



UTRGV BASEBALL BEGINS WAC PLAY

The Vaqueros will face the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners in a three-game series this week. **See Page 7**



NURSING CLASS HOSTS HEALTH FAIR

Event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Lasara, a community in Willacy County. **See Page 3**

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

THE RIDER

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SGA FACES LOW MEMBERSHIP



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has 18 members elected for the 2018-2019 academic year. The current senate has 28 positions filled.

Jesus Sanchez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In spite of serving as the official representation of the student body at UTRGV, the Student Government Association has 22 of 58 positions filled for next year, so far. This year, the SSGA faces a similar situation with only 28 members.

Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities and SGA co-adviser, told *The Rider* the low numbers may prevent members from reaching all

their goals.

"Members will have to [wear] multiple hats and therefore, it's a strain on the student," Mata-Vasquez said. "They are students. We want

composed of three branches—executive, legislative and judicial.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Denise Palacios, an international business and political science junior, will serve as the SGA president.

One of Palacios' main goals is to work with student organizations more. Another is to make the university more inclusive in all spectrums.

"Making students feel safe, feel comfortable and feel that they can pursue

See **SGA**, Page 6



Student Government Association

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882-5111

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them to focus on academics."

The SGA has the power to participate in the overall policy and decision-making processes at UTRGV and is



Steven Hughes/THE RIDER

In observance of Women's History Month, the University Library and Student Involvement have displayed the works of well-known women, such as Helen Keller, Frida Kahlo and Hillary Clinton, on the library's third floor on the Brownsville campus.

I'm with her UTRGV commemorates Women's History Month

Zugay Treviño and Britney Valdez

THE RIDER

Laura Galvan, a theater film junior, recalls her mother's courage when she was growing up.

"I always looked up to her because she always pushed her fears aside and takes care of me," Galvan said.

Galvan explained how back when she and her family were living on a ranch, her mother did this.

"Whenever there was anything that was wrong, for example ... there was a snake once in the house, and she got us all out ... and she stayed there and she took out the snake," she said.

Galvan asked her mother, "Why aren't you scared of snakes?"

Vaquero Voice,

Page 4

Her mother explained she was scared but set her fears aside.

Galvan is among the women at UTRGV who are remembering their mothers and other female role models during Women's History Month.

"My female role model, it would have to be my mom," said Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change.

The Rider asked female students who their female role models were.

"If there is a female role model that I look up to, it would be Frida Kahlo," said Yaritza Marin, a Mexican American studies sophomore. "Not only because it's into my major but, because of

See **WOMEN**, Page 3

UTRGV addresses probationary status

Accrediting agency to review audit in the fall

Eric Montoya

SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV is pending a SACSCOC review of the Statewide Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2017, which is the document the university failed to provide to comply with the agency's Principles of Accreditation federal requirement 4.7.

In an interview with *The Rider*, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the university will remain accredited but it will keep its probationary status until SACSCOC reviews the audit in September.

"The problem is that we have a statewide audit that is done every year and it is not released until February,"

Bailey said. "Well, see, SACS met in December, so the statewide audit had not been released. So, what they want to see is that audit and our response to the audit."

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

In 2016, SACSCOC placed UTRGV under a yearlong probation for failure to demonstrate compliance with several accreditation standards.

As *The Rider* reported in Dec. 5, 2017, although UTRGV addressed the 10 accreditation standards it did not meet in 2016, the university remained

on probation for failure to comply with a federal requirement about program responsibilities, according to an accreditation official.

Last October, a SACSCOC special committee visited the UTRGV campuses to discuss the school's probationary status.

In its report, the committee noted that even though UTRGV did not violate federal requirement 4.7, without a current audit, there was no way to determine compliance with program responsibilities under Title IV.

"What we are doing now, the audit is a number of universities in Texas and everybody has some deficiencies, Bailey said. "We have no material weaknesses

and the deficiencies in there, we are currently correcting. So, we anticipate that when the SACS review team comes in in September, everything will be fine."

The audit, conducted by the Texas State Auditor's Office and released on Feb. 22, is performed to obtain an understanding of internal controls over compliance, assess control risk of noncompliance and perform tests of those controls unless they are deemed ineffective, and to express an opinion on whether the State complied with federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of federal awards that may have direct and material effect

See **PROBATION**, Page 3

THE
RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A
NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Monday Night Chess

The **Chess Club** will host its **Monday Night Chess** event from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in ESTAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu or call (832) 908-5462.

Flute performance

Krista Jobson, an assistant professor of music, will perform with **Pedro Martinez**, an associate professor of music, music Lecturer I

Oliver Jia and the **UTRGV**

Latin Band at 7 p.m. in the

Performing Arts Complex

on the Edinburg campus.

Admission is free. For more

information, call 665-3881.

Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament

The **Student Union** will host

its **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.

Tuesday

Game-A-Palooza

The **Student Union** will host

its **Game-A-Palooza** at noon in

PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on

the Brownsville campus. For more

information, call 665-7989.

Flower Day

The **Student Union** will host its

Flower Day at noon in the Student

Union Commons on the Edinburg

campus. Students will be decorating

their own bracelets and rings with

flowers. The event will take place at the

same time Wednesday in PlainsCapital

Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville

campus. For more information, call

665-7989.



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

Wednesday

Texas Hold 'em Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Texas**

Hold 'em Tournament at noon

in the Game Room on the Edinburg

campus. The event will take place at the

same time Thursday in PlainsCapital

Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville

campus. For more information, call

665-7989.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 28 and March 1.



Feb. 28

8:03 a.m.: A staff

member reported she

lost her balance and

fell, which resulted

in a laceration to her

head. She requested

emergency medical

services and

was transported to a

local hospital.

10:40 a.m.: A non-affiliated

male on the Harlingen

campus lost his balance and

fell on his left knee in Lot

H4, causing about a 1-inch

scratch. He declined medical

attention.

