



BOUGAINVILLEA BALL

UTRGV students are welcome to attend the TSC annual event from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday.
See Page 3



ALL MARVEL EVERYTHING

The Rider provides readers with an information guide before Friday's release of "Avengers: Infinity War."
See Pages 6-7

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

THE RIDER

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

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UTRGV

PASSED

UTRGV DREAM center in the works



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Students walk to class last Thursday in front of the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. The Student Government Association passed a resolution April 6 requesting a DREAM center at UTRGV that would provide resources and services tailored to the needs of undocumented students, including financial aid assistance and counseling services.

Eric Montoya

SPANISH EDITOR

After months of deliberation regarding a DREAM center at UTRGV, the Student Government Association has passed a resolution that would help bring the request to fruition. The SGA approved a DREAM Center Resolution on April 6. Last November, more than 200 students marched on the

Edinburg campus, demanding a DREAM center at the university.

The DREAM Center Ad Hoc Committee met Feb. 20 to discuss the creation of a resolution to allocate funds for a center for undocumented students at UTRGV.

In spite of its passing, several authors of the resolution voiced their concerns about the way a university official described it.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Rebecca Gadson,

associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students, addressed comments made by authors of the DREAM Center Resolution about the center being a multicultural center, which is not what they asked for.

"I don't think I made that clear enough in my interview with the UTRGV-TV people because it kind of missed the fact that there is a center and there will be a DREAMer resource center, like, as part of

See CENTER, Page 11

BROWNSVILLE



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

Green goal

Brownsville enters nomination stage for park renovation contest

Britney Valdez

THE RIDER

Brownsville officials are encouraging residents to nominate the city for the "Meet Me at the Park" contest for a chance to receive a \$20,000 grant.

The "Meet Me at the Park" contest is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association, the Walt Disney Co. and ESPN. It seeks to "help fund local park improvement

projects across the country," according to the news release.

Interim City Manager Michael Lopez said the city is participating in the contest to obtain more funding for Brownsville's parks.

"The city is always looking for collaborations. We're always looking for funding," Lopez said. "We're always looking for great ideas to bring to the city through national

See PARKS, Page 2

FACILITIES

Ventilation monitoring

UTRGV official responds to building complaints

Sydni D. Salinas

A&E EDITOR

University officials say they will monitor the Visual Arts Building after students and professors' complaints about its ventilation.

The Rider spoke with Richard Costello, director of Environmental, Safety & Risk Management, regarding the building's ventilation, and he said monitoring has taken place.

"We've done monitoring. All the chemicals associated with the art galleries, or the rooms where they do the painting, there's been a formal assessment to determine the air quality, to determine the levels of solvents, and those are all below the concentrations that are deemed acceptable by a whole variety of agencies," Costello said.

See BUILDING, Page 10



Richard Costello

EARTH FEST

One university, two different Earth Fests



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Arts, crafts and other activities as well as information tables from different UTRGV departments, including the Office of Sustainability and University Recreation, were available in last Thursday's Earth Fest on the Edinburg campus. See Page 8 for more photos.



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER

The Valley AIDS Council, Student Union, Planned Parenthood and University Recreation were the only organizations present at last Thursday's Earth Fest on the Brownsville campus. Exhibits, arts, crafts, food and activities were advertised for the event.

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

Ice Cream Bar

The **Student Union** will have its **Ice Cream Bar** at noon in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament** at noon in The Loft, located on the second floor of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Tuba Performance

Scott Roeder, an associate professor of music, and other faculty members will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3881.

Tuesday

Book Swap

The **Student Union** will host its **Book Swap** at noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Texas Hold 'em Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Texas Hold 'em Tournament** at noon in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The event will take place at the same time Thursday in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

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.

Thursday

Sex Education Tabling

Access for Sex-Education will host a tabling event regarding safe sex and family planning from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email accessforsexed.utrgv@gmail.com.

SGA Inauguration

UTRGV will inaugurate the newly elected members of the **Student**



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

Government Association from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Visitors Centers Lobby on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Student Involvement at 882-5111.

Rhythm Night

The **Student Union** will host a **Rhythm Night** at 6 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Citizenship Classes

The **City of Edinburg** will host free four-month **citizenship classes** that will cover civics and U.S. history, as well as tips to help pass the citizenship test. Classes will begin at 6 p.m. in the **Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library** in Edinburg. For more information, call 383-6245.

Book Release

The **Dustin Michael Sekula**

Memorial Library will host an opening reception for the **11th annual Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival** and the book release of "Boundless 2018," the anthology for the event, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Friends Meeting Room. Director of Operations **Edward Vidaurre** will serve as master of ceremonies. Copies of the book will be sold for \$10. For more information, visit valleypoetryfest.org or call Assistant Library Director **Jose Tamez** at 383-6246.

Friday

Brass

Performance

The **Brass Ensemble** will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Saturday

Marimba Festival Concert

Percussion duo **Novus Percutere**, formed by **Justin Alexander** and **Luis Rivera**, will perform contemporary rock, pop and classical music at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$10 and \$5 for students and senior citizens. For more information, call 882-7025.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 13 and 16.



April 13

7:59 a.m.: An officer responded to a call from Parking and Transportation Services in reference to a wheel lock being removed without authorization in

L o t B1 on the Brownsville campus. The vehicle had been locked for excessive citations. No damage was found on the wheel lock. It appears the wheel lock was placed loosely and removed without damage.
8:40 a.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported damage to a tail light on a university vehicle. It is unknown when or how the damage occurred.

9:36 a.m.: A staff member on the Harlingen campus reported her university-issued iPad missing. She stated she thinks she remembers placing the iPad in her locker located at Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen. She said the last time she used her iPad was Oct. 16, 2017.

10:42 a.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported a university-issued iPad that was checked out to a former student in 2016 was never returned. Attempts to contact the

former student have been unsuccessful. The case is under investigation.

3:07 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the University Library on the Brownsville campus to meet with a staff member who wanted to file a police report. She stated several days ago while working at the library, she encountered a student who made her



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

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

feel very uncomfortable. The officer contacted the student and asked him to refrain from making any type of contact with the staff member.

5:21 p.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported finding a parking meter that had been knocked down in Lot E4. The parking meter was collected for safekeeping since it was completely broken at the base of the pole. A review of the video shows a black GMC Sierra backing into the parking meter and knocking it down at 12:27 p.m. on the same date and leaving the area. The case is under investigation.

April 16

10:20 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Lot B1 in reference to an airsoft pistol found on the Brownsville campus. A Parking and Transportation employee reported finding the pistol on top of a parked vehicle's front windshield. The officer attempted to contact the owner of the vehicle via phone, but received no answer. The officer took possession of the airsoft pistol and stored it at the Police Department for safekeeping.

2:28 p.m.: A student reported dislocating his right shoulder by overextending his right arm while playing basketball at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Student Health Services staff requested emergency medical services as they were not equipped to assist with the injury. The student declined medical transport.

2:51 p.m.: A staff member reported that during a building inspection of the Health Affairs West Building on the Edinburg campus on April 11, he noticed a fire extinguisher missing from the case on the south side walkway of the building. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

PARKS

Continued from Page 1

funding, such as this."

Brownsville, along with big cities such as Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles, is trying to get nominated to advance to the voting phase of the competition.

The nomination period continues until April 30. Although the date of the voting phase is to be determined, the city has already put some thought into how the grant would be used.

"All 37 parks are in consideration [for the grant], again with the goal that we get the citizens out there to engage and vote to get us nominated," Lopez said. "All our parks have different items or activities for individuals, so

I'm sure that we'll get use out of it."

If the money is obtained, a lengthy process will follow before any purchases or actual renovations will begin, according to Lopez.

"Our idea is to get the community engaged, to get nominated," he said. "Once we get this money, then we can look at the parks where we can get this readily available. Again, it would require some bureaucracy and then some purchasing."

Community Engagement Coordinator Christina Garza said in order to raise awareness of the competition and to involve residents, the city established the #MeetMeAtThePark campaign, where residents post pictures of themselves in their favorite Brownsville park using

the hashtag.

"Basically, we have our city social media campaign #MeetMeAtThePark," Garza said. "That's to engage our community and let them know that the opportunity is out there for them to nominate Brownsville."

Additionally, Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez said he looks forward to the opportunities the contest presents to the city.

"Green space, which is what a park is, is very essential to all of us," Martinez said. "I think the more we get out, the more green space we have, the better off we all are. I'm a big exercise nut, so you know, I love to be outside and strongly advise everyone to enjoy."

