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Updated vaccine to protect against COVID-19 variants



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

The updated bivalent COVID-19 boosters are now being offered by UT Health RGV. "The updated COVID-19 boosters are formulated to better protect against the most recently circulating COVID-19 variant," according to Rochelle P. Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Brigitte Ortiz
 THE RIDER

UT Health RGV, Cameron and Hidalgo counties are offering doses of the bivalent booster vaccine, which protect against the coronavirus and the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines as a single dose at least two months after the primary vaccines.

Individuals six years of age and older can get the Moderna bivalent booster vaccine and individuals five years of age and older can get the Pfizer bivalent vaccine as a single dose.

"If you give the vaccination too soon, then the thought process is that you're going to neutralize that antigen," said Ivan Melendez, the Hidalgo County health authority. "Let's remember that the goal is to increase the count of antibodies that you have against [COVID-19]. So the idea, if you give it too soon, actually won't work because your own antibodies that you already

See **VACCINE**, Page 10

WAITING GAME

Lower court to review DACA revisions



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Protesters hold up signs while chanting "Únete a la lucha" Oct. 10 in front of the federal courthouse in Brownsville. See story, Page 3.

UTRGV to host arts education conference

Juan Villarreal
 THE RIDER

UTRGV will host its first ever ArtsEd Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The conference focuses on UTRGV students who are planning to become educators in the field of arts.

"The College of Fine Arts represents the School of Music, the Department of Dance, the Theatre Department and also visual arts and creative writing," said David Sadlier, associate director of the Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning. "So we have presentations and performances. ... We are covering the entire college."

In the spring semester, the university hosts the Engaged Scholar Symposium (ES2). Last year, the ArtsEd Conference was a part of ES2.

Sadlier said this year, the department wanted it to be its own stand-alone event.

Asked why it was necessary for arts education students to have their own conference, he replied, "The arts aren't taken quite as seriously as STEM

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 10



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

David Sadlier, associate director of the Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning, is hosting the ArtsEd Conference, which is scheduled Tuesday through Thursday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Sadlier said four students will be present at the conference in addition to the UTRGV professors.

Community enraged by report findings



Jesse Valencia/THE RIDER

Brownsville residents gather in a "Hey! PUB! I can't pay my bill!" chant outside the Brownsville Public Utilities Board Annex on Robinhood Drive during the Oct. 10 board meeting.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Natalie Lapsley
 THE RIDER

At the start of the Oct. 10 Brownsville Public Utilities Board meeting, members of the community expressed feelings of anger and heartbreak over the findings of the Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Forensic Examination Report on

PUB Forensic Examination: First in a Series

the Tenaska Project that never came to fruition.

On Nov. 1, 2021, the City of Brownsville engaged CRI to investigate BPUB's activities leading up to and after an agreement with Tenaska Inc., an international power development

company, to build a local natural gas-fired generating station, according to the report.

Protesters gathered outside the BPUB Annex on Robinhood Drive while the public meeting took place inside. Brownsville resident Susan Ruvalcaba spoke during public comment and called for John Bruciak, BPUB general manager and chief executive officer, and any other current members of the management team mentioned in the report, to be put on unpaid administrative leave.

As of press time Friday, an online petition by ratepayers to have Bruciak fired has garnered 555 signatures.

Bruciak was present at the meeting but made no comment at any point about the report.

"This board has a job to protect and serve," Ruvalcaba said. "This is your obligation, not your choice. Today you must step in without hesitation and do what is right by the citizens of

See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous
The **Collegiate Recovery Program** will hold an **Alcoholics Anonymous meeting**

from 11 a.m. to noon in University Center Room 102 on the Edinburg campus.

Christians at RGV Tabling

Christians at RGV will hand out **flyers** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

Hot Dogs, Hot Cheetos Sale

The **Society of Automotive Engineers** will sell **hot dogs and Hot Cheetos** with chili and cheese from noon to 2 p.m. on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus.

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society

The **Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society** will hold **risk management training** from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 2.212 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

Sex-Ed Tabling

Access for Sex-Education will hold a tabling event from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time and place Wednesday. **Free stickers, condoms, Scantrons** and other giveaways will be provided to those who stop by.

Tie-Dye Pencil Pouches

The **Elliott Chemical Society** is celebrating **National Chemistry Week** by tie-dyeing pencil pouches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

Encounter Campus Ministry

The **Encounter Campus Ministry** will conduct a **Bible study** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building Room 1.212 on the Edinburg campus. There will be **free food**.