11:49 a.m.: Officers responded to

a non-affiliate who was disrupting

class at the Mathematics and General

Classroom building on the Edinburg

campus. He was issued a criminal

trespass warning and escorted off

campus.

1:36 p.m.: An officer was dispatched

to the Visual Arts Building on the

Edinburg campus in regard to a

student who fainted. Emergency



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

3:15 p.m.: A non-affiliate reported

her vehicle was struck while parked

unattended in Lot H3 on the

Harlingen campus. The case is under

investigation.

3:22 p.m.: A student at the Village

Apartments reported that an unknown

person made unauthorized charges to

her credit card, totaling \$288. The case

is under investigation.

3:57 p.m.: Officers responded to

consolidated expenditures from

multiple award years during the invoice

process.

The audit recommended that the

university:

--draw down funds from the appropriate

award year;

--strengthen controls to ensure that it

draws down funds from the appropriate

award year and does not draw down

funds in excess of its needs;

--strengthen the documentation of

its review and approval process for

drawdowns of federal funds;

--strengthen its policies and procedures

for cash management, including its

drawdowns of federal funds.

Another finding includes Special

Tests and Provisions-Verification,

which states that "for 11 (18 percent)

of 60 students tested, the University of

Texas Rio Grande Valley (University)

did not accurately verify all required

items on the FAFSA; therefore, it did

not request updated ISIRs as required.

... Specifically, the University did not

accurately verify one or more of the

following items: adjusted gross income,

U.S. income taxes paid, education

credits, or household size."

The Institutional Student Information

Record (ISIR) contains "processed

student information reported on the

Free Application for Federal Student

Aid (FAFSA), as well as key processing

Thursday

Rhythm Night

The **Student Union** will host its

Rhythm Night at 6 p.m. in the

University Ballroom on the Edinburg

campus. For more information, call

665-7989.

Thursday Night Blitz

The **Chess Club** will host its weekly

tournament from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in

ESTAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus.

Beginners and casual players are

welcome. For more information,

email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu or

call (832) 908-5462.

Friday

Music Performance

Cellist **David Finckel** and

pianist **Wu Han** will perform in

the Performing Arts Complex in

Edinburg. Admission is \$15, \$10 for

senior citizens and \$5 for students. For

more information, call 665-3881.

Saturday

'Journey West'

"**Journey West, A Migration of**

Melody," will be performed at 7 p.m.

in the Performing Arts Complex on

the Edinburg campus. Admission is

\$15, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for

students.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

Portable Building No. 9 regarding

an injured student who had fallen off

wooden stairs and injured her left

ankle. She was transported to Edinburg

Regional Medical Center by Hidalgo

County emergency medical services for

further evaluation.

4:39 p.m.: A student reported on Feb.

27 that he observed his vehicle

was missing its lug nut covers.

He reported the last time he

observed the lug nut covers

was on Feb. 17 at his residence.

He said he uses the vehicle

to travel from Matamoros,

Tamaulipas, Mexico, to the

UTRGV Brownsville campus.

He had driven his vehicle

numerous times between Feb.17 and

27. At this time, it is unknown when

and where the covers went missing.

March 1

10:49 a.m.: A student at the Casa

Bella student housing complex on the

Brownsville campus reported criminal

mischief on her bike cable lock. The

case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

results and National Student Loan Data

System (NSLDS) financial aid history

information.

ISIRs are sent electronically to

schools by the Central Processing

System, according to www.ifap.ed.gov.

The rest of the findings:

--Special Tests and Provisions-Return

of Title IV Funds

--Special Tests and Provisions-

Enrollment Reporting

--Special Tests and Provisions-Student

Loan Repayments.

A copy of the audit is available at

www.sao.texas.gov/reports/main/18-

019.pdf#page=2.

Bailey said UTRGV is working to fix

the deficiencies reported in the audit.

"We are working with [SACSCOC],"

he said. "We talk to them on a regular

basis. Our plan of action, we work with

them to get their support and, so, I

think it's fine."

He said students should not be

concerned about the probationary

status.

"I don't think there is anything to

worry about," Bailey said. "We are

doing a really good job on addressing

these issues. We are working closely

with SACS and, so, we are confident

that we will be able to address them all.

... I think we are in really good shape

and I feel real confident going forward."

Helping with health

Nursing students to host medical fair

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

UTRGV's School of Nursing program class, Community, invites the public to its Health Fair, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Lasara Sports Complex.

The event will be hosted at 11932 Jones St. in Lasara, a community in Willacy County, and members expect to help about 500 people.

"Yearly, the nursing program holds this sort of event," nursing senior Roberto Garza said. "They hold a health fair every year and one of our classes is called Community, in which we interact with a certain community and try to promote the health of that community."

The 124 students from the nursing program are separated into 11 groups; each will have a specific task during Health Fair.

"We are going to have immunizations," nursing senior Cheyenne Solis said. "We are going to do height, weight, BMIs, blood pressure, glucose checks, cholesterol checks, breast exams, testicular exams, head-to-toe wellness exams, diabetic foot care, teaching, as well as examination."

Clinical Assistant Professor Liji



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Nursing senior Alexis Saenz practices measuring blood pressure with Roberto Garza, a nursing senior. Both will participate in a health fair in Lasara organized by the UTRGV School of Nursing.

Mathew said she has been teaching the course since 2011.

"Every year, the students have been involved in this kind of health fair," Mathew said. "The main aim of this class is to increase, or enhance, their awareness regarding community health programs ... because they are going to be the future health leaders."

Clinical Associate Professor Nancy

Nadeau said UTRGV's nursing program is doing well. The last graduating class had a Texas RN pass rate of 92.48 percent. In comparison, the average for Texas programs is 89.77 percent and the national average is 86.94 percent, according to the 2017 Texas Board of Nursing Examination Report.

