

THE RIDER

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THE TASSEL IS WORTH THE HASSLE

2,500 expected to graduate at this month's commencement ceremony

Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

Communication senior Jorge Askary Aguirre will wrap up his collegiate career this semester knowing that having a higher-education degree will give him an edge in the job market. Aguirre began attending UTRGV when it was still legacy institution UT Brownsville in 1999.

"In '99, I came for a whole year, starting in the spring. Then, that fall, Disney came to UTB for the first time ever, for the [Disney] College Program," he said. "I was the first generation to go for the program, but after I went, I didn't want to come back to Brownsville. After that, I went to Dallas and got my associate's from KD's Studio Acting Conservatory of the Southwest in 2002."

After spending some time in Los Angeles working in TV shows, movies and commercials, Aguirre decided to come back to the Rio Grande Valley due to economic struggles.

He then came back to school part time in 2015, before UTB and UT Pan American consolidated to become UTRGV.

"I wanted to start in the fall of 2015, but the advisers told me, 'If you don't come back right now for the summer, you're gonna have to apply

See COMMENCEMENT, Page 8

Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Courage and awareness Class hosts panel on sexual harassment



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Former UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García gestures during the panel discussion on sexual harassment, held last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are panel moderator and Communication Chair John Cook, Student Rights and Responsibilities Associate Dean Douglas Stoves, psychology Lecturer Camilla Montoya and counseling Professor James Whittenberg. Cook's gender and communication class hosted the discussion.

Albert Monrroy
THE RIDER

Sexual harassment and courage were among the topics addressed at a panel discussion, which was held last Thursday in Main Building 2.502 on the Brownsville campus.

More than 70 campus community members attended the event.

The panelists were Juliet

V. García, a communication professor and former president of UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College; Douglas Stoves, associate dean for Student Rights and Responsibilities; James Whittenberg, an assistant professor of counseling; and Camilla Montoya, a psychological science lecturer. Communication Department Chair John

Cook served as the event's moderator.

"Every time I have a gender class, we have a difficult dialogue with some topic associated with gender," Cook said. "We decided that we would do ours on sexual harassment this time."

The panel opened with Montoya explaining why she thinks sexual harassment has

See PANEL, Page 8

COMING HOME

Former UTB/TSC president returns to teaching at UTRGV

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Juliet V. García

After nearly four years away from the day-to-day operations on the Brownsville campus, Juliet V. García will return to teach a communication class in Spring 2018 on the university grounds she helped build.

"I'm very excited about [returning to teach]," García said. "That's where we all start, as professors at the university. It's what I had always wanted to do. To return now, it's a great privilege, so I'm very excited about returning."

García is the former president of legacy institution UT Brownsville, where she served for 22 years, and Texas Southmost College. In 1986, she became the first Hispanic female to lead a U.S. college or university.

In Spring 2018, García will teach a course titled Rhetoric of the Border Wall: Up Against the Wall. The communication class will be a cross-listed course available for undergraduate and graduate students.

The main objective of the COMM 3315 and COMM 6329 courses will be the communication strategies used in the 2008 federal lawsuit against TSC and the University of Texas System.

"That perspective will be very important," García said. "How did we choose to share information with people along the way? And we did. We were very strategic about the words we used, how we did it; we set up a particular website for the purpose of keeping people connected. I did open letters, sometimes I met with students directly, faculty directly, community members. I

See GARCIA, Page 8

THE
RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A
NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Brass Ensemble

The **UTRGV Brass Ensemble** will perform music in a variety of settings from small chamber groups to a large ensemble at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas’

The **Student Union** will show ‘**Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas**’ at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union’s Theater in Edinburg and in El Gran Salón in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

Tuesday

University Choir

The **UTRGV University Choir**, under the direction of **Assistant Professor David Means**, will present its fall concert at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. They will feature choral by early composers such as **Monteverdi**, **Palestrina** and **Bruckner**; later composers such as **Ola Gjeilo**, **Bárdos Lajos** and **Josu Elberdin**; and also folk songs from America, Latvia, Canada and South Africa. **Lecturer Stacy Kwak** (on piano) and **Associate Professor Cynthia Cripps** (soprano saxophone) will be featured on this program, as well as several student soloists. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-

7025.

STEMS Fundraiser

The **South Texas Engineering Math & Science Mentors Club** will sell **fruit cups** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on both campuses. For more information, email stemsmentors@outlook.com or call 882-5845.

Breakfast Wrangler

The **Student Union** will host a **Breakfast Wrangler** from 8 to 11 p.m. in El Gran Salón on the

tacos from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Main Building on the Brownsville campus.

Thursday

Aguas Frescas

The **Association of Information Technology Professionals** will sell aguas frescas for \$2 in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 821-2580 or email utrgv.aitp@gmail.com.

Anime Club Fundraiser

The **Anime Club** will sell Pizza Hut slices for \$2.50, drinks for 50 cents, or a pizza and drink combo for \$3 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West’s gazebo on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 274-5352 or email animeclub.utrgv@gmail.com.

Friday

Free Play at the Union

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

Saturday

Weihnachtskonzert

The **German Club** will host its German-themed Christmas concert at 6 p.m. in the Historic Brownsville Museum, located at 641 E. Madison St. The event will include a reception with fine wine and German Christmas treats. For more information, call 882-4026 or email natalia.davilao1@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

Brownsville campus. There will be free food, music, games and prizes. The same event will take place at the same time on **Wednesday** in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Wednesday

‘A Mexican Christmas’

The **Mariachi Aztlán** and the **Ballet Folklórico** will perform traditional Mexican folk music and dance at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$10. For more information, call 882-7025.

Breakfast Tacos

The **Society for Human Resources Management** will sell breakfast

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 20 and 24.



Nov. 20

7:57 a.m.: A staff member reported a theft from the Army Reserve Facility on the Brownsville campus. Rolls of electrical cables were stolen. The theft occurred between Nov. 17 and 20. The case is under investigation.

8:55 a.m.: An officer responded to Lot E28 to a report of a suspicious individual who was seen lifting door handles and looking into parked vehicles. The surrounding areas were checked and no individual with the description provided was located. The vehicles in the area were OK. The surveillance cameras are pending review.

Nov. 21

10:41 a.m.: A student reported receiving harassing cellphone calls while attending class on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

5:13 p.m.: Officers reported to the Liberal Arts Building South in reference to a student who passed out in the women’s restroom. She was conscious and was subsequently transported by Hidalgo County Emergency Medical Services to the Rio Grande Regional Hospital’s 24-Hour Care.

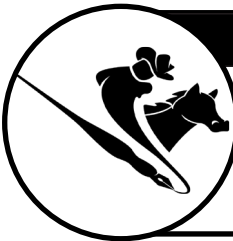
Nov. 22

3:24 p.m.: A Veterans Affairs patient on the Harlingen campus was transported to a hospital due to a medical emergency. While the patient was in the process of being transported, he disclosed that he had left his personal weapon inside his unsecured vehicle in the parking lot. Officers were able to locate the patient’s vehicle, retrieve the weapon and secure it for safekeeping.

4:42 p.m.: A staff member reported a university-owned drone was stolen from an unsecured cabinet in a shared office in the Cueto Building on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 24

12:24 p.m.: An officer reported seeing a white drone flying over the construction area by the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. It was seen primarily on the south side of the campus between the University Center and Performing Arts Complex. Two non-affiliates were flying the drone in a vehicle in Lot E19. They said they did



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu
Campus Emergency: 882-2222

not know they needed permission to fly the drone on campus and one was just trying to teach the other how to pilot the device. They landed the drone and left the area without incident.

