



VISUAL ARTS BUILDING COMPLAINTS

Students raise concerns regarding the location and sanitation of the Visual Arts Building in Edinburg. **See Page 3**



VAQUEROS STAY TO DEFEND THE RGV

Several UTRGV baseball players from the Rio Grande Valley share their experiences playing at home. **See Page 8**

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

THE RIDER

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 3, ISSUE 26



/UTRGVRIDER

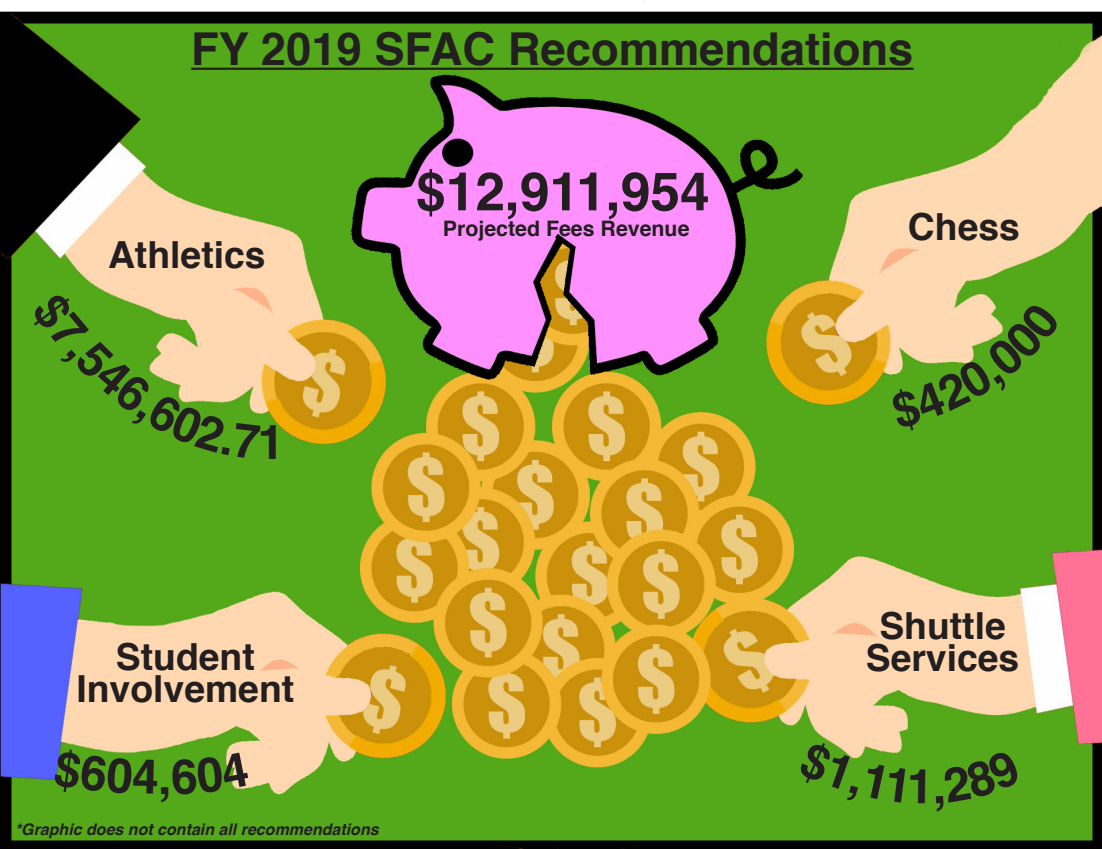


@UTRGV_THERIDER

UTRGV

YOUR MONEY

Committee finalizes funding recommendations



Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fifty-six of 57 requests made by several UTRGV programs are being recommended to receive funding from the student services fee projected revenue, according to documents obtained by *The Rider*. Now that the Student Fee Advisory Committee recommendations have been submitted to UTRGV President Guy Bailey, he must review them for approval.

The Rider tried to contact Bailey last week for an interview, but he was unavailable. Earlier this semester,

UTRGV organizations and departments submitted funding proposals totaling \$14,696,379. However, the university estimates it will collect \$12,911,954 in student services fees.

Projected fees are based on enrollment.

Last fall, UTRGV reports showed 27,809 students enrolled.

Nick Weimer, assistant vice president for Student Success, served as the Student Fee Advisory Committee chair.

"It was informative for me to learn about the university processes and for recommending how student fees should be allocated for

the university," Weimer said in an interview last Thursday. "All of the members of the committee were great people to work with. Very active student involvement from the five student members and our staff and faculty members as well."

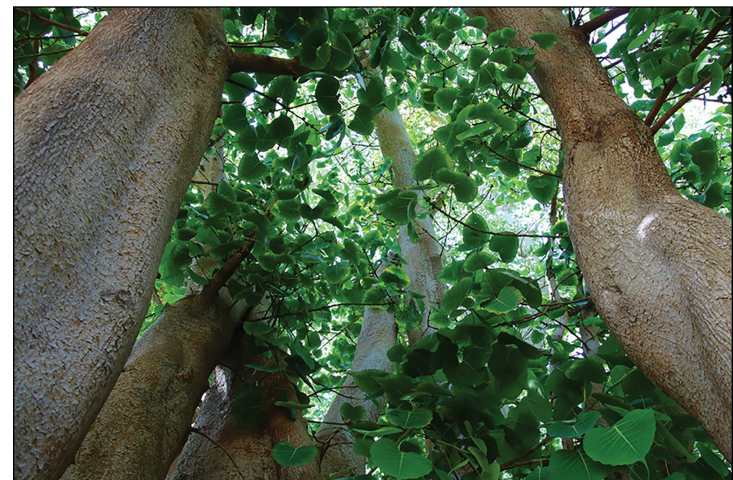
The single request not being recommended for funding is Advancing Engineering and Computer Science STEM Literacy.

Weimer told *The Rider* the request was a new program being proposed and having a limited amount of revenue did not allow the committee to recommend full funding for

See **FEES**, Page 6

Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

EARTH DAY



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Earth comes first

University to host festival Thursday

Gabriel Galvan

THE RIDER

UTRGV will host its annual Earth Fest Thursday on both campuses.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be exhibits, arts, crafts, food and activities on the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg and the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

Marianella Franklin, UTRGV's chief sustainability officer, is helping with the

facilitation of the event.

"Earth Fest is all about celebrating the amazing planet that we live on, its

Vaquero Voice,

Page 4

beauty, its inhabitants and its endless biodiversity," Franklin said. "It's also about creating awareness on the

See **EARTH**, Page 7

CULTURE

A Selena celebration

Steven Hughes

THE RIDER

UTRGV's Campus Programming Board will host its first Selena Night from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday on the Troxel Hall Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

The event will celebrate the birth of the Tejano superstar, Selena Quintanilla. Attendees are able to participate in a costume contest and karaoke for a chance to win V-Bucks.

