



GOODBYE, SENIORS

Student-athletes share their UTRGV experiences and plans for life after college.

See Page 9



READY FOR FINALS?

The Rider provides readers tips on how to manage stress and anxiety before finals.

See Page 3

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

THE RIDER

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 3, ISSUE 28

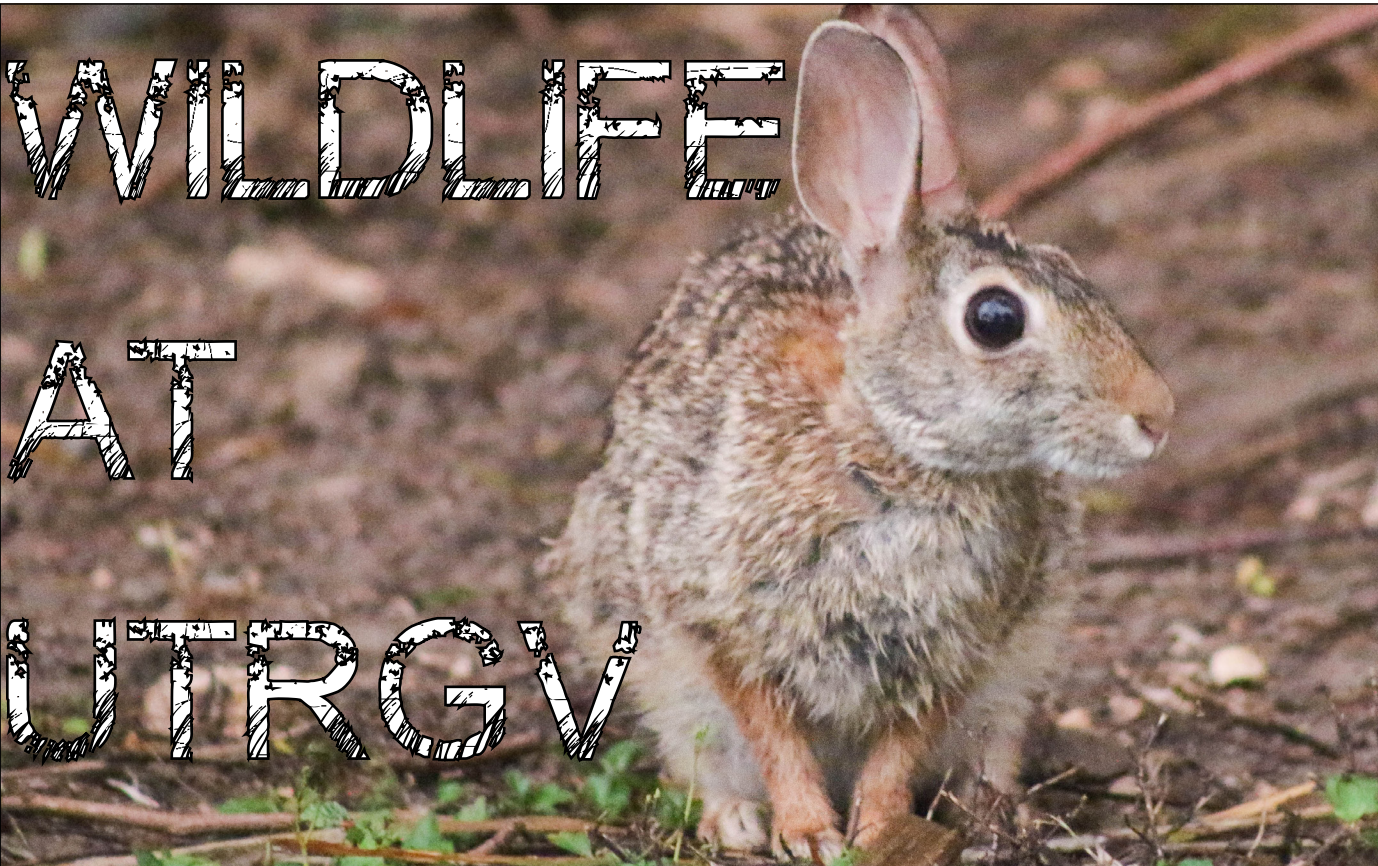


/UTRGVRIDER



@UTRGV_THERIDER

UTRGV



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

A rabbit is shown outside the East Main Building on the Brownsville campus. Different types of animals can be found throughout the UTRGV campuses.

Jesus Sanchez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From squirrels and skunks to armadillos and rabbits, campus community members are not the only creatures who roam the university grounds as many different animals make UTRGV their home.

For more than a month, *The Rider* observed the different types of animals on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

Photos,

Pages 6-7

In Edinburg, squirrels, cats, opossums and different types of birds were found. On the Brownsville campus, birds, skunks, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, armadillos, nutria, turtles and ducks were spotted.

The Rider spoke with Karl Berg, a See **WILDLIFE**, Page 6



A squirrel is shown on the lawn between Liberal Arts Building North and Heritage & Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus.

SGA

Sworn to duty

New SGA members inaugurated in Edinburg

Zugay Treviño

THE RIDER

Eighteen students took the oath of office as members of the Student Government Association and spoke about their future plans for the university in a ceremony last Thursday in the Visitors Center Lobby on the Edinburg campus.

SGA Vice President Peter Averack welcomed new executive members Denise Palacios, Ingrid de la Torre and Alejandro Saldivar, as well as 15 newly elected senators.

Palacios, an international business and political science junior, is the new Student Government Association president.

During her inauguration speech, she said she enrolled in the university in 2015 knowing she wanted to make a difference.

"I have always had a passion for serving," Palacios said. "I love to help people and I have always looked to surround myself with people who are"



Denise Palacios



Ingrid de la Torre



Alejandro Saldivar

See **SGA**, Page 10

GRADUATION

Glad to be a grad

2,776 students to graduate during spring ceremony

Britney Valdez

THE RIDER

On May 11, 700 spring and summer students will graduate on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville and 2,200 on May 12 at the McAllen Convention Center.

Elizabeth Vasquez-Ruiz will be among the students attending the ceremony on the Brownsville campus. She will earn a bachelor's degree in social work.

She started attending UTRGV in Spring 2016 as a transfer from Texas Southmost College. Vasquez-Ruiz graduated from high

school in 2002, but due to unforeseen circumstances, had to put her education on hold.

"So, I'm a little bit older," she said. "I'm graduating with my bachelor's at 33 years old. I started [college] in the fall semester, but my mom was diagnosed with colon cancer. So, I was trying to continue school and work and trying to help out at home, but of course, it didn't really work out and because I wasn't fully dedicated to school. So, I ended up not finishing school back then."

Although she began taking See **GRADUATION**, Page 10



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

THE RIDER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jesus Sanchez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

SPANISH EDITOR

Eric Montoya

A&E EDITOR

Sydni D. Salinas

COPY EDITOR

P.J. Hernandez

CARTOONIST

Laia Vite

SPORTS REPORTER

Diana Navarro

REPORTERS

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

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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

**ADVERTISING SALES
MANAGER**

Leslie Medrano

**ADVERTISING SALES
REPRESENTATIVES**

Jessica Mendez
Jillian Glantz

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT

Victor G. Ramirez

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

© 2018 The Rider

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday

Town Hall

Democratic U.S. Rep. **Beto O'Rourke**, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, will host a town hall meeting for voters from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2035, located at 1801 Veterans Blvd. in Brownsville. For more information, email info@betofortexas.com.

Healthy Food Workshop

The **UTRGV Student Food Pantry** will host a workshop on how to cook, understand nutrition labels and how to shop on a budget from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The event will take place at the same time Wednesday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email foodpantry@utrgv.edu.