12:30 p.m.: A patient of the Harlingen Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic reported his vehicle was stolen from the parking lot between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. The owner reported

that he accidentally left the keys in the vehicle. It was later learned that it had been mistakenly driven home by an elderly man who mistook the vehicle belonging to a hospitalized family friend. The vehicle was recovered and the case is unfounded.

2:36 p.m.: UTRGV police officers were dispatched to assist U.S. Border Patrol agents at the former Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course entrance in Brownsville in regard to several subjects who were believed to have crossed the border illegally and carried duffel bags. Upon arrival, an agent observed several subjects enter the resaca brush area, north of University Boulevard and west of the University Library. Officers and U.S. Border Patrol Agents located and took custody of six subjects and five duffel bags containing marijuana. Shortly after, U.S. Border Patrol provided the bundles’ total combined weight of 113.40 pounds, with a street value of \$90,720. U.S. Border Patrol is handling the case.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

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A diamond in the ruff

UTRGV students help animal nonprofit

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

Two of UTRGV Lecturer I Jack White's social work classes provided the Brownsville Animal Defense (BAD) with ways to improve its visibility and raise funds as part of a course project.

The classes who advised the nonprofit are Organizational Development and Advanced Community Planning. Both are taken concurrently by social work students who are taking classes for their master's degree. Ten students are enrolled in the classes.

The 10 UTRGV students chose BAD as the organization they wanted to help and gave the consultation through a presentation for a class requirement. It is a volunteer dog rescue organization serving the Lower Rio Grande Valley, according to its website.

"We are all actually animal lovers, and we started to talk about dogs in the street ... so that's how we got that Brownsville Animal Defense," said Judith Rodriguez, a part-time social work student working on her master's degree and the primary organizer of the presentation.

White said it is the first time such a project has been done



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Lecturer I Jack White welcomes Tessie Sarmiento (left), president of Brownsville Animal Defense (BAD), to their in-class consultation session.

at the end of the semester by his class.

"So, we're excited about it because we'd like to continue to use these classes to both learn and engage the community, and provide a product such as management consulting," he said.

As part of the project, the UTRGV students provided a

personalized presentation for Brownsville Animal Defense. BAD hopes the consultation will help improve its ability to help animals.

A seven-page report analyzing the nonprofit's structure and strategies for improving 10 areas was emailed to board President Tessie Sarmiento. The topics

discussed include improving social media presence, a list of resources they could contact for collaboration and ways they could obtain grants for funding. The class hopes the organization will consider its recommendations.

The organization is comprised of five other board members and four volunteers.

White and students Rodriguez, Alejandra Peña, Bridget Ebaseh-Onofa, Clara Rodriguez, Horacio Martinez, Iliana Fernandez, Ivonne Cervantes, Jorge Rodriguez, McKensy Samsen and Oscar Peraza invited Sarmiento to one of their classes for a consultation.

The students contacted the nonprofit twice during the class session and during their free time in order to understand BAD's goals and current resources. Last Thursday, Sarmiento attended one of the classes' lectures and viewed their presentation. Both the nonprofit and students hope to have a follow-up meeting soon.

Sarmiento said BAD began due to a need of additional help for defenseless animals.

"It provides spaying, neutering, counseling. It provides educational [school] presentations," she said.

BAD hopes to recruit volunteers.

Individuals interested in helping may contact Sarmiento at 466-0067 or visit its website at <http://www.brownsvilleanimaldefense.org>.

The organization is located at 1225 N. Expy. 77/83, Suite 150A in Brownsville.

Knapp-UTRGV offers new services

Eric Montoya
SPANISH EDITOR

The new Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic in Mercedes now offers counseling services in addition to the medical care it has been providing for its patients.

This family practice clinic opened its doors in late August and is a collaboration between Knapp Medical Center and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. It is located at 2810 W. Expy. 83 and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Jennifer L. Ortega, a behavioral scientist and assistant professor for the UTRGV School of Medicine, said the purpose of the Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic is to "enhance the quality of life for our patients."

"We understand that not only when patients come in they have physical needs that need to be addressed, but they also come with mental and emotional needs that need to be addressed," Ortega said. "So, if all the needs are addressed, then the patient will have a better chance of living a healthier quality of life and perhaps, you know, make better choices in terms of their eating or their decision-making and so, then, it improves their day-to-day living."

In this clinic, the residents, who are all doctors graduated from a medical school and are pursuing a specialty in family medicine, are supervised by Miguel Tello, a family medicine physician and associate program director of the Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic.

Tello said the purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for residents to gain experience in



Victor Ramirez/THE RIDER

The Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic is located at 2810 W. Expy. 83 in Mercedes. The facility provides counseling services and medical care for patients of all ages. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

different settings of the community.

"All residents receive special training and skill development in the competencies of community medicine," according to the UTRGV website. "Residents complete activities

designed to familiarize them with community resources and agencies in order to better serve the special needs of an underserved population. Residents gain experience in community settings, including school

health centers, United Way agencies, group homes, and nursing homes."

Currently, six family practice resident physicians comprise the clinic: Dr. Eddy Berges, Dr. Eliana

See KNAPP, Page 10

VAQUERO VOICE

Life After College



“La vida del estudiante nunca acaba porque la vida es un aprender constante. Mi recomendación es que sigan estudiando, que sigan indagando, que no acepten una sola opción sino que vean que hay otras opciones, otras soluciones porque precisamente de eso se trata la universidad--es adquirir unos conocimientos pero también es crear esa mente crítica, analítica, que te ponga a pensar más allá de lo que ... realmente está próximo a uno y también que vean que lo que uno hace tiene un propósito, y todo lo que uno adquirió aquí en la universidad le sirva como un ejemplo para aplicarlo a la vida. Yo diría que ese es mi gran consejo, que sigan estudiando, aunque digan, no, ya no quiero estudiar más pero es que la vida es un aprendizaje y el aprendizaje nunca acaba, así que sigan hacia adelante, les deseo mucho éxito y que tengan una carrera fructífera, llena de tanto éxito que cuando yo, por ejemplo, los vea en la televisión o en la prensa, yo diga ese fue mi estudiante”.

Nadeska Mayens-Robles
Spanish Linguistics Lecturer II

“Important things you probably want to think about, or you may have discussed or thought about already--should be career path, then life choices. Also, environment or neighborhood or community you want to live in. So, some of these things you probably thought about already, hopefully. ... Maybe planned some of these things out like internships, kind of finding your career path, some of that should be determined by your major. If you haven't done that yet, you want to wildly scramble to figure out some sort of means of income, 'cause normally students you take out debt and then as soon you graduate, unfortunately, the government wants to see you start to pay some of that debt back. So, that's where you're going to need income to feed yourself, and, you know, be able to do things, as well to pay some of your debt back. ... Also, higher-level education, so if you don't have a super concise goal or path in mind, one thing that can be helpful is ... graduate degree, master's degree because it will push your loan into forbearance while you get higher level education, which may open up new markets and new opportunities. In art, especially in this field, keep making stuff, because literally the day you graduate it gets exponentially harder to make things. As art students of UTRGV, you have facilities and equipment, you have people that care about you. The moment you graduate, not that you are on your own, but you're kind of on your own. So, finding that motivation ... finding materials and different tools, it's going to be difficult, but you gotta stick to it and you gotta keep making stuff.”