UTRGV program sets recruitment event

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

The Mexican American Studies program will host its semesterly “Noche de MAS” at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

“We’ve done this since 2015 to promote the [Mexican American Studies] program here on the Brownsville campus,” said Christopher Carmona, coordinator of the UTRGV Mexican American Studies program in Brownsville and a creative writing assistant professor.

The recruitment event will include presentations from LUNA (La Unión de Nepantleras de Aztlán); the launch of The Chachalaca Review, a journal produced by students; a performance of Marimba Reyna del Valle; and free food.

LUNA, which is the Mexican American Studies student club on the Brownsville campus, promotes identity and incubates self-awareness of Mexican-American culture, according to the organization’s flyer.

“We started in November and the organization is mainly to help people grow their identity,” said Janie Camero, a graduate student in Mexican American Studies and president of LUNA. “You know, no longer being passive members of the Mexican-American community, but [also] learn to be active and be more aware.”

The organization is looking for new members and has no language requirements.

“We accept members who are English speakers or Spanish speakers,” Camero said. “Really, it’s not about the language that you speak, but the part of the community you’re from.”

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, email Carmona at christopher.carmona@utrgv.edu or Camero at janie.camero01@utrgv.edu.

An ‘Under the Sea’ experience

TSC students prepare for Bougainvillea Ball

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

Texas Southmost College’s Student Life department will host its annual Bougainvillea Ball from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday in the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville.

This year’s theme is “Under the Sea,” which was voted by the Campus Activities Board, composed of students to promote school spirit on campus and encourage students to participate in activities and events.

“Our Campus Activities Board [is] very involved on campus and pretty much the life of our campus,” said Virginia Sandoval, coordinator of student development. “The group of students get together, plan this months in advance to come up with a theme [and] they vote on it and the theme that won was ‘Under the Sea.’”

Noel Rangel, a social work sophomore at TSC and the CAB president, wants to make



Steven Hughes/THE RIDER

Texas Southmost College’s annual Bougainvillea Ball will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday in the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville. The ball will be themed “Under the Sea” and formal attire is required. UTRGV students are welcome to the event.

this year’s Bougainvillea an unforgettable experience.

“I’m excited for the music,” Rangel said. “I’m a really big dancer and I feel as if music is a universal language. You can dance with your best friend or

a total stranger, and still have a great time.”

The ball is a traditional event for the college. Faculty and staff are also invited.

“It’s a tradition that’s been going on for years and years.

Probably, 60-plus years,” Sandoval said.

The ball will have refreshments, provided by CAB, live music by Christina Valdez y Los Latinos, an assortment of games and the announcement of the king and queen of the dance.

The event is free and open to UTRGV students. Formal attire is required.

Sandoval praised the CAB for funding and creating decorations for the event.

“They’ve been working very hard on it. They’ve done everything from the center pieces, coordinating the menu [and] coordinating the elections,” she said. “It should be fun. It’s a night out. Everything is free, you know, you can bring a date and tell them you paid for everything, but, really, everything is free.”

Students can pick up tickets in the Lightner Center on the TSC campus.

For more information, call Student Life at 295-3418 or email studentlife@tsc.edu.

Liberal Arts on display

Symposium to focus on teaching, research and service



Albert Monrroy
THE RIDER

The UTRGV College of Liberal Arts will host NEXUS, an open symposium featuring guest speakers, workshops and information, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Walter Diaz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the idea behind the

symposium is to have the liberal arts recognized in the community.

“NEXUS has a strong community engagement component, too,” Diaz said. “Close engagement to students, and the thing is also to get the liberal arts out there. We live in a time where everything is about science, technology, engineering and math. STEM this, STEM that, but the truth is that liberal

arts careers are extremely competitive. There’s a lot of research that shows that graduates with a liberal arts background actually do much better in the later market.”

Colin Charlton, chair of the Department of Writing and Language Studies and main organizer of NEXUS, said various topics will be highlighted by speakers and workshops.

“So, we’re talking about the classroom,” Charlton said. “We’re talking about the college and we’ve got people talking about specific initiatives that they’re doing that are kind of collaborative and interdisciplinary.”

The symposium kicks off with an exhibit revolving around the history of Fort Brown from 5:45 to 7:15 tonight on the second floor of the UTRGV Brownsville library, and presentations will begin Tuesday in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón.

They include:
--“Gender and Women’s

Studies,” presented by History Associate Professor Linda English et al., from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday;
--“Plenary on Teaching,” presented by 2017 Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award recipients Assistant Professor Alyssa Guadalupe Cavazos, Lecturer Andrew S. Hollinger and Amy A. Weimer, an associate dean for the Department of Psychological Science, from 9:25 to 9:55 a.m. Wednesday;
--“Sea Turtle Puppet Group,” presented by Writing & Language Studies Lecturer Pamela Herring, from 11:25 to 11:55 a.m. Wednesday;
--and “Current Issues in Reading, Studying, Teaching and Writing Children’s and Young Adult Literature,” presented by Literatures & Cultural Studies Professor Diana Dominguez and Associate Professors David Bowles and Amy Cummins, from 11:25-11:55 a.m. Thursday.

See NEXUS, Page 10

UTRGV students lobby Congress on proposals

Gabriel Galvan
THE RIDER

During the second annual American Dental Association (ADA), Dentist and Student Lobby Day, more than 500 students joined dentists and received lessons in lobbying, and turned those lessons into action.

Of the students who attended the event, 12 UTRGV pre-dental students were among the attendees.

Kathryn De Leon, a biology senior and president of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) at UTRGV, said Lobby Day offered a unique experience.

“We are not dental students

or dentists yet, but having the opportunity to see the issues in dentistry early on before we are even submerged entirely in the dental field is really unique because, by starting early, we have a better grasp of what we are going to get ourselves into,” De Leon said. “By learning how to lobby, and learning about the issues at this point, it will just make us better dental students, and better able to lobby as dental students in the future.”

Thomas “Tommy” Harrison, chair-elect of the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC), was among the dentists at the event who assisted the UTRGV undergraduates,

whom he referred to as the “future of dentistry.”

“When we go and speak to elected officials, be that in Washington, D.C., or the Legislature at Austin in Texas, the legislators always prefer to hear from the dental students because they’re young voters,” Harrison said. “They are going to be voting longer than I will. They just tend to give a fresh perspective.”

He said it’s important to be inclusive to students.

“When we talk about the issues, we make sure that we include the dental students in the speaking of the issues because they’re well-educated,” Harrison said. “It

See DENTIST, Page 10



PHOTO COURTESY ASDA UTRGV CHAPTER

Members of the American Student Dental Association UTRGV chapter are shown at the American Dental Association Dental and Student Lobby Day reception April 15 in the J.W. Marriott hotel in Washington, D.C. Members include (front row, from left) Victoria Olivarez, Victoria Garza and Salma Cantu. Back row: Krystal Cavazos, Arianna Cazares, Kathryn De Leon, Robin Dominguez, Lesley Robles and Rukiya Michel.

VAQUERO VOICE

‘Avengers: Infinity War’



“La nueva ‘Avengers’ movie ... casi no me gustan las películas de superhéroes pero a lo mejor va estar buena”.

Anali Morales
Estudiante de primer año de enfermería



“I expect for it to be real action-packed, have a lot of drama and, like, tension, especially since some of the characters are expected to die. With all Marvel movies like that, a couple characters have died but haven’t been so significant. So, this might be a really good movie.”

Kevin Dougherty
Nursing freshman



“Well, I’m probably not going to see it. I’m not into that. But, probably, it depends. If I have a group of friends that decide they want to go, definitely. But, just me? No, ’cause I’m not really interested. It sounds cool anyway. I’m more of an anime guy. I’ve never been much of a superhero movie fan. ... I never really got into them.”

Paul Spence
Music freshman



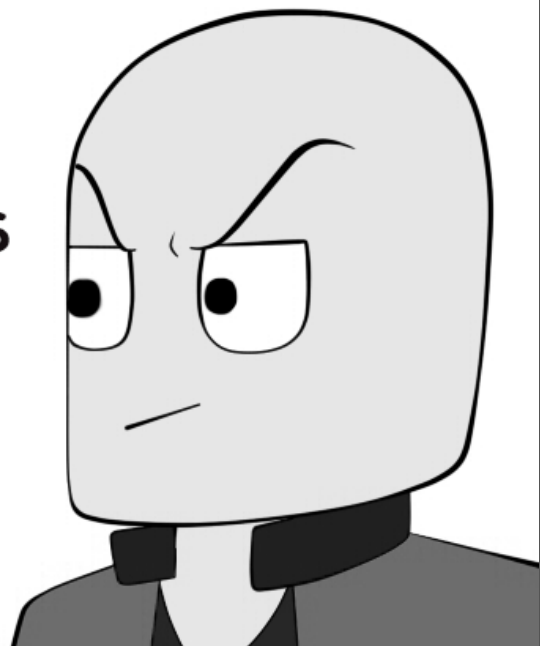
“I’m excited to see what they’re going to be able to do with it. I know since there’s a whole bunch of characters coming out, I have no idea how they’re going to put in all the time for each individual character and I’m pretty sure they’re going to kill someone off. I’m really curious who they’re going to kill off, most likely Captain America. In the comics, he does die. So, now you know. I don’t know if they’re going to do it though, a whole bunch of people are fans of Captain America. So, I doubt they’ll do it, but you never know.”