Student Recital

Barbara Tapia, a music education sophomore and flutist, will perform with music Lecturer **Oliver Jia** at 4:15 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Student Recital

Amber Vela, a music education sophomore and clarinetist, will perform with **Juan Andrade**, an associate professor of music, at 5 p.m.

in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Friday

Yard Sale

The **Brownsville Convention Center & Visitors Bureau** will host its fourth annual **Texas Longest Yard Sale** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at U.S. Military Hwy. 281 Corridor. The

Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu



event will end on Sunday. For more information, call Administrative Manager **Felix Espinosa Jr.** at 459-4273.

Tuba de Mayo

The **UTRGV Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble** will perform at 7 p.m. Friday in the Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3881.

Saturday

Observatory Inauguration

The inauguration of the **Dr. Cristina V. Torres Memorial Astronomical Observatory** will be from 6 to 10 p.m. at Resaca de la Palma State Park, located at 1000 New Carmen Ave. in

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 19 and 22.



April 19

11:13 a.m.: A staff member at the Liberal Arts Building South reported a student who refused his verbal instructions to dispose of her drink due to her

her purse with credit cards and U.S. currency was stolen from a room in the new addition to the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

April 21

8:09 p.m.: A staff member reported a non-affiliate in the area of the

being in an area of the building where food and drinks are prohibited.

4:49 p.m.: An officer responded to the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a student experiencing chest pains. She was transported to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further evaluation.

April 20

10:21 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Vaquero Plaza on the Brownsville campus in regard to an individual looking into an office window from outside the building. The officer contacted him and issued a criminal trespass warning for the UTRGV campus. The subject had prior arrest history with UTRGV.

2:20 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Academic & Clinical Research Building on the Harlingen campus in reference to a non-affiliate being accidentally struck in the head with his vehicle's trunk as it closed. Veteran Affairs medical staff examined the man, who was complaining of chest pain, and was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center for further evaluation.

5:21 p.m.: A non-affiliated construction employee reported that

Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus that he believed to have an active criminal trespass warning. The staff member reported that a student employee reported to him that the same non-affiliate tried to gain entry into Unity Hall at 12:32 a.m. on the same date, stating that she was a student employee at that residence hall. The criminal trespass warning was confirmed to be active. She was detained for criminal trespass and issued another criminal trespass warning.

April 22

4:22 a.m.: A Residence Life staff member on the Edinburg campus observed a subject jumping over the fence into the Unity Hall grounds. The staff member approached him and asked what he was doing. He stated he lived there and wanted to rush to use the bathroom. The staff member told him to follow him into the lobby, at which

Brownsville. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 882-6690.

5K Walk/Run

The **Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets** will host a 5K race to promote breast cancer awareness and connect with local businesses. Registration starts at 8 a.m., with a \$10 entry fee and the run will begin at 8:30 a.m. at 5001 W. Expressway 83 in Mercedes.

For more information, visit www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/rio-grande-valley.

Ongoing

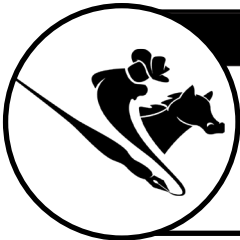
Support Group

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

Recovery Meetings

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

--Compiled by Steven Hughes



University Police

**Brownsville
Dispatch**

882-8232

**Edinburg
Dispatch**

665-7151

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

time he jumped the fence and fled on foot. University Police was notified and an officer who was in the area detained him. The officer confirmed the subject's non-affiliation and that the subject had visited another resident earlier. He was issued a criminal trespass warning for all residential housing facilities.

1:23 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Performing Arts Complex A on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. Initial investigation on the fire panel indicated low water pressure coming from the riser room. The fire department arrived and assessed the fire panel. The alarm was reset and the fire department deemed the building safe for re-entry. Facilities personnel arrived and placed a work order.

4:13 p.m.: An officer observed a student vomiting in Lot E7 on the Edinburg campus. The student's mother arrived on the location at the same time as the officer. She had recently had a kidney transplant and was feeling ill. She declined emergency medical services and the mother stated that they were going to their family doctor.

6:29 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to Academic Performing Arts Complex B on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. The fire panel advised it was a smoke detector in a stairwell. The fire department arrived and stated the detector was dirty. The building was cleared for re-entry by the fire department.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

The Original
Armando's Pizza
383-8053
1900 University
Edinburg
10% off with Student ID
We cater for school clubs, departments, events, and parties!

EL DELIRIO
COCINA MEXICANA Y TAQUERIA
1225 N. Expressway
9565450026

**.50cent Tacos
EVERYDAY 11am~3pm**

UTRGV to fight vector-borne diseases

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

This semester, UTRGV professors opened the first Center for Vector-Borne Disease in South Texas at the university.

Christopher Vitek, the director of the center, said the goals of the center are divided into three areas: education, research and outreach.

“Certainly, the education component is a very strong goal that we want to pursue,” Vitek said. “We also are interested in pursuing general research opportunities. We have six different faculty right now in the center and we will be having more as we continue to grow.”




“They are all involved in different research areas and we want to have a collaborative research effort to increase funding opportunities, increase understanding of diseases in the region, like Zika virus and so forth, as well as to increase the understanding of nonhuman diseases. Lastly, we also want to try and provide a source of location for community outreach where we can, maybe, have informative seminars, bring in guest speakers, have community workshops and that kind of thing.”

Founders of the center are Vitek; Beatriz Tapia, assistant

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria transmitted through insects such as mosquitoes, ticks and mites.


COMMON VECTORS



THEY CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES SUCH AS:

- Zika
- Malaria
- Yellow fever

- Lyme disease
- Plague
- Relapsing fever



Source: World Health Organization

dean for faculty development for the UTRGV School of Medicine; Erin Schuenzel, an associate professor of biology; Tamer Oraby, an assistant professor of mathematical and statistical science; Teresa Feria, an associate professor of biology; and John Thomas, an assistant professor of biology.

The center, which will not have a physical location, will bring together faculty with overlapping research interests

and strengths to develop a self-sustaining, research-focused center of excellence in South Texas, according to Vitek. It will have a multidisciplinary focus to encourage research collaboration and cooperation between students, researchers, UTRGV departments and external partners. The scope of vector-borne diseases will include human, plant and animal pathogens, as well as their vectors, or carriers.

“I started thinking about [the center] about three years ago in the course of my research and talking to some other people from different departments and colleges here,” he said. “With their research, a lot of us have worked together in the past. It sort of developed this idea of bringing people that do similar areas of research.”

Feria said the center will offer certifications for students, as well as research

classes and thesis programs.

“We will cover teaching the research and the service,” she said. “... So, students will be involved because they are the key, and they are the bone marrow of what the center can be. Students will be doing theses, research in general, and getting trained to continue doing research. So, we might also be able to establish some certificate for students to get trained in medical entomology or vector-borne diseases in general.”

Feria also said the center will try to educate the community on how to prevent diseases that are carried by vectors.

“I, myself, already work a lot with the community, so it seems like an easy thing to go out and experience,” she said.

The funding for the center comes from grants awarded to “the faculty members that are involved in the center,” said Vitek, who has received an estimate of \$1.3 million in active grants.

“The center, itself, has not received any grants, yet, because it is still new. We just started it in January,” he said. “Myself, for example, I have three [Department of Agriculture] grants that are relevant to the center that work with vector-borne disease. I am part of the grant

See **CENTER**, Page 9

When finals attack

Steven Hughes
THE RIDER

Studio art sophomore Jonathan Barrera said his mind goes blank occasionally during exams.

“At first, my mind does go blank. Then I try to remember everything I studied and process everything and not take [the exam] as a big chunk,” Barrera said.

He also said the exams are practice for time management.

“[For] these exams, they should really prepare us to start managing our time wisely and they should take advantage of the opportunity and start to develop that, especially in our careers,” Barrera said.

The sophomore advises students to manage their time to study and ask their professors questions.

“Just take it one by one, make sure you study, make sure you make time to study, make sure you study the right [material] and talk to the professor, if they can,” he said.

With finals scheduled at UTRGV from May 4 to 10, the campus community offers services to help students who struggle with test anxiety.

