

## SPORTS



Abraham Chirchir

Page 11

## ESPAÑOL



Se abren clínicas para empleados

Page 5

## ON CAMPUS



Crosswalking

Page 3

## OPINION

Vaquero Voice: FRIENDS

Page 4

# A life built on dreams

**Zugay Treviño**  
THE RIDER

Actor, producer and activist Wilmer Valderrama flew in from Los Angeles to speak as the Distinguished Speaker Series guest last Thursday night in the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

Valderrama described what growing up in



Joahana Segundo/  
THE RIDER

Venezuela and then moving to the United States was like.

“My mother and my father fell in love in Miami, and they married,” he said. “They had my sister and myself, and they decided back in 1983 it was time to return to Venezuela.”

Valderrama said he had not expected the need to learn English after moving to Venezuela.

“But man, I was really wrong,” he said.

Valderrama said he came from a small town where there was not much to do.

“So, I would go to school activities and decided to dance and sing and act,” he said. “I just did it for fun because there was just nothing to do.”

The armed forces, led by a general named Hugo Chavez, attempted to take power by force in Venezuela. Valderrama said his parents decided to sell everything and return to the United States in 1993.

“I was about 13, 14 years old,” he said. “They didn’t know how to speak English, and we came here, like every immigrant family, we came here to work.”

His father asked him to get the education that he and his mother never had.

“I decided I was going to

See **SPEAKER**, Page 12

## The waiting game

**Victor G. Ramirez**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



UTRGV officials are waiting to meet with the new University of Texas System chancellor before making a decision on whether to establish a football program.

A feasibility study details the information, research, analysis and recommendations concerning the possibility of UTRGV having a football team in the future.

Although the study was completed a year ago by College Sports Solutions, the university did not release the findings until *The Monitor* newspaper filed a public information request.

When *The Rider* asked for a copy of the study on Aug. 15, the university also required the newspaper to file a public information request.

The study, which cost \$104,837.21, states that adding a football team would cost millions of dollars. Under the Football Championship Subdivision level, the program cost is estimated at \$16,807,996 over five years. If the program transitioned to the Football Bowl Subdivision, it would

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 6

# Students take initiative to make friends

**Ana Trujillo**  
THE RIDER

College can be tough, but many agree that with friends everything goes a little smoother. That was the case for a group of students who decided to start a WhatsApp Messenger group.

Students started posting and commenting on the Facebook page, UTRGV Students, a group made by the university. Junior interdisciplinary studies major Priscilla González took the initiative to create the WhatsApp group.

She posted her Snapchat username in UTRGV Students, and received feedback from other students to start a chat group.

“I started making the group chat and then, like, people started being interested in it,” González said.

The group chat was created about three weeks ago.

“We started [the group] Sept. 11,” said Johanne Hernandez, an interdisciplinary studies junior.

The name of the WhatsApp group is UTRGV lit, and as of now has around 200 students, according to González. The numbers are constantly changing.

Group members recall their first meeting took place at Khan’s Grill located on University Drive in Edinburg.

“It was 17 or 20 of us ... and we got along really good,” said Jesus Reina, a mass communication sophomore.

Reina posted a picture of their first gathering in UTRGV Students, and the group received more interaction from other students wanting to join.

González decided to start something that she likes to

See **FRIENDS**, Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO JESUS REINA

Members of UTRGV lit in one of their off-campus hangouts at Peter Piper Pizza in Edinburg.

# 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

Victor G. Ramirez

## ONLINE EDITOR

Leslie Medrano

## SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

## SPANISH EDITOR

Eric Montoya

## A&E EDITOR

Britney Valdez

## COPY EDITORS

Lindsey Villalpando

Karla Garcia

## CARTOONIST

Laia Vite

## SPORTS EDITOR

Juanita Maldonado

## REPORTERS

Jessica Mendez

Zugay Treviño

Maleny Ortega

Ana Trujillo

Kathryn Alonso

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Robert Benavidez Jr.

Joahana Segundo

Aaliyah Garza

## ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Annet Del Toro

## DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS

Cristian Cervantes

Mariana Gomez

## 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 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

© 2018 The Rider

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Monday Wellness Mondays**  
The **UTRGV Counseling Center** will host

one-hour workshops from 3 to 4 p.m. in Salón Jacaranda in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The workshops will be on topics such as healthy relationships, stress management and beating the blues. For more information, call 882-3897 or email counseling@utrgv.edu.

### Wind Orchestra concert

The **UTRGV Wind Orchestra's** first concert of the season will take place at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center on the Brownsville campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

### Keep Calm & Vaquero On

The **UTRGV Counseling Center** will host workshops on stress management. In Edinburg, the workshop will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union's Oleander Room and will focus on how to stay calm during stressful situations and identifying triggers. In Brownsville, the workshop is scheduled at 2 p.m. in the Student Union's Salón Jacaranda and will center on reducing the negative, emotional, physical and mental health symptoms caused by stress. For more information, call 882-3897 or email counseling@utrgv.edu.

### Vaquero Ice Cream Bar

The **Student Union** will serve **free ice cream** with toppings at noon in the Student Union Commons on

the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

### Tuesday

#### Bass trombone concert

Bass trombonist **Noel Wallace**, a musical educator and scholar, will perform at 7 p.m. in the TSC Arts Center on the Brownsville campus. General admission is \$10, and \$5 for seniors and students. The concert is part of the **UTRGV Patron of the Arts** program. For more information, call 882-7025.

### Community Service Fair

The **Office of Leadership and Social Change** will host a **Community Service Fair** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on the Main Building

## Have an announcement?

Email us at  
**TheRider@utrgv.edu**



lawn on the Brownsville campus.

### 'FIFA 19' Release Party

Play "FIFA 19" for free from noon to 3 p.m. in the game room on the Edinburg campus. The event will also take place at the same time Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

### Wednesday

#### Eat, Sleep, Exercise, Repeat

An interactive workshop on finding a routine that works for you, hosted by the **UTRGV Counseling Center**, will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union's Palmetto Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2574 or email

counseling@utrgv.edu.

### Fall Career Expo

The **UTRGV Career Center** will host the **Fall Career Expo** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The event will also take place at the same time Friday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2243.

### Farmers Market

The **Environmental Awareness Club** will host the **UTRGV Farmers Market** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Baked goods, organic fresh produce and herbs, lunch meals, herbal teas, fresh juices and more will be sold at the event. For more information call 533-8891.

### Thursday

#### TED talks

The **Center of Excellence in STEM Education** presents **Carrie Green** and **Stephen Duneier** in two TED talks

from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at the UTRGV Stem Center, located in EMAGC 2.412 on the Edinburg campus. Green is the founder of the **Female Entrepreneur Association** and Duneier is an investment manager and author. For more information, call 665-7836.

### Fridays

#### Fortnite Fridays

Students who love to play "**Fortnite**" can do it for free and enjoy snacks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the game room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

# POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 18 and 21.



### Sept. 18

**7:52 a.m.:** A student was struck going through a crosswalk by a vehicle driven by another student. The incident occurred in the 1500 block of West

Van Week on the Edinburg campus. The student was transported to the hospital with a fractured right leg.

**11:38 a.m.:** Officers were dispatched to Lot B1 in Brownsville in reference to a suspicious man looking into vehicles. Upon further investigation, the officers encountered two men who were consuming alcohol. They did not show signs of intoxication and stated they were working with a plumbing company that was providing services to the university and were returning from lunch. The men were issued criminal trespass warnings and left the area without incident.

**11:52 a.m.:** A student suffered a seizure in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services transported the student to a local hospital for further

treatment.

### Sept. 19

**1:21 p.m.:** A staff member requested emergency medical services while she was suffering from shortness of breath at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. She was transported to Rio Grande Regional Hospital for further evaluation.



## University Police

Email: Police@utrgv.edu  
Campus Emergency: 882-4911

**1:44 p.m.:** A student reported that his wallet was stolen from an unsecured locker at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

**4:41 p.m.:** Two students reported being involved in a minor traffic collision in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus.

### Sept. 20

**2:52 p.m.:** Officers were dispatched to the University Recreation crosswalk in Edinburg in reference to a student being struck by a vehicle while she was on her bicycle. The student declined emergency medical services and

suffered a bruised ankle. The vehicle was driven by a staff member who was uninjured.

**5:36 p.m.:** An officer was dispatched to Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus in reference to a report of a tree branch falling on a parked vehicle. A student was in the vehicle when the tree branch fell and was not injured. Facilities removed the tree branch with a chainsaw. The vehicle had visible damage.

### Sept. 21

**2:35 p.m.:** A student reported that on Sept. 20 she was assaulted by contact (hug and kiss) in the exterior west side of the Learning Center on the Edinburg campus. The suspect was identified as a faculty member. The case is under investigation.

**8:13 p.m.:** Officers responded to the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus in regard to an alcohol violation. A resident, who is under 21 years of age, was in possession of alcoholic beverages. The student was not cited for the violation, but the case was referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review. The alcoholic beverages were disposed of by staff.

--Compiled by Ana Trujillo

## FRIENDS

Continued from Page 1

call a "picnic." Students reserve a room in the library, usually from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and they can come and go to hang out between classes.

"The main dates are, like, Mondays and Wednesdays ... but honestly, the group is free to, like, make [the reservations]," she said. "We are there all day because some of us have a big gap [between classes]."

Students who attend these picnics bring food they can share and just hang out.

The group of friends mostly meet in Edinburg and some come all the way from Rio Grande City and Elsa.

One of the things that characterizes them is that they try to help each other out.

"Since we are a big group, we should go and support [others]," González said.

Students wishing to join can ask for an invitation link in UTRGV Students. Every student is welcome to join.

There are some simple, but important rules that must be followed, such as having a public profile and picture; no fights or offending others; and paying attention to all group administrators.

González has advice for students who are looking to make more friends at the university.

"It's all about communicating. ... Don't be afraid to talk to anyone and

be yourselves," she said.

Maria Gomez, a senior majoring in rehabilitation services, encourages students to not be shy about it.