For the costume contest, participants should dress up either as Selena or people from her life. The winner will receive 30 V-Bucks and each karaoke participant, open to all music, will receive 10 V-Bucks. There will also be

Quintanilla, also known as the



Selena Quintanilla

Lotería and each

See **SELENA**, Page 7

RESEARCH

Vaquero symposium

UTRGV presents student research, creative works

Britney Valdez
and Zugay Treviño

THE RIDER

More than 800 UTRGV students participated in the three-day Engaged Scholar Symposium with presentations and displays in areas ranging from art and medicine to engineering.

The symposium began last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus. It continued Wednesday on the Edinburg campus and concluded Thursday in Harlingen. Keynote Speaker Melissa

Reynolds, who is the associate dean for research in the College of Natural Sciences and an associate professor in chemistry and biomedical engineering at Colorado State University, spoke about the importance of internal medical devices.

The symposium, which has been taking place every April since UTRGV's establishment in 2015, gives graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to showcase research of their choosing.

Pierre Lu, an assistant
See **SYMPOSIUM**, Page 6



Biomedical science junior Roberto de la Garza presents his group's project, "Effects of Psychological Stress on Body Weight and Lifestyle in Hispanic Students in Low Income Area," last Tuesday during the Engaged Scholar Symposium held in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jesus Sanchez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

SPANISH EDITOR

Eric Montoya

A&E EDITOR

Sydni D. Salinas

COPY EDITOR

P.J. Hernandez

CARTOONIST

Laia Vite

SPORTS REPORTER

Diana Navarro

REPORTERS

Nubia Reyna
Gabriel Galvan
Britney Valdez
Steven Hughes
Zugay Treviño
Ana Trujillo

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Albert Monrroy
Robert Benavidez Jr.
Valeria Alanis
Lesley Robles
Joahana Segundo

**ADVERTISING SALES
MANAGER**

Leslie Medrano

**ADVERTISING SALES
REPRESENTATIVES**

Jessica Mendez
Jillian Glantz

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT

Victor G. Ramirez

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

© 2018 The Rider

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Guitar Performance

Guest percussionist **Marco Guerra** and the **UTRGV Guitar Ensemble** will perform works by **Celso Machado, Ignacio Cervantes** and **Eduardo Martin** at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Trombone Performance
William “Bill” Haugeberg, an assistant professor for music, and the **McAllen String Quartet** will perform new works for trombone and strings. **Haugeberg** and pianist **Linda Chavez** will perform **Derek Bourgeois’ “Trombone Concerto, Opus 114”** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Board Game Night
The **Student Union** will host a **Board Game Night** at 4 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The same event will take place at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

‘Mario Party 10’
The **Student Union** will host a **“Mario Party 10” Wii U Release** event at noon in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Tuesday
Healthy Food Workshop
The **Student Food Pantry** will host workshops on how to cook nutritiously, understand nutrition labels and shop on a budget from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the

Edinburg campus. The event will take place at the same time Wednesday in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-3663.

Movie Night

The **Campus Programming Board** will show **“Coco”** from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the Troxel Hall Lawn in Edinburg. The event will take place



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

at the same time Thursday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7991.

Air Hockey Tournament

The **Student Union** will host an **Air Hockey Tournament** at noon in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Wednesday

Résumé Rave

The **Career Center** will host its **Résumé Rave** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2243.

Magic: The Gathering Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Magic: The Gathering Tournament** at 3 p.m. in The Loft, located on the second floor of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Saturday

Opera Performance

The **UTRGV Opera** will perform

“Transformations: Sing Your Story” at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. The event will also take place at 3 p.m. Sunday in the same location. Admission is \$10, and \$5 for senior citizens and students.

Sunday

Symphonic Band Performance

The **Symphonic Band** will perform at 5 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Wind Ensemble Performance
The **Wind Ensemble** will perform at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Ongoing

Support Group

The **Collegiate Recovery Program** will host an **Addiction and Recovery Support Group** at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

Recovery Meetings

The **Collegiate Recovery Program** hosts **recovery meetings** as follows: **Alcoholics Anonymous** at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, **SMART Recovery** at noon on Tuesdays, **Narcotics Anonymous** at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and noon Fridays, **Tobacco Intervention** at noon on Wednesdays, and the **Al-Anon Family Group** at noon on Thursdays. All meetings are held in University Center 102 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 3 and 5.



April 3

9:32 a.m.: A student reported U.S. currency and a gift card were stolen from his wallet. The wallet had been briefly lost and turned

in to the University Police Department's lost and found minus the items mentioned. The case is under investigation.

10:53 a.m.: A student reported his vehicle was struck while unattended in Lot E32. After reviewing video footage, the officer was able to identify the suspect involved in the accident. The case is under investigation.

3:33 p.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported losing a set of university keys in the area of the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

April 5

12:15 p.m.: An officer made contact with a student who reported losing her state-issued Texas driver's license at Jazzman's Café on the Edinburg campus. She wanted to generate a report in case someone found her license or needed to replace it.

3:15 p.m.: A student reported he slipped and fell outside the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. He declined emergency medical services and sought out medical services on his own.

4:17 p.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported her university-assigned laptop computer was missing. She states she possibly misplaced it at home. The last time she used her laptop was in October 2017 due to technical issues. She said she needed to file a report for inventory purposes. It is unknown if the laptop contained security sensitive

information.

5:31 p.m.: A staff member reported losing her university-issued ID card at a convenience store in Weslaco. Access Control was notified to deactivate the lost card.

5:48 p.m.: An employee contractor



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

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

reported his vehicle sustained damage to the right front and rear passenger windows. A preliminary investigation revealed a vehicle driving recklessly inside the construction compound

parking lot on the Edinburg campus caused gravel rocks in the lot to propel, striking the vehicle's windows. Two other vehicles were also damaged as the result of the driver's reckless actions. A suspect, an employee contractor, has been identified and arrested on a charge of reckless damage or destruction, a class C misdemeanor.

7:56 p.m.: A public safety officer detected an odor of natural gas emitting from a meter near Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus. Texas Southmost College security and UTRGV Environmental Health and Safety were notified about the odor. They reported no gas lines lead to Rusteberg Hall. A walk-through of the building was conducted and no odor of gas was present.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

Ladies, we're hiring!

Shenanigan's



Shenanigan's Irish Pub & Grill is looking for female waitstaff!

Here is what we are looking for:

- Bar experienced or at least very ambitious!
- Reliable, Punctual and Professional
- Social Network Savvy, i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Marketing Driven
- Entertaining, i.e., loud, fun, etc.
- Ages 18 and up
- TABC-certified preferred!

For more information, call 956-986-2337
2451 Pablo Kisel, Ste. H, Brownsville, TX 78526
Please turn in all job applications in person at: Shenanigan's Irish Pub & Grill

CREATIVITY INTERRUPTED

Students, faculty raise issues about Visual Arts Building

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Students eat in the Visual Arts Building break room, while others stand on the opposite side of the room painting for an assignment they have due soon.

The paint smells like nothing, but all at the same time, an annoyance can be felt in the air that there isn't enough room for these separate activities to take place comfortably.

This is the contradiction of the Visual Arts Building, formerly known as the Visual Arts Annex, located at 2412 S. Closner Blvd. in Edinburg.

It's a creative space for students and professors who inspire great works of art, but there are issues that students say need to be addressed.