Test anxiety is defined as “a type of performance anxiety,” according to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (<https://adaa.org/living-with-anxiety/children/test-anxiety>).

“It’s really not so different than when we go for a job interview or a first date, where you get those jitters,” said Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, a clinical therapist at the Counseling Center in Brownsville.

The center provides free and confidential services to address mental health concerns and to promote personal growth, according to its webpage.

Mazariegos said anxiety differs from person to person.

“There is no cookie-cutter response because we’re all different,” she said. “Generally, there is circumstantial stressors and taking a test, definitely, can be one of them.”

Some symptoms, according to the ADAA, of feeling anxiety include:

- physical symptoms: headache, nausea, rapid heartbeat and, in some cases, a panic attack;
- emotional symptoms: feelings of anger, fear, helplessness and disappointment;
- and behavioral/cognitive symptoms: difficulty concentrating and thinking negatively.

Mazariegos said self-care is critical to combat the symptoms.

“If you haven’t done self-care throughout this semester, it’s not too late,” she said. “You can still engage in self-care for finals.”

A tip she said is to make sure to sleep six to nine hours.

“One thing is making sure you sleep, so this cramming up until one in the morning and not sleeping actually will work against you,” Mazariegos said. “It is important to get our six to nine hours of sleep.”

Another tip is to drink water.

“Hydration is also important,” she said. “You want to aim for at



Steven Hughes/THE RIDER

The University Library on the Brownsville campus has three floors where students can study, with 11 study rooms on its second floor and four rooms on the third. The Brownsville and Edinburg libraries will be open 24 hours during finals week.

least three to four liters a day and that just helps our organs work and function.”

Mazariegos also said to take breaks between study sessions.

“[A] kind of a general rule is working or studying 50 minutes and then taking a 10-minute break,” she said. “A lot of times, we think, ‘OK, I’m taking a break. I’ll get my phone and I’m on social media.’ That’s not a break. By break, [I] mean,

get up, get moving, go outside, get some sunlight, do jumping jacks, do pushups, get your heart pumping and that will, actually, help more blood flow. It will lighten our mood [when you get back to studying].”

Aromatherapy is another way to de-stress. Different essential oils are for “focusing and, also, relaxation,” according to Mazariegos.

See **FINALS**, Page 9

A professor’s legacy

Joahana Segundo
THE RIDER

Thirteen years ago, Frederick Ernst, a clinical psychologist and professor, fell in love with the Rio Grande Valley and accepted a position at legacy institution UT Pan American after 18 years at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

After dedicating more than a decade to the university, Ernst will retire this spring. He was interim chair of the Department of Psychological Science, associate dean of Research and Faculty Diversity for the College of Liberal Arts and director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Research Experience Camp.

“What I love about what I’ve done here for 13 years is teaching,” Ernst said.

“I absolutely love teaching.”

His most memorable experience at UTRGV was developing the Board Certified Behavior Analyst program and seeing it succeed. Ernst recalls working around 80 hours per week to start the program as soon as possible and to sustain it for years to come.

“I really will never regret having done that because I saw these students go off to careers and be really successful,” he said. “... They love what they’re doing.”

“Never doubt yourself” is the message Ernst gave to the UTRGV student body.

He hasn’t had trouble connecting with students and believes one of the reasons is his humble background.

“I’m still that working-class guy that knows what working in a factory is

See **ERNST**, Page 11



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Biology senior Yasmeen Guerra speaks with Professor Frederick Ernst after class in the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. Ernst will retire next month after working with legacy institution UT Pan American and UTRGV since 2005.

VAQUERO VOICE

Assessment of UTRGV



“Creo que UTRGV es una excelente universidad con profesores muy preparados, creo que la mayoría de las clases son excelentes al menos dentro de mi programa, sin embargo aún creo que hay en otros programas en los que podría haber mejoras. Pero UTRGV es una escuela muy nueva y creo que tiene la oportunidad de avanzar y ser una mejor universidad que destacara en el estado de Texas y en el país”.

Valeria Contreras
Estudiante de último año de ciencias de la comunicación

“So far, from what I’ve experienced through all the time that I’ve been on campus, the classes here are usually pretty good. I would say I never had a horrible instructor that ... doesn’t care about the students or anything like that. Most of the professors that I had are usually pretty good.”



James Riojas
Junior



“First of all, I was here when it was UTB-TSC. So, I’ve seen, basically, all of the changes a student can see and I think it really helped the students. First of all, [the merger] made the school way bigger, which means that it’s [Division I]. So, a lot more people know about us. I feel like our bachelor’s is going to be worth more than what it was before, when it was just UTB, because it’s a smaller school, I think that the education went higher in the rankings of all the UT schools. So, I’m really proud of that.”

Loreanne Tostado
Biomedical science senior

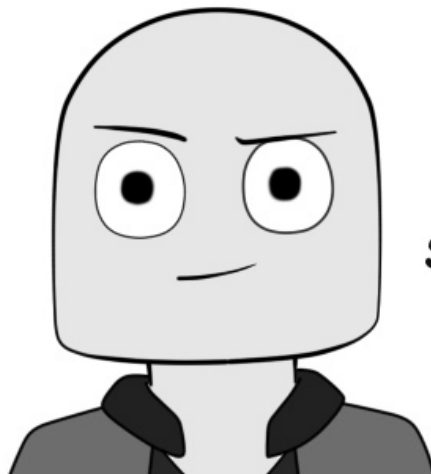
“I’m pretty supportive of UTRGV. I really like the, academicwise, the opportunities they give the students, especially being here from the Rio Grande Valley. It allows me to expand on knowing more about politics specifically, because that’s my major. It allows me to grow and, hopefully, try to make a better future for future generations.”



Miguel Sáenz
Political science freshman

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

Like
4/30/18



**WHEN YOU'RE
AT THE BRINK
OF BREAKING INTO
AN ANXIETY
ATTACK BUT
NEED TO HOLD
IT TOGETHER
BECAUSE THE
SEMESTER IS NOT
OVER...**

YET.

Take the throne

A final farewell and anthem from the prince



**P.J.
Hernandez**
COPY EDITOR

I feel like I’m Atlas with the world on his back and it’s difficult to shrug my shoulders.

You know what? Sometimes, it feels that I’m hanging on by a single thread. No, wait, scratch that, it’s as if I’m hanging by my hoodie’s drawstrings and it’s damn near impossible staying proud under rain clouds that reign over me like a tyrant. Other times, it seems like life is an XXXXL T-shirt— I don’t fit in it too well. Hmm.

That’s probably why I started calling myself a prince because I feel as I’m in this shuffle of a deck of cards where there are double-faced kings and queens, and a whole lot of jokers who look to jack.

But I’ll be a fool if I fold like laundry and be left hanging in the closet with or without a crew.

The other day I asked myself, “What would happen if I would pass today?”

I think it’s because I attended a funeral for my grandfather

that I used to be a caregiver for just five days after my birthday. I used to care for him since he had Alzheimer’s and it got to the point he couldn’t remember who I was or that his wife died back in December 2012. No tears were dropped by me during the rosary or the burial. It wasn’t until afterward when I came back home and let myself break down a bit.

Back in the day, I remember being filled with anger like a single mother that I had to go out of my way to become a caregiver. It seemed that everyone was out there living life. My peers went out of town for college, traveled and other family members didn’t have to carry the weight of taking care of an ailing family member. It was just me and Mom, and it legit felt that we were pushed to a corner like a drug slinger who is on his first day on the job.

Hell, back then and even now, I’d get pissed when I used to see my peers with their dads because they would complain about them and I didn’t understand. I’m over here thinking:

“Least you have one who teaches you how to be a man.”

And when these types of blues call you on their saxophones, it’s easy to just get soaked and lost in the song.

However, although it seems all the odds were stacked against me like books on a shelf, and I was sitting on the sideline trying to get some play, I did what I do best.

Even though I was sitting out of bounds, man, I bounced back like a trampoline.