Each student has been prepared

Professors offer soft-skills training courses

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Starting today, the Communication Department and Continuing Education will offer a Professional Transferable Skills Course Series on the Brownsville campus.

The series consists of 10 2-hour modules that have been designed to provide training in soft-skills competence that is expected in higher education and employment settings but rarely taught directly, according to the UTRGV website. Each module is available separately and each costs \$25.

"What the [courses] are is trainings to help someone be able to go from being a student to becoming a professional," said Nikkie Saldivar Hodgson, an assistant professor for communication studies. "Simple skills like public speaking, building relationships, networking, how to introduce yourself, persuasive speaking. We got things about resiliency, all these different topics."

Hodgson is one of the professors and community partners who will impart



COURTESY PHOTO

The Communication Department and Continuing Education will offer 10 2-hour courses that will help students and community members improve their soft skills starting today on the Brownsville campus. Teaching the courses will be Selma Yznaga (from left), Andreas Holzenburg, Nikkie Saldivar Hodgson, Juan Andres Rodriguez-Nieto, Janet Martinez and Jesus Gonzalez.

the courses. Faculty members Andreas Holzenburg, Selma Yznaga, Janet Martinez, Juan Andres Rodriguez-Nieto, Jesus Gonzalez and community partner Kai Wulff will offer courses, such as Research Paper Design, Resilience and Growth Mindset, Self-Transformation, Persuasive

Public Speaking and Organizational Leadership, among others.

"We hope they do it because it is not too often that you get seven faculty members who want to do this for free," Hodgson said. "It would be a lot cheaper than to sit in a class and take interviewing for a whole semester. It

WOMEN

Continued from Page 1

the way she was, and the way she used the obstacles in her life to kind of prove that she wasn't a damsel in distress."

Other UTRGV students declared their mother as their female role model.

"My mom is my role model," English senior Alyssa Alvarado said. "... She had me very young and she didn't let her age stop her, and ... she's currently going for her doctorate's."

Alvarado said her mother did everything she could to provide for her and never gave up her dream of achieving a higher education.

Scarlett Basurto, an anthropology senior, also agreed her mom is her role model.

"She's a single mom," Basurto said. "She provided for all three of my sisters. She didn't have the privilege to go to school, but she made the ability for us to keep on going and striving."

UTRGV will host a series of events in observance of Women's History

Month. The events will recognize the achievements accomplished by women throughout history and embrace cultural differences.

The majority of the events are in partnership between Student Services and the International Admissions Office, Sandoval said.

The university began the festivities March 9 with the International Women's Day Celebration. The event recognized several different international professors and awarded an international student with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Both departments hosted the celebration in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

The University Library on the Brownsville campus is also hosting a women's exhibit.

The next upcoming event, Talk About it S'more, is scheduled to take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and in the University Center lobby on the Edinburg campus.

"It's a cultural chat where we invite

either a speaker or professor," Sandoval said. "In Brownsville, we are going to have a professor come and speak about a topic in regards to Women's History Month."

Attendees can expect to make and eat s'mores while engaging in open conversations about whatever the topic may be.

The speaker in Brownsville will be history Associate Professor Amy Hay, whose areas of expertise include American women/gender history, according to her UTRGV faculty profile.

Student Involvement will continue to oversee awareness months. The department will host cultural chats twice a month and screening cultural movie series which relate to the month's theme.

On Friday, the Gender and Women's Studies Program will host a lecture, titled "*Humanizando la Deportación*," from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Education Complex 1.102 in Edinburg.

The event is a collaboration between the gender studies program and the

for the health fair and helped within the community by doing three to four home visits as part of the program. The program has prepared for the event in other ways. Home visits are conducted in the community in which the health fair will be held.

Nadeau said another course goal is for students to learn about collaborating in a community.

"We also interact with a lot of the programs in the university, with the [physician assistant] programs, the nurse practitioners programs," Garza said. "We have a lot of their students as well, come in and participate in the health fair."

Local corporations and agencies helped fund the event. The program raised an estimated \$3,500.

Class members are still looking for volunteers, who do not need to be a nursing major or have any type of training.

The volunteers' education will determine what they will be assigned to assist with.

For more information or to volunteer, email nursing senior Juan Rodriguez Lopez at juan.rodriguezlopez@utrgv.edu or Garza at roberto.r.garza01@utrgv.edu.

is a great opportunity for our students and our community."

The courses are open to the public and participants may register the day of the course or before.

"I teach communication studies and see it in the classroom. I see that students need that extra practice," Hodgson said. "We're going to launch not only for students, but for everyone in the community."

Attendees will receive a certificate of completion and can attend as many courses as they wish to.

"They're at night [6-8] during the week for two hours," Hodgson said. "They get the lecture part and a hands-on practice."

To register for these courses, visit <http://www.utrgv.edu/ce/programs/professional-development/professional-transferable-skills-course-series-brownsville/index.htm>. For more information on the professional training series, contact Rodriguez-Nieto at juan.rodrigueznieato@utrgv.edu or 882-5627.

department of Spanish and Portuguese from the University of California at Davis and will focus on the issues of femininity and masculinity.

Robert McKee Irwin from UC Davis will speak at the event, which will showcase a digital storytelling project of nearly 50 (and counting) personal stories about deportation, according to the event flyer.

John Goins, a history lecturer, will also show the documentary "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria" at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in ELABN 101. The film is about transgenders and drag queens who fought back against police harassment in San Francisco during the 1960s, according to IMDB.

Lastly, the Cultural Movie Services will show "Woman in Gold" from 7 to 9 p.m. March 29 in Salón Cassia in Brownsville and in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in Edinburg.