"Don't be shy. ... It's your college years," Gomez said. "Take school serious, but not way too serious. Enjoy, have fun."

Marco Castillo, a mechanical engineering sophomore, said he enjoys that there is respect among the group.

"I like that everything has been super respectful," Castillo said.

He said that if there is any issue with one of the members, they quickly resolve it and move on with no incidents.



# MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

# Careful crossing



Mariana Gomez/THE RIDER

UTRGV students on the Edinburg campus cross the street as the pedestrian crossing light displays the walk sign.

## Zugay Treviño

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Police Department hopes to attain voluntary compliance from students, faculty and staff in using crosswalks when crossing streets.

Individuals who commit crossing violations will risk being cited with a fine of around \$200. Fines for violations can be as high as \$500.

Police Chief Raul Munguia said

the department hopes to change the culture of how students cross streets.

"[Fining] is going to be the last step and final step, as far as issuing a citation, where they actually have to go to the municipal court and deal with it there," Munguia said. "... Our goal is to maintain a safe campus."

He said the campus has continued to expand, and students are walking from further distances. The department would still like for students to be careful while crossing the street. Crossing

can be especially dangerous in the morning, when drivers are sometimes blinded by the sun.

"Probably what generated this interest, [insofar as] pedestrians crossing the roadway, is the recent accidents in Edinburg," Munguia said.

A female student was injured Sept. 20 at the University Recreation crosswalk in an auto/cyclist accident, according to a University Police report. The student crossed the crosswalk on her bike when she was struck by a vehicle

driven by a female staff member. The student suffered a bruised ankle.

He also offered students tips to prevent accidents. Pedestrians should always use crosswalks and bicyclists should dismount their bikes when crossing. Additionally, they should not be looking at their phone or listening to music while crossing. Pedestrians should also make eye contact with drivers to ensure it is safe to cross.

The police department hopes to raise awareness through an educational campaign. The educational campaign is still being planned, but will consist of information about what students can and cannot do.

Sebastian Castañeda, a first-year mechanical engineering graduate student, said he uses crosswalks about once a week. Castañeda said he does not feel safe using crosswalks and worries about hitting a pedestrian while driving.

"Some cars don't even pay attention," he said. "I was driving once, and I didn't pay attention. And some kids crossed, even though I saw there was a stop, but they crossed anyways, and I almost hit them."

Castañeda said more crosswalks should be added, but that they should be made so drivers can see pedestrians more easily.

Karina Ramirez, a math senior, said she rarely uses crosswalks.

"I still think it's unsafe because there are some [drivers] who don't pay attention," Ramirez said.

For more information, call the police directory at 882-7777 or visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/police/index.htm>.

# 17th HESTEC Week begins

## Maleny Ortega

THE RIDER

A robot going through a LEGO maze, an underwater obstacle course for robots and a lecture by a UT Austin professor who is "breaking stereotypes" are among the events UTRGV has scheduled for HESTEC Week, which begins today.

The events happening during the 17th annual celebration aim to promote the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields to students of all ages.

"There's a need to try to, you know, to help improve the diversity of students, of people actually, going into those careers," said Velinda Reyes, assistant vice president for community programs and operations for the UTRGV Office of Community Relations. "It's a way for us to introduce those types of opportunities for students in this region."

According to the university website, the following are among events scheduled for Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week:

Robotics Day takes place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Pharr Events Center. Teams will compete in obstacle courses that integrate STEM concepts. Competitions include a speed challenge, a programming challenge in which the participants' robots have to meet criteria

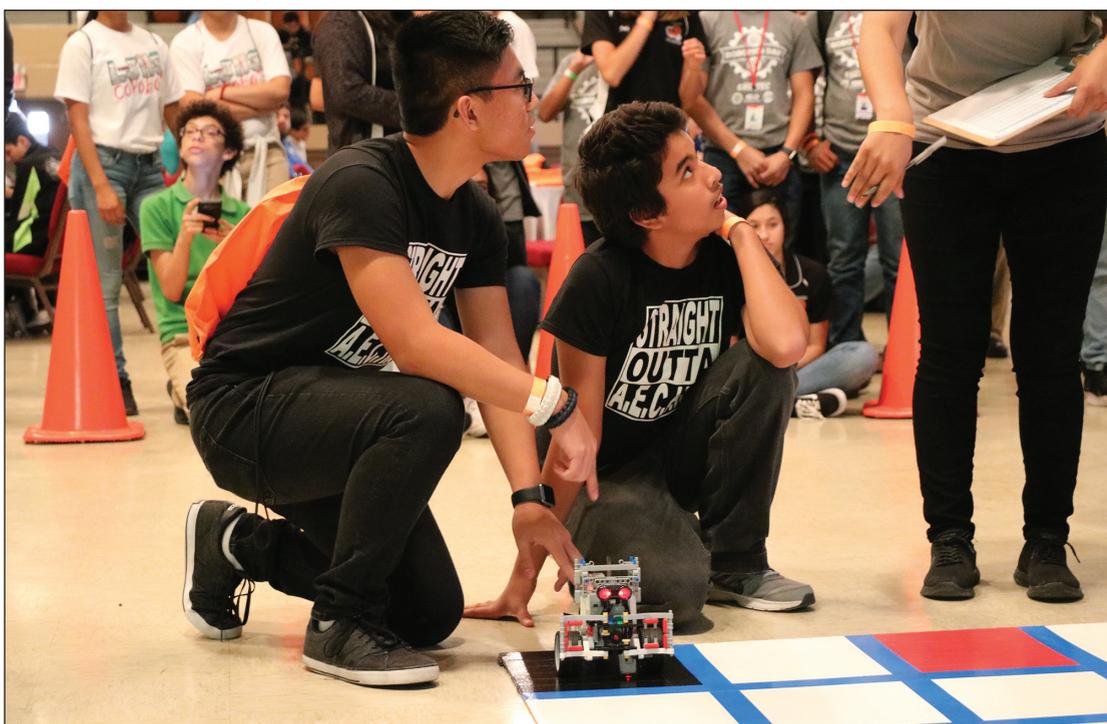
on tracing a line through an obstacle course, a contest in which participants use teamwork skills to maneuver a robot through a 15-foot LEGO maze and a search-and-rescue mission inside the maze.

During Latina Day, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus, female students and mothers throughout South Texas will participate in hands-on workshops and listen to stories of prominent minority women. Kate Biberdorf, an associate professor in chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin, will speak at the event. Biberdorf is known for "breaking down the image of the stereotypical scientist," according to information provided on HESTEC Week.

Student Leadership Day, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at Health & Physical Education II on the Edinburg campus, will introduce a range of career opportunities in the STEM fields through motivational speakers and breakout sessions to secondary-level students.

Both Educator Day and the SeaPerch Challenge are on Friday.

Educator Day will take place from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Educators, administrators, and superintendents will visit the campus to participate in workshops centered on



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Achieve Early College High School students Jonathan Nguyen (left) and Miguel Rivera prepare for the second round of competition during last year's HESTEC Robotics Day.

presenting best practices and successful strategies to encourage Hispanic students to pursue STEM fields of study.

The SeaPerch Challenge is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center in Brownsville. Participants will compete in an underwater obstacle course race using robots and answer questions about their robots.

Throughout the week, there will be expo events for elementary, middle and high school students.

HESTEC Week closes

with Community Day on Saturday, set from 4 to 9 p.m. on the Edinburg campus. It is a festival of science, engineering, and technology that features artists including Grupo Solido, a Tejano award-winning band, educational presentations, a 3-D interactive experience titled "Augmented Reality Exhibit" hosted by the UTRGV Office of Public Art, and a performance of "Peter & The Wolf" presented by the Dance Theater of Edinburg and UTRGV School of Music Faculty Wind Quintet.

Milton Hernandez, program coordinator for the Office of Community Relations, said the events will help attendees learn about jobs in the STEM fields.

"We try to just provide [the students] with as much information as we can, especially with our sponsors," Hernandez said. "We try to provide them with, you know, what they're looking for for the future. We try to provide them the spark of wanting to pursue it and attend our university."

# YAQUERO VOICE



## How do you make friends on campus?



"I do not make friends, actually, because I'm really busy. I work graveyard shifts and I come to class in the mornings and afternoons and repeat. So, I kind of get naps in between [by] taking the bus, Vaquero Express. So, I'm usually always on the move."

**Luis Torres**  
Exercise science senior



"Usually, the way I just make friends is I just join clubs. I start talking to people and, like, usually I like to surround myself with people with similar interests, right. So, it just makes it a whole lot easier. And, like, things I usually join are Chinese club and Korean club, ... That's pretty much it. It just comes naturally, I guess."

**Cristal Alameda**  
Nutritional sciences freshman



"Usually, the way I seek out to make friends is doing activities. Like, here in UTRGV, they usually have a ton of activities to do and you'll meet tons of people. I try to do as many as I can, but you can't just really do, like, all of them, or whichever one you see. You also gotta check which ones you like 'cause you don't want to meet people with different interests, like you might not get along. So, just try to go to events you like; that way, you'll meet people with similar interests and you can get along with them."