Life seemed to be poorer than rainfall during a hurricane season. It just seemed like I wasn’t going anywhere. I was just hanging around like the laces of untied Jordans that I work toward.

I grew up broke, so it honestly makes no difference if I die the same way. I met a lot of folk who all they see is green—it’s as if they had nothing but jade in their eyes. Others can be selfish, it’s as if they are staring in a mirror—all they see is themselves. I’m terrified of that happening to me.

To be honest, I have two fears in life. One is becoming rich and not being the same person as I am right now, and the other is disappointing my friends, family and those who genuinely feel that I’m going to “make it.” That’s the main reason why I put my heart out for everyone and run until my soul and soles hurt. If you ever put me on

a race track with me and my loved ones, I promise I wouldn’t finish first because I always put them in front of me.

Some folk recently told me that I’m spreading myself thin and where do I even get the drive to do what I do, such as balancing multiple jobs, classes and life back at home.

Well, I just want everyone to be proud of me, just like a father who carries his son for the first time in his arms or like my mother when I tell her about my day at *The Rider* or *The Monitor*. Ha!

I’ve been trying hard to be someone that people look up to, sort of this role model. Yeah, that’s it. I want to be someone that people strive to be, such as an inspiration. I’ve had friends and family who’ve hit greater depressions than the 1930s and when they tell me I’m the brightest thing in their life—I just want to cry.

Can you believe that? To think that I’m their light in a dark time. I just don’t want people to ever feel down just like how I used to feel. So, if you ever meet me, best believe I’m going to do my best to push and coach you for the better.

I’m still figuring out life but we can get through it together.

It’s not that I’m saying that I’m this gift from God, or this saint, even though I’m named after one. Hell no, you want to know what’s under the hoodie that I wear? It’s just the broke brown kid from right down the street of the university who’s trying to be a writer. That’s my dream, you know? To be a writer.

One day, I’m going to tell my pen to give me my letters while I can still read them and write a book.

That’ll be a moment to remember. When someone buys my novel and then hits me up on the phone and says something along the lines of:

“P.J., you wrote this? Good s--t, your work really got me through some tough times!”

With that being said, I just want to thank everyone whoever believed in me and think that I could be the hero that I want to be. I won’t disappoint you all.

However, time is running short and I have to end this soon.

But one more thing. There’s this crown that’s around the corner and only one seat in the castle.

And you know who they belong to?

Me, and I’m going to take the throne.

Reactions to April 23 Editorial



Juan B

Finally! utrgv needs to see this and do something about it, i pay the same tuition and fees as everyone else just to see edinburg get more stuff! Bring sports to brownsville! Bring more events too!



Joe Lee Rubio

Even your local state legislators have left the local students, faculty and administration high and dry. Must be time to get rid of the lifers representing us in Austin and vote for a change who cares.



Cornelio Nouel Jr.

It’s been this way since I attended Pan American University in Brownsville in 1980 so why do you things are all of a sudden things are going to change? The Brownsville campus has been, is and will remain the “Ugly stepsister” until the students, administration, staff and faculty DEMAND change... good luck.



Linda Vasquez

It is very disheartening when year after year UTRGV administration continues to look at Brownsville as an “after-thought”. Decisions are made by administrators who don’t even bother to show themselves to their employees in Brownsville. Has anyone seen Bailey or VPs walking Bv’lle campus? UTRGV can’t maintain & increase enrollment when UTRGV administration don’t bother to SHOW Cameron County (huge population) any respect. We only see UTRGV admin in photo ops with influential people in Hidalgo county, wining and dining at McAllen Country Club and Hidalgo County expensive restaurants. The inequity is staggering and getting worse. UTRGV admin is completely out of touch and give the impression that they don’t care about current and future Brownsville students. I see Brownsville students, staff standing in the rain and hot sun without any seating or shade waiting for UTRGV buses in the Bv’lle campus... ridiculous!! and yes, the Brownsville Campus is beautiful!

--For more reactions, visit utrgvrider.com or facebook.com/UTRGVrider

Promoviendo MAS

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Más de 50 estudiantes, facultad, personal y artistas asistieron a la Noche de MAS, la cual tomó lugar de 6 a 9 p.m. el pasado miércoles en Salón Cassia en el campus de Brownsville.

Luis Castillo Vela, un estudiante de último año en matemáticas de secundaria de UTRGV y autor de una de las varias obras literarias presentadas en Noche de MAS, dijo que disfrutó el evento.

“Lo que más disfrute fue poder escuchar a los autores leer sus propias obras con una interpretación original porque usualmente cuando nosotros leemos un poema, o cualquier otro tipo de obra literaria, nosotros le agregamos nuestra propia interpretación”, dijo Castillo. “Sin embargo, hoy escuchamos la interpretación original. Lo que los autores piensan. Lo que los autores vivieron y como ellos leerían sus propias obras”.

El leyó una de sus propias obras, titulada *A prisoner in the land of the free* (Un prisionero en la tierra de los libres), un fragmento de dicha obra en inglés dice:

“Me puedo mezclar más fácilmente y pasar como americano. Pero siempre me he sentido diferente. Algunas veces me siento como si no fuera una persona real, como si fuera menos que cualquiera que haya nacido en este país o que tenga la documentación adecuada para vivir aquí. Trato de enterrar este sentimiento poniendo todo el esfuerzo posible en lo académico. ... En ocasiones me siento como un ave en una jaula de oro, como un prisionero en la tierra de los libres, como un cobarde en la tierra de los valientes. Existe esa constante nube de miedo que ronda sobre mí cada día, sin embargo, no dejo que llueva y arruine mi vida. Trato de vivir mi vida como si fuera libre, porque en muchos aspectos lo soy”.

El Centro de Estudios Mexicoamericanos (CMAS), el B3 Institute y el programa de Estudios Mexicoamericanos

(MAS) organizaron el evento. Se acomodaron mesas y se proporcionó comida gratuita para los asistentes del evento semestral.

Para dar inicio al evento, el ensamble, Marimba Reyna del Valle, deleitó al público por medio de la interpretación de los temas *Las Chiapanecas*, por Bulmaro López Fernández, y *Carnavalito del Duende*, por Gustavo Leguizamón.

Posteriormente, Christopher Carmona, un profesor de creación literaria de UTRGV y coordinador del CMAS en el campus de Brownsville, habló sobre los esfuerzos que se han hecho para incorporar los estudios mexicoamericanos en las escuelas de Texas.

Después, Carmona cedió el micrófono a la directora de programa académico de MAS, Cinthya Saavedra, quien dijo que planea proveer más representación por parte del programa de MAS en el campus de Brownsville.

“Una de las cosas que estoy tratando de hacer es asegurarme de que empezando este otoño nuestro programa tenga más representación aquí en Brownsville”, Saavedra dijo. “Vamos a empezar a venir una vez a la semana, por lo menos, para que así puedan tener ese tiempo conmigo y con la Dra. [Maritza] De La Trinidad para sus necesidades relacionadas con la asesoría académica y para cualquier cosa que quieran platicar respecto al programa mexicano”.

De La Trinidad es la coordinadora de estudiantes universitarios aún no graduados del programa de Estudios Mexicoamericanos.

Saavedra dijo que De La Trinidad es con quien los estudiantes del campus de Brownsville deberían hablar si tienen preguntas acerca del programa.

Ella también espera que UTRGV designe un espacio físico en el campus de Brownsville dedicado a los estudios mexicoamericanos.

Francisco Guajardo, director ejecutivo del B3 Institute de UTRGV, habló sobre los problemas que UTRGV enfrenta respecto a la desigualdad que se



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Más de 50 estudiantes, facultad, personal y artistas asistieron a La Noche de MAS el pasado miércoles en Salón Cassia en el campus de Brownsville. Se invitó a los colaboradores de The Chachalaca Review a leer sus obras para celebrar la tercera publicación de la revista.

presenta entre los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg.