Interviewing students from the School of Art, the two main issues they have with the art annex are its sanitation and location.

Graphic design junior Stephanie Ramirez said that although the perk of being at the annex is good parking, being off campus limits the university experience.

"We miss out a lot on the events and the activities, and stuff like that. We don't really know what's going on over there," Ramirez said.

Graphic design junior Lilly Chapa reiterated this sentiment by emphasizing her disappointment with her classes' location.

"When I found out all my classes were [in the building], I was like, 'Oh. OK,'" Chapa said.

She also said students need more equipment, such as Wacom tablets.

Ramirez and Chapa aren't the only students who are disappointed by the building's location.

Studio art juniors Kristen Sanchez and Jose Suarez, as well as graphic design junior Javier Gonzalez, detailed their issues with the building's location and sanitation problem.

However, Sanchez's problem goes beyond location, saying the building itself is a major complication for art students.

"The general building, it's not fully equipped for the necessary needs of an art school," she said.

Suarez agreed with Sanchez, saying the lack of room creates confining space.

"I just feel like it's so cluttered," Suarez said.

Gonzalez's complaint is about the location.

"I feel like it's a little too isolated, off to the side. ... I think it's too much



Sydni D. Salinas/THE RIDER

In the Visual Arts Building in Edinburg, UTRGV students use this space to work on their projects and and eat.

separation," he said.

Art Lecturer Erika M. Balogh said she enjoys being off campus.

"Spending several years here, I really enjoy that. ... Parking is much easier here. I don't feel separated," Balogh said.

Her only complaints are the sanitation of the building and the need for more graphic design professors due to the majority of art students majoring in the field.

In regard to the need for a cleaner environment, Balogh said oftentimes her students end up having to clean inside the lab because of the dust lying about.

"All of our labs, I would say, our students every week start with cleaning our desks," she said. "I think every week somebody should clean that, and not the students."

Despite these concerns, she said, "I think if the classes are good, and they're learning effectively, that makes them happy."

In theory, that is good for students who have professors in their fields of concentration, but what about the graphic design students who need more classes and professors in their major?

Chapa echoed Balogh's concern.

"More professors for graphic design," Chapa said when asked what her highest concern is with the school.

There seems to be a culture growing from the seclusion of the art students,

and an outcry for a closer and included presence on the Edinburg campus.

College of Fine Arts Dean Steven Block responded to the issue of location by stating that although a separate building for all of fine arts to be located altogether would be practical, this sort of change takes time.

"I think it would be better. The model that I would love to see would be a fine arts location in which all of the College of Fine Arts is in one central location, rather than spread out in several buildings all across campus," Block said. "Now that would involve a new building, and, I think, the university right now, their priorities are understandably on health and medicine, and getting those new buildings up first."

Regardless, Block agrees with students that there is a problem, locationwise.

"I think that it is problematic for the annex to be separated in a completely different location from the entire university. I absolutely agree that that's a problem," he said.

However, reiterating that change takes time, Block said it has taken two years to get furniture in the Visual Arts Building.

"It's taken two years to put furniture into the building," he said. "Finally, in this next week or two, we're going to see furniture in the hallways, so that's nice. That's just the way it is sometimes. That's the university bureaucracy sometimes."

"The important point is, is that I didn't give up. I continued to meet with the students, including the student government, about releasing the furniture, so that's sort of a small victory."

Block also addressed student and professor complaints about needing more graphic design faculty.

"What I think is needed in that program is not so much grabbing more professors, but finding people who can steer the program towards the future," he said. "Some of the problems in the past have been sort of a random picking of professors, without really thinking about what we really should be focusing on and what kind of graphic design program we need in the Valley."

Carlos Chavez, assistant director for Facilities Programs and Services, responded to students' complaints regarding sanitation.

"The Visual Arts [Building] is being cleaned every day," Chavez said.

He said there is staff at the building cleaning it day and night.

"I think they do a pretty good job cleaning as much as they can with the available time that we give them. ... It's 43 hours per week where we have these employees working on making just that area as clean as possible," he said.





Pretty Things

A fashion blog.

Visit utrgvrider.com

Have a story idea?

Let us know at
882-5143 or **665-2541**

VAQUERO VOICE

Earth Day



"I've grown up on a ranch, so I feel like if we were able to grow trees like on Arbor Day, it'd be a good way to help, not only with increasing oxygen on a mass scale, but it also helps us attain so many things, like food sources. It makes everything more vibrant. It would be weird to see something arid and dry, like a desert, in comparison to an area that is full of vegetation and green."

Amanda Salas
Biomedical science sophomore

"I think Earth Day is a really cool day for us to remember. We have to clean up after ourselves and we have to take care of our home, where we're from, just cleaning up trash. It's just a day that we take to remember that we have to keep stuff clean, especially the environment."

Manuel Gámez
Graphic design sophomore



"My thoughts about Earth Day is that it's a good day to celebrate the Earth, on keeping it clean and letting people know about the environment and how we should always keep it clean."

Odalys Cortez
Nursing junior

"Darwin decía que: 'El amor por todas las criaturas vivientes es el más noble atributo del hombre', entonces si cuidamos la Tierra y la respetamos creo que realmente es una manera de mostrar esta cualidad'".

Ruth Lilia Galán
Estudiante de último año de biología



--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy



THAT
MOMENT
WHEN
CONGRESS
DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW
HOW
FACEBOOK
WORKS

Expand your skill set



Sergio Garcia
SOCIAL MEDIA
EDITOR

I truly believe that the more you know, the more you grow. Knowledge could potentially be the most valuable global currency available to everyone.

If you are reading this, chances are you are a student just like me. One of the best suggestions I can give you is to look for learning resources anywhere you can.

We tend to spend a lot of time on our smartphones, so spend it in a smart way.

I can't make recommendations as to what to watch because your interests might differ from mine, but you can find a lot of information on YouTube to get you started in different areas of study.

A skill I was able to develop, thanks to video tutorials, was graphic design. I mainly focused on learning one

software at a time, starting with Adobe Photoshop.

Time is always hard to manage while in college, especially if you work or are part of an organization. Use your current situation to your advantage. If you work, make sure that you know all the aspects of your role and seek information regarding topics that you consider relevant to your position.

For instance, I'm a social media editor, so I read articles about social media, but I complement my learning by reading about psychology, marketing, business and graphic design.

Also, get involved in something that you like. Joining a club or organization is a great place to start. If you are already a member, apply to be an officer.

Officers carry specific duties, but you can also learn new things from other officers and help when you can to make sure that you practice what you learn.

Once you have learned a

certain skill, look closely and try to find new connections. For instance, once I knew how to use Photoshop, I moved onto learning photography. Using that same process, I moved to video recording and editing.

At this point, you might think that I'm an art major or something related, but I'm not. My current major is computer engineering. As I mentioned at the beginning, I like to learn as much I can when presented with the opportunity, but also when I can create them myself.

By expanding your knowledge, you might also discover new areas in which you are interested. In my case, I found a really interesting branch of computer science that interests me, user interface design (UI) and user experience (UX).

It's also important to mention that you can add what you learn to your résumé. Of course, not directly, but by acquiring the proper certifications.