Desiree Garcia
Psychology junior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

Alice
4/23/18

WHEN YOU
REALIZE FINALS
ARE HERE...
HELLO,
MY MORTAL
ENEMY.



Is World War III happening?



Ana Trujillo
THE RIDER

This is my first column, and even though there are many topics to write about, I chose this sad one because I think it’s important that we don’t ignore what’s happening right now.

Even though I’m from Mexico, which I’m sure will not get involved in any kind of war, I’ve been in the U.S. since seventh grade and learned to love this country as my own.

As many of us know now, the U.S., Britain and France launched a strategic attack to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons. The reason for this was that these countries want to “punish” Syria for a chemical attack that it launched in Douma, a suburb of the capital Damascus. It is presumed that 40 people were killed in this

attack, according to published reports.

Many rumors are beginning to take shape, and up to this point, everybody is wondering, is World War III happening?

This is a sensitive topic because it’s no news that *if* World War III indeed happens, there’s going to be a significant number of casualties, not to mention the contamination that these new weapons are going to create.

We might not even have a planet to live on if this war happens.

I believe we don’t even need soldiers now, since these new weapons can erase a whole city within minutes.

Throughout the weekend, I kept asking myself, “Is there a more civilized way to solve these international disputes? Why is war always the answer?”

What hurts me the most, and probably everyone shares this opinion with me, is that we all have someone who might enlist to go fight for the country. Not that it’s a bad thing, but many of us would live with the fear that we might not see our loved ones again.

Albert Einstein, who was the smartest man in his time and a pacifist, said something that has been stuck in my head for as long as I can remember: “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

I hope our leaders open their eyes and if they were thinking about war, they reconsider the horrendous consequences it might bring. All I have left to say is, “Make love, not war,” and I mean it in a good way.

I’m sure international affairs cannot be solved with just “love,” but it’s a good start.

Editorial

Hey, UTRGV, what about Brownsville?



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

UTRGV students paint clay pots Thursday on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. The Campus Programming Board provided the materials in an effort to increase awareness of Earth’s natural environment. The activity was part of the university’s observance of Earth Day.

Last Thursday, UTRGV hosted events in observance of Earth Day at the same time on both campuses.

Earth Fest was scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and advertised exhibits, arts, crafts, food and activities on the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg and the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

The celebration on the Edinburg campus offered tree planting from 10 to 11 a.m.; yoga at 12:30 p.m.; a presentation on crimes against nature from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and the fourth annual Food Security Forum from 1 to 7 p.m.

Although the same activities were advertised from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. last Thursday, the events were different.

Earth Fest on the Edinburg campus carried out as planned with activities starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m.

The event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. last Thursday on the Brownsville campus started an hour late, only four organizations attended and there were no exhibits, arts, crafts or food as advertised.

We would like to note that there was an event offered Saturday at Linear Park in Brownsville advertising similar activities from 3 to 9 p.m. Why were these not offered on campus?

Earth Day celebrations at legacy institution UT Brownsville would have dozens of on- and off-campus organizations, including Gladys Porter Zoo, Keep Brownsville Beautiful and the Sierra Club.

Both Earth Fests scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. last Thursday were promoted as similar, but our photos show two completely different events.

The Rider staff members on the Brownsville campus checked during various times between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for any developments.

None occurred.



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER

UTRGV biology sophomore David Morales (left) and biomedical science junior Jesus Pedraza kick a soccer ball during last Thursday’s Earth Fest on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

This is not the first time a concern is raised regarding different accommodations among the campuses.

Students have voiced their displeasure with differences on events, services and the number of courses offered at each campus since UTRGV opened in 2015.

While the situation with inconsistencies among campuses may have improved a bit, the university continues to promote the idea of “two campuses, one university.” This is not the case.

Several events, such as Earth Fest, were advertised as the same thing, but were not. If it were not for the Student Government Association’s efforts last fall, University Library hours would have remained different on both campuses, with the facility in Edinburg closing at a later time.

Events where student-athletes are scheduled to appear on the Brownsville campus, such as the Homecoming Tip-Off Party, did not deliver.

However, several students-athletes did attend the Vaquero Olympics on the Brownsville campus the next day, but did not interact with any other students.

We know because we were there. Other Athletics events that did not deliver were the Watch Parties at Buffalo Wild Wings in Brownsville, mainly because they just disappeared all of a sudden.

University officials and organizations might argue that they don’t get enough participation from students on the Brownsville campus.

If that is the case, why would events, such as Earth Day celebrations at UTB, which had one-fourth of the enrollment UTRGV has now, attract hundreds of students?

We are not saying UTRGV officials or organizations do this on purpose. We’re saying they are not addressing the issue effectively.

It’s been three years, UTRGV. Get on the ball.

UTRGV planea centro DREAM

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Después de meses llenos de deliberación acerca del establecimiento de un *DREAM center* (centro DREAM) en UTRGV, la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil (SGA, por sus siglas en inglés) ha aprobado una resolución que ayudaría a darle vida a la petición.

El SGA aprobó el *DREAM Center Resolution* (Resolución del Centro DREAM) el 6 de abril.

El noviembre pasado, más de 200 estudiantes marcharon en el campus de Edinburg, exigiendo un *DREAM center* para la universidad.

El DREAM Center Ad Hoc Committee (Comité para el Centro DREAM) se reunió el 20 de febrero para discutir la creación de una resolución para asignar fondos para el centro DREAM para los estudiantes indocumentados de UTRGV.

A pesar de su aprobación, varios autores de la resolución expresaron su preocupación respecto a la forma en que una funcionaria de la universidad lo describió.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Rebecca Gadson, vicerrectora asociada para la Vida Estudiantil y decana de estudiantes, abordó los comentarios hechos por los autores de la Resolución del Centro DREAM quienes sugieren que el centro de ayuda es un centro multicultural, lo cual no es lo que ellos deseaban.

“No creo haber sido lo suficientemente clara en mi entrevista con la gente de UTRGV-TV ya que de alguna manera se les escapó el hecho de que es un centro de ayuda y dentro de ese centro habrá un centro de recursos para los DREAMers, como, parte del mismo trabajo. Así que, solo quiero aclarar eso porque, a la mejor, no fui lo suficientemente clara”.

Gadson dijo que se reunió con el SGA la semana siguiente a la aprobación de la resolución.

“Cuando me reuní con los directivos actuales de SGA, así como también con la presidenta electa y los próximos directivos de SGA, ellos difundieron que su entendimiento era que seguir el modelo similar al de nuestra escuela hermana, UTSA, era definitivamente algo que funcionaría conforme avanzamos”, ella dijo. “Y ese modelo es un centro, como un centro en general, y dentro de dicho centro hay un centro de recursos para los DREAMers”.

Gadson presentó una petición para fondos al Comité Asesor de Cuotas Estudiantiles (SFAC, por sus siglas en inglés) en enero.

“Sí presenté una petición al Comité Asesor de Cuotas Estudiantiles para conseguir personal y recursos para un centro que sería un espacio identificable para los estudiantes”, ella dijo. “Una parte de eso era pedir un lugar donde los estudiantes pudieran explorar la intersección de los aspectos multidimensionales de su identidad y contribuir al desarrollo y suministro de experiencias de aprendizaje, talleres e información”.

El SFAC ha recomendado la aprobación de \$72,990.32 de los \$93,740.32 originalmente solicitados.

“La recomendación permitiría la contratación de un miembro del personal de tiempo completo para servir como coordinador de programa y un asistente graduado”, dijo Gadson.



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Estudiantes caminan a sus clases el jueves enfrente de la biblioteca de la universidad. La Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil aprobó una resolución el 6 de abril la cual pide un DREAM center (centro DREAM) en UTRGV que proporcione recursos y servicios adaptados a las necesidades de los estudiantes indocumentados, incluyendo asistencia de ayuda financiera y servicios de consejería.