“Parece que la gente de Edinburg ... no ha encontrado la manera de resolver eso”, Guajardo dijo refiriéndose a las discrepancias entre Edinburg y Brownsville. “No sé si somos los suficientemente buenos para resolverlo”.

También dijo que dicho problema es un reto para todos en la comunidad del campus.

Laura Patricia Garza, una profesora de español y literatura de UTRGV, habló sobre los diferentes cursos de español que se imparten en la universidad y explicó el material que se cubre en algunos de estos.

Juana Dolores Montiel, ayudante de cátedra en el programa de MAS de UTRGV, dijo que era un placer para ella enseñar su clase.

“Como catedrática, quiero enseñarles a mis estudiantes a que se sientan orgullosos de su historia, de su cultura, sus raíces y su bilingüismo”, dijo Montiel. “Así como el desarrollo del pensamiento crítico sobre los problemas ... que se presentan a los mexicoamericanos en los Estados Unidos”.

Ella también presentó a algunos de sus alumnos quienes platicaron sobre las experiencias que han vivido

mientras han estado en el programa de MAS.

Después de la participación de los estudiantes, Janie Camero, asistente graduada en el programa de MAS de UTRGV, presidente de LUNA (La Unión de Nepantleras de Aztlán) y una de los organizadores del evento, habló acerca de LUNA.

“Juntos hemos encontrado la forma de juntarnos y tener pláticas”, dijo Camero. “Lo que hacemos, principalmente, es solo tener pláticas. Nosotros tenemos una lectura y luego tratamos de ver como eso se relaciona con nuestras vidas”.

Coeditoras Regina Lien y Kelly Saenz presentaron la edición Primavera 2018 de *The Chachalaca Review*, una revista multicultural en línea producida por estudiantes, al público.

Lien, una estudiante de tercer año en ciencias computacionales, dijo que esta edición está dedicada a la escritora chicana, feminista-lesbiana, teórica *queer* y activista política, Gloria Anzaldúa.

“Esto está dedicado a Gloria Anzaldúa y a su obra *Borderlands*”, dijo Lien. “Queríamos que los artistas pensaran acerca de las fronteras que ellos ven hoy en día”.

También mostró los diferentes temas que se incluyen en la revista y a algunos de los poetas, escritores, artistas, músicos y cineastas cuyas obras aparecen en la revista.

Dos de los escritores que se presentan en la revista son el San Antonio Poet Laureate (Poeta Laureado de San Antonio) Octavio Quintanilla y Griselda Castillo, ganadora del premio 2018 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco Premio Best Poetry Book por su libro *Blood & piloncillo*.

The Chachalaca Review está disponible gratuitamente en chachalacareview.com.

Después de la presentación de la revista, varios escritores y artistas cuyas obras aparecen en la revista leyeron y presentaron partes de sus obras.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Camero dijo que la Noche de MAS ayuda a crear conciencia acerca del programa.

“Crea conciencia sobre lo que un programa académico como este puede hacer por ti”, dijo Camero. “No solo te da conocimiento, sino que también crea conciencia y junta a las personas con intereses similares para que podamos ver como UTRGV ayuda a formar una identidad”.

Las artes liberales resaltan en NEXUS



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Estudiantes y profesores participan en una presentación titulada El teatro como herramienta de aprendizaje en los cursos de español médico en la frontera el miércoles pasado en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. La presentación fue una de las muchas presentadas durante el simposio NEXUS el cual tiene como objetivo reconocer a las artes liberales en la comunidad.



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

Profesora de lengua coreana Mijin Oh-Villarreal da información a Josué Ramirez, un estudiante de último año en justicia criminal, acerca de las especializaciones secundarias en estudios asiáticos que se ofrecen en UTRGV. Oh-Villarreal y muchos otros asistieron al simposio de NEXUS auspiciado por el Colegio de Artes Liberales en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón en el campus de Brownsville.



A nine-banded armadillo digs for food in the area between the Lozano-Banco Resaca and Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.



A plain chachalaca rests on a branch outside the East Main Building on the Brownsville campus.



A cat is shown outside the Physical Science Building on the Edinburg campus.



A nutria chews on a stick in the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.



Green parakeets are shown on air vents in building three of the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus.



A Muscovy duck is shown on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.



A least bittern walks through the grass near the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.

WILDLIFE

Continued from Page 1

biology assistant professor whose expertise include animal behavior, ornithology and behavioral ecology, to learn more about why the UTRGV campuses attract wildlife.

Berg told *The Rider* it is not uncommon to see urban animals, such as opossums, raccoons and skunks, on the UTRGV campuses. However, the resacas on the Brownsville campus are what really attract wildlife.

“This is one difference with the Edinburg campus even though it’s not that far away,” he said. “It’s, of course, much further inland and further away from the river and, you know, those two things make for differences in types of animals that show up here.”

UTRGV biology Lecturer Sara Black told *The Rider* she has seen different types of lizards, snakes and ground squirrels on the Brownsville campus.

Opossums, which can be found in Brownsville and Edinburg, have a life span of two years, Black said.

“People don’t realize that ‘possums are really good for the environment because they eat all kinds of bugs,” she said. “Because they’re weird looking, I think people freak out about them because they are weird looking, you know, and they are strange looking.”

Aside from opossums, the Edinburg campus is mostly known for its squirrels and cats.

Black said the cats seen throughout the campuses are different than domestic ones.

“We have a big feral cat population here,” she said. “Cats exponentially breed. So, if the female cat is not spayed, she will stay pregnant her entire life. Their mechanism of reproduction is a little different than other animals in that once a female cat starts to go through ovulation or starts to get into a reproductive cycle, they don’t ovulate unless they copulate, so they will stay in this ovulatory kind of situation until they get pregnant, and then when they have those babies, same things keep happening and happening.”

Black said one of the issues with feral cats is that they eat migratory birds that are tired and travel through the Rio Grande Valley.

Berg, who has worked with birds in South America



A least grebe swims in the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.



A raccoon climbs the Lozano-Banco bridge that connects Main Building and the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.



A suckermouth catfish eats algae in the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.



A great kiskadee rests on a bench outside the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus.

“I hope that we can preserve them for a long time,” he said. “I hope that they’ll still want to find the Brownsville campus as their home, and I just hope that as we continue to grow, that we’ll be mindful of that gift that we have and not squander it.”

Berg said it is important to not only conserve what UTRGV already has, but also restore some of its natural areas.

“I think we need activities and students to appreciate this and professors to appreciate it to convince the administrators that it’s worth saving and even restoring in some cases,” he said. “It’s not just holding on to what we have, but also fostering regeneration, ecological restoration of some of the areas we do have.”

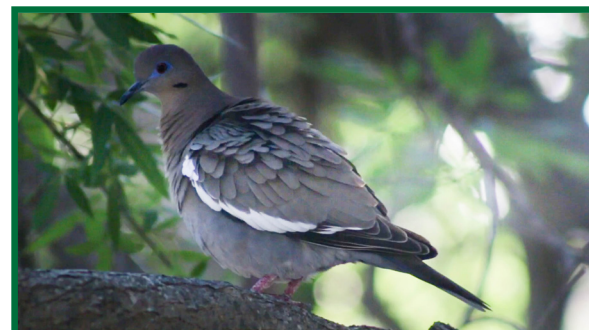
The biology assistant professor told *The Rider* he is worried many students across the nation will not be able to learn as much about ecology as they should.

“It’s kind of overwhelming, everything we know about ecology and evolution, and it’s ironic that we’re getting worse and worse at teaching our students about those things and one of the reasons is we’re becoming more and more separate,” he said. “We’re getting better and better at teaching the hardcore sciences, and our equipment and buildings and professors and everything. The bar just keeps rising, right? But when it comes to getting students into actual ecosystems, and that’s where we really learn, you can only learn so much from a book or from a professor, right? But, to actually get out to the ecosystem and touch the plants and animals and capture them and measure them and observe them, you know, those are things that could only be done in the actual ecosystems.”