VAQUERO VOICE

Women Who Inspire



"I don't really have a woman, or if anything, I would say my mom. Not, like, anyone specifically about women. I'm glad that they're finally speaking up in various situations. Like, in different countries, they're speaking up where women don't have rights and now they're finally getting their rights back and I'm glad that's happening. I'm glad to be a woman."

Renata Hernandez
Biomedical science senior

"I would probably say all the women in my family. I come from a family of very strong women and I know my grandmother was very adamant in instilling the belief that women can do anything, can be anything and that women have such a vital importance in our daily lives. Not just the femininity and the masculinity, but as well as their place economically, philosophically and politically. It's very important. Speaking to my grandmother, as she would tell me stories from 50, 60 years ago on how little women had in rights and respect. It's just disappointing. I'm glad that now we're at a point where women get the respect, the recognition and their placement that they deserve."

Adrian Torres
Music senior



"Una de las mujeres que más influye en mi vida es mi mamá. ... Ella me inspira mucho [en] mi carrera porque ella tuvo cáncer de mama y lo superó. Pues, yo quiero estudiar medicina para poder ayudar a personas como ella, que tienen cáncer ... y cualquier otra enfermedad".

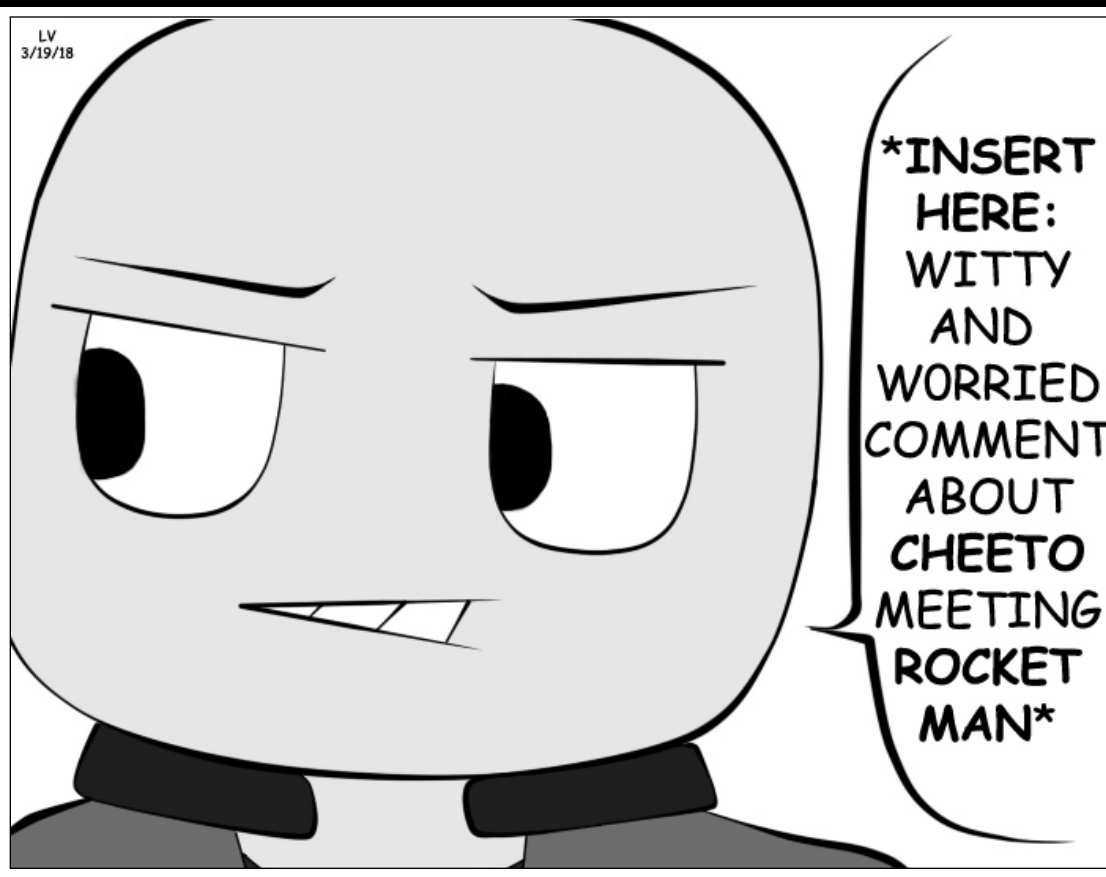
Alejandro Flores
Estudiante de primer año de premedicina

"One of the women that is a big influence to me is Emma Watson, just because even with her very famous and good acting career, she still went back to school to get a degree, just because she finds education that important."



Kassandra Guerra
Mechanical engineering sophomore

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy



Strong, funny and total badasses A look at 'Black Panther's' female warriors



Lesley Robles
THE RIDER

The rise of female protagonists on the movie screen impacts young girls and women of all ages in a special kind of way, especially when these females have a shade or two of melanin. The trend of female leads kicked in with a record high of 29 percent in 2016, a 7 percent increase since the year before, according to the Center for Study of Women in Television and Film.

Relating to characters on the screen is essential to the viewer because it makes a person feel good when they are represented and because it provides the means for people of different color, gender, religion, culture, background, etc., to be seen and understood.

The record box office-breaking film "Black Panther" redefined the role of women on the screen with its strong female cast, and not just because they can kick ass. The Dora Milaje, a group of female warriors, are not only fierce and in your face, but funny and kind, displaying

both masculine and feminine characteristics. Women accentuate both, and it's time for people to see more of that strength, wit and humor. It's also time to break down the walls of sexism still seen in 2018, especially when it comes down to wages and diversity.

Rarely do we see women on film as graceful and fierce as the Wakanda women. They exemplify women pursuing their passions while independently determining how they will live their lives.