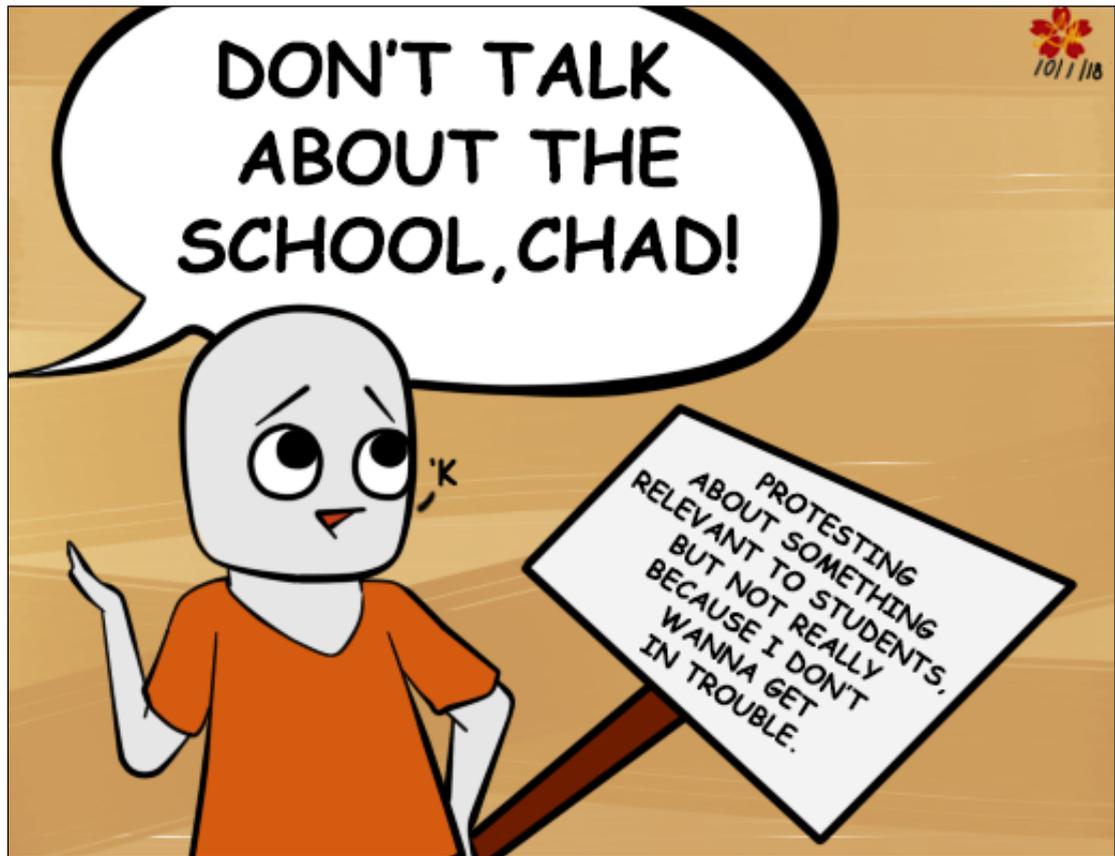
**Kevin Gonzalez**  
Mass communication junior



"I would say by joining organizations or just talking, saying a quick hello to anybody in class to get to know somebody and ask questions to anybody around you."

**Nuvia Cortez**  
Biology freshman

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garcia



# Your vote counts



**Ana Trujillo**  
THE RIDER

When I came to the United States to continue my studies, I was 12 years old and while I was growing up, I learned and adapted to the culture. However, a thing that I can't seem to understand is the voting system in the United States.

I'm from Mexico, and I was able to vote this past election to decide who was going to be the next president. Unfortunately, my preferred candidate did not win, but that's where my confusion begins.

Mexico is a democratic country, although it doesn't feel like it, but that's another story. The people vote for

whomever they want to be president.

In the U.S., it's a whole different system. I learned that there's the Electoral College, and apparently, they are the ones who decide who is president.

For an outsider like me, this system seems complicated.

To summarize it, people vote for electors, and these electors are the ones who represent the state and get to choose the president.

In the 2016 presidential election, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, but Donald Trump was elected. How did this happen if the electors are supposed to represent their people, and the people chose Clinton?

After doing some research, I concluded that what really matters are the states.

For example, California has the most electoral votes with

55, while states like Wyoming and North Dakota have three electoral votes each. This makes a huge impact on how the president is elected, because the candidate who wins the biggest states is usually the victor of the presidential election.

Trump clearly won the major states, and that's why he won.

Mexico and the United States, so close, yet so far. I'm sure that as long as I live in the U.S., I'm going to learn more about the culture, especially politics.

One thing these two wonderful countries have in common is that they're democratic and it's the people who get to decide who the president is.

It's really important for our voice to be heard. The change starts with us, so remember to vote!

## 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](mailto: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.



**October 9**  
**Last day to register to vote for Nov. 6 election**  
For more information, visit [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)



**ADVERTISE WITH US**  
**CALL US AT 882-5143 OR 665-2541**

# Abren clínicas para empleados

## UTRGV se une al plan médico de UT Health Network

**Eric Montoya**

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

La Escuela de Medicina de UTRGV abrirá dos centros de salud para empleados el día de hoy en los campus de Edinburg y Harlingen para proporcionar atención médica para los empleados del Sistema Universitario de Texas, sus familias y jubilados.

En adición, UTRGV se unió al plan médico de UT Health Network, el cual ofrece servicios médicos con un costo más económico para sus miembros.

“El UT Health Network es un plan mejorado para los participantes de UT SELECT que reciben servicios por parte de un médico de UT en cualquiera de las Instituciones Médicas del Sistema Universitario de Texas”, de acuerdo con el sitio web [utsystem.edu](http://utsystem.edu).

Ejemplos de los beneficios que el plan de UT Health Network ofrece incluyen un copago de \$10 dólares al visitar una clínica participante o un copago de \$20 a \$25 dólares por una consulta médica con un proveedor de UT.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, John H. Krouse, decano de la Escuela de Medicina de UTRGV, dijo que la escuela médica decidió unirse al plan de UT Health Network debido al crecimiento que ha experimentado la misma desde su creación.

“Es algo que decidimos este año”, dijo Krouse. “Nuestras prácticas han crecido significativamente, así que ahora tenemos un número de médicos no solo de atención médica primaria, si no que en una variedad de servicios de especialidades. Nuestras clínicas de prácticas en UTRGV, nuestra práctica médica, ha crecido lo suficiente que hemos tomado la decisión de participar. Ahora somos capaces de ofrecer ese nivel de atención a la comunidad”.

En Edinburg, el Centro de Salud para Empleados del UT Health Rio Grande Valley está ubicado en el Research

Education Building (EREBL), localizado en 1214 W. Schunior St. En el campus de Harlingen, la clínica está en 2106 Treasure Hills Blvd. (por la entrada del Coastal Bend VA). Ambas clínicas están abiertas de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes.

Se espera que se abra una clínica en el campus de Brownsville durante el semestre de primavera.

Ambos centros de salud ofrecerán vacunas para la influenza durante los primeros días y solamente proporcionarán atención médica general durante los primeros meses.

“Al principio, ciertamente, las clínicas de salud para empleados serán de atención primaria, en otras palabras, medicina familiar o interna”, dijo Krouse. “Tendremos algunos servicios de salud del comportamiento o de salud mental al principio del mes siguiente. Así que, las dos ubicaciones serán atención médica general”.

Krouse dijo que se ofrecerán más servicios en el futuro.

“Tendremos ubicaciones de especialidades donde tendremos una gran variedad de especialistas que van a abrir en los meses que vienen y estas proporcionarán una amplia variedad de servicios, en vez de nada más servicios médicos primarios”, dijo él.

Lo empleados que estén bajo el plan de BlueCross BlueShield of Texas, incluyendo sus familias, podrán obtener servicios en las clínicas.

“Cualquiera que esté asegurado por el ... BlueCross BlueShield, sus familias, ellos cuentan como participantes”, dijo Krouse. “No hay ningún requisito adicional y se les permite venir a nuestras ubicaciones de salud para los empleados ... o pueden obtener atención médica en cualquier clínica para pacientes no hospitalizados que tenemos desde el Condado de Starr hasta Laguna Vista”.

Se le preguntó cuántos empleos crearán los centros de salud, el contestó, “Contratamos a enfermeras



Joahana Segundo/The Rider

UTRGV se unió al plan de UT Health Network, el cual proporcionará atención médica más económica para los empleados de la universidad. Dos centros de salud para los empleados abrirán el día de hoy, en el Research Education Building (EREBL) en el campus de Edinburg y en Harlingen, en 2106 Treasure Hills Blvd.

practicantes y asistentes médicos quienes estarán proporcionando atención y hemos contratado personal clínico y administrativo. ... Todas las actividades que hemos hecho a través del UT Health y la Escuela de Medicina. Hemos creado 350 empleos por medio de la universidad desde que se fundó la Escuela de Medicina”.

Las clínicas ofrecerán servicios durante el día por medio de citas o simplemente presentándose en las instalaciones.

Marvin Lovett, un profesor del Departamento de Mercadotecnia de UTRGV, le dijo a *The Rider* que siempre es bueno cuando se tiene más acceso a servicios de salud.

“Especialmente la medicina preventiva, que termina siendo la mejor medicina de todas”, dijo Lovett. “Yo miro esto positivamente. Creo que será una opción más conveniente para conseguir atención médica. Yo sé que probablemente no será para, tú sabes, problemas mayores, pero un lugar donde se pueda ir convenientemente para problemas pequeños o repito, medidas preventivas de salud, también será magnífico”.

Él dijo que estas clínicas

crean oportunidades para los estudiantes de medicina.

“Esto probablemente también les dará a nuestros estudiantes ... una oportunidad para obtener algo de experiencia”, él dijo. “Creo que eso también es genial. Es una situación donde todos salimos ganando”.

Lovett dijo que le gustaría visitar las clínicas para aplicarse la vacuna contra la influenza.

Asimismo, Christopher Albert, director del Centro de Consejería de UTRGV, dijo que las clínicas permitirán un mejor acceso a la atención médica.

“Creo que es algo muy bueno”, dijo Albert. “Cada vez que aumentas la disponibilidad, mejoras la atención médica. Así como los estudiantes necesitan estar saludables, el personal y el profesorado también”.

Él dijo que las clínicas muestran que UTRGV está invirtiendo en la comunidad y en su profesorado y personal.

Los centros de salud funcionarán como cualquier otro sitio médico. Las ganancias que estos produzcan se usarán para apoyar a la Escuela de Medicina de UTRGV y al UT Health RGV.

Otro sitio médico abrirá en febrero en Jackson Road en

Edinburg.

“Tendrá especialidades quirúrgicas ... dermatología, cirugía plástica, tratamiento para los oídos, nariz y garganta”, dijo Krouse. “Ahí también abriremos un centro para la vista para que la gente pueda venir a tomar un examen de vista o a examinarse sus ojos y también podrán comprar anteojos ahí mismo en Jackson Road en Edinburg”.