Ella dijo que a esta petición solo le falta la aprobación final por parte del rector de UTRGV Guy Bailey.

Denisce Palacios, senadora por acumulación de SGA para Edinburg; Ivan Morado, senador para el Colegio de Artes Liberales; Bianca Castro, presidenta de la organización Young Democratic Socialists of America; Alejandro Sanchez, un miembro de La Union Chicanx Hijxs de Aztlán; y Aileen Garza, una miembro del Texas Freedom Network/Texas Rising, son los autores de la Resolución del Centro DREAM.

La resolución pide el establecimiento de un “centro para los estudiantes indocumentados que proporcione recursos y servicios adaptados para las diferentes necesidades únicas de nuestra población de estudiantes indocumentados, incluyendo pero sin limitarse a asistencia de ayuda

requisitos, de acuerdo con whitehouse.gov.

Palacios dijo que el SGA trabajará con Gadson y otros estudiantes “para tener su aportación respecto a cómo proseguir con esto”.

Gadson dijo que el número de estudiantes indocumentados inscritos en UTRGV abarca de 800 a 900.

Ella dijo que la idea es tener un centro DREAM físico listo para el Otoño 2018.

“Conforme abordábamos el proceso de solicitar fondos para que pudiera haber apoyo adicional y personal para servir ese propósito, se discutió acerca de tener un centro en general ... que también pudiera servir como un lugar y un hogar para otros centros de recursos de Texas”, ella dijo. “Todavía necesito trabajar con otros interesados en el campus para obtener su opinión, pero la idea o meta es que haiga un centro físico y que en este mismo haiga un centro de recursos para los DREAMers que sea parte del funcionamiento. Así que, el Comité Asesor de Cuotas Estudiantiles sí votó para fondos de apoyo”.

Gadson explicó que el año fiscal empieza el 1 de septiembre. Por esta razón, el apoyo financiero para el centro DREAM solo puede estar disponible después de la fecha mencionada.

The Rider le preguntó a Palacios que pasaría si el Congreso eliminara el programa de DACA.

“Pues, eso significa que aún tendríamos una población indocumentada, no significa que pararemos de servir a nuestros estudiantes indocumentados y, definitivamente, queremos que sientan que independientemente de lo que pase con el gobierno federal, ellos van a tener un lugar aquí porque son personas y son partes de nuestra comunidad y son parte de nuestra familia”, ella dijo.

Del mismo modo, Gadson contestó, “He trabajado en la educación superior desde antes de que tuviéramos a DACA como una opción. Creo que independientemente de que DACA sea o no capaz de continuar, existirá la necesidad de ayudar a los estudiantes que son indocumentados porque el acceso a una educación superior está disponible. Así que, mientras los estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de asistir, deberíamos tener servicios que apoyen a las diferentes circunstancias y experiencias únicas de todos nuestros estudiantes”.

Ella dijo que es crucial informar a los estudiantes que la educación superior

es accesible y es una opción.

“Creo que lo que es muy importante es que haiga un espacio identificable para facilitarle a los estudiantes el conectarse a los recursos y servicios que ya se ofrecen en la universidad o dentro de nuestra comunidad, con nuestros compañeros de la comunidad”, dijo Gadson. “Por lo tanto, nos podría ayudar potencialmente a llegar a más estudiantes que puedan tener preguntas o que puedan haber pasado por situaciones difíciles y también nos ayuda a tener personal adicional para continuar expandiendo los tipos de servicios que hemos estado proporcionando en la institución. Yo creo que le ayuda a la gente a tener un sentido de afirmación y pertenencia cuando saben que existe un lugar para ellos en la institución”.

Gadson dijo que la Oficina del Decano de Estudiantes trabajará para reunir más información sobre los estudiantes que serán beneficiados por el centro DREAM.

“Una de las cosas que nuestra oficina está haciendo es que estamos trabajando en contratar a un compañero de la facultad y hemos desarrollado una encuesta que vamos a distribuir este mes para nuestros estudiantes en el campus que son indocumentados para así obtener un poco más de información sobre los servicios, experiencias, experiencias en la universidad, dentro de nuestra comunidad, para informarnos de servicios adicionales o cosas que deberíamos de ofrecer”.

Ella dijo que es importante obtener esta información de la “población que será beneficiada principalmente para poder tomar decisiones informadas”.

Palacios dijo que le gustaría también ver cierto tipo de asesoría legal disponible en el centro DREAM.

“Queremos asegurarnos de que estas personas sepan que UTRGV es su hogar”, ella dijo. “Así que, nos queríamos asegurar de que la administración de UTRGV haga el mejor trabajo posible para que ellos se sientan como parte de nuestra comunidad”.

Hasta la fecha, no se ha asignado ningún nombre oficial para el centro DREAM.

The Rider solicitó entrevistas con Castro y Sanchez varias veces, pero conforme al horario de prensa del jueves, no estuvieron disponibles.

“Mientras los estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de asistir, deberíamos tener servicios que apoyen a las diferentes circunstancias y experiencias únicas de todos nuestros estudiantes”

--Rebecca Gadson

Vicerrectora asociada para la Vida Estudiantil y decana de estudiantes

financiera, servicios de consejería, asesoría de carrera pos-graduación, apoyo académico y servicios de mediadores de asuntos de interés público”.

Palacios, quien es ahora presidenta electa del SGA, dijo que la Resolución del Centro DREAM está destinada a proporcionar recursos para beneficiarios de DACA y/o estudiantes indocumentados.

“Nos gustaría ver un ... lugar centralizado donde los estudiantes que no tienen una condición legal puedan obtener ... recursos en la forma de asesoría o en la forma de apoyo educacional”, dijo Palacios. “Así que, asesoría académica y consejería mental”.

La Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) provee protección temporal en contra de la deportación a cerca de 800,000 jóvenes que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos ilegalmente cuando eran niños, siempre y cuando puedan satisfacer ciertos

THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE SEEING 'AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR'

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Earth's mightiest heroes and their allies will join forces in an attempt to defeat the Mad Titan, Thanos, and his quest to end half the universe in the Marvel film "Avengers: Infinity War," which premieres Friday.

After 10 years and more than 18 adaptations, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has created a movie world with a plethora of information, superheroes and villains that may be a handful for fans to digest.

With that being said, *The Rider* will provide several key points to keep in mind ahead of the release of "Avengers: Infinity War."

THANOS

In the comics, Thanos is an Eternal, an evolutionary race of beings who possess greater powers and longer lifespans than humans. His motives to destroy a majority of the universe is to impress and court the embodiment of Death.

Although not much is known about his origin in the MCU, his motives are different.

He is from a planet named Titan that is no longer inhabited "because of things that he thought he could help prevent," but was not allowed to do, according to Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige.

All inhabitants from Thanos' planet became extinct and the Mad Titan vowed to never let that happen again. He believes the rest of the universe is following the same path Titan did.

Basically, he wants to save one half of the universe by destroying the other.

It is also unknown exactly how strong Thanos is in the MCU, but he has been described as "the most powerful being in the universe" (2014's "Guardians of the Galaxy").

But how exactly does Thanos plan on destroying half the universe?

INFINITY STONES

In order to accomplish his mission, the Mad Titan will have to assemble the Infinity Gauntlet, an item used to channel the power of the six Infinity Stones.

The MCU describes the Infinity Stones as the most powerful artifacts in the universe that come from the remnants of the six singularities--space, mind, reality, time, power and soul--that existed prior to the Big Bang.

However, not everyone can hold an Infinity Stone in their hand. As seen in "Guardians of the Galaxy" and 2011's "Captain America: The First Avenger," a normal being can perish if it attempts to use a stone's power.

The Infinity Stones can only be wielded by beings of extraordinary strength or by harnessing their power with certain items, such as Loki's scepter (2012's "Avengers") or the Eye of Agamotto (2016's "Doctor Strange").

What are their powers?

The **Space Stone** can be used as an energy source to create weapons and/or to open portals from anywhere in the universe.

Essentially, the **Space Stone** can provide its users the ability to transport themselves, or an entire alien army, anywhere they please.

The **Mind Stone** can grant its wielders the ability to control the minds of other beings.

In 2015's "Avengers: Age of Ultron," the **Mind Stone** was also used to bring Vision to life and gave Scarlet Witch her powers of mind control, hallucinations, dream invasion and forced delusions.

The **Power Stone** is strong enough to annihilate entire planets.

It amplifies any strengths of its user and boosts the powers of the other Infinity Stones in the gauntlet, at least it does so in the comics.

The **Time Stone** can be used to see into the past and future, rewind and freeze time, as well as create time loops.