"The dominance of strong female characters over a certain age, the #MeToo movement, the Time's Up campaign all result from decades of work and years of women resisting and speaking out about the limiting narrative media spread about

our worth," Jennifer Siebel Newsom, a filmmaker and founder and chief executive of the Representation Project, said in an interview with the *New York Times*.

The hallmark of "Black Panther" is magnified in the African culture, tradition and the idealized state untouched by colonizers that had the freedom to grow on their own. How beautiful is that? I can't help but think that we need a Latin@ "Black Panther," too, who portrays our diversified culture, our *lucha*, our people and our language.

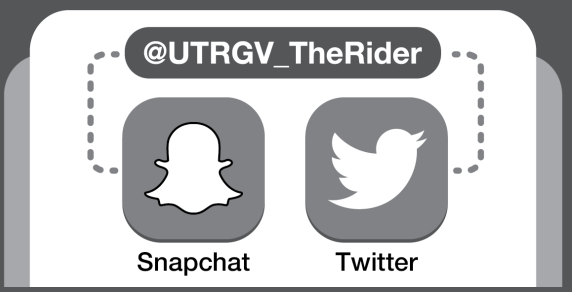
I've seen the memes of "Nacho Libre" and believe that we can do better to empower our youth, especially our DACA students, who are out there fighting for their future.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

FOLLOW US!



IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY, AKA ART

Sydni D. Salinas

A&E EDITOR

Are you a writer? Some days I like to think I am.

I will start washing clothes, go about my mundane life, when all of a sudden, a stretch of words comes to me that needs to be written down.

I'll blast a series of sonnets from my fingertips only for the inspiration to be gone the next day.

And on that next day, I think I'm an artist with purple and green watercolors stained on my kitchen table from drawing lavender and other flowers all day on loose-leaf paper.

Then every now and then, when I'm not the writer or artist, I see something striking that I know I must capture on

tographer, or all three, Tuesday is the last day to submit your work in all its glorious fashion to Gallery: A Literary & Arts Magazine here at UTRGV.

With the deadline coming up, the editors of the magazine sat down to chat about what they go through when selecting pieces and what they are centering the theme on.

Editor-in-Chief Darrian Kirksey described the experience of picking out what will be published because, let's be honest, who isn't curious how that works?

"It's a lot of fun. We sit as a class right now, and then we have groups by each thing. We have poetry, fiction, visual arts," Kirksey said. "So we sit there and we go through it, and the class gives a sense of what they feel. We talk about

that to be the central theme, a celebration of life with all of its many faces.

"I want to focus more on the diversity of the world, so that's why I'm focusing on traveling," she said. "I want all aspects of life to be shown in this year's Gallery."

Prose Co-Editor and English sophomore Grecia Ramirez reiterated Kirksey's desire, with her own admiration for the work that has already been submitted so far.

“We’ve seen so many variations,” Ramirez said. “We’ve seen traveling. We’ve seen inner troubles that people have had.”

“Whether it’s where they come from or how they feel, it’s been pretty enlightening. A lot of us didn’t know that so many students felt the way they did.”

of the university.”

Art and Design Director Alexa Mendoza Esquivel differed in her hope for the magazine but in an artistically endeavoring way.

She hopes the magazine can work as a connection to art students at the Visual Arts Building, to feeling more connected with those on the main campus in Edinburg.

"I would love to see more people from the [former] annex, the Visual Arts Annex, to feel like they can put themselves out there," Esquivel said. "To feel like they are being showcased on the main campus."

"Sometimes, there's this feeling of disconnection between both of our campuses, so I want them to feel like art really matters. ... The Gallery has a



Sydni D. Salinas/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Art and Design Director Alexa Mendoza Esquivel (left) and Editor-in-Chief Darrian Kirksey discuss how they started working with Gallery. "Well the Gallery, I actually didn't know about it until last year," Kirksey said. "I accidentally just happened to pick it up and I thought it was beautiful, the cover, so it caught my eye. And just seeing that, it made me want to be a part of something."

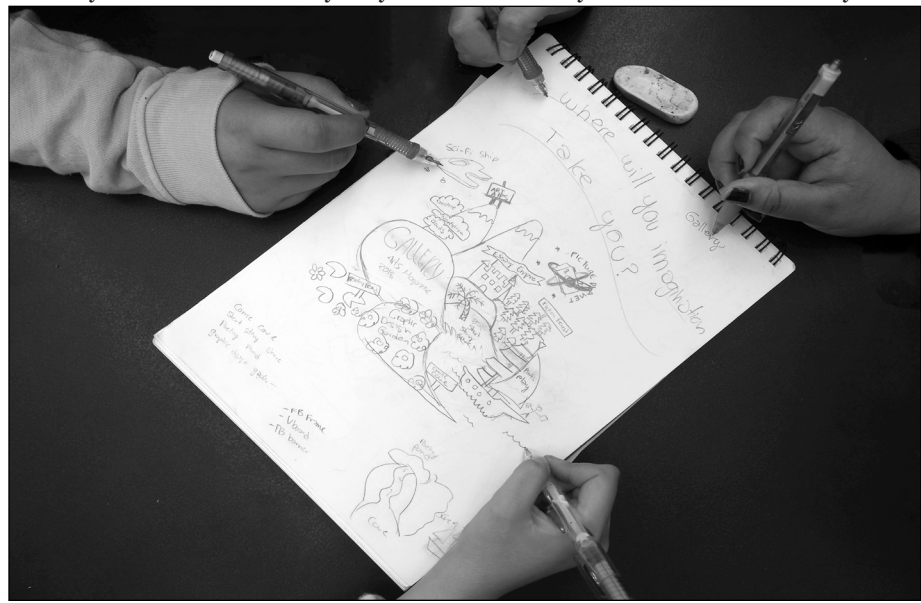
film and I'm a self-proclaimed photographer.

Do we have to put a label on the things we are and make us happy if we live through art in all its forms?