Have a story idea?

Let us know at
882-5143 or **665-2541**

Letter to the Editor

Green Fund vote this fall

According to UTRGV TV, the UTRGV Student Government Association has passed a resolution calling for a Green Fund, with students to vote for/against the measure in Fall 2018. As a graduate student, I understand the value of every last dollar, but I also have come to understand the importance of sustainability!

Before voting, students need to understand the long-term vision behind the green fund idea--that universities need funding to minimize damage to the environment, to people and to the economy. Sustainability is already written into our Mission, Vision and Goals--and UTRGV has earned a gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), which measures sustainability on college campuses. Yet funding for sustainability is cut smaller every semester, and we're one of few universities with no formal green fund to support those efforts!

Green funds are being used across the U.S. to pay for initiatives, such as reusable takeout box programs for dining halls, university thrift stores, bike racks, and composting and recycling programs. Successful green fund

programs at other universities have also supported micro-business loans for on campus, student-led enterprises and grants for student interest projects (they're like contests for "green" businesses and projects), space-reclaiming projects (turning unused spaces into usable relaxation/butterfly gardens) and improvements for those spaces (like hammock stands and solar-powered phone charging stations).

Sounds good, right? Too bad UTRGV can't afford any of that stuff! Students, if you want a nicer campus environment, vote for the green fund, and tell your friends about why it's a good idea to do so. Pool together and treat yourself to some campus upgrades. You won't miss the \$2, but your university community will definitely feel the impact. This resolution didn't pass last time--let's get a green fund at UTRGV passed this year!

Karen Villarreal
Graduate student, communication program
Graduate assistant, UTRGV Office for Sustainability

El planeta es primero

Universidad celebrará festival este jueves

Gabriel Galvan
THE RIDER

UTRGV será el anfitrión del festejo anual Earth Fest este jueves en ambos campus.

De 11 a.m. a 2 p.m. habrá exhibiciones, arte, artesanías, comida y actividades en el Chapel Lawn en Edinburg y en el jardín de la Unión Estudiantil en Brownsville.

Marianella Franklin, jefa de sustentabilidad de UTRGV, está ayudando con la facilitación del evento. “Earth Fest se trata de celebrar el asombroso planeta en el que vivimos, su belleza, sus habitantes y su biodiversidad infinita”, dijo Franklin. “También se trata de crear conciencia y entendimiento de la importancia de proteger los recursos naturales extremadamente limitados de nuestro planeta”.

También dijo que el propósito del Día de la Tierra es hacer conciencia de “las maneras responsables en las que podemos proteger nuestro planeta”.

Franklin dijo que hay muchos aspectos del Earth Fest de este año.

“Una de las cosas [que hicimos] fue acomodar todo de tal manera que nuestros estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de exhibir algunos de sus proyectos y sus programas, así como también divertidas actividades y comida y posiblemente música”, ella dijo.

El tema del año pasado fue energía, agua y espacio, mientras que este año será seguridad alimentaria.

“Tenemos grandes problemas de seguridad alimentaria y salud en nuestra región”, dijo Franklin. “Si consideras que el Valle del Río Grande fue un oasis agrícola, por así decirlo, tenemos bastante inseguridad alimentaria. Tenemos muchas áreas donde los individuos no tienen acceso a alimentos saludables,

y debido a que nuestras tierras han sido convertidas a desarrollo urbano, en un futuro cercano, no tendremos suficiente comida no solo para nuestras necesidades nutricionales, pero para nuestra supervivencia”.

Martha Garcia, estudiante de último año en biología y copresidenta del Environmental Awareness Club (Club de Concientización Ambiental), dijo que mucha gente no está informada acerca de cómo tener estilos de vida sustentables.

“No saben que pueden obtener muchas cosechas de los agricultores locales, que los agricultores orgánicos locales si existen aquí en el Valle, como Terra Preta [Farm] y Yahweh’s [All Natural Farm and Garden] en Harlingen”, dijo Garcia. “Todos estos agricultores viven estilos de vida sustentables y creo que es genial que UTRGV se está concentrando en la sustentabilidad, el Día de la Tierra y el cambio climático”.

Durante el festival, el cuarto evento anual Food Security Forum (Foro de la Seguridad Alimentaria) tomará lugar, con los oradores invitados Alexis Racelis, un profesor de biología de UTRGV, y James Canter, chef del restaurante Guerrilla Gourmet, entre otros. El foro se llevará a cabo de 1 a 7 p.m. en el University Ballroom en el campus de Edinburg.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Racelis dijo que hay múltiples objetivos que se superponen para el Food Security Forum de este año, tales como igualdad económica, asociaciones y el cambio climático.

“Una de las cosas en las que trabajo como investigador es el impacto de los sistemas alimentarios, en particular, como los sistemas alimentarios se relacionan con muchos de estos objetivos”, él dijo. “Está claro que, con comida y hambre, puedes adivinar cuál es la conexión”.



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Un pato criollo reposa cerca del Lozano-Banco Resaca el pasado miércoles en el campus de Brownsville. La Oficina de Sustentabilidad de UTRGV celebrará los eventos de Earth Fest en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg esta semana en conmemoración al Día de la Tierra, el cual es este domingo.

Racelis dijo que la seguridad alimentaria se trata de cuanta comida tenemos a la cual tenemos acceso y que puede ayudar a mantener un estilo de vida saludable.

“Aquí en el Valle del Río Grande, tenemos uno de los peores índices de inseguridad alimentaria”, él dijo. “Tenemos a residentes de RGV que pasan hambre todo el día. Están desnutridos o malnutridos. No están recibiendo los tipos de alimentos que les permiten tener un estilo de vida saludable. Muchos de nuestros residentes no tienen acceso a alimentos saludables”.

Él dijo que el tema global de la seguridad alimentaria es relevante en el Valle.

El foro consistirá de tres paneles. El primero es acerca de la nutrición y el acceso a los alimentos. El segundo será sobre los agricultores quienes discutirán acerca de sus esfuerzos para producir alimentos sustentables, y el tercero se tratará sobre diferentes organizaciones e individuos quienes están trabajando para conectar a la producción de alimentos con

el consumo saludable de los mismos.

“Yo creo que esto será un foro fantástico para entender como se conectan los alimentos con nuestras vidas cotidianas”, dijo Racelis.

Los episodios de la serie documental de televisión *Planet Earth* (*Planeta Tierra*) y *Years of Living Dangerously* (*Años de vivir peligrosamente*) serán proyectados de 7 a 8 p.m. en Unity Hall en el campus de Edinburg y en el complejo estudiantil de vivienda Casa Bella en el campus de Brownsville.

Además, una plantación de árboles está programada para tomar lugar en el jardín de Southwick Hall de 10 a 11 a.m. y una sesión de yoga a las 12:30 p.m. en Chapel Lawn en Edinburg.

Una exhibición titulada “*Meraki: A Vision of Sustainability*”, continuará hasta el miércoles en el Visual Arts Building, localizado en 2412 S. Closner Blvd. *Meraki* es una palabra griega que significa dejar una pieza de ti en tu trabajo.

Robert Gilbert, un profesor

de diseño gráfico, dijo que las obras de arte fueron creadas por sus estudiantes.