Berg said it is important to realize what the university has to offer as not many campuses across the nation have the same natural features as UTRGV.

Escobedo echoed Berg’s statement and said he is happy to see the different types of wildlife that can be found on campus.

“The wildlife just gives this extra layer of beauty to the university,” he said. “The university is already beautiful as it is, but when you see that animal just walking around or eating something or just sitting on top of a tree, it’s really cool that they’re there and just being peaceful, even with all this human activity.”



A white-winged dove rests on a branch outside the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



An opossum looks for food outside the Life and Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus.



Two American white pelicans search for food on the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.



A red-eared slider turtle rests on a log in the Lozano-Banco Resaca on the Brownsville campus.



A lizard is shown outside the Student Union building on the Brownsville campus.



A skunk drinks water from a fountain at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. Skunks have been spotted throughout different areas on the UTRGV Brownsville campus, including outside the University Library and Student Union.



A rock dove builds a nest next to a window in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

Photos by: Jesus Sanchez, Victor G. Ramirez and Albert Monrron

UP, UP, AND AWAY TO BELGIUM

UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble invited to play in Ostend

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Under the direction of Associate Professor Jonathan Guist and Professor Lorne O’Neil, the UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble will make their way to Ostend, Belgium, to perform at ClarinetFest 2018.

ClarinetFest is an annual conference hosted by the International Clarinet Association for clarinet ensembles and enthusiasts to attend and participate in many musical activities.

The fest runs from July 6 to 11, with many notable concerts and exhibitions.

Guist said he is excited about the ensemble’s invitation to perform and the chance to represent the university overseas.

“The initial reaction was, you know, fantastic. We’re very excited,” he said. “We didn’t know how we were going to afford the trip, however. So, we were looking at a lot of fundraising and things like that.”

In order to receive funds for the trip, Guist and O’Neil reached out to Student Services fees and requested assistance.

“Then, we applied for help from the university through the Student Services fees, and we’re very fortunate that they awarded us some money from that application, so that’s primarily what’s going to enable us to go,” Guist said. “Once we knew we had that, then we got really excited because we knew it was going to become a reality.”

The ensemble is preparing three pieces for its performance, “Recombobulation” by American composer and clarinetist Theresa Martin, a piece by Belgian composer César Franck, and the orchestral transcription of the overture to the opera “Ruslan and Lyudmila” by Russian composer Mikhail Glinka.

Martin’s piece was commissioned and dedicated to late Belgian clarinetist Guido Six.

Regarding the most difficult piece of



PHOTO COURTESY JONATHAN GUIST

UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble

the three, Guist said it was that of Six’s dedication.

“It’s contemporary and the rhythms are very complex and intricate, and it’s for sure the most difficult piece,” he said.

Amber Vela, a music education sophomore and secretary of the Clarion Broken Reed Clarinet Society, expressed her enthusiasm when she found out the ensemble would be heading to Belgium and that the university had provided funds.

“I think it makes us look really good, especially since we’re a smaller university,” Vela said. “I think it shows bigger universities that we’re also a force to be reckoned with.”

She is most looking forward to seeing other ensembles play and the diverse orchestras that will attend.

“I think they’re a lot better [orchestras] in Europe than they are in the United States,” Vela said. “It will be really cool to see how different they sound compared to orchestras in the United States.”

In contrast to Vela’s excitement, music education senior Tiffany Nerio, president of the same student organization, was hesitant at first on hearing the news.

“When I first heard about it, I was actually really scared,” Nerio said. “I didn’t want to go because I’m really scared of planes and I have this anxiety when I’m on a plane. But, my dad had

told me, “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and if the school is paying for it, then you’re going to regret it if you don’t go.”

Despite her fear, she said she is happy to be given the opportunity to attend the event and is most looking forward to seeing international ensembles play.

“I’m more than sure there’s going to be all different types of people at the festival,” Nerio said. “I think that’s going to be really interesting and fun.”

The group will practice all summer until the event.

However, be on the lookout, as they will raise funds with car washes and other activities for food expenses while in Ostend.



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER

Associate Professor Jonathan Guist and the UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble will perform in Ostend, Belgium, as part of ClarinetFest 2018. Guist said that since many students haven’t been out of the state, let alone the country, some were hesitant to travel overseas, but they are excited about the trip.



On to the next journey

Senior student-athletes ready for graduation

Diana Navarro
THE RIDER

Ready to embrace a new world of opportunities, the UTRGV senior student-athletes are proud of their achievements as Vaqueros. Graduating next month, the seniors have worked hard not only on the court and field to make their dreams come true, but also in the classroom. Volleyball outside hitter Bojana Mitrovic, who is graduating with a degree in mass communication, said being a student-athlete helped her grow as a person.

“It shapes you, it makes you responsible, it makes you accountable,” Mitrovic said. “It builds a character of you being a team player and you caring about other people.”

Mitrovic, enrolled as a full-time student, achieved Athletic Director’s Honor Roll and ranks fifth in program history in kills, and 10th in blocks and block assists. Her plans are to keep playing and pursue her dream of becoming professional.

“I got, like, six offers to play professional, but unfortunately, I had to get shoulder surgery,” she said. “Once that is fixed, I will see where I stand as an athlete. I want to work a year and after



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Men’s Basketball Team forward Mike Hoffman graduates in May with a psychology degree and aspires to pursue medical school in the future.

that, I want to attend grad school.”

Vaquero basketball forward Mike Hoffman, also earning AD Honor Roll, leaves a few words for his teammates who are continuing school in the fall.

“Work hard no matter what situation you are in,” Hoffman said. “Whether you’re starting right now or coming off the bench, you’re gonna get an opportunity and you better be



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Senior outside hitter Bojana Mitrovic will graduate with a mass communication degree.

ready when that opportunity comes. Just work hard and listen to the coaches because they know what they’re talking about. ... I can’t stress enough to work hard.”

He will graduate with a psychology degree and has big plans on his plate.

“I’m still trying to play basketball right now,” he said. “If that happens to not work out, then I’m gonna try to get into med school.”



George Lamb played four years with the men’s baseball team and will graduate with a biology degree.

The soon-to-be graduates are looking forward to their futures, but will never forget the many memories made with their teammates.

“We have had some really tough travels ... hanging out in the Utah airport for eight hours wasn’t the most fun, but I had fun with these guys,” said baseball pitcher George Lamb, who is a pre-med biology major. Lamb played four years

with the program and earned AD Honor Roll. He also plans to apply to medical school in the future.

“Play like it’s your last day,” he said about his fellow teammates staying behind. “I’m getting down to the point in my season when it’s becoming surreal that I’m graduating. ... Do everything that you can. When you think it doesn’t matter, it still matters.”

The athletes left a few words to their coaches and thanked them for the journey.

“I love my coaches,” Mitrovic said. “They’re very hardworking people and my message to them is to go beat [California State University,] Bakersfield next year. ... Enjoy the process and believe in the girls. Try to have fun together with them because once all that is happening, it’s the way things work.”

Hoffman also showed his appreciation to the coaching staff.

“I want to thank them for giving me a chance, for giving me an opportunity to play and just teaching me as much as they can,” he said.

Lamb then gave his farewell to his teammates and coaches.

“Thank you. You guys have given me a good senior year,” he said.



Felicia Wills is a theatre junior and member of the UTRGV Women’s Track and Field Team.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? “I feel like if I could be any animal, I would be a koala because they are so cuddly and cute and sweet, and they’re just the most lovable animal there could ever be.”

What TV show are you currently into? “The Walking Dead!’ Oh, my goodness. I love ‘The Walking Dead’ and I’m caught up completely on the newest episodes.”

Do you have any hidden talents? “Let me name a couple. ... I do a lot of yoga; I can do a headstand now. ... In high school, I used to do a lot, play softball, volleyball, basketball. ... I can flip my eyelids in, but not to freak people out.” [Laughs.]