Whether you're a writer, artist, pho-

it. If it's a photo, we talk about the coloring, the aspects of it, how it would go well with the magazine, if it would go with a poem."

For this year's issue, Kirksey found inspiration in diversity and wanted



Art and Design Director Alexa Mendoza Esquivel shows her first draft of the advertisement she created for Gallery magazine. Esquivel was inspired to join the magazine team to gain more experience in leading editorial production. "I had little experience with editorial design, but I didn't have too much input into the final product, in some cases, so I really wanted to give it a try, to actually taking more of the lead in a project like this," she said.

So it's been pretty eye-opening."

More than anything, students are writing about cultural repression and issues that have impacted them while living in the Rio Grande Valley, giving literary and artistic representation to Mexican-American lives through their work.

Poetry Editor Ashley Hernandez believes the magazine can educate those outside of the Valley on cultural problems the university's students go through.

"I think especially here, because we're a border city, and with everything that's been going on in the country, we get a lot of poems that speak on that," Hernandez said. "I think it shows a lot about the students that go here, and if you were to put it out and give it to someone, I think you could read it and have an idea, hopefully, of the culture."

lot of poetry and prose, and sometimes I feel like artists feel like, 'OK, my art is just going to be complementary to what is going to be in the Gallery,' which is not true. Art can also be showcased as the main point."

If you are afraid to submit your work, Hernandez has some advice for you.

"I would say just go for it, because you're never going to know unless you try it," she said. "It's better to get feedback and not be published, than to have it to yourself and never know if it needs work or if it's going to be good enough."

The deadline is Tuesday night, so if you're still on the fence about it, now is the time to throw fear out the window and just do it.

Submissions are accepted at <https://gallery.submittable.com/submit>.

UTRGV
Career Center

Teachers JOB EXPO

BROWNSVILLE

Thurs., April 5, 2018

PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.






EDINBURG

Fri., April 6, 2018

ECESS Building, 1.300

(I-69C and Freddy Gonzalez Dr.)

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

Scribbles & Thoughts By Laia Vite

ALL OF MY PAIN AND SUFFERING... I WILL NEVER GO BACK. THEY CAN'T MAKE ME.

RESPONSIBILITIES

NO! THEY WILL NEVER CATCH ME ALIVE!

UTRGV aborda estado de prueba

Agencia de acreditación revisará auditoría en otoño

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

UTRGV tiene pendiente una revisión de SACSCOC de la Auditoria Única Estatal para el Año Fiscal 2017 (*Statewide Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2017*), el cual es el documento que la universidad falló en proporcionar para cumplir con el requisito federal 4.7 de los Principios de Acreditación de la agencia.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, el rector de UTRGV, Guy Bailey, dijo que UTRGV permanecerá acreditada, pero mantendrá su periodo de prueba hasta que SACSCOC revise la auditoría en septiembre.

“El problema es que tenemos la auditoría estatal que se hace cada año y no es publicado hasta febrero”, dijo Bailey. “Así que, verás, SACS se reunió en diciembre, así que la auditoría estatal todavía no había sido publicada. Por lo tanto, lo que quieren ver es la auditoría y nuestra respuesta a la auditoría”.

La Comisión en Colegios de la Asociación de Colegios y Escuelas del Sur (*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges* o SACSCOC, por sus siglas en inglés) es el organismo regional encargado de la acreditación de las instituciones de educación superior de los estados del sur.

En el 2016, SACSCOC colocó a UTRGV en un periodo de prueba de un año por no demostrar cumplimiento de varios estándares de acreditación.

Como *The Rider* reportó el 5 de diciembre, 2017, aunque UTRGV abordó los 10 estándares de acreditación que no cumplió en 2016, la universidad permaneció en periodo de prueba por no haber cumplido con un requisito federal acerca de responsabilidades del programa, de acuerdo con un oficial de acreditación.

En octubre pasado, un comité especial de SACSCOC visitó los campus de UTRGV para discutir el estado de prueba en la que la escuela se encuentra.

En su reporte, el comité señaló que a pesar de que UTRGV no violó el requisito federal 4.7, sin una auditoria actual, no había manera de determinar el cumplimiento con las responsabilidades de programa bajo el Título IV.

“Lo que estamos haciendo ahora, la auditoría es un número de universidades en Texas y todos tienen ciertas deficiencias,” él dijo. “No tenemos ninguna debilidad relevante y las deficiencias que se encuentran ahí, las estamos corrigiendo. Así que, anticipamos que cuando el equipo de revisión de SACS venga en septiembre, todo va a estar bien”.

La auditoría, realizada por la Oficina del Auditor del Estado de Texas y publicada el 22 de febrero, es llevada a cabo para obtener un entendimiento de los controles internos sobre el cumplimiento, evaluar el control de riesgo del incumplimiento, y realizar pruebas a esos controles a menos que los controles sean considerados inefectivos, y para expresar una



Victor G. Ramirez / THE RIDER

UTRGV permanecerá acreditada, pero mantendrá su estado de prueba hasta que la Comisión en Colegios de la Asociación de Colegios y Escuelas del Sur (*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges* o SACSCOC, por sus siglas en inglés) revise la auditoría el siguiente otoño.

opinión acerca de que si el estado cumplió con estatutos federales, regulaciones, y términos y condiciones de concesiones federales que puedan tener un efecto directo o relevante en el Grupo de Asistencia Financiera para Estudiantes (*Student Financial Assistance Cluster*), de acuerdo con la auditoría.

El rector de la universidad dijo que ninguna de estas deficiencias encontradas en la auditoría son debilidades relevantes, las cuales son observaciones que corresponden a problemas que son más serios.

“Vamos a abordar esos asuntos”, dijo Bailey. “Nuestros propios auditores le darán un vistazo, se asegurarán de que todo esté en buena forma. Después, tendremos a una empresa de auditoría privada ... la cual hará un análisis más profundo para asegurarse de que se encuentre en buena forma”.