Él espera que los centros de salud para los empleados ayuden a mejorar la salud de los empleados de UTRGV.

“Creo que los empleados podrán ser capaces de no tener que manejar para conseguir atención médica”, dijo Krouse. “Si se sienten mal, pueden caminar aquí enseguida y ser atendidos en el campus. No tendrán que manejar a ninguna otra parte. Creo que eso debería de mejorar la calidad de vida del cuerpo docente y del personal”.

Para más información acerca del plan de UT Health Network visite la página de internet [utsystem.edu/offices/employee-benefits/ut-health-network](http://utsystem.edu/offices/employee-benefits/ut-health-network). Los números de teléfono de las clínicas son 296-1731 en Edinburg y 296-1519 en Harlingen.

# Empieza la semana de HESTEC



Foto del archivo/The Rider

Grand Hank, el Hip-Hop Scientist (el Científico del Hip-Hop), dio la presentación principal durante el Student Leadership Day el año pasado en el UTRGV Fieldhouse en el campus de Edinburg como parte de las actividades de la Semana de ingeniería, ciencia y tecnología hispana (HESTEC, por sus siglas en inglés).

**Maleny Ortega**

THE RIDER

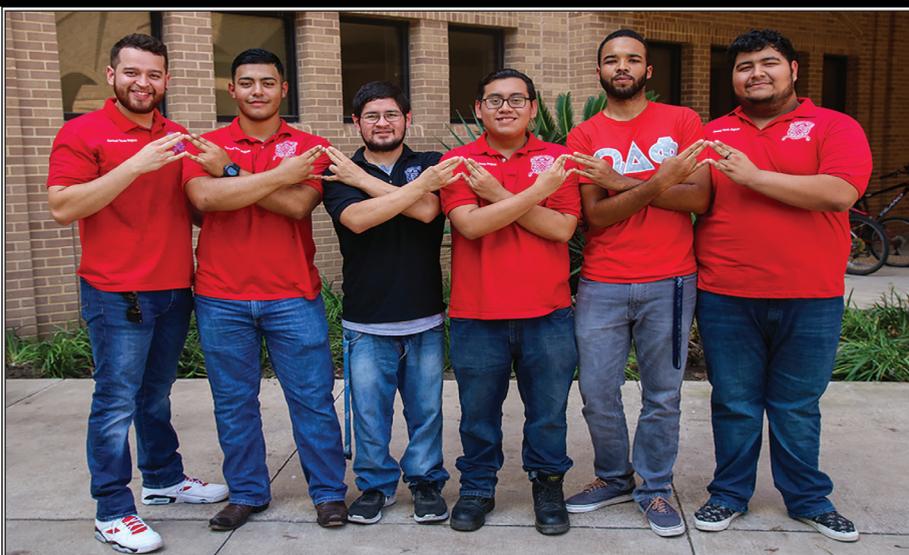
Un robot atravesando un laberinto de bloques de LEGO, un obstáculo submarino para los robots y una presentación por una profesora de UT Austin quien está “rompiendo los estereotipos”, son unos de los varios eventos que UTRGV ha programado para el *HESTEC Week* (Semana de HESTEC), la cual empieza hoy.

Los eventos que tomarán lugar durante la 17<sup>o</sup> celebración tienen como objetivo promover los campos de la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas para estudiantes de todas las edades.

“Existe la necesidad de tratar, tú sabes, de mejorar la diversidad de estudiantes, de la gente que, realmente está tomando esas carreras”, dijo Velinda Reyes, vicepresidenta de programas y operaciones comunitarias para la Oficina de Relaciones Comunitarias de UTRGV. “Es una forma de introducir este tipo de oportunidades a los estudiantes de esta región”.

De acuerdo con el sitio web de la universidad, los siguientes son unos de los eventos que están programados para la *Semana de ingeniería, ciencia y tecnología hispana* (HESTEC, por sus siglas en inglés):

# Club Spotlight



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Omega Delta Phi's officers include (from left) Vice President Rey Gonzalez, Recruitment Chair Isais Montalvo, Athletic Chair Mark Cavazos, Social Chair Jonathan Cerda, Recording Secretary Adan Garza and President Tony Leandro.

Throughout this academic year, *The Rider* will explore the student organizations at UTRGV. This is the sixth in our series. *The Rider* interviewed Tony Leandro, president of Omega Delta Phi, for information.

**Name:** Omega Delta Phi

**President/Corresponding Secretary:** Tony Leandro

**Vice President/Treasurer/Service Chair/Athletic Chair:** Rey Gonzalez

**Internal Vice President:** Jesus Saavedra

**Recording Secretary/Recruitment Chair:** Adan Garza

**Fundraising Chair/Recruitment Chair:** Orlando Perez

**Social Chair:** Jonathan Cerda

**Recruitment Chair:** Isais Montalvo, Hector Garnica and Albert Ramirez

**Historian/Public Relations Chair:** Andrew Nieto

**Athletic Chair/Chaplain:** Mark Cavazos

**Advisers:** Jessica Vallejo, assistant director of Residence Life, and UTRGV alumnus Cameron Coleman

**For more information, email:** president.alphagamma@omegadelphi.org or tony.leandro01@utrgv.edu

**Facebook:** Omega Delta Phi -Alpha Gamma Chapter - RGV

**Instagram:** @rgv\_odphi

**Twitter:** @odphi\_utrgv

--Compiled by Joahana Segundo

**Want your club featured? Email us at [TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu) or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!**

## FOOTBALL

*Continued from Page 1*

cost an estimated \$26,948,622 over five years.

Under the FCS track, revenue is estimated at a combined \$2,560,866 in the fourth and fifth years of the program. At the FBS level, the revenue generated is estimated at a combined \$3,761,510 in the fourth and fifth years.

"Thus, a university business plan and funding model regarding student fees and university sources in support of the athletics program would need to be conducted," according to the UTRGV Football Feasibility Study.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV's associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications, said the student fee would not increase until the decision of creating a football team is made.

"Since we don't have a decision on football, we don't have a timeline on when the student fee will go into place, or anything like that," Gonzales said. "We don't have any specifics. But, it is key to know the increase will only affect new students, because legacy students are protected by the guaranteed tuition and fee plan that we have in place."

Although the study provides a timeline for UTRGV to begin playing football as early as 2021-22, the timeline has been pushed back due to other priorities, such as the accreditation probation placed on UTRGV by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, opening of the UTRGV School of Medicine and meeting with the new chancellor at the University of Texas System, James Milliken.

According to the study, the university's president or chancellor "must first officially award the sport varsity status."

"The university just decided that, you know, they will make a decision on football when [it] felt the time is right and when these other priorities were kinda out of the way," Gonzales said.

The study states, "Given the size of the university and its aspirational goals to be recognized as a Tier One research institution, CSS would recommend entry at the FBS level, which will require an invitation from

an existing conference."

However, the study also notes the transition to Football Bowl Subdivision involves a two-year reclassification process and the university must receive an offer to do so.

The report also pointed out the need to comply with Title IX/Gender Equity law.

Title IX/Gender Equity law requires institutions to follow at least one of three requirements:

--intercollegiate athletics participation opportunities for male and female students are "substantially proportionate" to their respective full-time undergraduate enrollment.

--a "history and continuing practice

waterfall of problems beginning with parking. [I] think that's going to be one of the main things."

The study advised the university against playing football independently.

"CSS does not recommend an attempt to play football independently at any level, as the operational difficulties, particularly with scheduling, present additional issues that can become problematic both as to management and resources," the report states.

Student Government Association President Denise Palacios said the university is not ready for a football team because it needs to improve in other areas first.

"I would be really excited, I just

to make sure that students want it by passing a student referendum, by taking a vote if whether or not students want it."

Gonzales said the football team will create more opportunities for students.

"It would bring more student athletes," he said. "There's a possibility of having a marching band as well, which will open up new opportunity for our music students. The training and medical providers could possibly come from UTRGV as well, and students there. Media and communications, it could provide an opportunity for live radio broadcasting for some of our students. So, I think there's multiple benefits that a football team could bring for the university."

Gonzales also said the university does not want to make any decisions until officials speak with Chancellor Milliken.

"We're sitting tight on the decision, just to make sure that whatever we decide is the right time," Gonzales said. "Another big thing that occurred was the change in leadership at the UT System that occurred this summer. Our old chancellor stepped down and the new chancellor was named a month ago. Before any decision is made, we want to make sure that we discuss it with the new leadership."

William McRaven stepped down as chancellor on May 31. Milliken began his duties as chancellor on Sept. 17.

*The Rider* requested an interview with Milliken, but was told via email by Karen Adler, director of media relations and communications programming for the UT System: "It would be premature for Chancellor Milliken to answer questions about the feasibility study without first having a chance to learn about it from UTRGV leadership."

The possibility of having a football team was first discussed in February 2016.

In April 2016, the university announced the 21-member football feasibility committee, which was comprised of university staff, faculty, students, community leaders and special advisers, including former University of Texas Head Coach and current ESPN/ABC Analyst Mack Brown.

**“It'd be quite a big expense for our students. I think before they move forward with anything, I mean, if even the community did want it, we need to make sure that students want it by passing a student referendum, by taking a vote if whether or not students want it.”**

--SGA President Denise Palacios  
on UTRGV football program

of program expansion" for the under-represented sex.

--"fully and effectively" accommodating the interests and abilities of the under-represented sex.

Gonzales said UTRGV will follow what the study recommends.

"The Football Feasibility report states that with a football team, we will have different options, one of them being adding two women's sports," Gonzales said. "Those are rules and policies enforced by the NCAA and we will have to follow them."

Biology senior Gloria Torres sees the benefits and disadvantages of a football team at UTRGV.