Tuesday

Turning Point Tabling

Turning Point USA at UTRGV will hold an **informational session** about the organization from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. Members will hand out **stickers, posters and buttons**.

Holy Mass

The **Catholic Student Association** will celebrate **Mass** from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Bible Reading

Christians at RGV will host a **Bible reading** from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus.

Environmental Awareness Club

The **Environmental Awareness Club** will discuss future events from noon to 2 p.m. in the University Ballroom lobby on the Edinburg campus and at the same time and place Friday.

Chemistry Magic Show

The **Elliott Chemical Society** will demonstrate **chemical reactions** from noon to 4 p.m. outside the Science Building on the Edinburg campus.

Risk Management Training

The **Society of Manufacturing Engineers** will conduct **risk management training** from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Law School Recruiting

The **Pre-Law Society** will host the **Baylor School of Law** for recruiting from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

HOPE Project

The **HOPE Project** will conduct a **risk and management training** from 5:30 to 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Wednesday

Order of Omega Informational

The **Order of Omega-Leadership Honor Society and Fraternity and Sorority Life** will hold an informational session from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Center's Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus.

Free Lunch Wednesday

The **Catholic Student Association** will host a **free lunch** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Newman Catholic Student Center in Edinburg.

Bible Reading

Christians at RGV will host a **Bible study** from noon to 1:45 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus. There will be **free food**.

Coffee and Careers

The **Career Center** will hold an informational session for students who might have questions about interviews, internships, resumes and jobs from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.

HOST Fundraising

The **Hospitality and Tourism Management Student Organization** will sell **hot dogs** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the outdoor barbecue area next to the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Family Involvement and the **Center for Student Involvement** will hold a set of informational sessions geared toward family and guests of UTRGV students. It will take place from 6:30 to

7:30 p.m. in the University Center Bronco Room on the Edinburg campus.

The Gathering

The Gathering will meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building on the Edinburg campus. There will be **free food**.

Thursday

LGBTQIA+ Brunch

The **Council for Cultural Activities** will hold **brunch** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Students can do **activities** and learn about **LGBTQIA+ history**.

English Social

The **Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies** along with the **Department of Writing and Language Studies** will host a **dessert and coffee social** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-8246.

Graduate College Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will host a **town hall** for students in the **Graduate College** to discuss their degrees, programs and internship opportunities. The meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 2.130 on the Edinburg campus.

Slime Making Table

The **Elliott Chemical Society** will hold a **slime making table** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

NSLS Makeup Day

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will give an opportunity to make up requirements needed from 2 to 5 p.m. in Salón Cassia in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus and in Student Academic Center Room 1.112 on the Edinburg campus.

Maid Cafe

House of Fashion will host a **Maid Cafe** from 4 to 8 p.m. and a **best-dressed contest** at 7:30 p.m. at 204 E. Cano St. in Edinburg. There will be **free drinks and snacks**.

Zumba

University Recreation will host a **Zumba Dance Party and Expo** in support of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The **first 100 attendees will receive a T-shirt**. For more information, email recfitness@utrgv.edu.

Friday

College of Business Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will host a **town hall** for students in the **College of Business** from 3 to 4 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 110. Students will be able to discuss degrees, programs and internships.

Dance Workshop

The **Filipino Student Association** will conduct a **modern dance workshop** from 3 to 5 p.m. in University Recreation Center Dance Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Health Professions Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will host a **town hall** for students in the **College of Health Professions** from 4 to 5 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.111 on the Brownsville campus. Students will be able to discuss degrees, programs and internships.

Science Loteria

The **Elliott Chemical Society** will hold a **science-themed bingo** from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building. There will be **popcorn**.

Saturday

Make a Difference Day

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host volunteers for the **Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley** from 8:30 a.m. to noon at 724 N. Cage Blvd in Pharr. Dress requirements are T-shirts, jeans, closed-toe shoes and masks. Lunch will be provided and **free T-shirts** given. For more information, email volunteer@utrgv.edu.

Thrift Shop Volunteers

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host volunteers for the **Repeat Performance Thrift Shop** from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. at 124 W. Jackson St. in Harlingen. The event is part of UTRGV's observance of **Make a Difference Day**. For more information and accommodations, email volunteer@utrgv.edu.

BiG Heroes Volunteers

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host volunteers for **BiG Heroes** from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5552 Dockberry Road in Brownsville. Volunteers can either work in the garden area or in the office. The event is part of UTRGV's observance of **Make a Difference Day**. For more information, email volunteer@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 6 and 12.