“Cada año, los estudiantes tienen una gran exhibición, la cual es su exhibición final”, dijo Gilbert. “Este año, el tema es sustentabilidad, así que los estudiantes tuvieron un amplio rango de opciones con las que tuvieron que trabajar, con la idea de la sustentabilidad”.

Él dijo que los proyectos en la exhibición varían desde como la sustentabilidad afecta a la sociedad y a la Tierra, a la navegación espacial y a la comunidad agrícola, hasta juegos de mesa relacionados a la sustentabilidad.

La galería está abierta de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. La entrada es gratuita.

La celebración concluirá con música, exhibiciones, arte, artesanías y comida de 3 a 9 p.m. el sábado en Linear Park en Brownsville.

Para más información acerca de Earth Fest, contacta a la Oficina de Sustentabilidad de UTRGV al 665-3030 o a sustainability@utrgv.edu.

Recordando a la Reina del Tex-Mex

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

El Consejo de Programación del Campus (CBP, por sus siglas en inglés) de UTRGV celebrará su primera Selena Night, o Noche de Selena, de 5 a 7 p.m. hoy en el Main Courtyard en el campus de Brownsville y de 7 a 9 p.m. el miércoles en el Troxel Hall Lawn en el campus de Edinburg.

El evento celebrará el nacimiento de la estrella de la música Tejana, Selena Quintanilla. Las personas que asistan al evento podrán participar en un concurso de disfraces y karaoke para tener la oportunidad de ganar V-Bucks.

Para el concurso de disfraces, los participantes se deberán vestir ya sea de Selena o de gente relacionada con ella. El ganador recibirá 30 V-Bucks y cada participante de karaoke, abierto para cualquier tipo de música, recibirá 10 V-Bucks. También habrá lotería mexicana y cada ganador obtendrá un V-Buck.

Quintanilla, también conocida como la Reina del Tex-Mex, nació el 16 de

abril de 1971, en Lake Jackson y fue asesinada por Yolanda Saldívar, un miembro de un club de seguidores del área de San Antonio, el 31 de marzo de 1995, de acuerdo con Texas State Historical Association.

Alejandra Cardenas, presidenta del comité de cultura popular para CPB, coordinó el evento. Ella dijo que la gente debería de asistir al evento para conocer más acerca de la artista.

“Pues, les podría ayudar a entender su carrera, su música, su estilo de música, como fue exitosa a tan temprana edad, como ella, continuó su carrera, a pesar de que tuvo obstáculos y a nunca rendirse ya que todo se puede lograr”, dijo Cardenas.

Ella dijo que quiere que el evento se organice anualmente al igual que el



Selena Quintanilla

a todo Texas. Ella es como, el ídolo del Valle”.

Durante cada semestre de otoño y primavera, los departamentos de

UTRGV organizan eventos que invitan a los estudiantes, facultad y personal a relajarse y a interactuar unos con los otros, como en el Late Night, organizado por el departamento de Recreación Universitaria, y UTRGV Madness, organizado por el Consejo de Programación del Campus, los cuales son educativos, recreativos o festivos.

“Siento que es una buena manera de promover a la gente que causó un impacto en nuestra cultura y para que la gente aprenda acerca de sus ídolos, como ella, de una manera divertida”, dijo López.

UTRGV Athletics también rindió honores a la estrella del Tejano a través del tercer evento anual Selena Night el sábado pasado.

Los primeros 100 asistentes en el partido de béisbol del sábado en contra de Grand Canyon University recibieron playeras conmemorativas de Selena Night.

Para más información acerca de Selena Night de CBP, llama al 665-7991 o envía un correo a cbp@utrgv.edu.

Club Spotlight



PHOTO COURTESY ROSEMARY LANDA

The American Sign Language Club members include Historian Gisselle Solis (from left), Event Coordinator Claudia Ramos, Vice President Genesis Garcia Lezama, President Blanca Barrientos, Secretary Raelene Vela and Treasurer Javier Rodriguez.

Name: American Sign Language Club
Purpose: To strengthen the continuing bond between ASL students and the deaf community.
President: Blanca Barrientos
Vice President: Genesis Garcia Lezama
Secretary: Raelene Vela
Treasurer: Javier Rodriguez
Historian: Gisselle Solis
Adviser: Communication Disorders Lecturer I Rosemary Landa
Activities: Sonic volleyball night, game night and talent show.
Membership requirements: Must be a current student, faculty or staff member at UTRGV.
Meetings: 12:15 to 1 p.m. Thursdays in Health Affairs Building East 1.114 on the Edinburg campus.
For more information, email: aslclubutrgv@gmail.com.
--Compiled by Steven Hughes

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

FEES

Continued from Page 1

everything.

"This was one where I think the committee determined there were funds that were potentially available for that department, the College of Engineering [and Computer Science]," he said. "It was recommended that they try to internally fund this initiative as opposed to using student fees for it."

For Fiscal Year 2019, the SFAC recommends allocating \$7,546,602.71 to Athletics, which is 58.45 percent of the total allocation of student services fees.

Athletics requested \$8,582,828, but the SFAC recommends a \$1,036,225.29 reduction in order to balance the budget and fund other student activities supported by the committee.

According to the SFAC recommendations, the committee is "concerned about the proportion of fees allocated to Athletics in comparison to other student programs/activities."

"The committee had to make reductions," Weimer said. "[It] made reductions to probably over half of the requests that were made in order to balance the budget. Athletics was determined by the committee to be reduced as such a large request. ... Of course, the \$1 million sounds like a huge reduction, but proportionately, it's

similar to how a lot of other programs were reduced."

The committee chair said Athletics has revenue sources available to the department for the potential loss of funding, which was about 10 percent of its FY19 request.

Jonah Goldberg, UTRGV associate athletic director for communications, told *The Rider* some of the revenue sources include fundraisers, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

Asked what the department's thoughts were on the reduction, Goldberg replied he would have to speak with UTRGV Athletics Director Chris King for comment, but as of press time Friday, none had returned calls.

The committee also recommends breaking up the Child Development Center request into a one-time request of \$124,269.16 and an ongoing request of \$113,743 "with contingency that the one-time request be utilized to increase student enrollment and work on expanding to the Brownsville campus."

Shuttle services is recommended to receive an increase of \$303,480 between its Edinburg and Brownsville accounts. The committee did not agree to fully fund shuttle services' request as the initiatives the monies would be utilized for "should be self-sustaining."

The SFAC recommends reducing funding of the Hauser Communication

Research Lab to \$15,400 for operations in Edinburg and suggests a one-time FY 2019 request of \$18,900 to market its services and expand operations to the Brownsville campus.

Other recommendations include reducing Leadership and Mentoring funding by \$60,137.06 and Student Activities by \$37,494.58; reducing funding requested by Student Success by \$18,000 for faculty support stipends for course development in low-pass-rate courses. The committee suggests using other sources of funding.

To view the SFAC FY 2019 recommendations, visit utrgv.edu/sfac.

Student services fees are collected for activities that are separate from academic functions and that directly benefit students. The fees help support various programs and departments across the university that serve students.