Alexander Comminos
Art Lecturer I



“Times of transition are always both exciting and scary, and I think graduation is particularly so at that time. I think if you're graduating, that you should take such pride in your accomplishment, pat yourself on the back, give yourself some downtime, because you've been under tremendous pressure for years to accomplish what you're accomplishing now. And after you've been proud of yourself and had some downtime, then when you embark on your new career, I hope it goes beautifully. But, if it doesn't work out exactly the way you planned, don't be afraid to acknowledge that and maybe head in a different or unexpected direction.”

Harriett D. Joseph
History professor

“I think in this day and age of a very competitive job market, it is essential that students go and seek an advanced degree upon graduating with a bachelor's degree. It will give you a very competitive advantage in the job market and you'll have a higher salary in the long run. It'll pay off. Those that can't earn the advanced degree or don't go into an advance graduate school or professional school, should try to at least seek a career in which they would be happy. ... Something where they don't mind going into work every day because as real life begins, work begins, and it can drain on you.”

Justin Moore
Chemistry associate professor

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy



Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

Welp, this is it, the last time I'll ever write for the first people who paid me to write about sports, which still trips me out to this day. I can watch sports, talk about it, then get money for it? Sick.

With graduation days away, I can't help but think about the times I thought I'd never make it to this point. I'm not talking about school or being able to turn a passion into a career, I'm talking about life.

I live with depression and anxiety. I could say I suffer from them, but it's about how you frame things, and I like to think I'm in control of them for the most part. That doesn't mean it hasn't been a struggle on the long, winding road to get here.

Depression has been that dark cloud lingering over my head when all I was hoping for was a little bit of sunshine. The first time I ever experienced it, without knowing at the moment, was in junior high. I didn't think anything of it, I was just super bummed out, but after going to a doctor, seeking therapy in my 20s, and reading and listening to people talk about their struggles, I realized what I was dealing with.

Anxiety has prevented me from pursuing plenty

of what seemed like golden opportunities, from jobs, to relationships, to simple nights out with friends being another normal face in the crowd. The fear that consumed my brain and body took over, rendering me incapable of making decisions I truly wanted, which was to go get that job, date that woman and just have fun with my friends. I've always had a large imagination, which helps for the most part being creative for a living, but was also a detriment those times my mind would run wild while conjuring up the worst-case scenarios.

I'd be lying if I said I've never contemplated suicide. If it wasn't for my dog Hurley, maybe I would've. But in the back of my mind, shielded away from the depression and anxiety that ran rampant, I never let go of the faith and belief in myself that I was destined for more.

I still battle with them every day, but something changed. I said “F-ck it” and started saying “yes” to things, to challenges, to fears, to everything.

Maybe it was some of the people I've met on my journey who have helped me learn and grow as a person. I won't get too deep, but I just want to shout out a few people.

My guys Nathaniel Mata and Greg Selber, who made me feel like I was actually good at something. My

W I N T E R CAME TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Realest sh-t I ever wrote

homegirl Brenda Garza, who is an inspiration and forced me to come out of my shell, and Carina Alcantara, who is one of the most encouraging people I've ever met.

The people I've met working for *The Rider* have been amazing and are friendships I hope last a lifetime, especially with P.J. Da Prince, Master of Photography Gabriel Mata, and the nicest person I've ever met, Lesley Robles. Jesus Sanchez and Azenett Cornejo have also made me a better journalist, worker and person with their guidance, and for that, I'm thankful.

So, as I sit here with tears in my eyes writing this in the newsroom where I've worked for nearly two years, I couldn't be more excited for what's next. Sure, there's some anxiety, but I got this.

Now, I want you to go get it.

Go out and get whatever it is you want in life, because there is nothing in this world that is unattainable. Chase your dreams, go after that job, ask your crush from third grade out on a date.

I'll leave you with this: A wise philosopher by the name of Jay-Z, aka Jigga Man/Iceberg Slim/HOV, once said, “Fear not when, fear not why, fear not much while we're alive, life is for living, not living uptight, til you're somewhere up in the sky.”

So, let's go out and get it while we're here.

Our unity is our strength

Jonathan Salinas

“If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving.”--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., October 1967.

On Nov. 9, over 200 students marched across the UTRGV Edinburg campus for a Solidarity Walkout calling for a DREAMER Center. Despite actions by the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) at UTRGV since late 2016, no concrete progress has been made on this issue either on an administrative or student governance level.

Despite SGA President Alondra Galvan's gestures to work with student organizers in supporting the creation of a DREAM Center, SGA passed

a DREAM Act resolution the day after the walkout, which student organizers did not want. SGA continues refusing to work on a DREAM Center resolution, according to student organizers.

Not having the support of the Student Government Association (SGA) has made some of the organizers question if it can be reformed to better represent student rights. This has been argued since SGA's founding on the Edinburg campus in the early 1930s. But in our present situation, this discussion, and the administrative difficulties surrounding it, can be traced back to the inception of UTRGV.

Campus protests became

Letter to the Editor

We citizens and the two live oak trees at Fazoli's are stumped!

Your president of the UTRGV Environmental Awareness Club was invited to Pharr City Hall to club environmental awareness into the assembled citizens. Ms. Julissa Roman seemingly accomplished that task with her powerfully moving presentation as the city manager immediately followed her well-received, heartfelt rhetoric with the verbal assurance of arboreal amnesty only to see two of the “conserved” oaks in question befall a Pharr different, sinister fate.

We citizens of Pharr thank your institution of higher learning for planting the seeds of stewardship of our abused, native, arboreal environment deep into your

Clínica ofrece nuevos servicios

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

El nuevo Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic en Mercedes ahora ofrece servicios de consejería en adición a la atención medica que provee a sus pacientes. Esta clínica de medicina familiar abrió sus puertas a finales de agosto y es una colaboración entre Knapp Medical Center y la Universidad de Texas del Valle del Río Grande (UTRGV). Está localizada en 2810 W. Expy. 83 y está abierta de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Jennifer L. Ortega, una científica del comportamiento y profesora adjunta para el UTRGV School of Medicine, dijo que el propósito del Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic es “mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestros pacientes”.

“Entendemos que cuando los pacientes vienen no solo tienen necesidades físicas que necesitan ser abordadas, también vienen con necesidades mentales y emocionales que necesitan ser tratadas”, Ortega dijo. “Así que, si todas las necesidades son abordadas, entonces el paciente tendrá una mejor oportunidad de vivir una calidad de vida más saludable y quizás, tu sabes, tomar mejores decisiones respecto a su forma de comer o a su manera de tomar decisiones así que, entonces, esto mejora su vida diaria”.

En esta clínica, los médicos residentes, quienes son todos graduados de escuelas de medicina y están persiguiendo una especialidad en medicina familiar, son supervisados por Miguel Tello, un médico de medicina familiar y director asociado del programa para el Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic.



Victor Ramirez/FOTOS THE RIDER

El Knapp- UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic está localizada en 2810 W. Expy. 83 en Mercedes. Las instalaciones proveen servicios de consejería y atención médica para pacientes de todas las edades. La clínica se encuentra abierta de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes.

Tello dijo que el propósito de este programa es proveer una oportunidad a los médicos residentes para que ganen experiencia en los diferentes entornos de la comunidad”.