Oct. 6

1:10 p.m.: An officer responded to a suspicious man asking for money at the Math & General Classrooms building on the Edinburg campus. Officers located a man fitting the description at the Stripes convenience store at 1603 W. University Drive. The man was identified and it was determined he had an active arrest warrant out of the Edinburg Police Department for possession of marijuana. The man was also issued a criminal trespass warning from all UTRGV campuses and was transported and booked at the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

Oct. 7

1:14 a.m.: An officer contacted two students sitting on the curb at the Casa Bella Apartments parking lot on the Brownsville campus. One male student was severely intoxicated and was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center by emergency medical services due to the level of intoxication. In lieu of arrest, the intoxicated student was released to emergency medical services for medical treatment. The student notified his parents.

Oct. 8

10:42 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Biomedical Research and Health Building in regard to a faint smell of gas

being detected. Students were cleared from the room to allow the Brownsville Fire Department to check the area, but no source was found and the area was deemed safe for reoccupation. Facilities was advised and said they would inspect the area.

Oct. 12

2:51 p.m.: UTRGV Police Department detectives received a case referral from Homeland Security Investigations involving a UTRGV email account that was associated with a social media application that reportedly shared videos of child pornography. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

CORRECTION:

In the Oct. 10 issue of The Rider, UTRGV theatre senior Gerard Scot Johnson was incorrectly identified as Gerald Scot Johnson within the photo captions for 'Frankenstein': an exploration of humanity and within the published story.

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THE RIDER

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DACA: the waiting game

Reprinted from *utrgvrider.com*

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

DACA recipient Karina Hernandez describes waiting to get permission to remain in the United States as “a fight that we are in constantly every two years.”

“We really want to see that they give us that opportunity to be legally permanent,” Hernandez said. “We are between, ‘What is going to happen tomorrow? What will happen on October 31? What will happen next year? What if I can no longer renew it? What happens to us who are waiting?’”

A federal appeals court ordered a lower court review of President Joe Biden administration revisions to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program preventing the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought into the United States as children.

On Oct. 5, a three-judge panel for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the DACA program is unlawful. Current DACA recipients are protected from deportation and can continue renewing their work permits, but the Department of Homeland Security will not accept new applications.

The decision was written by 5th U.S. Circuit Chief Judge Priscilla Richman and joined by Judges Kurt Engelhardt and James Ho. The panel decided that the Department of Homeland Security does not have the authority to provide protections to immigrants under DACA.

However, the appeals



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Tania Chavez, director of Management Analysis at *La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)*, leads a “¡Sí, se puede!” chant during a community rally Monday in front of the federal courthouse in Brownsville. The rally was in response to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Oct. 5, which made the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program illegal.

court made clear it was not passing judgment on the Biden administration’s final rule, issued on Aug. 24 and effective Oct. 31, which put DACA through the full administrative process in an effort to strengthen the program against court challenges.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Belia Peña, an immigration attorney in McAllen, said there are different opinions on the rule.

“Many people disagree with that particular action that [then-President Barack Obama] took [because] most people think

that Congress is supposed to create the law,” Peña said about the 2012 program. “Everyone comes together to vote on it to agree on one law. That’s the problem with going to court for this because it depends on the judge. It depends on the jurisdiction.”

DACA allows people “who came to the United States as children ... to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization,” according to *uscis*.

gov.

Peña said people can renew their status because it is a grandfather policy, an exemption that allows DACA recipients to continue with activities that were approved before the implementation of new rules.

“People can renew their status, because there’s so much conflict in the courts right now,” Peña said. “They are allowing people, who had it before the lawsuits, to continue to renew. ... The problem that happened now is that because the courts

and the judges are saying that it’s illegal, the people who had the ability in the past to file an initial application ... can’t do that right now.”

President Joe Biden said in a statement that he was disappointed by the ruling.

“The court’s stay provides a temporary reprieve for DACA recipients but one thing remains clear: the lives of Dreamers remain in limbo,” Biden wrote on Oct. 5. “My Administration is committed to defending Dreamers against attacks from Republican officials in Texas and other States.”

UTRGV does not record the number of DACA recipients attending the university said Rebecca Gadson, dean of students during a phone call on Aug. 8. But 611,270 people were living in the United States under DACA as of March 31, 2022, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

Guy Bailey, UTRGV president, announced via email Oct. 7 that the university would continue to offer support to DACA recipients who have the two-year renewable work permit.