Funding requests are divided into two sections: ongoing requests and one-time requests. Ongoing are proposals that must be funded with incoming revenue, so that they are sustained by the student services fee budget.

The SFAC is composed of 11 individuals: nine voting, one ex officio and one chair. An ex officio is a non-voting member of a body. The Student Government Association or Bailey appoints each member of the committee. Five members are students, selected

by the SGA, and four are university employees, appointed by Bailey.

IAN Sumega, a chemistry junior, learned about the committee through a UTRGV Messenger email. Sumega said he decided to apply to join the SFAC to be more involved on campus.

"A lot that we took into consideration [when making recommendations] is how much [a program] impacts the students," Sumega said.

He said the committee spent about five hours deliberating on the final recommendations before making "the best possible" decision for the allocation of funds.

Besides Weimer and Sumega, SFAC members for the 2018-2019 cycle are student representatives Peter Averack, Oscar Trujillo, Alejandro Saldivar and Denise Palacios; university representatives Karla Loya, Marcela De León, Douglas Stoves and Hilda Silva; and ex officio Frances Rivera.

Weimer said he is proud of the committee for finding a way to fund nearly all requests.

"It was very difficult decisions to make, how to prioritize these projects one another," he said. "I'm pleased with the outcome of the budget because, overall, I think this is going to maximize how the students' fees are allocated to the benefit of all students on our campus."

SYMPOSIUM

Continued from Page 1

professor in Teaching and Learning, said he describes the Engaged Scholar Symposium as "the largest multidisciplinary undergraduate research and creative works in all of South Texas."

"There are a lot of participants and oral, poster presentations," Lu said. "For the oral and poster sessions, they also are selected in their competition to get awards."

After the reviewing process, students are notified on the decision for them to proceed on their research.

"They will either get accepted or rejected, but we try not to reject students' work unless we totally don't know what it is," he said.

Presentations can be done either in

oral or poster form. The presentations are then scored by a group of judges who are either graduate students or professors.

To view a list of winners of this year's symposium, visit utrgvrider.com.

Awards were presented at the UTRGV Harlingen campus.

Lu said besides the awards and recognition, students will leave the symposium with vital skills that will help them in life after college.

"In terms of the high-impact practices, we embrace them and try to implement them and many of them help our undergraduate students to be successful," he said. "Student success is not just, 'Oh, I passed a course.' That's good, but better is that they get to learn a lot and utilize the knowledge they have gained to the real world and not only that, but graduation and beyond."

Michael Toney, a chemistry senior, presented a science research project studying carbon nanofibers, which combined chemistry and engineering.

"Carbon nanofibers are everywhere," Toney said. "You see them in tennis rackets, laptops, that sort of thing."

Toney's project looked to find a cheaper way of making nanofibers by using additives.

"We did quite a bit in a short time thanks to [Engaged Scholar's] funding," he said.

Perla Leyva, a biomedical science senior, worked on making a product to replace skin grafting using glutaraldehyde-chitosan hydrogels.

"This is a cheap way to help people with third-degree burns, or a major injury," Leyva said.

Alexis Delgado, a chemistry senior, presented a project studying quantum

chemical calculations using computer programs.

"This is all computer based. This is all coding," Delgado said. "It was difficult because ... if you don't code it right, it fails."

Art presentations were also on display inside the Charles and Dorothy Clark ELABS Gallery. Studio art senior Andres Alejandro Aceves made a political 24-by-15-by-15-inch art piece made of ceramic called "Mad Kim."

"I wanted to do a [sculpture] about North Korea and how Kim Jong Un is a threat," Aceves said. "But, I put it in small scale because it is a big threat but no one takes it seriously."

For more information and the competition's results, visit the UTRGV Engaged Scholars website at utrgv.edu/es2.

Visit us online at **utrgvrider.com**

V-Day 2018

Student org and theatre department collaborate

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

Access for Sex-Education, a student organization, will host “The Vagina Monologues,” which will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus.

“The strong message behind ‘The Vagina Monologues’ is ... saying enough is enough because of how rampant and how dangerous, and unfortunately common, sexual assault is,” said Cathryn Torres, a sociology senior and president of Access for Sex-Education. “The main message behind this is we are taking a stand against sexual assault, and embracing ourselves, our bodies, in our community to stand firm against sexual assault.”

Torres said the play consists of various monologues about vaginas.

“So, you have stories about an elderly woman’s vagina,” she said. “Just a night out with a guy, that type of stuff, and people talk about their periods, and they talk about why do we have to talk about vaginas.”

Torres said she hopes the play and the organization will break negative stigma. The play, which was written by Eve Ensler, is produced by around 20 people.

“It is really about talking about issues that affect women,” said Jennifer

Saxton, who is the play’s director and an assistant professor for theatre.

Saxton said even though the play was written about 25 years ago, the play still receives a strong reaction. This year, some of the play’s lines were changed to react to the infringement of women’s rights that have occurred during the last year and a half.

“It is both a celebration of women and a call to action ... that these are still problems,” she said. “Let’s work together to fix them.”

Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the box office, which is outside the theater, at 6 p.m. Thursday. Proceeds will be donated to Edinburg’s nonprofit Access Esperanza Clinics.

“This is something that women our age need to hear about. I feel that we should all be comfortable with our bodies,” said Felicia Rae, a theatre junior and cast member.

Rae said she is happy about the all-female cast.

“I feel, especially in society today, males always had the dominant roles,” she said.

Rae was not nervous to audition for her role.

“I was super excited,” she said. “I had already had a monologue prepared for [the audition], and I had been preparing for [an] entire week. ... When I performed, it came off naturally.”

Rae said her role is of an everyday

how she was successful at a young age, how she, like, continued her career, even though she had obstacles and to never give up because everything is achievable,” Cardenas said.

She said she wants the event to take place annually because of Corpus Christi’s Fiesta De La Flor, a two-day festival that celebrates the life and legacy of Selena, according to its information page.

Communication studies freshman Alondra López said she was surprised people don’t know who Quintanilla is.

“Everyone knows Selena and her

not informed on how to live sustainable lifestyles.

“They don’t know that they can get a lot of produce from local farmers, that local organic farmers do exist here in the Valley, such as Terra Preta [Farm] and Yahweh’s [All Natural Farm and Garden] in Harlingen,” Garcia said. “All these farmers live sustainable lifestyles and I think that it’s great what UTRGV is doing on focusing on sustainability, Earth Day and climate change.”

During the festival, the fourth annual Food Security Forum will take place, with guest speakers Alexis Racelis, a UTRGV assistant professor of biology, and Guerrilla Gourmet Chef James Canter, among others. The forum will be from 1 to 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Racelis said there are multiple overlapping goals for this year’s Food Security Forum, such as economic equality, partnerships and climate change.

“One of the things that I work on as a researcher is the impact of food systems, in particular, how food systems are related to a lot of these goals,” he said. “It is clear with food and hunger, you can guess what that connection is.”

Racelis said food security is about how much food we have that is accessible and can help people maintain a healthy



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER

Sociology senior Cathryn Torres, president of Access for Sex-Education, explains how “The Vagina Monologues” attempts to bring awareness and consciousness on themes people are afraid to speak out.

woman and how she “becomes more comfortable with her vagina by going to a vagina workshop.”