“Todos los médicos residentes reciben un entrenamiento especial y desarrollo de habilidades en las competencias de medicina comunitaria”, de acuerdo con el sitio web de UTRGV. “Los residentes realizan actividades diseñadas para familiarizarlos con recursos comunitarios y agencias con el propósito de servir mejor las necesidades especiales de una población desatendida. Los residentes obtienen experiencia en ambientes comunitarios

incluyendo centros de salud escolares, agencias de United Way, hogares de grupos especiales, y asilos”.

Actualmente, seis residentes de medicina familiar comprenden la clínica: Dr. Eddy Berges, Dra. Eliana Constantino Burgazzi, Dra. Carolina Gomez de Ziegler, Dr. Diego Moreno, Dra. Marita del Pilar Sanchez Sierra Marino y Dr. Miguel Sanchez Rivas; así como también Nicole Guzman, quien es una practicante de enfermería familiar.

Tello dijo que la clínica atiende a alrededor de 20 pacientes al día y que ha atendido a cerca de 300 pacientes desde que esta abrió sus puertas.

Ortega dijo que los servicios de esta nueva clínica beneficiarán al Valle del Río Grande.

“Estamos constantemente viendo a muchos individuos, incluso gente joven, sufriendo de ansiedad y depresión y cosas así”, dijo ella. “... Muchas veces ellos no obtienen el apoyo que necesitan, y entonces, esto es algo. Aquí hay un servicio que podría ayudarlos posiblemente al mismo tiempo que ellos solo vienen aquí por digamos, tu sabes, un resfriado o, tu sabes, una gripa o algo así. Entonces, ¡‘Wow!’ se dan cuenta ... de que aquí hay un terapeuta. ‘Puedo verlos’, ‘No me he sentido bien’, tu sabes, emocionalmente, ‘Hay algo que está pasando en casa’, y cosas así, y entonces, ellos obtienen ese apoyo. Esto ayudará a la comunidad ya que es un servicio que es muy requerido porque hay un gran aumento en problemas relacionados con salud mental y bienestar mental”.

Ortega dijo que esta clínica es diferente a las demás ya que esta mira a los pacientes desde todos los factores que

pueden estar afectando su salud.

“Nosotros vemos al paciente en términos de todos los otros factores que pueden estar contribuyendo a su enfermedad ... en el momento”, Ortega dijo. “Así que, observamos factores como cuál es su estado mental y emocional, cuales son los factores económicos, cuales son los factores sociales, tienen un sistema de apoyo. ... Así que, tenemos una especialista del comportamiento, la cual soy yo, en la clínica diariamente, de lunes a viernes. ... Así que, si los médicos residentes se percatan de que un paciente está presentando síntomas de depresión o ansiedad, o que uno se lo diga al doctor, tu sabes, que no se está sintiendo bien mental o emocionalmente, entonces ellos pueden preguntarle al paciente si le gustaría ver a un especialista del comportamiento que se encuentra en la clínica”.

Ella dijo que la mayoría del tiempo, los pacientes aceptan los servicios de consejería.

La clínica acepta diferentes tipos de seguros médicos, incluyendo Medicaid y Medicare.

Ortega y Tello instan a la comunidad a buscar ayuda.

“El mensaje que le daría a la comunidad es que estamos aquí”, ella dijo. “Estamos abiertos, estamos disponibles y que no están solos. Y que, si necesitan atención médica, y atención mental o emocional, nosotros estamos aquí para servir y estamos disponibles para la comunidad”.

Para más información acerca del Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic, o para agendar una cita, llame al 973-3531.

La Navidad se acerca en UTRGV



Valeria Alanis/FOTOS THE RIDER

Ya que las fiestas navideñas se están acercando, la unión estudiantil en el campus de Edinburg organizó una competencia de casas hechas con galletas de jengibre. Los estudiantes participaron y disfrutaron de un ambiente alegre.



La unión estudiantil en el campus de Edinburg está lista con las decoraciones para la temporada navideña.



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Meet Amy A. Weimer

Tell me about yourself: Where are you from, what degrees do you hold and from which universities? “I’m originally from Colorado. I hold three postsecondary degrees, all in psychology. My first degree was from Northern Arizona University, it’s just in general psychology. Then, I earned my Master’s of Science in experimental psychology from Idaho State University and my Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Arizona State University.”

What made you pursue teaching? “I have always wanted to teach. I love children and I love learning, myself. So, for me, I wanted to study how children think. That’s what I do, I’m a cognitive developmental psychologist, but I also wanted to teach about what I learned--about how children think and process information. The kind of work that I do out at the Center for Bilingual Studies, as the associate director, is to understand how children think, feel, reason and how their understanding of thinking can be related to academic success, and how their cultural wealth and their linguistics assets can play a huge and significant role in advancing them. I want to make a difference in children’s lives and I love teaching my students the research findings, because I am just a curious learner myself and I want to instill that in my students and, hopefully, they gain that from me just by my own enthusiasm for it, but also because I think that if I can inspire this next generation to ask these kinds of questions, then we can continue to make a positive impact in our communities.”

What brought you to UTRGV? “My research that I study is Mexican-American families and cultural factors and linguistic factors that affect development. So, I came here because there are quite a lot of Mexican-American families to study and I wanted my children to have a greater sense of their own identity and their own heritage. In terms of my identity, my father is Mexican-American and my grandparents only spoke Spanish when I was a child, and we celebrated a lot of the traditions of Mexican families. I didn’t know that they were specifically Mexican; I thought everybody ate tamales during Christmastime. So, I wanted my




Amy A. Weimer, associate professor for the Department of Psychological Science. **Lesley Robles**/THE RIDER

children to be more in touch with that side of their heritage and to learn Spanish, because I am a big advocate of bilingualism, and just to help them be more globally prepared. I wanted to think about where I wanted to raise my children and the Valley is an excellent community for that.”

As an associate professor, what are your duties? “I do research and I teach a directed research course that’s mostly focused on getting undergraduate students involved in community-engaged research. A big part of what I do is not only to study the children in our community and

the families, but also to learn from them and to use the community as a resource to help educate our students here. It’s bidirectional and so, we are giving back and learning from them in many ways. I do teach the directed research course with that framework in mind. I also teach a graduate-level Life-span Developmental course that also has a service-learning component. It encourages my students to take what they have learned in the course and interact with the community and

See WEIMER, Page 10




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COMMENCEMENT

Continued from Page 1

to UTRGV as a new student,” Aguirre said. “It was like I was going to have to start all over again, so I started right at the beginning of Summer II.”

He advises entering freshmen to choose a major and commit to it.

“Choose a degree plan and stick to it,” Aguirre said. “Even if you are undecided, just pick something and make sure that you finish it, because one day you are going to want to come back [to school]. It’ll just make you take longer to graduate. What’s important is to have a degree. A lot of jobs want you to have that piece of paper. You may not end up working in your field of study, but at least having that paper will help you financially [in the long run].”

He is one of 1,835 students expecting to receive a bachelor’s degree in less than two weeks.

Of the graduates across both campuses, 15 are earning a doctorate and 650 are receiving a master’s degree.

The commencement ceremonies are scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. Dec. 15 on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville for all colleges and Dec. 16 in the McAllen Convention Center.

Tickets are required to attend the event in the convention center.