“We continue to be disappointed with this latest ruling, but remain hopeful that Congress will act swiftly to provide Dreamers with a path for citizenship,” Bailey wrote.

Tania Chavez, director of Management Analysis at *La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)*, said it is time to stop playing with the destiny of DACA recipients.

“Every Oct. 5, something ... See DACA, Page 11

SGA appoints new graduate senator



Andrea Flores/THE RIDER

Suchitra Acharjee, newly appointed senator for the UTRGV Graduate College and a graduate student in the Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies, speaks before the Student Government Association’s approval of her appointment during the Oct. 7 senate meeting in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus.

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has appointed Suchitra Acharjee, a graduate student in the Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies, as the third senator for the UTRGV Graduate College.

Acharjee was advised to give a two-to-three-minute speech before the senate’s vote on her appointment on Oct. 7. She spoke about how her home country, Bangladesh, has the highest gender

disparity in South Asian countries and how her participation in the SGA will represent Bangladesh women.

“So, as I stand here today, I represent all the women out there who are fighting regularly for their place to the table and also to achieve equality,” she said.

Acharjee said she did not want to promise that she would make certain changes as a graduate senator but that she would use her good characteristics for the SGA.

See SGA, Page 11



Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

First Year Experience members Kelli Garza and Arian Perez paint their student organization post last Tuesday in front of the Student Union lawn on the UTRGV Brownsville campus. The posts were provided by the Center for Student Involvement and built by the Facilities department.

Brownsville clubs’ new chance for recognition

Teresita Dominguez
THE RIDER

The Center for Student Involvement has provided wooden posts for student organizations to decorate on the Brownsville campus, similar to the benches on the Edinburg campus.

“It was a great opportunity this year that we get to continue the tradition not only on the Edinburg campus, but as well as the Brownsville campus,” said Kassandra Romo, program coordinator for the Center for Student Involvement.

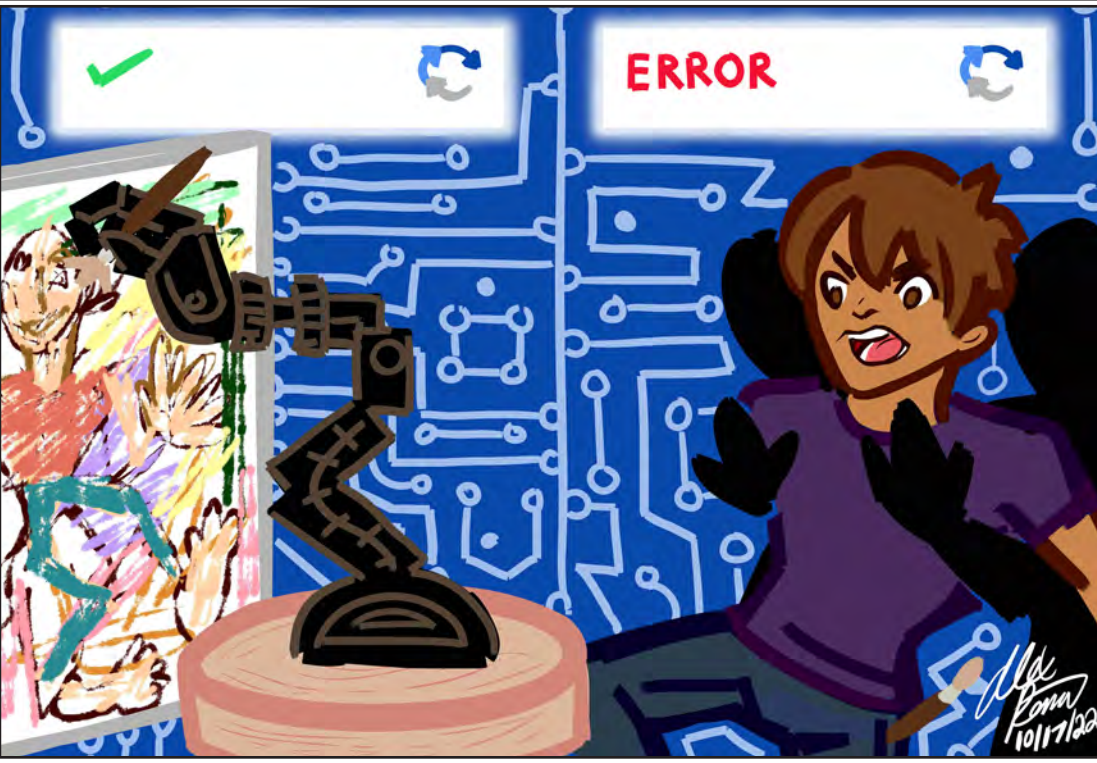
Romo said the six posts located on the perimeter of the Student Union lawn were recently built by the UTRGV Facilities team.