In the comics, the **Time Stone** allows its wielders to age or de-age anyone or anything they choose and, enhanced by the **Power Stone**, can grant them the ability to exist in all times simultaneously.

It is unknown if the MCU's version of the **Time Stone** will grant the same power.

The **Reality Stone** was first introduced to the MCU in 2013's "Thor: The Dark World" as the Aether. Its power is self-explanatory; the ability to control reality.

For instance, users can kill half of all living creatures in the universe with a snap of their fingers if they choose.

Although it has yet to make an appearance in the MCU, many fans have come up with different theories of the location of the **Soul Stone** and its powers.

If the MCU sticks to the comic version of its powers, the **Soul Stone** has the ability to capture and/or manipulate souls, as well as return them back to life.

THE BLACK ORDER

With an abundance of heroes ready to defend the universe, Thanos may need help collecting all six Infinity Stones.

As movie trailers have shown, Thanos' Black Order, known as Cull Obsidian in the comics, will make an appearance in "Avengers: Infinity War."

In the MCU, members of the Black Order are also referred to as the children of Thanos, a group that once contained Gamora (at one point his favorite daughter) and Nebula, two characters from the "Guardians of the Galaxy" who betrayed the Mad Titan.

The Black Order is a group of evil aliens who act as Thanos' enforcers. It is composed of Corvus Glaive, Proxima Midnight, Ebony Maw and Cull Obsidian.

Glaive owns a sharp, spearlike weapon that can cut through almost anything and can also, at least in the comics, make him immortal while holding it.

Midnight also uses a spearlike weapon. However, her spear turns into light and rarely misses its mark.

Maw's abilities are different than his other group members as they focus on manipulation, infiltration and mind control.

Lastly, Obsidian, who is known as Black Dwarf in the comics, serves as the Black Order's powerhouse and possesses brute strength and powerful skin.

HEROES' WHEREABOUTS

"Captain America: Civil War" (2016) created a separation among some members of the Avengers. Captain America himself was last seen helping his Civil War team members--Falcon, Ant Man, Hawkeye and Scarlet Witch--escape prison.

While it is unknown where exactly all the mentioned characters are, it is safe to assume Falcon and Captain America are together, with Black Widow probably on their side.

Iron Man was last seen in "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (2017) about to propose to Pepper Potts. He is most likely still in the New Avengers Facility in upstate New York, alongside War Machine and, possibly, Vision and Scarlet Witch.

Spider-Man is still in Queens, New York, while Black Panther is in Wakanda, hiding Bucky.

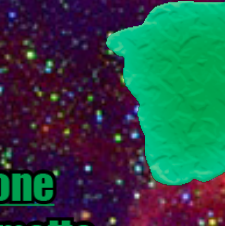
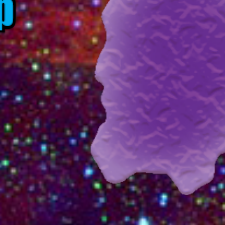
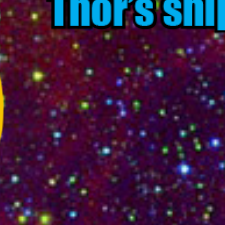
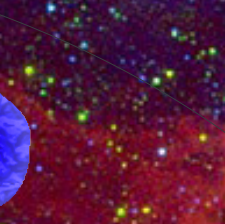
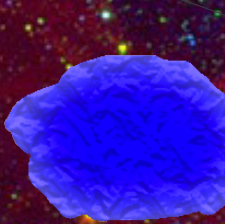
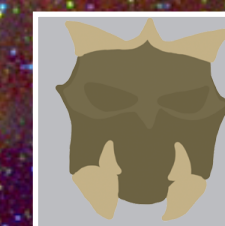
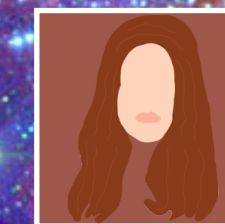
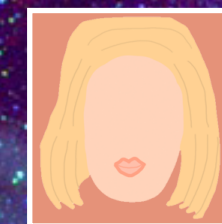
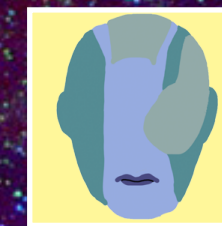
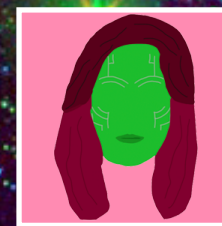
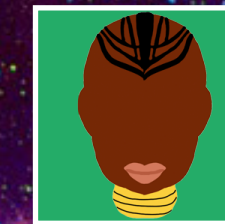
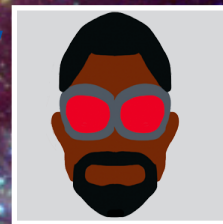
Doctor Strange now serves as the master of the New York Sanctum.

The Guardians of the Galaxy are still traveling through space like Thor, Loki and Hulk, the latter which are making their way to Earth from millions of miles away.

Who knows where Stan Lee will pop up throughout the adventure.

Whether the Avengers and their allies will prevent Thanos from collecting all six Infinity Stones still remains a mystery. Nonetheless, Marvel fans only have to wait a few days to find out how the story unfolds.

Only one thing is certain, "it's all been leading to this."



Captain America:
The First Avenger

The Incredible
Hulk

Thor

Iron Man 3

Captain America:
Winter Soldier

Guardians of the
Galaxy Vol. 2

Ant-Man

Black Panther

Spider-Man:
Homecoming

Iron Man

Iron Man 2

Thor:
The Dark World

The Avengers

Guardians
of the Galaxy

Avengers:
Age of Ultron

Captain America:
Civil War

Doctor Strange

Thor:
Ragnarok

Marvel Cinematic Universe Timeline

○ Recommendations of important films to watch before "Avengers: Infinity War"

The other side

2 voice opposing views on Jefferson Davis relocation

Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

Attendees voiced their opinion on the relocation of the Jefferson Davis Highway Memorial and the procedure taken to handle the issue during last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting.

Although the city commission established an 18-month timeline March 20 to make a decision, people are still concerned about the process it has been using to handle the issue.

Melissa Knerr, a McAllen resident, spoke during the public comment period and said she feels the issue needed to be discussed further. She also tried to get the issue on the agenda but said she was rejected.

"I've reached out to many different people to voice my grievances," Knerr said. "I've followed everything as instructed, including submitting a PowerPoint presentation for consideration to be placed on the agenda for this meeting, but wasn't

included on the grounds of, 'We're still looking at all the information that has been received.' I find this very interesting since another group was added to the March 20 agenda; that's the Jefferson Davis committee, where two commissioners were listed, giving it the appearance of an official city [item]."

She became emotional at the lectern and said she was hurt to hear what the opposition

had to say about the people who believe the memorial shouldn't be moved.

"Not only was this group allowed to speak for 10 minutes, they were allowed to call us white supremacists and attempt to link us to the KKK," Knerr said. "At no time during that presentation were these claims challenged, but at the end, everyone applauded."

Additionally, she told the commission she will no longer



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

McAllen resident Eric Knerr speaks last Tuesday before the Brownsville City Commission on the Jefferson Davis Highway Memorial.



McAllen resident Melissa Knerr approaches the lectern to speak on the proposed relocation of the Jefferson Davis Highway Memorial during last Tuesday's city commission meeting in Brownsville.

deny interviews from media outlets that have reached out to her on the issue.

Eric Knerr, a McAllen resident, also spoke on the Jefferson Davis Highway Memorial decision.

He explained his displeasure over the novel the presenters at the March 20 meeting discussed.

"An attempt was made to link the United Daughters of the Confederacy with white supremacy and the desire to affect schoolchildren with a bias towards racism by promoting a book titled 'Ku Klux Klan: The Invisible Empire,' which was endorsed by the United Daughters in 1913," Eric Knerr said. "The

group missed the point of this book and its meaning, and message entirely. It's apparent no one in the group could've actually read the book. The conclusion they draw is false."

Since the statements were made during the public comment period, no action was taken by the city commission, but it brought the issue back into the spotlight.

In other business, the commission approved: --the readoption of the Historic Preservation Plan for 2018; --and the City of Brownsville-Brownsville Metro revised ADA Policies and Procedures Manual Complementary Para-Transit Service Plan.

Programming a win

UTRGV seniors compete in robotics competition

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

UTRGV engineering seniors Joshua Acosta, Samuel Roberts and Salvador Garza, who form the team SSJ, finished first among Texas universities at the IEEE Region 5 Robotics Competition in Austin.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers hosts a robotic competition every year.