In McAllen, the first ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. for the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the College of Health Affairs.

At 1 p.m., the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Education and P-16 Integration, and the College of Sciences ceremony is scheduled to begin.

At 5 p.m., the College of Fine Arts and the College of Liberal Arts will hold their ceremony.

Graduating students who would like to request a specific site have the option to do so by emailing the registrar at registrar@utrgv.edu.

Four hundred ninety-three students are attending the ceremony in Brownsville, while the rest are expected to attend in McAllen.

This fall, the ceremony will also

include students who graduated in the summer and did not participate in the spring ceremony.

Consistent with previous commencements, this year’s ceremony will include traditions from legacy institutions UTB and UTPA.

“The really nice part about commencement at UTRGV is that there are a couple of traditions we get to enjoy from previous institutions that include UTB-TSC and what was UTPA,” said Sofia Montes, the university registrar. “Under UTPA, students often gave their stoles to their parents. Sometimes, that stole goes to another significant family member.”

Kristin Croyle, vice president for Student Success, said students who are being honored particularly for their service to the institution will ring the University Bell.

“We will honor graduating student veterans that are attending and veterans who are in the audience,” Croyle said. “We will, of course, honor the students who are receiving academic honors.”

Montes said administrators and faculty are prepared for inclement weather.

“In case of forecasted rain a couple of days in advance, the Brownsville ceremony will be moved to the McAllen Convention Center and no tickets for the students who were going to graduate in Brownsville will be required, but seating is first come, first serve,” she said.

With the extensive preparations that have gone into the ceremony, Croyle urges graduating students to attend the event.

“Students should totally go! Sometimes, students have been working so hard towards graduation, they don’t think about the ceremony being important,” she said. “They’re just happy to be graduating, so they skip the ceremony and oftentimes, regret it later in life. If anyone is planning on skipping, I encourage them to go and reflect on how hard they’ve worked on their degree and to celebrate together with us.”

PANEL

Continued from Page 1

become such a huge issue this year.

“Honestly, I think it came from the presidential debates and the presidential race and all that,” she said. “The topic kind of emerged and became something that started being talked about and from that, people started voicing the things that they had experienced or seen.”

Asked what the primary cause of sexual harassment is and its impact, García replied, saying the culture of an organization can be a factor.

“They’re there, and they’re deep and the older the organization, often, the more conditional the culture, the harder to break loose of old ways of doing, the traditional ways,” she said. “I think every organization is vulnerable.”

García also said power and authority are used by perpetrators to sexually harass vulnerable individuals, mentioning the case of former USA Gymnastics team’s doctor, Larry

Nassar, sexually assaulting young girls and how Nassar would give them gifts.

Whittenberg chimed in and warned against crossing lines with gifts and keeping relationships professional.

Since October 2017, major events, such as women speaking out about movie producer Harvey Weinstein’s sexual harassment of women, Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman speaking out about Nassar’s sexual abuse, actor Anthony Rapp accusing Kevin Spacey of sexual harassment and actress Alyssa Milano’s use of the trending hashtag #MeToo on Twitter, have inspired people to speak out about their own experience with sexual harassment.

The Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention has seen a steady increase in reporting since UTRGV’s inception, but Program Coordinator Priscilla Palacios said the increase is not necessarily tied to what is going on in Hollywood, but due to increased awareness in the campus community.

“More people getting the courage

to speak out, knowing that there are resources for them in the community or here on our campus, more students, staff or faculty wanting to figure out or understand what is going on. ... They’re now getting the empowerment to speak out and let others know what happened to them or what they went through,” Palacios said in a Wednesday interview with *The Rider*.

As panelists continued to answer questions, Whittenberg mentioned that he was from Tennessee, to which Cook replied, “#MeToo.”

The hashtag has been used by people on Twitter to indicate they’ve experienced sexual harassment or assault. Attendees laughed at the statement, but accounting senior Vicente Martinez took offense to it and spoke out.

“I’m not sure why you joked about such a serious issue because many women come forward saying #MeToo because they’ve been sexually harassed or sexually assaulted and you, you said to joke about it and I think that’s

awful,” Martinez said.

During and after the panel discussion, Cook apologized for his remark about #MeToo and explained that he is also from Tennessee.

“I think because this is a sensitive issue, it’s quite often the case that some people feel offended and that’s something I need to be aware of and so does everybody else,” Cook said after the panel. “What’s not offensive to one person may be offensive to another and that’s a learning.”

After the event, Stoves told *The Rider*, “I’m really appreciative of the opportunity today. It was a really good opportunity to talk directly to students about this important issue.”

To report an incident of sexual misconduct, call Student Rights and Responsibilities at 665-5375 on the Edinburg campus and 882-5141 on the Brownsville campus.

Counseling services are also available for students at Cortez Hall 237 in Brownsville and University Center 109 in Edinburg.

GARCIA

Continued from Page 1

had to meet with politicians.”

In Fall 2007, Homeland Security sent a letter to García, asking her to allow the agency to survey university land for 18 months for the possible construction of a border fence.

The agency also stated in its letter that it would not be responsible for any damage done during that time by its activities and should it determine need for any university land, the university would be paid market value for the land, according a report published in the university’s student newspaper, *The Collegian*.

García refused to sign the letter granting Homeland Security the right of entry. Her reasons for refusing to sign the letter included the following:

- a risk to property investment
- the fence would jeopardize campus security
- building the fence structure would have a negative impact on the environment

The debate led to the U.S. government filing a lawsuit against the university on Feb. 8, 2008, to access the campus for surveying.

In March 2008, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen dismissed the border-fence lawsuit after a settlement was reached by the parties.

Part of the settlement reached with Homeland Security called for UTB/TSC to begin construction of a campus fence. The fence cost the UT System \$1.4 million.

“This year happens to be the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the law that would build the border wall; it is called the Secure Fence Act,” García said. “It is appropriate, just from that respect, to go back and look at the implications of that law, why it was established, who supported it, what

the intent was and what the impact of it was.”

In Fall 2018, García plans to teach a course titled Can Latinas Lead? The course will most likely be cross-listed as well, she said.

Under her leadership, UTB doubled its enrollment and produced about 35,000 college graduates.

UTRGV Communication Department Chair John Cook said he is thrilled to have García come back as a professor at the university.

“This is going to be a tremendous opportunity for students to learn from someone who is prominent not only at the local level, but at the state and national level,” Cook said. “Her wealth of experience, and her knowledge and her capacity as a communicator is unrivaled. It’s tremendous. I’m so grateful that she’s going to be part of it.”

William F. Strong, a communication professor at UTRGV, has known García for more than 30 years. He worked with her from 2000 to 2005 as UTB/TSC’s Institutional Advancement vice president.

“Her focus as president that I admired so much was that she was myopically focused on bringing opportunity to the students of this region so that they can transform their lives through education,” Strong said.

Asked about his thoughts on García’s return to the Brownsville campus, Strong replied by saying he is “delighted.” García will join Strong as a professor in UTRGV’s Communication department.

Strong told *The Rider* García’s drive and leadership is what helped bring the University of Texas System education services and opportunities to Brownsville, which, ultimately, assisted in the creation of UTRGV.

“I don’t think that UTRGV, as we know it today, would exist without

her and without her paving the way for, you know, the rather impressive institution that we have today, and I think Brownsville itself would be dramatically different,” he said. “It might be poorer, you might say, in terms of opportunity ... in terms of its economic growth. It would not be anywhere near what it is today if it weren’t for her presence in the city.”