Rae’s character, who she named Claudia, has her life changed after the workshop.

“[The scene] sets the tone letting women know that it is OK to get out of your comfort zone and explore your parts of your body that people usually

say should be kept behind scenes,” she said. “I love my character, and I am really excited to portray her.”

Rae said once everyone adapts to the word vagina, “everybody is actually going to listen and [understand] the story.”

For more information, email Torres at cathryn.torres01@utrgv.edu.

SELENA

Continued from Page 1

Queen of Tejano music, was born April 16, 1971, in Lake Jackson and was killed by Yolanda Saldívar, a fan club founder, on March 31, 1995, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

Alejandra Cardenas, pop culture committee chair for CPB, coordinated the event. She said people should attend the event to have a better understanding of the artist.

“Well, it could help them understand her career, her music, her style of music,

music, especially here in the [Rio Grande] Valley,” López said. “Her music has culturally impacted all over Texas. She’s, like, the Valley’s idol.”

Throughout each fall and spring semester, UTRGV departments host events that invite students, faculty and staff to relax and interact with each other, such as Late Night hosted by the University Recreation and UTRGV Madness hosted by the Campus Programming Board, which are either educational, recreational or festive.

“I feel like it’s a great way to promote people that made an impact in our

culture and for people to learn about idols like herself in a fun way,” López said.

UTRGV Athletics also honored the Tejano superstar by hosting its third annual Selena Night last Saturday. The first 100 attendees in Saturday’s baseball game against Grand Canyon University were to receive Selena Night T-shirts.

For more information about CBP’s Selena Night, call 665-7991 or email cpb@utrgv.edu.

EARTH

Continued from Page 1

importance of protecting our planet’s extremely limited natural resources.”

She also said Earth Day’s purpose is to create awareness of “the responsible ways that we can protect our planet.”

Franklin said there are many aspects to this year’s Earth Fest.

“One of the things [we did is we] set things up in such a way that our students have an opportunity to exhibit some of their projects and their programs, as well as fun activities and food and possibly music,” she said.

Last year’s theme was energy, water and space, while this year’s will be food security.

“We have great issues of food security and health in our region,” Franklin said. “If you consider that the Rio Grande Valley was an agricultural oasis, so to speak, we have a lot of food insecurity. We have a lot of areas where individuals do not have access to healthy food, and because our agricultural lands have been converted to urban development, in the near future, we won’t have enough food for not just our nutritional needs but our survival.”

Martha Garcia, a biology senior and co-president of the Environmental Awareness Club, said a lot of people are

lifestyle.

“Here in the Rio Grande Valley, we have some of the worst rates of food insecurity,” he said. “We have RGV residents that go hungry every day. They are undernourished, or they are malnourished. They are not getting the types of food that allow them to live that healthy lifestyle. A lot of our residents don’t have access to healthy food.”

He said the global theme of food security has relevance to the Valley.

The forum will consist of three panels. The first is about nutrition and food access. The second will be about farmers who will discuss their efforts to produce sustainable foods, and the third will be about different organizations and individuals who are working to connect food production with healthy food consumption.

“I think that this would be a fantastic forum to just understand how food is connected to our everyday lives,” Racelis said.

Episodes from the TV documentary series “Planet Earth” and “Years of Living Dangerously” will be screened from 7 to 8 p.m. in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus and Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus.

In addition, a tree planting is scheduled on the Southwick Hall lawn from 10 to 11 a.m. and a yoga session

at 12:30 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg.

An exhibition, titled “Meraki: A Vision of Sustainability,” continues through Wednesday in the Visual Arts Building, located at 2412 S. Closner Blvd. *Meraki* is a Greek word that means to leave a piece of yourself in your work.

Robert Gilbert, an associate professor of graphic design, said his students created the artwork.

“Every year, the students do a large exhibition, which is their final exhibition,” Gilbert said. “This year, the theme is sustainability, so students had a wide range of options that they had to work with, with the idea of sustainability.”

He said the projects in the exhibition range from how sustainability affects society and the earth, space travel and community farming, to board games that are related to sustainability.

The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The celebration will conclude with music, exhibits, arts, crafts and food from 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Linear Park in Brownsville.

For more information on Earth Fest, contact the Office for Sustainability at 665-3030 or sustainability@utrgv.edu.

ADVERTISE
WITH US

CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

Closer to home

Baseball players share experience on staying in the Valley

Diana Navarro

THE RIDER

Many Rio Grande Valley athletes may leave to pursue opportunities at other colleges and universities, while others realize their goals at home.

But why do some Valley players from the UTRGV Baseball Team decide to stay home?

Seven athletes from the Valley are working hard to make the home stand proud: catcher Oliver Closner, infielders Matthew Mendoza and David Becerra and pitchers Ryan Jackson, Luis Acosta, Jorge Flores and Juan Carreon II.

Mendoza is a redshirt sophomore who plays first base for the Vaqueros and is loving the “close-to-home” experience.

“Playing close to home is beneficial because it allows me to associate with my mom and dad and all my family around me and just for them to come to my games,” he said. “The support is always there, so it’s big. ... They push me every day and it gives me something to look forward to.”

With almost three years of trajectory, the Vaqueros have had many ups and downs. This season, they are aiming to improve and become stronger

when they perform.

Improvement is not only seen by the community, but also by Head Coach Derek Matlock.

“We have unbelievable kids that have really high work ethic ... outstanding work ethic,” Matlock said. “That’s one thing from top to bottom in our team. Our guys are not scared of work. You got guys that are from here, they’re playing for their families, for their friends. ... I think they play at a higher level, that’s what I’ve noticed. ... They got pride in the Valley, just like I do, too.”

Sometimes, home is only a few minutes away.

“We’re like 30 minutes from home and we have family that live in Edinburg,” said Closner, who graduated from Mercedes High School. “Anytime we need anything, they’re just a phone call away. ... Whenever we need anything, they’re there for us.”

Fellow Mercedes High School graduate Mendoza embraced the offer to stay in the Valley.

“They gave me an opportunity to play. ... I took it and ran with it,” he said.

Closner advised student-athletes to never give up on their dreams or take anything for granted.



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Sharyland High School alum David Becerra prepares to hurl the ball during practice last Thursday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. Becerra has been with the program for two seasons.

“Always keep fighting no matter the obstacles you face,” he said. “Just keep fighting and it’ll be worth it at the end.”

Mendoza reiterated Closner’s advice.

“There’s gonna be a lot of people that say that you won’t be able to do stuff,” he said. “You just gotta keep believing in yourself.”

As of press time, the Vaqueros’ overall record stood at 17-16.

“Man, you guys play so hard and so fast’ ... ‘You guys are really bought in,’” Matlock said about compliments the team has received. “There’s guys that are doing a lot better. ... I think

they’ve just grown in their ability to compete; they really want to win. ... When we’ve lost, it’s really hurt them.”

The coach said there are players who are not doing well on paper, statwise, but that doesn’t always reflect the truth.