"They produced a new challenge," Garza said of the April 7 contest. "Last year, it was to detect a tunnel. This year, it is to navigate a course and pick up the payload, which is a token in this case, and find a way to get it to a delivery zone, drop-off area."

The robot was made by

The team members had previously heard of the competition and wanted to participate.

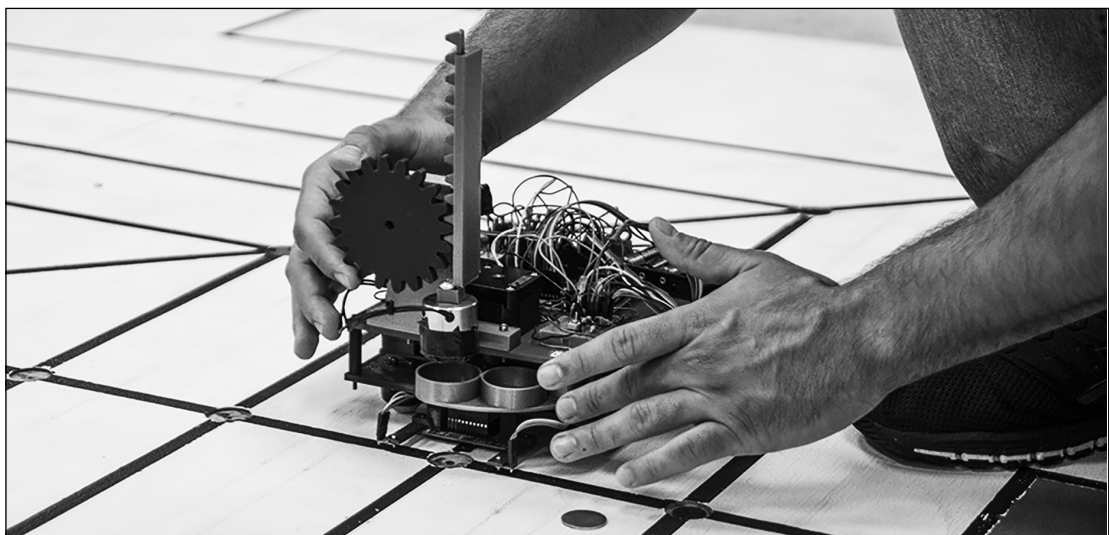
"They let us do this for our senior design project, so we could have the time and funds to complete the project," Roberts said.

The team met four to five days out of the week since September for three to four hours.

"Near the end of it, we were working a lot more," Garza said. "More like six to eight hours a day."

The team would not leave the lab until at least 10:30 p.m. to midnight.

"This past semester, we were living in the lab," Roberts joked. "We spent hundreds of hours working on it."



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV engineering seniors Joshua Acosta, Samuel Roberts and Salvador Garza competed at the IEEE Region 5 Robotics Competition on April 7 in Austin. The team finished first among Texas universities.

made using a combination of Arduino software, as well as the team's construction and programming "so that it picks up 12 tokens."

printing and designing some of the circuit. All team members helped with debugging and testing.

SSJ wanted to name the robot but said none of the names stuck.

"We used to call it The Punisher," Roberts said.

He explained it was due to how harshly the robot's magnet, which picks up the tokens, would slam down when grabbing items.

They also called the robot Tower of Gray but preferred Big Blue.

Right before competition, Garza also said the team had initial difficulties with getting

the robot to work.

"It would not work for some reason. We were there stressed out," Garza said. "... We took all the wires out and put them on the mic controller, booted it up, and we set it up for a run, hoping it would work. Sure enough, it worked well."

Roberts said the team won fourth overall out of 31 teams and first place among Texas universities.

After graduation, Acosta and Garza would like to attend graduate school. Roberts, who has a military background, is considering accepting a job offer in the defense industry.



UTRGV engineering seniors (from left) Joshua Acosta, Salvador Garza and Samuel Roberts talked about the hard work and the sleepless nights behind their success in the competition. They began work on the project in the beginning of Fall 2017.

Acosta, a computer engineering major, and electrical engineering majors Garza and Roberts, who preprogrammed it to pick up a total of 12 tokens without requiring someone to consistently command it.

"We decided to do this as our senior design project," Roberts said. "We were all in Senior Design I last semester and we formed [our] team."

Most of the difficulties the team faced consisted of testing which would last around 45 minutes each time.

"We had to be sure we were looking because if something happened, that we did not want to happen, we would have to [figure out] what happened and how do we fix it," Acosta said.

He said the robot was

Tokens were picked up using sensors that detect the color of the wanted token and stored inside a designated compartment in the robot.

"At the very end, it drops them all off," Acosta said.

Garza and Acosta worked on the initial designs. Acosta's work concentrated on the initial programming. Roberts was in charge of 3-D modeling,



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UTRGV squads strive for conference

Diana Navarro
THE RIDER

The hopes are high this year for the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team going into the WAC Tournament Friday. With a record of 10-12, the men are battling it out and making improvements to earn a spot in the championship. Last season, they finished with an overall record of 5-21. Head Coach Dann Nelson said there are a few adjustments left to be made. "... Being able to grind ... putting a lot of balls into play," Nelson said. "We are working on consistency at the moment and we'll be ready. We'll definitely be ready."

Senior Elliot Johnstone said he wants to make the best of the season. "Being a senior, it could be my last match," Johnstone said. "I'm just gonna put everything into it and try to go as far into the tournament as we can and see what happens." Gaining four new recruits last fall, the Vaqueros are working hard to make any necessary changes. "We're gonna work hard and if we play hard and we play good, we can win the conference," said communication junior Yehonatan Kaufman. "We need to believe in ourselves

and each teammate and believe in each other that we can win every match. ... If we're not gonna believe it, we're not gonna win." The team will compete against Seattle University to begin the WAC Tournament on Friday in Phoenix, Arizona. "They are all very enthusiastic when they're on the court and that helps our team," the head coach said. **Women's Tennis** UTRGV Women's Tennis Team swung this season with a positive approach and is ready for the WAC Tournament on Saturday, also in Phoenix. The Vaqueras are 13-8 and stronger than ever before. Head Coach Sonia Hahn said they're ready to go this time.

"At this point of the season, it's not so much of improvement, it's more of polishing and just being precise," Hahn said. "They've put all the work in in the fall and earlier this spring, and they've been playing well all season and now, it's just maintaining and tweaking a few specific things." Last year's 4-16 record is something the team wants to leave behind. "The lack of belief that they've had in the past, I think that's something that they've overcome this past year and



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER PHOTOS
UTRGV Men's Tennis senior Elliot Johnstone prepares to hit the ball during practice Wednesday at the Orville Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus in preparation for Friday's WAC Tournament.

I think the results speak for themselves," the coach said. "... They've really improved." Their unity has definitely brought them what they needed. "They've been playing so hard as a team and they play hard for each other," Hahn said. "... They represent more than just themselves and I think that has brought them together and that's why they've been successful." Visit goutrgv.com for updates.

Men's Golf The UTRGV Men's Golf Team will compete starting today for the WAC Championship title in Hutchinson, Kansas. Head Coach Philip Tate is preparing his players for the battle. "We're pretty much set," Tate said. "We're ready to go. We just have a few little things we can do to tidy up before the WAC conference championship, but we really are all set." Junior Pedro Lamadrid said he strives to play his best. "I think we need to believe in ourselves more and just trust the process," Lamadrid said. "... During the semester, our main target was to win a tournament. ... We did it. ... Now, after we know what it feels to win, we just need to stay hungry and bring the

tournament home." The Vaqueros have finished at the top spot twice this season: at the Atchafalaya Intercollegiate Championship held in February in Morgan, Louisiana, and at last month's Big Texan Invitational in Kerrville. They placed second among 10 teams at the Bearkat Invitational at Walden Golf & Country Club in Huntsville. "Winning tournaments is what keeps us motivated every day and what we work for every day," said marketing sophomore Luca Portelli. "We want to play our game and we want to win." Tate said, "I think our desire is our greatest strength, I think that what we have is a lot of internal strength."

Track and Field With only one meet until conference, the UTRGV Men's and Women's Track and Field teams are pushing to make this season memorable. Head Coach Darren Flowers said he is proud of both teams. "The mindset going in was just to not try to move too fast, take things slow and try to build this thing the right way," Flowers said. "... As far as the student athletes here, currently, they've made some great strides. They've bought into what we're doing here and they've really taken some accountability."

