He said the two were pivotal to the team's success on the volleyball court over the last three seasons.

"They're special kids in my heart," he said. "Those kids took a chance at UTB. They knew they were coming to a program that was getting cut, they had other options, they had other places to go, they believed and trusted in me that they were going to go wherever I was going. They said, 'We're going to a junior college for one year if we have to, Coach.' To have that loyalty from two kids is something special, and Bojana continues to get better on the court.

"Tina's been a little bit behind the scenes this year, but she's been a great key to this team and the culture of this team is so strong and she's a big part of that. For a senior to come in and work every day in practice and accept a new role, I know that's not easy for her. Ultimately, they understand what it is to be

part of a team and part of a family and she's really bought into that and I couldn't be more proud of either one of those girls."

Back next year for UTRGV is a team with plenty of valuable experience gained over the last two years. Vukoja, Ragni Steen Knudsen, co-captain Alexandra Ecker and Gysell Zayas all return for their senior seasons, while freshman starter Veronika Jandova will be back for her sophomore campaign. Silva will also be back as a junior and looks to build off another successful season, in which she earned Second Team All-WAC honors.

Knudsen also earned All-Tournament Team honors and was named First Team All-WAC. She finished with her 10th double-double of the season in the championship match with 18 kills and 11 digs, and a career high 26 kills in the semifinals win over Utah Valley University.

Knudsen is fourth on the all-time points list and ranks first in kills per set (3.60) and service aces per set (.33). Silva ranks seventh all-time in kills (527) and first in blocks per set (.96). Ecker is the all-time program leader in block assists (285) and second in total blocks (309).

In just one year, Zayas and her play from the libero position finished averaging 4.39 digs per set, which is second all-time, and is already ninth in digs with 483. Vukoja ranks first all-time in assists with 2,318, while Jandova is second in blocks per set (.89) and attack percentage (.309).

Now comes the offseason, which the UTRGV Volleyball Team will spend working to get back to its third straight tournament championship match in 2018.



Lesley Robles/ THE RIDER

The UTRGV Volleyball Team is welcomed by its home crowd before its semifinal match on Nov. 17 against Utah Valley University in the Fieldhouse. UTRGV won the match 3-1 (29-27, 21-25, 26-24, 25-21).

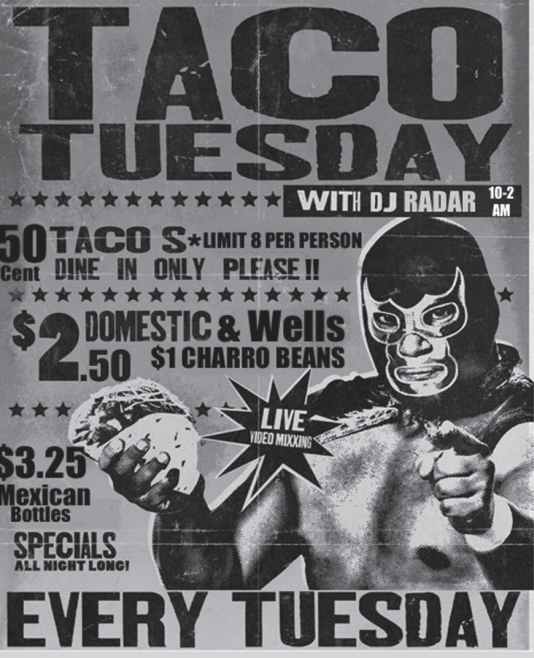


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