Él dijo que confía que SACSCOC removerá el estado de prueba de UTRGV en diciembre, que es la única temporada del año cuando la agencia acreditadora puede hacer esto.

El documento Acatamiento de los Requisitos Federales del Estado de Texas para el Grupo de Asistencia Financiera para Estudiantes para el Año Fiscal al 31 de agosto de 2017, reportó cinco observaciones para UTRGV clasificadas como deficiencias significativas e incumplimientos.

Una de las observaciones es Reporte del Manejo de Efectivo.

De acuerdo a la auditoría, UTRGV no tuvo un control adecuado de su proceso de manejo de efectivo. El sistema de contabilidad de la universidad

consolidó gastos inapropiadamente de múltiples años de concesión durante el proceso de facturación.

La auditoría recomendó que la universidad:

--retire fondos del año de concesión apropiado;

--refuerce los controles para asegurar que retire fondos de los años de concesión apropiados y que no retire fondos excediendo sus necesidades;

--refuerce sus pólizas y procedimientos para el manejo del efectivo, incluyendo sus retiros de fondos federales.

Otras observaciones incluyen Pruebas y Disposiciones Especiales-Verificación, la cual señala que “para 11 (18 por ciento) de 60 estudiantes examinados, la University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Universidad) no verificó con precisión todos los elementos que se requieren en el FAFSA; por lo tanto, no solicitó los ISIR como se requiere. ... Específicamente, la Universidad no verificó con precisión uno o más de los siguientes elementos: ingreso bruto ajustado, impuestos sobre la renta pagados de los Estados Unidos, créditos educativos, o el tamaño del hogar”.

La Constancia Constitucional de Información de Estudiantes (*Institutional Student Information Record* o ISIR, por sus siglas en inglés) contiene “información procesada de estudiantes reportada en la Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid* o FAFSA, por sus siglas en inglés), así como también resultados procesados clave e información del historial de ayuda

financiera del Sistema Nacional de Datos de Préstamos Estudiantiles (*National Student Loan Data System* o NSLDS, por sus siglas en inglés).

Los ISIR son enviados electrónicamente a las escuelas por el Sistema de Procesamiento Central, de acuerdo con www.ifap.ed.gov.

El resto de las observaciones:

--Pruebas y Disposiciones Especiales-Póliza de devolución de fondos de Título IV

--Pruebas y Disposiciones Especiales-Informes de Inscripciones

--Pruebas y Disposiciones Especiales-Reembolso de Préstamos Estudiantiles

Una copia de la auditoría está disponible en www.sao.texas.gov/reports/main/18-019.pdf#page=2.

Bailey dijo que UTRGV está trabajando para resolver las deficiencias reportadas en la auditoría.

“Estamos trabajando con [SACSCOC]”, él dijo. “Hablamos con ellos de forma regular. Nuestro plan de acción, trabajamos con ellos para conseguir su apoyo y, así que, yo creo que estará bien”.

Él dijo que los estudiantes no deberían de estar preocupados acerca del periodo de prueba.

“No creo que exista algo por lo cual nos debamos preocupar”, dijo Bailey. “Estamos haciendo un muy buen trabajo en abordar estos problemas. Estamos trabajando estrechamente con SACS y, así que, confiamos que vamos a ser capaces de resolverlos todos. ... Creo que estamos en muy buena forma y me siento seguro en seguir adelante”.

Despite the low membership, Palacios said she believes the 2018-2019 SGA will thrive.

“We can really make a difference if we put ourselves out there and reach out to students to make sure that, one: the concerns are being heard, and two: we’re able to recruit other students who will put in that work and that dedication to make sure that they’re listening to the concerns of the students and find solutions to them,” she said.

SGA

Continued from Page 1

their educational goals in an inclusive environment,” she said. “If you don’t feel safe, if you don’t feel comfortable at the university, then you’re most likely to drop out and we need people who are prepared to face the world. We need people with those degrees.”

Alex Saldivar, an accounting senior, will serve as the SGA vice president for the Edinburg campus, and Ingrid De la Torre, a nursing sophomore, will be the

SGA vice president for the Brownsville campus.

The winning executive ticket received 555 votes in an election conducted Feb. 19-21.

A total of 2,112 votes were cast in the 2018-2019 UTRGV SGA election. All races were uncontested.

Students elected to the 2018-2019 UTRGV senate are as follows:

--Aldo Rios, senator for the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

--Steven Hughes, senator for the

College of Fine Arts

--Cyana Arredondo, Alyssa Guajardo, Adrian Maldonado and Leticia Villarreal, senators for the College of Health Affairs

--Yanelly Palomo, Marcos Valdez and Miguel Viescaz, senators for the College of Sciences

--Monika Garza, Kevin Martinez and Ivan Morado, senators at large (Brownsville)

--Carlo Flores, Aaron Silva and Alexandra Smith-Macias, senators at large (Edinburg)

WAC on the horizon

Robert Benavidez Jr.
THE RIDER

After making adjustments to be better prepared this season, the UTRGV Men's Baseball Team is ready and eager to head into its conference games.

The Vaqueros kick off conference play against California State University, Bakersfield, in a three-game series that starts at 7 p.m. Friday in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

One major difference this season is the addition of Head Coach Derek Matlock. Coaching is nothing new to Matlock; he was the pitching coach at West Virginia University for the last five years, where the school made the Big 12 Tournament every year.

"It's been one of the best years of my coaching career," Matlock said when asked about his coaching experience at UTRGV so far. "I've never had kids so bought into the culture and working hard every day. We have to kick them off the field. It's been a great experience and I can't wait to get this thing going in the right direction."