Communication senior JoVanna Jones said mental toughness plays a big role for her as her injuries play a factor in her performance. "It's a lot of mental strength to get out here and keep on practicing, as it hurts a lot," Jones said. "... This is my fastest season that I've run. ... I've definitely been pushing through that." The WAC Outdoor Championships will take place from May 9 to 12 in Sacramento, California. "I'm faster than I've ever been, closer to God than I've ever been," said exercise science junior Idantonye Cheetham-West. Cheetham-West said she's only trying to focus on things that she can control. "I'm trying to be more coachable ... taking requests from my coaches and compete all the time," she said. Flowers said the team wants to take it forward and the goal is to stay on that. "Typically, at this time of the season, you want to start to see your kids sharpen up and basically see the fruits of your labor, see all the work you put into, and really start to see some of those performances rise to the top," he said.



UTRGV Track & Field junior Idatonye Cheetham-West runs during practice Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

BEYOND THE GAME

Yariel Matute, a criminal justice junior, is a sprinter for the UTRGV Men's Track and Field Team.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? "I would say an eagle because flying. ... I just think it's pretty cool to be able to fly."
What TV show are you currently into? "I actually don't watch TV at all."
Do you have any hidden talents? "I can run really fast. ... I don't know if it's hidden." [Laughs.]
If you could have dinner with any celebrity or athlete, who would it be? "I would say LeBron James."
Who is your personal hero, and why? "I would just say my mom is my personal hero, just because she has never given up on me."
Who makes you laugh the most on the team? "Coach [Otis] McDaniel makes me laugh the most on the team."

What is the best advice you've received recently? "Don't chase a record or a time, just run and have fun with it."
Pizza or tacos? "Pizza."
If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? "I would say 'Imagine That' by Kevin Gates."
On your off time, what do you like to do? "I would say stretch and foam roll to be ready, just to keep my body loose."
What is your main goal this track season? "To make it to the regional level."
--Compiled by Diana Navarro

Club Spotlight



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Executive board members of the Institute of Management Accountants include (front row) Vice President of Finance Alexis Martinez. Middle row: Vice President of Public Relations Rolando Herrera, Vice President of Community Service Alina Ramirez, Vice President of Academics Laura Diaz and Vice President of Membership Paloma Guzman. Back row: Vice President Oscar Medrano, President Mauricio Alonso and Vice President of Marketing Andrea Aleman.

Name: Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), The Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business at Edinburg.

Purpose: The nonprofit student organization provides students and the community with an educational and social outlet promoting academic excellence, career readiness, student engagement, research, leadership, networking skills, as well as exposure to the accounting and financial professions. It is dedicated to promoting careers in assurance, consulting, IT auditing and fraud examination.

President: Mauricio Alonso

Vice President: Oscar Medrano

Vice President of Membership: Paloma Guzman

Vice President of Finance: Alexis Martinez

Vice President of Academics: Laura Diaz

Vice President of Community Service: Alina Ramirez

Vice President of Marketing: Andrea Aleman

Vice President of Public Relations: Rolando Herrera

Advisers: Lecturers Delia Sanchez, Linda Acevedo, Deborah Gonzales and Assistant Professor Christian Sobngwi

Activities: VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance): The organization has partnered with United Way to help low-income families who earn less than \$56,000 with free income tax return preparation.

Awards: Received 2017 Gold Student Award of Excellence, New Organization of the Year and Outstanding Campus Program/Event in the Regional Leadership Conference during the 2016-2017 school year.

Meetings: 12:15 to 1:10 p.m. Thursdays in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship 110 on the Edinburg campus.

Membership requirements: Local membership is \$20 and national membership is \$40, which includes an IMA T-shirt and discounts for the national conference.

For more information, email: imautrgv01gmail.com.

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

DENTIST

Continued from Page 3

doesn't take them long to get up to speed on a particular issue, and they present well. It really makes it so that our whole presentation goes better when we have younger pre-dental and dental students going with us to our visits to the congressmen."

The students lobbied Congress on the following issues, according to a news release from the ADA:

--Student Loan Programs and the Higher Education Act: Students advocated for preserving public loan forgiveness programs and extending the period of deferment for repaying loans.

--Action for Dental Health Act: The bill would allow organizations to qualify for oral health grants administered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

These grants would enable organizations to provide dental services to underserved populations.

--Opioids: The ASDA and the ADA lobbied for legislation that will limit prescriptions for acute pain and improve drug-monitoring programs.

--Dental and Optometric Care Access Act of 2017 or DOC Access Act: The bill would prohibit non-covered services provisions in dental and vision plans.

--McCarran-Ferguson repeal for health insurance: The bill would authorize the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce the full range of antitrust laws against health insurance companies engaged in anti-competitive conduct.

De Leon found the opioid crisis to be of concern.

"The dental field is one of the few that is taking action to

try and [limit this problem], because people like dental surgeons can be prescribing opioids that can lead to addiction," she said.

De Leon also said dentists should play a part in resolving the issue.

"Between the teen years and the age of 24 ... you are more likely to be become addicted to opioids," she said. "If somebody is ... getting their wisdom teeth taken out, and they're prescribed an opioid, they can end up becoming addicted. And the dental field is trying to limit this."

Harrison said the student loan programs are significant because the programs help ensure the funds needed to attend dental school.

"The average debt of a graduating dental student from dental school now is \$287,000," he said. "That's the average debt. So that means, if you stop to think of

it, some people owe no money when they graduate dental school. ... Some people have over \$500,000 in debt."

Pre-dental student Arianna Cazares, a biology junior and event committee chair for ASDA, also attended the event.

"It was a great experience. I got to learn about the five different issues right now in the dental field, and I got to network with dentists and dental students across the nation," Cazares said.

She said dentists, such as Harrison, help out the group and took the students "under their wings."

Cazares said knowing how to lobby is important for students.

"I think it helps to know beforehand, before becoming a dentist, to know the issues, to already have a firsthand experience, and to know how to approach congressmen,"

she said.

De Leon said she believes Lobby Day has had an impact on Congress.

"Our group went to ... [Congressman] Vicente Gonzalez's office," she said. "... We met with his staff, and he had already co-signed some of the issues [we were lobbying]. And so the ones he had not co-signed on, we spoke to him about those, and thanked him for the ones he had already supported."

Harrison sees the impact of Lobby Day as being incremental.

"I look at it more in terms of continuing to build on the relationship with our elected officials," he said. "Our lobbyists will tell you, as they told me, that their ability to get into the congressman's office ... they are able to get in those offices and discuss issues much better if we hold an event like we just held."

NEXUS

Continued from Page 3

Planning for NEXUS started a year ago and is the first symposium organized by the College of Liberal Arts since UTRGV was established in 2015.

"I think we're doing a lot of different

things to try and experiment to find out what appeals to students and faculty," Charlton said. "We really wanted to re-present what the College of Liberal Arts does for the university and the community, and to try and build a place for people to come and talk about that, instead of just having

that vision given to them. ... We're inviting students and faculty to have meaningful interactions."

Diaz encourages students, faculty and staff from both Brownsville and Edinburg to attend.

"We really encourage everyone to go by," he said. "There are different

sessions, panels and discussions of interest to faculty, the students, to the community and staff also."

For more information on the College of Liberal Arts, visit www.utrgv.edu/cla.

BUILDING

Continued from Page 1

In an article published April 16 in *The Rider* ("Creativity interrupted"), students and professors complained about the building's ventilation and sanitation.

Concerning safety measures students can take, Costello said on his end it's about maintaining engineering controls and monitoring of ventilation. "There's different mechanisms," he said. "One is engineering controls, and right now, one basically consists of ventilation, and the ventilation that is currently down there in that building, in that area, was designed by a professional engineer to address those contaminants that are being generated."

"So right now, we're working with Facilities to evaluate that ventilation to see if we can somehow upgrade it, and that would address any of those contaminate levels. But if those can't be addressed to what we call engineering control, then there has to be an administrative, which means you basically don't go, you don't spend any time there."

Costello said no one had complained previously about the reported problems, but perhaps there could be something wrong in the system.

"We've haven't had any complaints in the past, so maybe something is wrong with the ventilation system," he said. "The ventilation system is very sensitive sometimes."

However, due to the building's off-campus location, Costello's team is at a disadvantage when it comes to constant monitoring.

He also noted that despite the disadvantage, there was a general consensus to have the Visual Arts program placed off campus eight or so years ago.

Prior to its current location, it was located on the Edinburg campus but lacked proper ventilation.

The area where the old Visual Arts Building was located is now the Performing Arts Complex, which opened in 2015.

In response to the April 16 article, Costello said more monitoring will be done to secure the safety of students.

"We're going to go do some monitoring to ensure, and we're going to work with physical plant to ensure

that there's no contaminate levels that are in the break room, that are being generated from those other offices," he said.

Costello said he wanted to assure students and staff that the matter is being taken seriously and will be addressed.