"I think that is going to raise tuition, which kinda sucks. Who wants tuition raised? No one," Torres said. "It'll bring more publicity to the school--that's a plus. The downfall to that will be the school would get known more. It's a small campus already, so that means more students will be attracted to [UTRGV]. It's gonna kinda do a

don't think this is the time," Palacios said. "I wouldn't say an addition, like adding football, would be good within five years because then we would have to worry about our medical school and then we to have to worry about making sure UTRGV is an emerging research institution."

She said the university might have problems with the student fee and Title IX.

"We would have problems with Title IX," Palacios said. "So, first of all, football is super expensive. They have to raise the athletic fee. First, we would have to separate the athletics fee from student fees and then we would have to raise it in order for it to be sufficient to support not only the current athletics but the addition of football and because of Title IX equity issue, we would have to add female sports."

"It'd be quite a big expense for our students. I think before they move forward with anything, I mean, if even the community did want it, we need



# All the world's a stage

## 'Death and the maiden' opens Wednesday

**Britney Valdez**  
A&E EDITOR

UTRGV University Production's first show of the season, "Death and the Maiden," a political thriller focusing on the themes of power dynamics, truth and revenge, opens at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

The cast includes theatre performance senior Victoria Diaz, alumnus Jonathan Dimas and Christopher Cruz.

Directed by Brian Warren, the story tells of Paulina Miranda, who was arrested and tortured during her time as a prisoner during the Pinchot regime in Chile. Years after her imprisonment, she recognizes the voice of her attacker and proceeds to torture and extract a confession from him, despite the lack of solid evidence against the man.

Diaz, who plays the female lead Paulina, said her love for theater began through small acting skits in middle school and later progressed to bigger high school productions.

This is Diaz's first lead role at UTRGV. Some challenges she faced while preparing for the role was having to portray a character who has faced a lot of hardship, including rape and imprisonment.

"I actually knew that getting close to this character would take a lot from me, not just physically, but emotionally since Paulina has been through a lot of trials," Diaz said. "Actually, she has suffered PTSD from her past of being tortured. The play goes into detail on



Ana Trujillo/THE RIDER

Cristela Moreno, a theatre junior, prepares a prop for Wednesday's performance of "Death and the Maiden," directed by Associate Professor Brian Warren. The play will be performed Wednesday through Friday.

that and I knew that beforehand it was going to take a lot from me and I was hesitant, so I didn't start digging into the character until August time, when I started really getting to know the character and pick up on her habits."

She also relates to the character, since Paulina's experiences are not uncommon in modern days.

"I relate to her in a sense that through the test of time, women have been seen as pieces of meat and in the play, Paulina Salas does talk about her being raped," Diaz said. "I think that it's something to bring awareness in general. I relate to her in the sense that

I do have family members who have gone through stuff like that and this is a great opportunity to be the voice for them and women who have gone through this."

Diaz said the purpose of the play is to encourage people to stand up for themselves and spread awareness of sexual assault.

"Several times throughout the play, Paulina is finally getting the chance to say what she's been wanting to say," she said. "... It's just a way to say that it's OK to have those thoughts and there is a way to overcome that because you are not a victim. When stuff like

this happens, you are a survivor and that is ultimately what we're trying to get across with this play. You have a voice, use it, utilize it."

The show is the first of its kind at UTRGV and she looks forward to seeing the audience's reaction, according to Diaz.

"It's just a really great, intense show. I use the word intense, because, disclaimer, there is some language and mature content," she said. "We've never done anything like this at UTRGV and it's very 'in your face' and I'm curious how the audience will react because growing up very conservative, in the Valley, it's going to be interesting how the audience interprets it and what they make of it. I hope it leaves the audience [a lasting impression]."

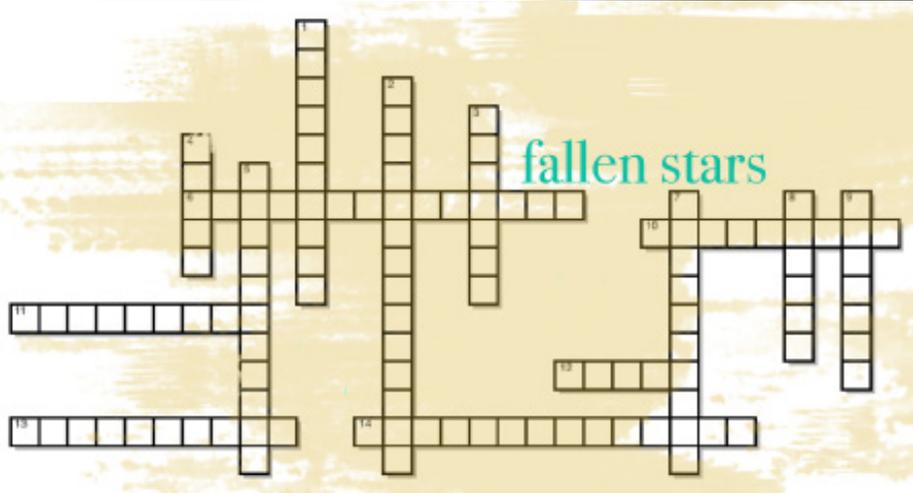
The cast and crew highly encourage the campus community to come out and support the theatre department.

"I really encourage people to come out and watch the show," Diaz said. "It's been a great experience for me, being able to portray Paulina, who is a brave, strong woman given the circumstances she's gone through. Maybe not firsthand, but maybe, someone [the audience knows] went through something like this and in any sense, there is a way to relate for both men and women."

The show will be presented at the same time Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

General admission to the show is \$15, \$5 for UTRGV students and staff with a valid ID and \$7 for students with a non-UTRGV student ID.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



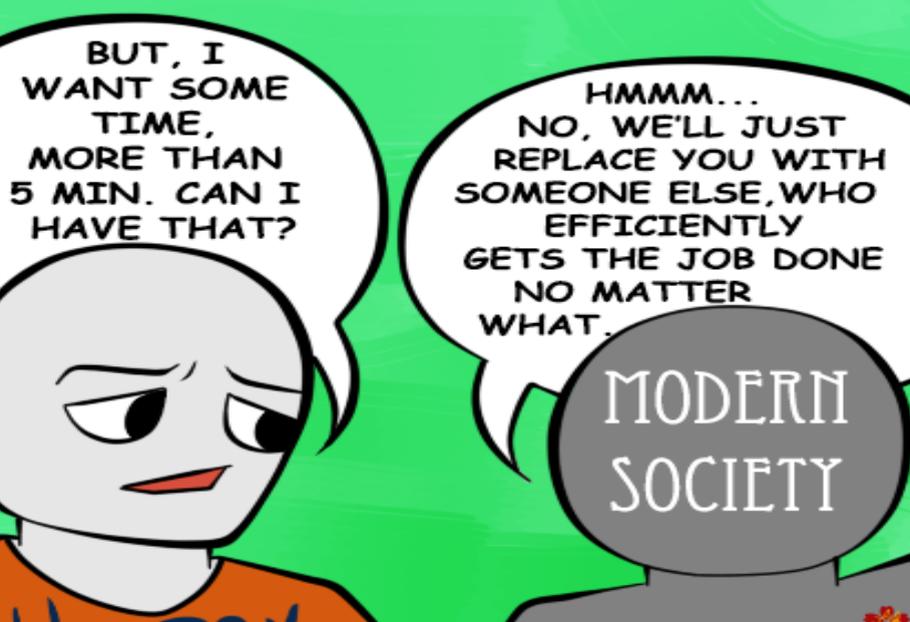
- Across**
- Her cover of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You" in the movie "The Bodyguard" proved to be her biggest hit ever.
  - Jamaican singer and reggae musician, sang "Three Little Birds" with the iconic lyrics "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be all right."
  - English singer known for her deep vocals and retro style. Songs such as "Rehab" and "You Know I'm No Good." Amy \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Notable for his contribution to the 1990s gangsta-rap music genre, considered one of the greatest rappers of all time. Grew up in Harlem, moved to Los Angeles. "Brenda's Got A Baby" and "California Love."
  - Nirvana frontman and grunge movement icon. "Heart-Shaped Box," "Smells Like Teen Spirit".
  - The "King of Pop," known for songs "Billie Jean," "Beat It" and "Thriller."

- Down**
- Peace activist, member of the Beatles, "Imagine."
  - "Queen of Soul," died this year from pancreatic cancer. Known for songs such as "Respect" and "Baby I Love You."
  - Often regarded as the "King of Rock and Roll" or "The King." Songs such as "Jailhouse Rock," "All Shook Up." Elvis \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Known for songs such as "Space Oddity," "Heroes" and his androgynous alter ego Ziggy Stardust. David \_\_\_\_\_.
  - American rock guitarist, "Purple Haze," "All Along the Watchtower".
  - Country music singer known for songs "Ring of Fire" and "Hurt."
  - Known for his flamboyant stage presence and extravagant style, sang songs "Purple Rain," "When Doves Cry."
  - British singer, frontman of the band Queen, Freddie \_\_\_\_\_.

By Britney Valdez and Laia Vite

## Scribbles & Thoughts By Laia Vite

### HOW SOCIETY TREATS MENTAL HEALTH



# Employee clinics open



Johana Segundo/THE RIDER

UTRGV joined the UT Health Network, which will provide more affordable health care for university employees. Two employee health centers will open today, at the Research Education Building (EREBL) on the Edinburg campus and at the Harlingen campus, 2106 Treasure Hills Blvd.

## Eric Montoya

SPANISH EDITOR

The UTRGV School of Medicine will open two new employee health centers today on the Edinburg and Harlingen campuses to provide medical care to University of Texas System employees, their families and retirees.

In addition, UTRGV joined the UT Health Network plan, which will offer more affordable health services for its members.

“The UT Health Network is an enhanced plan design for UT SELECT participants receiving services from certain UT physicians at

certain UT System Health Institutions,” according to the [utsystem.edu](http://utsystem.edu) website.

Examples of benefits of the UT Health Network plan are a \$10 co-pay when visiting a participating employee or nursing clinic or a co-pay of \$20 or \$25 for an office visit with a UT provider.