One of the players who has "bought into the culture" is pitcher Trevelle Hill, who is confident in the team's abilities heading into conference play. Hill is new to UTRGV as he spent his freshman and sophomore years playing for Pima Community College, located in Tucson, Arizona, where he pitched a combined 113.1 innings with 96 strikeouts.

"I feel really good about our team,



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men's Baseball Team begins conference play at 7 p.m. Friday in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium in Edinburg. As of press time March 9, the Vaqueros had an overall record of 7-6 in nonconference play.

both hitting and pitching, defense, too," Hill said. "We just became a lot stronger with the teams we've been playing, getting experience. Also, recognizing things that we need to do better as well."

He said much of the team's improvements have come from its nonconference games against Texas Tech University, Texas Christian University and Mississippi State

University.

"Going against top teams in the nation really gives us an edge to see where we're at and our hitters seeing the pitching," Hill said. "Pitching as well, seeing good hitters, recognizing what we need to work on."

The Vaqueros start conference play at home, which Matlock said is a huge advantage for the team.

"I think it's huge every time you get

to sleep in your own bed and you get to play on a field that you take ground balls," Matlock said.

As of press time March 9, the Vaqueros had an overall record of 7-6 in nonconference play.

After facing off against CSUB, UTRGV will hit the road to take on Utah Valley University March 29. Games can be viewed online at wacsports.com.

Ivan Estrella is a psychology senior and infielder for the UTRGV Baseball Team. Estrella, an Arizona native, is in his second year with the Vaqueros.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? "Probably, some type of bird so I can fly somewhere. Anywhere I want. Probably, a bird."

What show or series are you currently into? "I was into 'Game of Thrones.' Finished that. I'm one episode away from finishing a series called 'Altered Carbon' on Netflix. It's a really good show, kinda sci-fi, futuristic type of show."

Who is your personal hero and why? "My personal hero is probably my dad. Hardest worker I know. Does so much for my family."

Who makes you laugh the most on the team? "I'll probably have to go with Matthew Mendoza. He just does something every day that makes me laugh."

What is the best advice you've received recently? "I think it's the team advice that we've gotten from the coach the other day, 'All we got is all we need.' I think that's going to be our motto to get through the rest of the year."

If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? "['SexyBack' by] Justin Timberlake."

On your off time, what do you like to do? "I like to watch Netflix series, read a couple books. I'm reading 'Basketball and Other Things.' It's really funny."

If you weren't playing baseball, what sport would you be playing? "Probably, basketball. I like to shoot around. I enjoy watching basketball. I wish I was a little bit taller and athletic to play basketball."

You can have one meal with one celebrity, what is your meal and who are you eating with? "Probably, Ryan Gosling. Me, personally, I'd be eating a big steak. I don't know what he would be eating."

How are you feeling about the season this year? "It's been a lot of fun. We just came back from our first road trip. I think we grew a lot as a team and team chemistry grew for sure after this road trip. The season is going well. I'm excited for the rest of the games and the rest of the season."

--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

SGA *Continued from Page 6*

The current SGA president is criminal justice senior Alondra Galvan.

Alongside Galvan, Peter Averack, a communication senior, serves as the current Edinburg SGA vice president and Gabriela Castorena, a political science junior, as the Brownsville SGA vice president.

The executive ticket received 765 votes in last year's election, in which all races were also uncontested.

Spring 2016 marked the last time there were contested races in an election, where former SGA President Denisse Molina-Castro gathered 841 out of the 1,472 votes to defeat civil engineering student Rodrigo Gonzalez.

The same election also saw six students vie for one of four senator positions for the College of Health Affairs, the second contested race in UTRGV SGA history.

Asked what the organization is doing to promote students to run for office, Mata-Vasquez replied, "In the past, we've been able to put out, you know, a marketing campaign when elections happen. There has been a low number, a low turnout, really, when students are running. We don't know if it's because they don't know what SGA is about or

they're busy with other organizations."

Some of the marketing used are posters and flyers placed throughout campus and social media, Galvan said.

She told *The Rider* some of the benefits of joining the SGA are gaining leadership skills and working experience.

"I've always said, 'It's up to the individual on how much they're going to take [on in] serving in student government,'" the SGA president said. "Some of the benefits is that you will truly work and you will truly understand now how the university structure works."

Under Galvan's leadership, the SGA has been able to address and resolve several student concerns, including fixing printers, extending the library hours on the Brownsville campus and providing transportation for students traveling from Rio Grande City.

In spite of all of the organization's work and effort, some students, such as biomedical science freshman Anaïs Mendiola, may be aware of what the SGA is but do not know what it does.

"I guess I did notice the increase in library hours, but I didn't know it was [the SGA] that [was] in charge of it, or that helped do that," Mendiola said.

On the other hand, students, such as history junior Luis Jewell, may know

about the SGA's work, meeting times and existence, but have never attended a meeting or met any members.

Jewell said other commitments have kept him from attending an SGA meeting, but he would if there was an issue or topic he was concerned about.

Biomedical science freshman Samaris Ortega told *The Rider* she knows what the SGA is but does not know where or how to contact the organization.

"I was thinking of applying because I wanted to be more involved, but I kind of missed the deadline, so I didn't," Ortega said.

She will have a chance to apply for an appointed position once applications become available.

Palacios told *The Rider* she hopes to have the applications for vacant

positions open by May 7, the date when her term will begin.

Vacancies are filled by appointment of the president, subject to a two-thirds approval of the senators present and voting, according to the SGA constitution.

Any student interested may apply for appointment to a vacant position on the SGA V Link page.

"If you think that you can make a change in the university, join SGA," Palacios said. "If you genuinely care about students, join SGA. If you feel you're not prepared but you want to make a difference, then come to us anyway and we'll help you out because that's what we're all about. That's how you get things done, by coming together and having the best interest of everyone in mind."





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