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CENTER
Continued from Page 1

that operation. So, I just want to clarify that because I, perhaps, don't think I was clear enough.”

Gadson said she met with the SGA the following week after the resolution passed.

“When I met with the current elected executives of SGA, along with the president-elect and the elected officials for SGA, they relayed that their understanding was that moving towards a similar model to what is at our sister school UTSA was definitely something that would work as we move forward,” she said. “And that model is that there is a center, like an overarching center, and within that center, is a DREAMer resource center.”

Gadson submitted a request for funding to the Student Fee Advisory Committee in January.

“I did submit a request to the Student Fee Advisory Committee for financial support for personnel and resources for a center that would be an identifiable space for students,” she said. “Part of that was for a place where it could be free for students to explore the intersection of multidimensional aspects of their identity and contribute to the development and delivery of learning experiences, workshops and information.”

The SFAC has recommended the approval of \$72,990.32 of the \$93,740.32 requested.

“The recommendation would allow the hire of one full-time staff member to serve as the program coordinator and one graduate assistant,” Gadson said.

She said the request is pending final approval by UTRGV President Guy Bailey.

Denisce Palacios, SGA senator-at-large for Edinburg; Ivan Morado, senator for the College of Liberal Arts; Bianca Castro, president for the Young Democratic Socialists of America; Alejandro Sanchez, a member of La Union Chicanx Hijxs de Aztlán; and Aileen Garza, a member of the Texas Freedom Network/Texas Rising, are the authors of the DREAM Center Resolution.

The resolution calls for the establishment of “a center for undocumented students that provides

resources and services tailored to the unique needs of our undocumented student population, such as but not limited to financial aid assistance, counseling services, post-graduation career advising, academic support and ombud services.”

Palacios, who now is president-elect of the SGA, said the DREAM Center Resolution is intended to provide resources for DACA recipients and/or undocumented students.

“We would like to see ... a centralized place where students who are without legal status can get ... resources in the form of advising or in the form of educational support,” Palacios said. “So, academic advising and mental counseling.”

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides about 800,000 young people who were brought illegally to the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation if they can demonstrate that they meet several criteria, according to whitehouse.gov.

Palacios said the SGA will work with Gadson and other students “to have their input on how to proceed with this.”

Gadson said the number of undocumented students enrolled at UTRGV ranges from 800 to 900 students.

She said the idea is to have a physical DREAM center ready for Fall 2018.

“As we went through the process of requesting funding so that there could be additional support and personnel to serve that purpose, it was discussed about having an overarching center ... that could also be a place and a home for other Texas resource centers to be found,” Gadson said. “I still need to work with other stakeholders on campus to get feedback but the idea or goal would be that there would be a physical center and that there would also be a DREAMer resource center that is part of the overall operation. So, the Student Fee Advisory Committee did vote to support funding.”

She explained that the fiscal year starts Sept. 1. Therefore, the financial support for a DREAM center can only be available after that date.

The Rider asked Palacios what would happen if

Congress removed the DACA program.

“Well, that still means that we have an undocumented population,” she said. “It doesn't mean that we stop serving our undocumented students and, ultimately, we want them to feel that whatever happens with [the] federal government that they have a place here because they are people and they are part of our community and they are part of our family.”

Similarly, Gadson replied, “I have been working in higher education prior to us having DACA as an option. I do think that regardless of whether or not DACA is able to continue, there is still a need to support students who are undocumented scholars because access to higher education is available. So, as long as there is the opportunity for students to attend, we should have services that support the different unique circumstances and backgrounds of all of our students.”

She said it is critical to inform students that higher education is accessible and an option.

“I think that what becomes very important is that there is an identifiable space for making it easier for students to connect to their available resources and services already offered at the university or within our community, with our community partners,” Gadson said. “Therefore, it could potentially help us to reach more students with questions or who have been going through some challenging situations and also helps us to have additional personnel to continue to expand the types of offerings that we have been doing at the institution. I think it helps a people have a sense of affirmation and belonging when they find that there is a place for them at the institution.”

Gadson said the Office of the Dean of Students will work on gathering more information about the students who will be served at the DREAM center.

“One thing that our office is doing is we work to employ a faculty fellow and we have developed a survey that we will be distributing later this month to our students on campus who are undocumented to get a little bit of more feedback about services, experiences, experiences at the university, within their community, to help inform us on additional services or things that we should offer.”

She said it is important to get feedback from the “population that will be served the most to help them make informed decisions.”

Palacios said she would also like to see some type of legal aid available at the DREAM center.

“We want to make sure that these people know that UTRGV is home,” she said. “So, we wanted to make sure that the UTRGV administration does the best job possible, so that they feel like they are part of our community.”

No official name for the DREAM center has been decided.

The Rider requested interviews with Castro and Sanchez several times but as of press time Thursday, they were unavailable.



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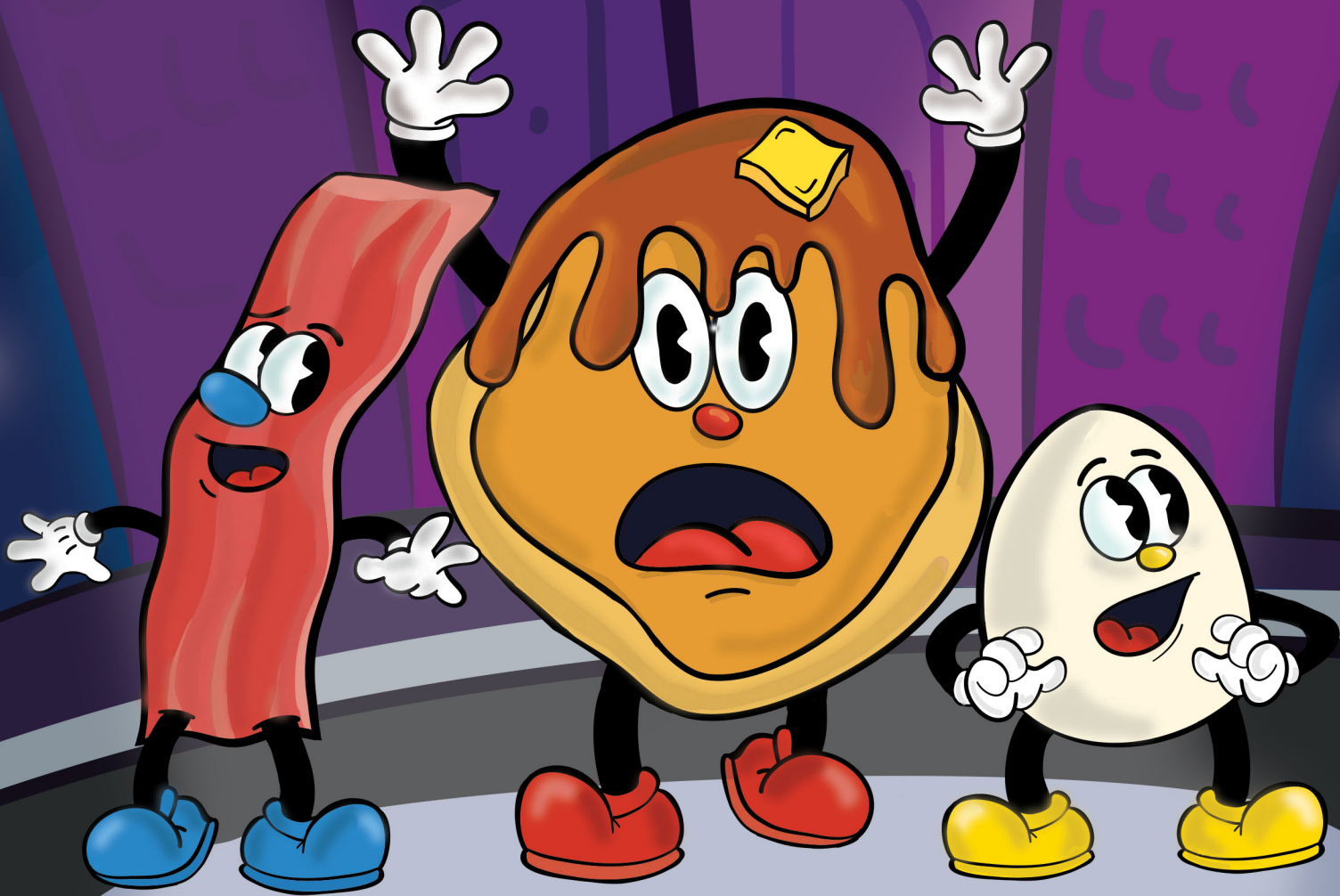


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