In an interview with *The Rider*, John H. Krouse, dean of the UTRGV School of Medicine, said the medical school decided to join the UT Health Network because of the growth it has experienced since its creation.

“It is something we decided this year,” Krouse said. “Our practice has grown significantly, so we now have

a number of physicians not only in primary care, but also in a variety of specialty services. Our practice at UTRGV, our medical practice, has grown enough that we made the choice that we would participate. We are now capable of offering that level of care to the community here.”

In Edinburg, the UT Health Rio Grande Valley Employee Health Clinic is in the Research Education Building (EREBL), located at 1214 W. Schunior St. On the Harlingen campus, the clinic is at 2106 Treasure Hills Blvd. (off the Coastal Bend VA entrance). Both clinics are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday

through Friday.

A clinic in Brownsville is expected to open during the spring semester.

Both clinics will offer flu shots during the first few days and will only provide general medical care during the first months.

“At first, certainly, the employee health clinics will be primary care, meaning family, internal medicine,” Krouse said. “We will be having some behavioral health or mental health services beginning over the next month. So, both of those sites will be general medical care.”

Krouse said more services will be offered in the future.

“We will be having specialty sites where we have a variety of specialists that will be opening over the next few months and those are going to provide a wider range of care, rather than just primary care services,” he said.

Employees who are under the BlueCross BlueShield of Texas network, including their families, will be able to get services from the new clinics.

“Anyone who is insured under the University of Texas BlueCross BlueShield network, their families, they are participants already,” Krouse said. “There is no additional requirements and they are able to come to our employee health sites ... or they can take care at any of the outpatient clinics that are present from Starr County all the way to Laguna Vista.”

Asked how many jobs the health centers will create, he replied, “We hired nurse practitioners and physician assistants who will be

providing care and we have hired clinical and clerical staff. ... All of our activities that we have done through the UT Health and the School of Medicine. We have created now 350 new jobs through the university since the founding of the School of Medicine.”

The clinics will offer services during daytime on a walk-in basis or by appointment.

Marvin Lovett, a UTRGV professor in the Marketing Department, told *The Rider* it is always good when there is more access to health services.

“Especially preventative medicine, which ends up being the best medicine of all,” Lovett said. “I look at [this] positively. I think it would just be a more convenient option for health care. I know it’s probably not going to be for, you know, major concerns, but just a place to go conveniently for just small problems or again, preventative health measures, would also be great.”

He said these clinics create opportunities for medical students.

“This will probably also give our medical students ... a chance to actually get some experience,” he said. “I think that is a great thing, too. It is a win-win situation.”

Lovett said he would like to visit the clinics to get a flu shot.

Similarly, Christopher Albert, director of the UTRGV Counseling Center, said the clinics will provide greater access to health care.

“I think it is a really good thing,” Albert said. “Every

See CLINIC, Page 12

# Food for thought

## Kathryn Alonso

THE RIDER

The Student Government Association hosted its annual Lunch with the Deans last week. Over 250 students sat at tables designated for their college and engaged in conversation with their fellow classmates and deans.

The event was held last Tuesday in El Gran Salón on

the Brownsville campus and Thursday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Kevin Martinez, the Academic Affairs committee chair in the SGA, led the event and hoped that it would allow students to share thoughts on their college with the deans.

“I think our main goal was to give students the opportunity to be able to

engage in dialogue with their deans,” Martinez said. “Ask any questions. Raise any concerns or issues they might also have.”

Several deans were able to make it to the event, including the College of Sciences, College of Health Affairs, the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship and the dean of students.



Kathryn Alonso/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Student Government Association members serve food to students during Lunch with the Deans.

Frederic Zaidan, the associate dean for Student Success for the College of Sciences, said that he appreciates the time to talk to the students and hear what they have to say.

“You get to see them. You get to exchange ideas,” Zaidan said. “... It’s a really good, fun, laidback way to just connect with people.”

He said he hopes that students can feel more comfortable conversing with their deans.

“I hope that they get out of this that their deans and associate deans are approachable,” Zaidan said, “that we are here to help. ... We are trying our best to bring out the best in themselves.”

Ricardo Galván, a sophomore marketing major,

said he enjoyed the lunch and feels that he did get closer to the administration.

“Having the opportunity to come to Lunch with the Deans, you get to actually know him or her more personally,” Galván said.

He hopes that in the future, the university has more events where students can speak with the faculty.

“I know they have like super busy schedules,” Galván said. “And, sometimes they don’t have the opportunity to interact directly with their students even though they want to.”

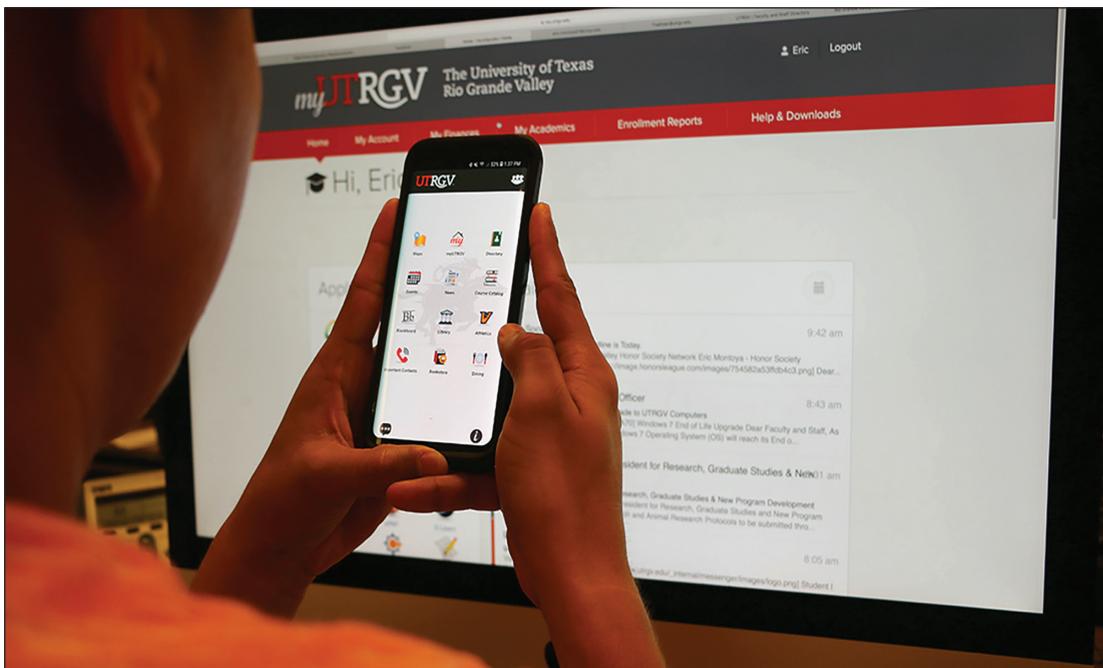
Martinez said that they did not advertise as much as they wanted to and, hopefully, next year they can get more students involved in the SGA to help at and attend the event.



Karen Martirosyan (center), associate dean for Research and Educational Innovation, and Frederic Zaidan, associate dean for Student Success for the College of Sciences, speak to students about research opportunities and internships during Lunch with the Deans.

# UTRGV at your fingertips

## University launches mobile app



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV has launched a mobile app giving students, faculty, staff and the community access to resources, including Blackboard, an events calendar and myUTRGV.

**Jessica Mendez**  
THE RIDER

On Sept. 9, UTRGV announced the launch of its free app on Android and iOS with the goal of having the university's latest information on the go for the community.

Kumar Raman, IT director for Enterprise Development, said several departments worked together to implement features on the app that have high demand among students, faculty, staff and the outside community.

"We put together a selection

committee that was the SGA, Student Success, Enrollment and different groups on campus that could evaluate different solutions to provide the types of things that the students were asking for," he said.

Management freshman

Samantha Quezada said she didn't know about the app, but would consider downloading it.

"I actually prefer using the apps a lot better than logging in all the way through the website. I think it's a lot faster, especially to check notifications," Quezada said.

Raman explained the committee started work on the development of the app toward the end of last year.

The app has several features, including campus maps, the myUTRGV portal, Blackboard, the staff and faculty directory, a calendar of events.

"For example, someone from the community downloads it," Raman said. "There is an event section in the app that would tell you all the ongoing events on campus. And if they come to campus, they can use the maps to navigate around."

English sophomore Eladio Guajardo said the app is an easy resource that can help students.

"Let's say I'm like, 'Oh, what is my next class?' I would have to go to Safari, then log in and a lot of stuff. And well here,

[the app] is already there," Guajardo said.

Raman said the app costs \$30,000 yearly and the funding comes from an information technology maintenance budget that is used for systems that benefit the campus community.

On Sept. 25, there were 1,890 downloads from Android. The number of downloads for iOS was not available at the time due to an issue with Apple.

Raman said IT is still working on adding more features to the app.

"We are also working with the transportation services to see if we can bring in bus routes and shuttles so the students are able to see the buses and shuttles in real time on their phones," he said.

UTRGV departments will continue to work together for future improvements.

The app is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

# Right is not always right

## University receives complaints median

**Kathryn Alonso**  
THE RIDER

The new school year has brought more than just new majors. On the corner of Van Week Street and Sugar Road in Edinburg, a median that only allows a right turn has been added.

The Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety Committee, consisting of representatives from several university departments, including Campus Facilities Operations, University Police, Campus Auxiliary Services and Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management, hired an outside consultant to conduct a study on UTRGV traffic.