García’s hard work and success has led her to receive numerous accolades throughout her career, including a 2009 Time magazine recognition as one of the top 10 college presidents in the nation and being named one of Fortune magazine’s top 50 world leaders in 2014.

During her time away from the university, García served as a senior adviser to UT System Chancellor William McRaven for community, national and global engagement.

Her job at the UT System required her to travel between Austin and Brownsville. However, that did not stop García from visiting and walking across an empty Brownsville campus Sunday mornings.

Although it is nice to see the changes the Brownsville campus has gone through during her Sunday morning walks, García said she is looking forward to having direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis.

“It is wonderful to be able to come back on campus, but not just to walk on campus, but to be part of this next generation of developing leaders,” she said. “We would not be able to finish our job if all we did was use our moment to do what we thought was important. The real work I think we have, and the most important work, is how we help others become the leaders for the next generation.”

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Bryan Ramos/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV freshman point guard Valeria Tapia, a Brownsville Saint Joseph Academy alumna, looks to go baseline against Prairie View A&M University's Alexis Robinson in UTRGV's 78-62 win in the Feast of Sharing Tournament on Nov. 26 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

When a program says goodbye to a talented group as UTRGV did last year, most would assume they would struggle in the aftermath to fill those roles on the floor left by key contributors.

Nearly one month into the 2017-2018 season, Head Coach Larry Tidwell has a reloaded UTRGV squad fresh off recording a 6-1 start, the best the program has had in 26 years.

"We're always trying to do something to make this program get more respect across not only the state, but the southwest part of the country," Tidwell said. "We play for every girl and coach who wore the green and white and the orange and gray now. We're very pleased; 26 years since we had a 6-1 record, '91-'92. We're going to continue to try to keep on breaking records."

While UTRGV lost its top-four scorers, top-three rebounders and top-three assist leaders from a year ago, this team is made up of eight returners and eight new faces who have found a rhythm playing together early on. Tidwell said this year's deep team is loaded with players who understand their role and what they bring to the table.

"We're balanced," he said. "We don't know who the star is going to be on this team because we're so balanced, then we got kids that sometimes won't take a shot when they need to take a shot. If we get better, if we shoot better, the defense has done an excellent job. We can be pretty good this year."

Two of UTRGV's players who have stepped into leadership roles on and off the court are graduate student and fifth-year center Laura Van Tilburg, a Weslaco High School product, and the baby

of the team, Valeria Tapia, a freshman point guard from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, who played high school ball at Brownsville's Saint Joseph Academy.

Tapia, who played for the U19 Mexican national team in the 2017 FIBA World Cup, found her way onto the court after injuries hit the point guard position, as she has started the last few games for UTRGV. With Spanish being her first language, she said it's been a process adjusting to being a vocal leader on the court calling out plays, but is

double-double in a 78-62 win over Prairie View A&M University on Nov. 26 in the Fieldhouse as part of the Feast of Sharing Tournament. Tapia earned Most Valuable Player honors for her play in the tournament, prompting Tidwell to admit it would be hard for anybody to take that point guard spot from her.

She's happy to receive the support of the coaching staff and teammates in just her freshman season.

"It's amazing for me because I'm a freshman, so for him to believe in me that

role on Tidwell's squad.

"When the door opens, kids get a chance and they take advantage of it; Valeria Tapia was a great example of that, she's a player," Tidwell said. "She got the chance to step it up. We got a junior who has a lot of experience, got hurt, had another junior college kid who was playing, got hurt, so she stepped it up. So, now it's going to be hard to take that away from her. She sees the court well and handles traps well."

A pass-first point guard who is crafty at penetrating the

was also named to the Feast of Sharing All-Tournament team.

Van Tilburg is averaging 11.6 points per game, 8.1 rebounds and 1.6 blocks, leading UTRGV in each category.

UTRGV has gone on two separate three-game win streaks thus far. Junior college transfers Jameka Dowell, Quynne Huggins and Krisynthia Sampson have all earned major roles and are making instant impacts on both sides of the court, while Shaiann Tramble, who was an early season contributor, went down with a leg injury. Transfer students Alicia McCray and Marie-Fatou Gueye, a graduate student, have also carved out spots on the floor, which gives Tidwell confidence this year's deep and balanced team can help hang another banner in the rafters of the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

"I want to win a WAC Championship. I want to go to another NCAA tournament. I've been in eight. I've been in seven other postseason tournaments," Tidwell said. "We've hung three banners in the Fieldhouse and we're planning on hanging a lot more before my tenure at UTRGV is over and I plan on being here quite a few more years."

UTRGV is back in action Tuesday, as they travel to take on North Dakota State University at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, as they face Wisconsin University.

The Fieldhouse will also host the UTRGV Holiday Classic Dec. 19 and 20, with the University of Southern California, Middle Tennessee State University and Canisius College. UTRGV will square off against Canisius at 7 p.m. on the 19th and USC at 7 p.m. on the 20th.



UTRGV graduate student and center Laura Van Tilburg goes up and over Prairie View A&M University's Mariah Campbell in the Vaqueras' 78-62 win in the Feast of Sharing Tournament on Nov. 26 in the Fieldhouse. Van Tilburg was named to the All-Tournament team.



UTRGV graduate senior and center Laura Van Tilburg blocks a shot from Prairie View A&M University's Dominique Newman in UTRGV's 78-62 win in the Feast of Sharing Tournament on Nov. 26 in the Fieldhouse. Van Tilburg was named to the All-Tournament team.

beginning to feel comfortable with the role.

"I think communication is the key to win games," she said. "English is not my first language, so at the beginning, it was really hard for me to talk and Coach was like, 'You need to talk, you're not going to be on the court if you don't talk.' Right now, I'm getting used to talking with my teammates because I know that I have to talk to them because I'm the point guard."

The lone freshman on the team recorded her first career

way is amazing because it's hard, it's hard to believe in a little freshman," Tapia said. "It's really good to know that all my teammates support me and all of them are so proud of me because I'm the baby on the team; so they all support me and I feel so happy for that."

The "little freshman" plays with a pace other teams can't maintain and possesses court vision that could make you question if she has eyes on the back of her head, fitting perfectly into the point guard

heart of defenses and finding open teammates is just what the UTRGV team needed, and many are reaping the benefits.

Van Tilburg, the Weslaco High School alumna, was named the Western Athletic Conference Player of the Week for Nov. 20-26. During that week, she led the Vaqueras to three wins, including a 14-point, 12-rebound double-double against Texas Lutheran University on Nov. 21 and 15 points, nine rebounds and three blocks against Prairie View A&M on Nov. 26. She

COLUMN
Continued from Page 4

a common thing in November 2014, originally as a pushback against UT System policies, when student activist Stevie Luna organized a march against labeling our university with a racist, sexist symbol, as many students saw it. The student senate at the time voiced support for the protesters and organized a referendum to put the vote over the “Vaquero” directly to students. After months of work, it was derailed in the spring of 2015 by then-Interim University President Havidán Rodríguez, who told the committee there would be no referendum under any circumstances, despite established policy by his predecessor allowing student referenda under certain circumstances.