If you could have dinner with any celebrity or athlete, who would it be? “Cardi B! That’s my girl. I love Cardi B. I’m her biggest fan. I would definitely meet her, have brunch, have coffee and we can just spend the rest of the day shopping!”

Who is your personal hero, and why? “My personal hero is Jesus Christ because he is the only one

that has never failed me.”
Who makes you laugh the most on the team? “It’d be a tie between Destiny [Rutherford] and Dimitris [Levantinos]. They are both just the most out of their personalities. When they are together, it’s hilarious because they feed [off] each other’s energy and it’s hilarious.”

What is the best advice you’ve received recently? “Don’t worry about anything, instead pray about everything.”

Pizza or tacos? “Tacos! With a lot of cilantro and onion. ... I don’t mess with pizza like that.”

If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? “I Do,’ by Cardi B and SZA, ’cause I do what I like. I do whatever I want.”

On your off time, what do you like to do? “Yoga, go to church, hang out with my friends and spend time with my family.”

--Compiled by Diana Navarro

CENTER

Continued from Page 3

through the University of Texas Medical Branch from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]. ... I also have a grant from the Texas State Department of Health Services.”

FINALS

Continued from Page 3

She suggested trying eucalyptus, lavender and/or peppermint. “[The oils] can be your best friend during finals week,” Mazariegos said. The Counseling Center offers a 24-hour helpline, the Vaqueros Crisis Line, for students experiencing emotional crises, such as suicidal thinking, self-harm, confusion, panic or feeling distressed, according to its webpage. To contact the helpline, call 665-5555.

Vitek also mentioned grants from other faculty members, such as the binational grant Feria received to research vector-borne diseases in the area, the CDC grant in which Thomas is involved, among others.

“Altogether, there are a lot of active grants right now to the individual faculty

members,” Vitek said. “The next goal will be to try and have one submitted by multiple faculty members in the center, so we can sort of get the funding through the center.”

He also said one of the goals of the center is to have all the university involved.

The Learning Center offers tutoring on the Brownsville campus in Cavalry Hall, Student Union 2.16, Casa Bella and on the Edinburg campus in Learning Academic Center 114, 130 and 106, as well as Unity Hall.

For a copy of the center’s tutoring session hours, visit www.utrgv.edu/tutoring/tutoring/schedules/index.htm. The center also offers online tutoring on Blackboard. For a copy of the session hours, visit <http://www.utrgv.edu/tutoring/tutoring/online-tutoring/index.htm>.

“We are very excited about the center and we hope to involve students in the process of what’s going on,” Vitek said. “We want to make this center very productive. We want to try and have the entire university as much as possible involved as much in it.”

The university libraries will be open for 24 hours during the week of finals on both campuses. For a copy of the Spring 2018 Final Exams Schedule, go to http://www.utrgv.edu/ucentral/_files/documents/registrar/final-exams-schedule.pdf.

Students are able to reserve a library study room, with groups of up to four in Harlingen, eight in Brownsville and 16 in Edinburg. Groups over 16 will need to contact library administration at 882-7424, 665-2755 or 296-1900.

Club Spotlight



PHOTO COURTESY TAMMY MUÑOZ

The VAW UTRGV members include (bottom row, from left) member Anabel Ricardo Nava, Public Relations Officer Natalia Davila, member Sidney Cervantes, member Shannelle Flores and Treasurer Cynthia Garza. Top row: Vice President Paola Vidal, member Sandra Masso, Secretary Johanna Mora, Community Service Coordinator Aylin Flores, Fundraising Coordinator Adrian Maldonado, President Roman Sanchez, members Dulio Gomez, Valeria Gonzalez and Jorge Bejar.

Name: Volunteers Around the World UTRGV

Purpose: To provide members of the Volunteers Around the World UTRGV Chapter with an opportunity to work firsthand with experienced doctors.

President: Roman Sanchez

Vice President: Paola Vidal

Secretary: Johanna Mora

Treasurer: Cynthia Garza

Community Service Coordinator: Aylin Flores

Fundraising Coordinator: Adrian Maldonado

Public Relations Officer: Natalia Davila

Advisers: Program Manager for Health and Biomedical Sciences Rosalinda Garza and Laboratory Coordinator Supervisor Tammy Muñoz

Activities: The organization has participated in city clean-ups, volunteering at 5K races and helping at nursing homes.

Membership requirements: Must be a current student, faculty or staff member at UTRGV.

Meetings: 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Fridays in Life and Health Sciences Building 1.208 on the Brownsville campus.

For more information, email: vawutrgv1@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

SGA

Continued from Page 1

equally as passionate about serving, as you can see, the people who are here.”

She said she hopes students know that the executive team is there to listen and work for them.

Communication sophomore de la Torre, the new vice president on the Brownsville campus, said she is excited and believes that the campus is not well-represented in every department.

“My personal goal as an executive is to bring Brownsville more to the attention of the departments,” de la Torre said.

She also would like to keep students as involved as possible.

“I think constantly communicating,

not only with departments, but also students to ensure that what they want, and the changes that they want to see, is actually implemented in the university for a better experience,” de la Torre said.

The SGA executive team already has several ideas it would like to implement.

“There are some academic changes I would want ... for [interactive television] classes and online classes,” said accounting senior Saldivar, the new vice president on the Edinburg campus.

He also told *The Rider*, he would like to enhance the academic experience.

“We want to see whether switching professors between campuses ... could be an option,” Saldivar said. “For online classes, we could see whether professors can record lectures ... stuff like that.”

He spoke about other areas he would

like to improve.

“We also want to increase the food options in Brownsville,” Saldivar said. “Also, for people taking the shuttle, we want to have covers ... against sun, rain.”

Averack demonstrated to the new SGA members through a shepherd metaphor how they should “learn the lay of the land well enough, so you may ensure the safety and security of those who you are responsible for as you guide them through to their destination.”

After graduation, communication studies senior Averack hopes to enroll in UTRGV’s accelerated master’s of business administration program.

Rebecca Gadson, the associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students, said there are still ways for students to become involved with the

university.

“Interested students, in getting involved with the Student Government Association, can apply for appointment to the legislative branch to serve as a senator, representing their college, or maybe a senator-at-large position,” Gadson said.

She said the executives will search for interested students to serve in their Cabinet and there are other ways in which students can become involved.

Gadson said she would like to meet with the new SGA members to “share that information and promote [different] opportunities so we can get diverse voices at the table. I look forward to ways that we can do that together.”

GRADUATION

Continued from Page 1

classes again in Fall 2013, she still faced difficulties.

“It has not been an easy road,” Vasquez-Ruiz said. “Actually, this year, the day before school started in the fall semester, my father passed away. So, I think that’s been the hardest thing I had to [overcome], to not let it interfere with my school and just continuing with my goal of graduation.”

Her first semester at UTRGV was heavily impacted by the school’s merger.

“I started attending UTRGV in the spring semester of 2016,” she said. “It was a bit of a hassle because everybody was still getting used to the merger and everything, but it worked out.”

Despite the obstacles she faced, the support of her husband Victor Ruiz and children Alondra, Jared and Martha, helped her reach her goal.

“The family support is very important and then my kids, especially my oldest, sometimes she’ll be with my younger ones doing their homework or just get them together, or for bed and they see, ‘Oh, Mom’s doing homework, we need to be quiet,’ or ‘Mom, what are you doing? Can we see?’ or ‘Can we help you?’ It’s nice because you get to teach them to get motivated, like, ‘Wow. Am I going to go to college, too?’ and ‘Wow. That’s the work I’m going to do?’”

She advises other students in her position to be practical and take the time to practice self-care.

“Take little breaks whenever you can,” Vasquez-Ruiz said. “Take little naps during the day. Make sure you always carry your lunch, so you won’t have to be wasting time. Just try to be as organized as possible. I always carry my planner, you know, it’s going to be your new best friend because it’s going to have your assignments and when they’re due, and your kids’ things because it’s also important to not forget about your real priority.”