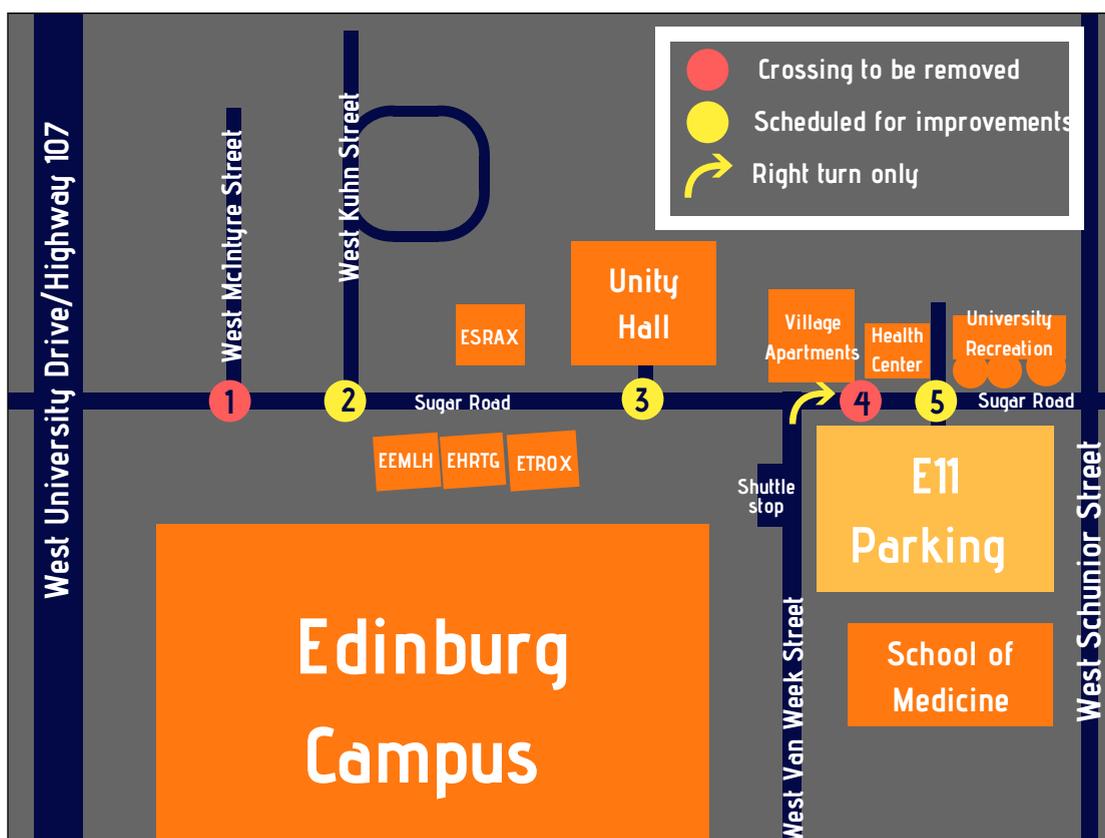
Oscar Villarreal, director of Campus Facilities Operations, said the study by Perez Engineering showed congestion caused by the two streets.

"They ended up determining that the way that the intersection existed before, without the right-turn-only lane, was causing a lot of conflict with the traffic on Sugar Road," Villarreal said.

The change was recommended for a "better flow." Although, some faculty, staff and students do not agree.

Psychology Associate Professor Russell Eisenman said he has had to take longer routes to reach his home.

"You can't go left, which



Kathryn Alonso/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

The Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety committee received recommendations from a traffic study to remove the West McIntyre Street crosswalk (1) and the crosswalk in front of the Village Apartments (4) to allow for less congestion and safer pedestrian travel.

is where almost everything is that you would want," Eisenman said. "The police department ... Walmart, all the restaurants. I mean, you can eventually get to those, but it's very difficult."

He said he does not understand why the median was placed because he believes the traffic was not bad before.

As UTRGV students are

driving from the University Library, the Education Building, or anything on the east side of campus, they may reach traffic as students begin the detour when turning on Sugar Road from Van Week.

Lucinda Villasana, a nursing senior, said it is frustrating because her house is to the left, as well as where she goes to eat. She said in order to get

to her house, she needs to take a different route.

"The traffic still sucks here because everybody gets out at the same time," Villasana said. "But it's just made it really inconvenient for anybody having to turn left 'cause now you have to turn right and go all around the block."

Although the median was placed to force the traffic

to the right, there are still students who go around the median and turn left.

Villarreal said the committee is still reviewing further construction on Sugar Road and will soon be releasing public service announcements to inform the public about safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

He said that the further discussion on the construction will include Student Government Association.

Assistant Chief of Police James Loya represents the UTRGV Police Department in the committee and agrees that the right-turn-only lane should improve traffic, in conjunction with the shuttle stop added, on Van Week in front of the E11 parking lot.

"Part of the right turn only was the addition of the shuttle bus stop," Loya said, "which was very much needed, so that gives the bus drivers a safe spot to pull in."

Villarreal said he understands the changes can be frustrating, but the department wants the community to be safe on campus.

"Part of it is culture change," he said. "We're so used to doing things a certain way and so the reality is that the university continues to grow and we want it to grow, but we have to evolve with the change."

## HESTEC

### Continuación de Página 5

*Robotics Day* tomará lugar hoy de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. en el Pharr Events Center. Equipos competirán en caminos de obstáculos que integran conceptos de STEM (ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas). Las competencias incluyen un desafío de velocidad, un desafío de programación en el que los robots de los participantes tienen que cumplir con criterios para trazar una línea a través de un camino de obstáculos, un concurso en el cual los participantes usan habilidades de trabajo en equipo para maniobrar un robot a través de un laberinto construido por bloques de LEGO con una longitud de 15 pies (4.572 metros) y una misión de "buscar y rescatar" dentro del laberinto.

Durante *Latina Day*, programado de 8 a.m. a 2 p.m. el miércoles en el Fieldhouse en el campus de Edinburg, estudiantes del sexo femenino y madres de alrededor de South Texas participarán en talleres y escucharán historias de mujeres destacadas pertenecientes a grupos comunitarios. Kate Biberdorf, una profesora de química de University of Texas at Austin, hablará en el evento. Biberdorf es conocida por "romper la imagen estereotípica de un científico", de acuerdo con información proporcionada sobre el *HESTEC Week*.

*Student Leadership Day*, programado de 9 a.m. a 2 p.m. el jueves en el Fieldhouse, introducirá un rango de oportunidades de carreras en los campos de STEM a través de conferencistas profesionales y sesiones informales a estudiantes de nivel secundario.

Ambos, *Educator Day* y el *SeaPerch Challenge* serán el viernes.

*Educator Day* tomará lugar de 8 a.m. a 3:30 p.m. en el Ballroom en el campus de Edinburg. Educadores, administradores, y superintendentes

visitarán el campus para participar en talleres que se enfocan en presentaciones sobre las mejores prácticas y estrategias exitosas para alentar a los estudiantes hispanos a involucrarse en los campos de estudio de STEM.

El *SeaPerch Challenge* está programado de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. en el Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center en Brownsville. Los participantes competirán en una carrera de obstáculos submarina usando robots y responderán a preguntas acerca de sus robots.

A lo largo de la semana, habrá exposiciones para estudiantes de primaria, secundaria y preparatoria.

*HESTEC Week* concluirá con *Community Day* el sábado, el cual está programado de 4 a 9 p.m. en el campus de Edinburg. Es un festival de ciencias, ingeniería, y tecnología que presenta a artistas como Grupo Solido, una banda del género tejano que ha ganado varios premios, presentaciones educativas, una experiencia interactiva en 3-D titulada *Augmented Reality Exhibit* presentada por la Oficina de Arte Pública de UTRGV, y una actuación de *Peter & The Wolf* presentada por el Dance Theater of Edinburg y el UTRGV School of Music Faculty Wind Quintet.

Milton Hernandez, coordinador de programa para la Oficina de Relaciones Comunitarias, dijo que los eventos ayudarán a aprender sobre los empleos en los campos de STEM.

"Nosotros solo tratamos de proporcionarles a los estudiantes tanta información como podamos, especialmente con nuestros patrocinadores", dijo Hernandez. "Tratamos de proporcionarles, tú sabes, lo que están buscando. Tratamos de darles la chispa que los atraiga a perseguir su futuro y a que asistan a nuestra universidad".

Para más información acerca de *HESTEC Week*, visite [www.utrgv.edu/hestec/index.htm](http://www.utrgv.edu/hestec/index.htm).

## Oct. 1-5 Schedule

# UTRGV RADIO

### MONDAY

Live Newscast, 9:30 a.m.

"Asian Invasion" (Elisia Gallardo) 11-12 p.m.

"Unfinished Business" (Luis Rubio) 1-2 p.m.

"Rockin' at Ease" (Mia Morales) 2-3 p.m.

### TUESDAY

"People of UTRGV" (Andrea Aleman) 2-3 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

"Roland's Discover Music and Wrestling Power Hour" (Rolando Avila) 2-3 p.m.

"Golden Hour" (Ashley Castellanos) 3-4 p.m.

### THURSDAY

"UTRGV Alt" (Karina Aguirre) 4-5 p.m.

"The Rewind Zone" (Alex Flores) 1-2 p.m.

"Vaquero Vindication" (Erik Webster) 2-3 p.m.

### FRIDAY

"Evening Daylight" (Jake Escamilla) 4-5 p.m.

[www.utrgv.edu/studentmedia/radio](http://www.utrgv.edu/studentmedia/radio)

# PET HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Email a photo of your pet in costume to [THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU](mailto:THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU) by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12.

Voting will take place Oct. 15-24.

Winners will be featured in our special Halloween issue!

Please include the following information in your submission:  
pet's name, costume name, owner's full name, major and classification, or title.

Contest is open to all UTRGV community members.  
\*Student Media employees not eligible to participate

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

# 'I am going to America' Chirchir achieves lifelong dream

**Juanita Maldonado**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Abraham Chirchir of the UTRGV Men's Cross-Country Team faced several difficulties on his journey to America. He had to get adjusted to living away from home and a new culture, but the toughest difficulty for him was getting used to the life of a collegiate athlete.

Chirchir is a native of Iten, Kenya. He began his journey toward collegiate running after graduating from high school in 2014. For three years, Chirchir trained long hours with one goal in mind, to receive a collegiate offer.

As he trained, Chirchir faced several difficulties, including lack of financial and community support and getting his documentation together. Many times, Chirchir could not simply approach his family and ask them to pay for things.