As the pro-organizer faction of SGA became demoralized and therefore destabilized as a result of this intervention, a new UTRGV student government constitution was being written by a convention of UTPA/

KNAPP
Continued from Page 3

Constantino Burgazzi, Dr. Carolina Gomez de Ziegler, Dr. Diego Moreno, Dr. Marita del Pilar Sanchez Sierra Marino and Dr. Miguel Sanchez Rivas; as well as Nicole Guzman, a family nurse practitioner.

Tello said the clinic serves about 20 patients daily and it has served about 300 patients since it opened its doors.

Ortega said the services of this new clinic will benefit the Rio Grande Valley.

“We are constantly seeing so many individuals, even young people, suffering from anxiety and depression and so,” she said. “... A lot of times they don’t get the support that they need, and so, here is something. Here is a service that could possibly help them at the same time that they are going in for let’s just say, you know, they have the cold or, you know, the flu or something. And then, ‘Wow!’ they find out ... there is a therapist here. ‘I can see them,’ ‘I have not been feeling good,’ you know, emotionally, ‘There is something that is going on at home,’ and so forth, and so, they get that support. It’ll help the community in that it is a service that is much needed because there is such a rise in issues with regard to mental health and mental well-being.”

Ortega said the clinic is different from others since it looks at the patients from all the factors that can be affecting their health.

“We look at the patient in terms of all the other factors that could be contributing to their illness or, you know, their sickness at the time,” Ortega said. “So, we look at factors like what is their mental and emotional state or well-being, what are their economic factors, what are their social factors, do they have a support system. ... So, we have a behaviorist, which is myself, at the clinic every day, Monday through Friday. ... So, if the residents notice that a patient may be presenting symptoms of depression or anxiety, or may even say it to the doctor, you know, that they haven’t been feeling well mentally or emotionally, then they can ask the patient if they would like to see the behaviorist that is in the clinic.”

She said most of the time, patients accept the counseling services.

The clinic accepts different types of insurances, including Medicaid and Medicare.

Ortega and Tello encourage the community to reach out for help.

“The message that I would give to the community is that we are here,” she said. “We are open, we are available and that they are not alone. And, that if they need medical care, and mental and emotional care, we are here to serve and we are available for the community.”

For more information about the Knapp-UTRGV Family Practice Residency Clinic, or to make an appointment, call 973-3531.

UTB students, controlled by the Dean of Students Office. Disallowing discussion over the constitution with fellow senators or students outside the convention, an untransparent process was formed. Amendments disallowing non-full-time students from office, and an unprecedented provision giving the dean final say over any changes to the constitution, were passed.

An overall lack of resistance to UT System on the part of SGA made community members and students (even those within SGA) lose faith in student governance.

Associations are meant to represent a population before those in power. One that depends on those in power for its legitimacy, therefore, creates a conflict of interest. Disallowing students who may not be able to afford full-time tuition (especially as it increases) further allows SGA to become an elite social group that is disconnected from the everyday struggles of working students.

This and the creation of a culture of fear among faculty, makes up the

LETTER
Continued from Page 4

students’ hearts and minds, but regret the real-world results, a tuition-free, lesson for life, on the action, or lack thereof, of government theoretically existing for the people and by the people versus circumventing the citizens regarding the mindless destruction of those majestic live oaks, now and forever, very dead oaks. However, the ensuing lesson learned will live on!

Dr. K.C. Fletcher Pharr

WEIMER
Continued from Page 7

learn from them, so that they can present and reflect on their findings in a meaningful way to further their knowledge.”

What classes do you teach? “I teach Directed Research at the undergraduate level and Life-span Developmental Psychology. Sometimes, I teach Child Development and I have also taught Research Methods and Social Behavioral Sciences from time to time.”

How can students reach you? “The best way is to email me at amy.weimer@utrgv.edu.”

What was the last book you read and what are some of the songs on your music playlist? “I’m currently reading ‘Great Minds and How to Grow Them’ by Deborah Eyre and Wendy Berliner. My chair gave it to me and we are working on a grant together, and this would be really great material to try to get some funding to help some students in impoverished areas get some experience here on campus. For my playlist, I actually love music quite a lot. I’m really into Young the Giant, Cage the Elephant, Arctic Monkeys and The Strokes.”

What do you like to do for fun? “If I can, I love to go hiking and be in nature as much as possible. I like to run. The Valley has just gorgeous weather for being outside, except during the summer when it gets too hot. There are also some fantastic places to explore just outside of Austin and San Antonio. To the extent that I can be outside, I like being outside, and going to the beach.”

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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depressing mood on campus that one still hears about to this day. But, students and faculty taking up each other’s struggles, like the action on Nov. 9, gives the campus life again. Whether progressive reforms can come to SGA or not, is up to everybody to decide for themselves. As a former senator, I say these actions are more powerful than any SGA resolution ever passed during my two-year tenure.

“A campus united will never be divided,” we declared. Students opposed to the center say DREAMERS are a small portion of the student body that shouldn’t get special treatment. But, the special treatment is having a question mark placed over your right to education just because of where you were born, not to mention that such rhetoric ignores lessons we should have learned from World War II. We should not let shallow criteria, such as birthplace, divide us.

Why? Because when tuition goes up, it goes up for all. When the price of parking permits and additional fees increase, they increase for all. Since the

dissolution of UTPA in 2015, executive salaries have doubled, while faculty and hourly wage campus jobs remain stagnant.

Institutional progress always comes from the bottom up, not from the top down. A more democratic university where the community dictates policy to an institution meant to serve our interests, and not the other way around, cannot come without collective action and solidarity among working students, faculty and staff. For this, policies enacted with the creation of UTRGV, which have divided student against student and faculty against faculty, community against community, must be transcended, for there is more that unites than divides us.

Jonathan Salinas was an SGA senator from Fall 2013 to Spring 2015, and served on the UTRGV SGA Constitutional Convention. He attended the walkout on Nov. 9 and now works as a community organizer.

2018 SPRING COURSES IN COMMUNICATION

NEED AN UPPER DIVISION OR GRADUATE COURSE? HERE ARE SOME GREAT OPTIONS!

COMM 3315: NEW TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION: THE RHETORIC OF THE BORDER WALL	COMM 6329: SPECIAL TOPICS: THE RHETORIC OF THE BORDER WALL
TAUGHT CONCOMITANTLY BY DR. JULIET GARCIA, PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION AND FORMER UTB/TSC PRESIDENT	
BROWNSVILLE FRIDAY 10:40 A.M. - 1:10 P.M.	

COMM 3332:
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION: A COURSE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMMUNICATION IN ORGANIZATIONS

TAUGHT BY DR. NIKKIE HODGSON

BROWNSVILLE
THURSDAY 10:50 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.

COMM 4345:
COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT: A COURSE IN THE CAUSES AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO CONFLICT AND AGGRESSION

TAUGHT BY DR. JOHN COOK

BROWNSVILLE
FRIDAY 10:40 A.M. - 1:10 P.M.

COMM 3346:
HEALTH COMMUNICATION: A COURSE IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND PRACTICE FOR HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS

TAUGHT BY DR. WAN LIN CHANG

EDINBURG
THURSDAY 3:05 - 4:20 P.M.



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SINGING WITH SOUL

University choir prepares for concert

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

The UTRGV University Choir is set to debut its concert this Tuesday, under the direction of Assistant Professor David Means.

With a big choir to work with, Means

four times a week with their scheduled class.

However, Means and students did face many obstacles, and overcame them through mutual teamwork.