“We’ll see if [opposing teams] have enough grip to come into the Valley in this heat and fight us on our own turf ... cause we’re gonna fight them,” Matlock said about opening the three-game series against Grand Canyon University last weekend.

Results are available at utrgvrider.com.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?

“Probably, an elephant. I love elephants so much, I think I’ll be an elephant because they’re like gentle giants.”

What TV show are you currently into? “I don’t watch TV, really, that much. I just watch movies and stuff. I’m not really good at watching movies and stuff. Like, every time someone’s like, ‘Ida, have you seen this movie?’ I’m like, ‘No, I haven’t seen it yet.’ So, I’m really just trying to enrich myself in movie culture.”

If you could have dinner with any celebrity or athlete who would it be? “Maybe a track athlete. Maybe, Sanya Richards-Ross.”

Who is your personal hero, and why? “I met this girl freshman year. She became my best friend when I came here to college because when I came to college, I kind of prayed this prayer saying, ‘God, as I go to college, please come with me ’cause I don’t know what I’m doing.’ Like, I don’t know what I’m gonna do and then He gave me Felicia to live life with me, and she really put me in the right path and sometimes, I feel like I have an unfair advantage having her as my best friend because she’s like my secret weapon or something like that and just her faith in God. She wants to be, like, a film actress and so seeing

her motivation through what she wants to do, how she can still manage to love everybody else, and encourage everybody else, that’s really, really special for me.”

Who makes you laugh the most on the team? “Man, I say nobody is as funny as me on the team. Definitely, nobody but myself. Totally nobody. It’s all me. ... Like, sometimes, I’m doing something to make myself laugh because nobody else can do it for me.”

What is the best advice you’ve received recently? “From my coach. He said, ‘If you stay ready, you never have to get ready.’ ... We had a week off from our indoor conference to our first outdoor meet and I was, like, ‘Yeah, Coach, you know, I’m just kind of chilling, you know, I’m not really in competition mode. I just hope something happens when we get to the meet,’ and that’s when he told me, ‘Look, Ida, if you stay ready, you never have to get ready.’ And I was like, ‘Yeah, you’re right, because that’s a really good motto to live by.’”

If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? “Maybe, it would have to be ‘Stars’ by Kendrick Lamar.”

--Compiled by Diana Navarro



Idatonye Cheetham-West is a member of the UTRGV Women’s Track and Field Team. Cheetham-West is an exercise science junior.

■ OPINION

The phenomenal picture-perfect predictions



Robert Benavidez Jr.
THE RIDER

With the regular season over and stars ready to make their mark, it is time to make our predictions for the 2018 NBA Playoffs; let’s get right into it.

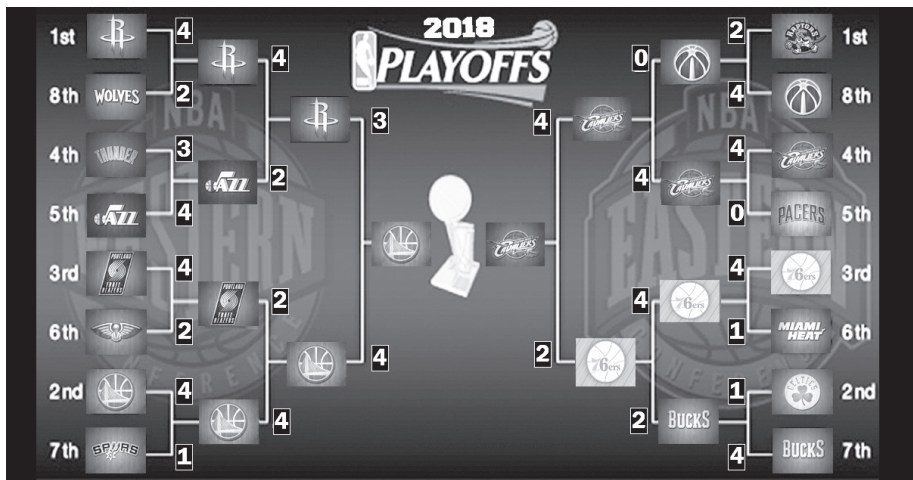
I will start with the Western Conference and the Houston Rockets vs. the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Rockets have shown their dominance on the 3-point line all year with star shooters, such as James Harden, Eric Gordon, Gerald Green and many more.

In order for Minnesota to surpass Houston, Jimmy Butler will have to play great defensively and lock down Houston’s leading scorer, Harden, to give them a run for their money. Houston in six.

The next matchup is the Oklahoma City Thunder vs. the Utah Jazz. Both teams have to overcome obstacles in order to win this series. The main problem I see with the Thunder is Carmelo Anthony’s lack of shooting consistency.

On Utah’s side, there is candidate for Rookie of the Year, Donovan Mitchell, who will be new to the playoffs. If the nerves of his first playoff series do not



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER GRAPHIC

get to him, I see him playing a huge role for Utah. Jazz in seven.

The third matchup I will watch is the Portland Trailblazers vs. the New Orleans Pelicans. I have so much respect for Pelicans power forward Anthony Davis and all the different ways he scores, but I do not see anyone stopping Blazers point guard Damian Lillard. Portland in six.

Last from the Western Conference is the Golden State Warriors vs. the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs have not been great without Kawhi Leonard and were at the brink of missing the playoffs. Being from Texas, I have to have some love for the Spurs. However, they are still no match for the second-best player in the league, Kev-

in Durant, and the Warriors. With hopes that San Antonio will put up some resistance, Golden State in five.

Moving on to the Eastern Conference, I will start with the Toronto Raptors vs. the Washington Wizards. The Raptors have had a breakout regular season that showed they could put up a fight against any team. In recent years though, Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry has “disappeared” in the playoffs and left DeMar DeRozan to carry the burden. If Lowry can perform, then the Raptors will be in good shape to move on in the bracket.

However, this may not be the case, as one of the league’s most athletic point guards, John Wall, will guard Lowry. Wall has an all-in mentality

on both ends of the floor and will lead the Wizards to upset the No. 1 seed Raptors in six.

The second matchup in the Eastern Conference is the Cleveland Cavaliers vs. the Indiana Pacers. Victor Oladipo, a candidate for Most Improved Player of the Year, will need to have the series of his life to dethrone King James and the Cavs.

As we all know, LeBron James is an unstoppable force in the playoffs. In his last games of the regular season, he has shown sparks of his playoff self. Cavaliers sweep the Pacers in four.

The third matchup in the East is the Philadelphia 76ers vs. the Miami Heat. I see this series as a complete mismatch; I do not believe Heat’s Hassan Whiteside and Goran Dragic can overtake leading candidate for Rookie of the Year, Ben Simmons, and potentially returning Joel Embiid. 76ers in five.

The last matchup is the most saddening of all for me, the Boston Celtics vs. the Milwaukee Bucks. Being a Kyrie Irving fan, I saw the Celtics making a deep playoff run. Yet, those hopes shut down after Irving underwent knee surgery and left his teammates without their leading scorer. Without Irving, I do not see the Celtics standing a chance against the Greek Freak, Giannis Antetokounmpo. Bucks in five.

I strongly believe my predictions will be correct and look forward to seeing them play out.