"I just come from a very humble ground, so even just approaching my family and telling them, 'Hey, can you please pay for my ACT?'" he said. "You know, the cost of ACT and the situation of the family, you cannot even talk about the exams."

Since the support was not there, he said he could not tell anyone about his dream.

"I was dreaming, but I could not tell somebody," Chirchir said. "The reason behind that



Abraham Chirchir, UTRGV Men's Cross-Country runner, is living his dream of running at the collegiate level despite financial, community support and cultural barriers he had to overcome.

PHOTO COURTESY JOSHUA MILLS

is because of the background that I come from because I couldn't tell [them] that I wanted to study in America because the support is not there.

"Somebody could say, 'You are kidding, like you are dreaming,' so I couldn't tell anybody, but deep inside my heart I knew this was possible because once you believe something, you can make it happen. I believed in it, I worked for it and my prayers were answered."

Chirchir spent years telling his family, "I am going to America" until it became reality.

In 2018, he became part of the Men's Track & Field program, where he left his mark. Chirchir set a new program record in the men's 5,000-meter race, earned WAC Track & Field Athlete of the Week, was crowned the WAC 5,000-meter Race Indoor Champion and finished the season by being named WAC freshman of the year.

Despite his success, Chirchir said he was having a difficult time getting adjusted to the new lifestyle and balancing his schedule.

"The toughest moment of my life is being here, like in the

first semester of being here in America," he said. "You can imagine like waking up at 5:30 a.m. and going for an 18-mile run and then by 8 a.m., you're supposed to be in class and then it's a full day.

"You go to class from 8 [a.m.] to 3 p.m. and then after 3 p.m., you're supposed to go do weights for one hour. After 4 p.m., you go to training for another hour. Then after 5, you are exhausted."

Chirchir said he also had a difficult time assimilating to the people of the Valley.

"The first thing that I never liked here is that people are

not so friendly, that's what I can say," he said. "People that only know you are the ones that talk to you. My coach, Darren Flowers, was my only friend."

As time progressed, Chirchir began getting accustomed to his surroundings and teammates. He transferred that energy to his running.

During his first collegiate cross-country race, Chirchir won the 6k race at the Dale Watts Cross-Country Course. Soon after, Chirchir was named WAC Cross-Country Athlete of the Week.

Three weeks later, he picked up a second-place finish at the Texas A&M University Invitational in College Station, running the second-fastest 8k in program history.

His top finishes have propelled him to being ranked ninth among the top freshmen in the nation, who were selected by Flotrack, and being selected for the second time as WAC Cross-Country Athlete of the Week.

The biggest honor for him and the team came Sept. 24 when the U.S. Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) revealed the regional rankings for week three. The team was ranked 11th.

Chirchir hopes to continue his successful season at 9 a.m. Oct. 13 at Texas A&M University in College Station for the Arturo Barrios Invitational.

# UTRGV defeats Grand Canyon 3-1



PHOTOS COURTESY JESUS A. REINA

Junior middle blocker Talita Oliveira, sophomore setter Deborah Nazario, freshman right side hitter Pamela Moreira, senior outside hitter Ragni Steen Knudsen, senior libero Gysell Zayas and senior outside hitter Antonela Jularic celebrate after scoring a point.

**Juanita Maldonado**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Thursday night, the UTRGV Women's Volleyball Team hosted the WAC Home Opener with a 3-1 win against Grand Canyon University.

During the first set, UTRGV instantly took a 3-1 lead over Grand Canyon, but Grand Canyon made a quick comeback and began winning the set 10-5.

UTRGV junior middle blocker Talita Oliveira took the initiative and recorded four blocks in a row while being partnered with junior right side hitter Barbara Silva and senior outside hitter Antonela Jularic.

At the end of the first set, UTRGV came out victorious, 25-22.

For the second set, the Vaqueras jumped in the lead 9-5 and made sure Grand Canyon did not obtain any more points. UTRGV scored 12 more points to make the leading gap 21-5. The set ended in a 25-10 victory in favor of the Vaqueras.

The third set went back and forth until both teams reached 13-13. Grand Canyon broke away and took a 17-14 lead. UTRGV came back to tie the game, but was unable to come out with the win. Grand Canyon obtained a 25-22 third-set victory.

After what happened to the Vaquer-



A UTRGV fan cheers for the Vaqueras at Thursday night's game in the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

as in the third set, the team was determined to seal the game during the fourth set. UTRGV quickly jumped to a 10-3 lead, but Grand Canyon was not done yet, as the Antelopes eventually caught up to make the score 21-19. A kill from UTRGV's Jularic resulted in a 26-24 win for the Vaqueras.

Despite the win, Head Coach Todd Lowery said there are still things the team needs to work on.

"You know, as we settle into the new offense, we wanted to just continue to get better on our side of the net," Lowery said. "I thought we were still up and down a little bit. We gotta find a little bit more rhythm in a couple rota-

tions. Once we get through those rotations a little better, I think we are going to be excited about what this can bring for us."

Outstanding performers included senior outside hitter Ragni Steen Knudsen, who posted 19 kills and 12 digs. Freshman right side hitter Pamela Moreira recorded 11 kills and four digs. Leading the team in digs was libero senior Gysell Zayas, with 21, and Jularic, with 17.

The Vaqueras now have an overall record of 11-6 (2-1 in WAC) and will play their next game at noon Saturday against Seattle University in the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

**CLINIC**  
*Continued from Page 8*

time you increase access, you improve health care. Students need to stay healthy, and staff and faculty as well.”  
He said the clinics show that UTRGV is investing in the community and in its faculty and staff.  
UT Health RGV Employee Health Clinics will function as any other regular medical site. The revenue generated by the clinics will be used to support the UTRGV School of Medicine and UT Health RGV.  
Another medical site will open in February on Jackson Road in Edinburg.  
“[It] is going to have surgical

specialties ... dermatology, plastic surgery, ear, nose and throat care,” Krouse said. “We will be opening there a vision center so people will be able to come to have their vision tested or their eyes examined and they will be able to purchase glasses at that site on Jackson Road in Edinburg.”  
He hopes the Employee Health Clinics help improve the health of UTRGV employees.  
“I think that employees will be able to not have to travel for care,” Krouse said. “If they are feeling ill, they can walk right over, come on campus and be seen. They will not have to drive anywhere else. I think that should improve the quality of life of the faculty and staff.”

**SPEAKER**  
*Continued from Page 1*

be the first one in my family to speak English,” Valderrama said.  
He learned English in eight months and continued to learn due to acting.  
Valderrama would attend agent-submissions-only auditions and write down fake agency names and his pager number.  
“I would sit next to the people auditioning, and I would look over to the left, and I would just memorize the lines over people’s shoulders,” he said.  
Eventually, an agent he met helped him get the role of Fez from “That 70s Show.”  
“My story is a pure example of the American dream,” Valderrama said. “The reason why that’s important is because the American dream only exists because immigrants make it happen.”  
The audience cheered at his words before he continued.  
“Because we have a commitment to ourselves, to our family, and a purpose. ... We came here to work.”  
He said the audience has an opportunity to redefine not just the generation, but the culture and what is

contributed.  
“In this very moment, there is a little bit of a conflict of who we are as a culture and what we represent to this country,” Valderrama said. “There’s some difference of opinion, and this is not a political statement. This is a human issue because from the Asian community to the African-American community to the Latino community to any immigrant who has come from around the world, multiple generations before us, came here for one purpose. They came to this land and brick-by-brick made it a country.”  
He said young people are growing up with the word immigration and thinking that it’s a problem.  
“I’m sorry?” he said with a small laugh. “Immigration is the biggest gift this country has ever had.”  
The audience clapped and cheered at his remark.  
“Immigration is the blood that goes through the veins of this United States of America,” Valderrama said.  
Actor George Takei will be the next speaker for the Distinguished Speaker Series. For more information, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/involvement/student-activities/distinguished-speaker-series/index.htm>.

**Game schedules Oct. 1-14**

- Volleyball**
- Thursday, Oct. 4: vs Chicago State University. 7 p.m. AWAY.
  - Saturday, Oct. 6: vs University of Missouri-Kansas City. 1 p.m. AWAY.
  - Thursday, Oct. 11: vs Utah Valley University. 7 p.m. AWAY.
  - Saturday, Oct. 13: vs New Mexico State. 7 p.m. HOME.

- Men’s Soccer**
- Friday, Oct. 5: vs University of Missouri-Kansas City. 7 p.m. HOME.
  - Sunday, Oct. 7: vs Houston Baptist University. 7 p.m. HOME.
  - Saturday, Oct. 13: vs Grand Canyon University. 9 p.m. AWAY.

- Women’s Soccer**
- Friday, Oct. 5: vs Grand Canyon University. 9 p.m. AWAY.
  - Sunday, Oct. 7: vs CSU Bakersfield. 3 p.m. AWAY.
  - Sunday, Oct. 14: vs Seattle University. 1 p.m. HOME.

- Men’s and Women’s Cross-Country**
- Saturday, Oct. 13: Arturo Barrios Invitational. 9 a.m. @ College Station.

- Men’s Tennis**
- Oct. 5-7: Ron Wesbrooks Invitational. @ Beaumont.
  - Oct. 13-14: ITF Harlingen Futures. @ Harlingen.

- Women’s Golf**
- Oct. 1-2: Bearkat Invitational. @ Huntsville.
  - Oct. 8-9: New Mexico State Aggie Invitational. @ Las Cruces, NM.



For over 30 years the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program has sought qualified applicants to promote grass-roots international exchange through English language education throughout Japan.

The 2019 JET Program application is coming soon to:  
[jetprogramusa.org/](http://jetprogramusa.org/)  
Application deadline: Fall 2018

Sign up for your chance to live in Japan today!

For more information about the JET Program  
email: [jetcoord@ho.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jetcoord@ho.mofa.go.jp)  
call: (713) 652-2977 x2114  
The Consulate-General of Japan in Houston



*Answers to last week’s puzzle*

**Friendships**