“It’s a challenge sometimes, because I’m having to deal with a bunch of different voices and personalities and we don’t always come to rehearsal with

them,” he said.

Music education freshman and soloist Carolina Gonzales, will perform her solo, “Light of a Clear Blue Morning” by Dolly Parton, after intermission.

Gonzales prepared by listening to Parton’s song a multitude of times, matching her notes and identifying with the song.

She is most looking forward to the overall sound the choir produces for

Mendoza described his goal for the performance as an opportunity to inspire the audiences with their art.

Mendoza advises to look forward to the second half, believing it to be the more challenging portion.

“To me, it’s more fun!” he said.

If you would like to be taken on a musical journey with this choir, be at the Performing Arts Complex auditorium in Edinburg at 7 p.m. Tuesday.



Associate Professor David Means, director of Choral Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, shares his process of song selection and how the teamwork of all members of the choir was key to overcoming the challenges faced.

is ecstatic for the premiere and to see what events unfold while performing.

“I’m looking forward to just seeing what happens because in the excitement of a concert, things happen, often for the better,” he said.

Means carefully chose the music and described the process as something that is done in high preparation.

“I’m thinking of stuff for three years from now,” he said. “By midsummer, I have 200 songs I want to do, then I have to reduce that 200 to 20.”

The jam-packed choir, which consists of 12 sopranos, 11 altos, nine tenors and 17 bass singers, rehearsed

the same kind of attitude, and the same kind of preparation,” he said. “But all in all, we work really hard together, and find success together.”

Voice sophomore Alejandro Vasquez detailed the main difficulty the choir faced, saying that it was hard to get everyone together at the same time because of some students having to be absent for different reasons.

“The fact of everyone being here,” Vasquez said, was a big hurdle to cross.

Despite the cat and mouse of practice mishaps, the choir found inspiration through each other.

“I really enjoy getting to sing with



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Music education freshman Carolina Gonzales will participate as a soloist in this concert. Her solo, “Light of a Clear Blue Morning,” by Dolly Parton will be performed after intermission.

the concert and to see the audience’s reaction.

“I want the audience to be proud of the work we’ve done,” Gonzales said.

Music education freshman Jordan

Tickets are \$5, but discounted for students and staff with ID.

A&E editor’s note

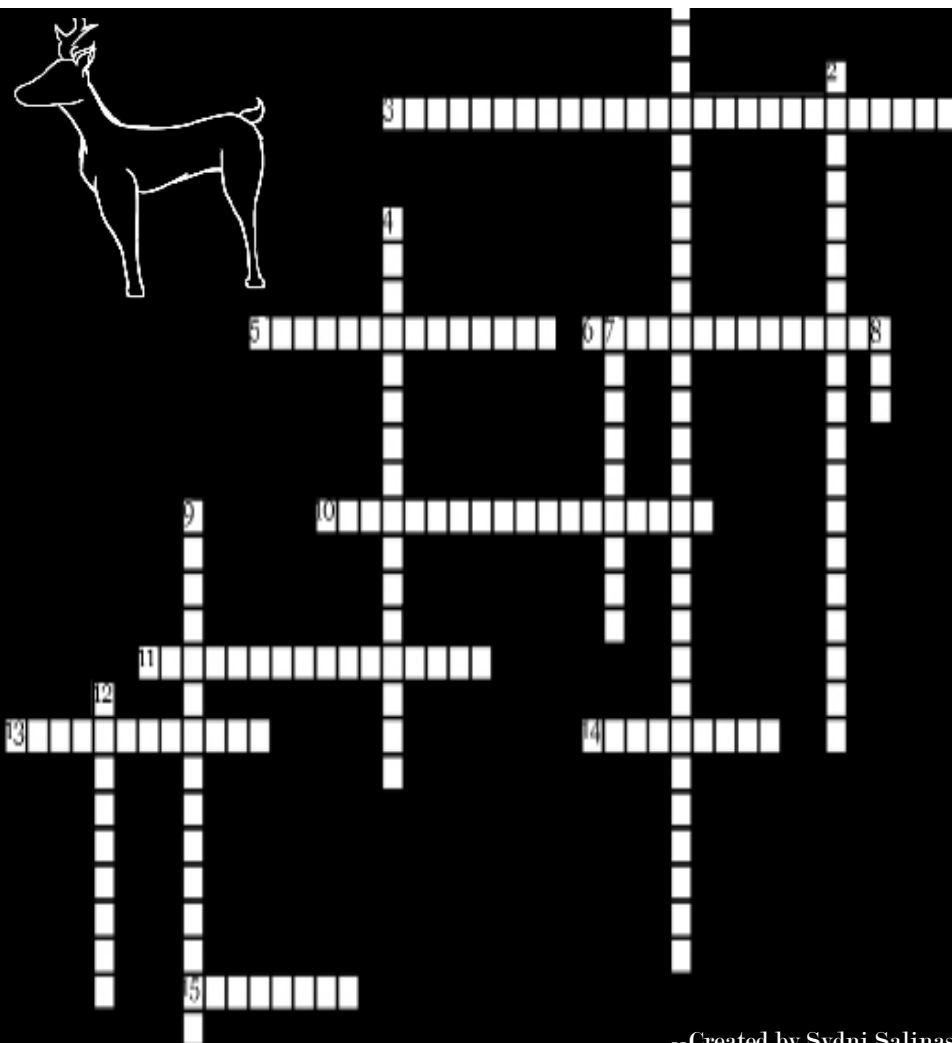
Thank you, readers, for keeping up with the arts and entertainment page this semester, and for partaking in the crossword puzzle. It’s a pleasure to write about students doing what they love, in the fields they love. For next semester, I would like to include more interactive puzzles and could use your suggestions. Email your ideas to therider@utrgv.edu!

Catch you in 2018, friends!



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS



--Created by Sydni Salinas

Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



ACROSS

3. Only premiering on CBS, the timeless classic has been running for 53 years. Its main character has a very shiny nose, and if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows

5. Accidentally knocking over Santa Clause on his rooftop, he is then appointed to the position

6. Starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Diane Keaton, a dysfunctional family comes together to celebrate Christmas and meets their brother's son's new girlfriend, Meredith

10. “What is it you want, Mary? What do you want? You want the moon? Just say the word, and I’ll throw a lasso around it and pull it down.

11. “With a corncob pipe and a button nose, and two eyes made out of coal

13. Nine stories come together to demonstrate the meaning of Christmas and love in this British classic directed by Richard Curtis

14. Created by Dr. Seuss, and retold through television (1966) and cinema (2000), his story revolves around his hatred for Christmas and devious plan to steal it

15. A 1988 take on Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” starring Bill Murray as a cold, ambitious executive who must come to terms with his life through ghosts of the past, present and future

DOWN

1. The Halloween king tries to take over Christmas

2. Originally made in 1947, then remade in 1994 with child star Mara Wilson, the film takes place in NYC while a young girl and her mother struggle to find the meaning of Christmas in a Santa look-alike

4. Any true Judy Garland fan will know this film, marking it as a musical classic in which the song “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” was originated

7. A bratty boy is left home alone in this Macaulay Culkin classic

8. “You sit on a throne of lies!”

9. Based on the children’s book by Chris Van Allsburg, a skeptical young boy takes a train ride to the North Pole

12. Premiering as a television special in 1979, the stop-motion picture tells the origin of everyone’s favorite sprite who brings frost to the wintertime

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