She appreciates the lessons she is able to teach her children. Although she is finishing school at a later date than anticipated, she is glad for the mature, responsible mindset throughout her collegiate career.

Of 2,776 graduating students, 2,157 are receiving their bachelor’s, 608 master’s and 11 doctorates.

Before the ceremony, graduates and guests can expect first-come-first-serve seating in Brownsville. Students who are attending the McAllen ceremonies will be granted six tickets. To request additional tickets, students may visit, <https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/Graduation>.

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in Brownsville for all colleges, while in McAllen, the ceremonies will kick off at 9 a.m. for the College of Health Affairs and the College of Education &

P-16 Integration. At 1 p.m., the College of Engineering & Computer Science, College of Sciences and the Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, then the College of Fine Arts and College of Liberal Arts will follow at 5 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the Brownsville ceremony will be relocated to the McAllen Convention Center at 6 p.m. May 11. Participants will be notified in advance, according to University Registrar Sofia Montes.

“The inclement weather plan for the Brownsville outdoor ceremony is to move it to the McAllen Convention Center. It’s a standard inclement weather plan,” Montes said. “Anytime a decision like that is made, the graduating students are contacted ahead of time, early that week.”

UTRGV traditions will continue at this year’s commencement, she said.

“One is the ringing of the bell,” Montes said. “So, every ceremony has designated bell ringers and the bell ringers are from within the student body and at the conclusion of the commencement ceremony, they ring the bell. That happens at both the

Brownsville and McAllen Convention Center ceremonies. In addition to that, a lot of our graduates choose to give their stoles to somebody who helped them with their education. Sometimes, it’s family. Sometimes, it’s a significant other.”

After the ceremony, candidates will receive a survey to fill that will provide feedback and impact the university’s future graduates, she said.

“We send a survey to our candidates and we ask them what they liked about the ceremony,” Montes said. “The overall feedback from the graduating students has been positive. So, we’re just trying to preserve the celebratory feel of the ceremony and again, it’s to preserve some of the traditions at UTRGV.”

For the future graduates, Vasquez-Ruiz advises them to be open to accepting help from peers in order to guarantee success.

“It’s important to juggle all of those things and look for support,” she said. “So, don’t be afraid to ask for help from relatives or friends or anybody you have around you because that’s the only way you’re going to make it through.”

ADVERTISE WITH US

CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

Ladies, we're hiring!

Shenanigan's

Irish Pub & Grill

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

Here is what we are looking for:

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

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

ERNST
Continued from Page 3

like, who, I think, can still find a way to communicate with students even at my age where they trust me and respect the advice that I would give them based on my not being a snobby sort of academic,” Ernst said. “I hope that’s true. That’s certainly my perception of myself and I have gotten that kind of feedback from students.”

Rolando Botello, a clinical psychology graduate student and program coordinator of the Behavioral Neuroscience Research Experience Camp, has worked closely as Ernst’s graduate assistant for two years.

“He is overall a great guy,” Botello said. “He really takes things to heart and he strives for the best. He’s really sociable and you can see it when he goes through, like, offices. Every single person he meets, he greets. He always brings something new to the table. He’s caring.”

“We both put our pants on one leg at a time” is the way Ernst likes to approach people in his life everywhere he goes.

Another piece of advice Ernst gave

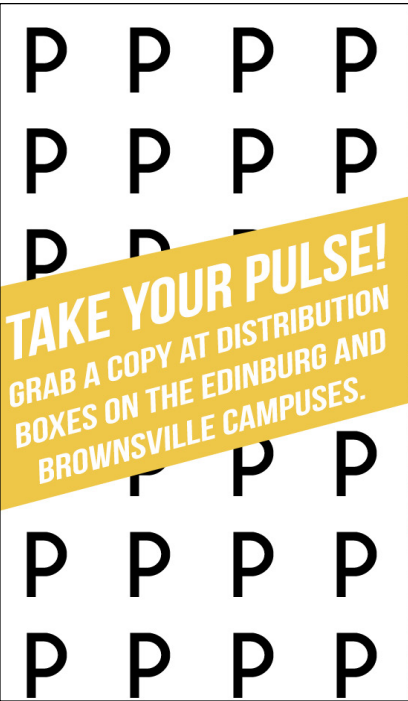
is, “Don’t ever change yourself, but do believe that pursuing the highest degree awardable in an academic environment, anyone can do [it] if they put their mind to it, work hard enough and be willing to sacrifice a lot of things.”

He has served as a mentor for Associate Professor Amy A. Weimer, associate dean for Student Academic Development and associate director of the Center for Bilingual Studies, for 12 years.

“He’s just the most optimistic person and that’s how he looks at life,” Weimer said. “He never misses a minute of it. His lived experience and his passion are greater than any instructor I’ve ever seen. When I’ve talked to students who know him, that’s all they can think about: how inspired they feel to go and change the field of psychology, but also the world.”

Weimer also described Ernst as an incredible mentor, a great listener, supportive, kindhearted, an intelligent scholar and an amazing instructor.

“What I think, especially this older generation of professors does best is to profess in the classroom,” Ernst said. “My final thought is that I will miss that—deeply.”



Congrats, grads!

Class of 2018



Jesus Sanchez
Editor-in-Chief



P.J. Hernandez
Copy Editor



Gabriel Galvan
Reporter



Lesley Robles
Photographer

THE RIDER
wishes you
Good Luck!



UTRGV STUDENT MEDIA

is accepting applications for the Fall 2018 semester for the following programs:



THE RIDER NEWSPAPER



UTRGV RADIO



UTRGV TV



PULSE MAGAZINE

Students must apply via Career Connection
All applicants must be:

- Enrolled at UTRGV during the Fall 2018 semester.
- Have a semester grade-point average of 2.5 or higher.

Deadline to apply is May 11, 2018.

For more information, call 882-5143 or 665-5085.

UTRGV The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley does not discriminate based on gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation.



Tasty Treats

Ice Cream and Snacks

We're Moving!
4901 W. Expy. 83
Ste. #155
McAllen, TX.
78503

Follow us    [tastytreatsrgv](#)

Call us  **956.609.9560**



www.tastytreatsrgv.com



charlie clark 
ALTON GLOOR
MEGASTORE!



Josh Perez
Store Manager

SPRING CLEARANCE SALES PLUS 15% OFF ON ALL INVENTORY

956-801-2300

1140 E. ALTON GLOOR, Brownsville, TX 78526



Luis Garza
Finance Manager

OPEN 9AM - 9PM

FREE TINT & 3 YEAR MAINTENANCE PACKAGE WTH EVERY VEHICLE



2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 271

\$380



2016 AUDI A4 20.0 T

\$235



2017 AUDI A5

\$314



2013 MERCEDES ML 350

\$274



2017 JAGUAR F PACE PRESTIGE

\$435



2016 CHEVROLET COLORADO LT

\$267



2014 FORD F-150 LIMITED

\$28,759



2015 FORD F-150 FX4

\$26,997



2017 NISSAN JUKE S

\$184



2016 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA

\$342



2017 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT

\$42,745



2015 GMC SIERRA TX EDITION

\$30,985



2017 INFINITI QX30

\$267



2015 VOLKSWAGEN GTI

\$194



2015 CADILLAC ATS LUXURY

\$253



2017 NISSAN SENTRA SR TURBO

\$184



2014 HONDA CRV EXL

\$17,998



2015 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

\$9,758



2017 NISSAN MAXIMA PLATINUM

\$298



2015 DODGE RAM R/T

\$290



Luis Sanchez

Hideyoshi Kobayashi

Juan Garcia

Frank Lemus

Jose M. Sanchez

Juan C. Castro

Jacob Chapa



**VOTED
FAVORITE
USED CAR DEALERSHIP
IN BROWNSVILLE, TX**

ALL PAYMENTS ARE BI-WEEKLY W.A.C. FINANCE WITH TIER A OR B PREMIUM FINANCE