Every year, the posts will be adorned with new artwork from various organizations, each of which will have a chance to be represented on the Student Union lawn.

Each post will have an image on each side representing a different organization.

Romo explained why posts were used instead of benches.

“We just wanted something that was ... See CHANCE, Page 10



Never forget where you started



Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

It's always good to remember how we started. Sometimes by not wanting to remember the past, we forget how difficult it was to get to where we are now.

A few weeks ago, during a conversation with my friends, I brought up a memory that I thought I had forgotten. I didn't forget it because it was something bad but because it was something that hurt me to remember.

My friends were talking about how hard life is. The first thing I thought about was when I first came to the United States with my family.

In my first year of middle school in the United States, the school organized a field trip to different universities in Texas for two days.

My parents made the effort to pay for my trip. My family and I had just moved to the United States and we didn't have much furniture. We lived in a rented, small house with two bedrooms and a bathroom. I shared the room

with my brother, and my mom and dad slept in the other room.

We had only one bed, so my parents and brother had to sleep on the floor and I took the bed.

Before I left on the trip, my parents gave me \$100 to buy whatever I wanted on the field trip. That was a lot of money for me because I knew that my parents were not financially stable. I knew there were more important expenses than giving me money for a trip.

I decided not to spend the

I didn't forget it because it was something bad but because it was something that hurt me to remember.

money they gave me, except for 50 cents to buy a lip balm at a drugstore. I kept the rest of the money.

As soon as I got back from the trip, I looked for beds on Facebook marketplace. I found a used twin bed that was a bit old that included the mattress and the frame. With the money I saved, I decided to buy the bed.

I felt happy to be able to buy my first bed with my own money. I may not have worked for that money, but I decided to invest it in something I needed.

I could have spent my money, like my other classmates, on university merchandise but preferred to buy something I

really needed.

While I was telling the story to my friends, I had that feeling in my throat that made it hard for me to talk. I asked myself why it was still difficult for me to talk about a bed when it was just a bed. But the meaning behind it was what made me remember how I started, how my family and I started, with nothing.

My mom is one of those Hispanic women who keeps everything, literally everything. Not too long ago, I was looking for something in her closet and I saw the bag of an old coverlet that I had. That bag was from five years ago.

I remember that my mom and I were at Ross, and since I had just bought my bed, I wanted a coverlet to make it look prettier.

I found one that I really liked; it was just what I wanted. I asked my mom if she could buy it for me and she told me that it was expensive and I cried. I cried because I really wanted that coverlet for my bed.

My mom told me that she could give me half, but I had to ask my dad if he could give me the other half to buy the coverlet.

I was young and I didn't understand that my parents made many sacrifices to give my brother and me everything we needed.

When I saw the coverlet bag, I remembered that story and immediately saw the price; the

See **STARTED**, Page 11

YAQUERO VOICE

What do you consider to be a good boss?



Adathamy Villarreal
integrated health science
sophomore

"When I think of a good boss, I think of my own boss. Someone who is very patient and is willing to answer questions. I like asking a lot of questions, so having a boss that's, you know, very nice, very patient, willing to answer. And then also a boss that's willing to help out when things get stressful, I think. A boss that's willing to put themselves out there, work with us and stuff like that."

"Some qualities I consider would be showing leadership, taking initiative, leading by example, if that makes sense."



Jonathan Rodriguez
biomedical sciences junior



Jade Mendieta
engineering technology junior

"I think you need to ... have good leadership ... skills, and understand what a toxic or positive environment for your workers is ... 'cause they are basically the reason why you're up in that position."

"Pues, yo creo alguien que es flexible con los horarios como por si tienes una emergencia o algo así. Alguien que te ayuda si estás batallando con algo o algo así y, pues, que haga el trabajo ... divertido."



Dayra Rios
estudiante de primer año en ciencias de la computación

--Compiled and photos by Roxanna Miranda

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DACA: el juego de la espera

Tribunal inferior va a examinar las revisiones del programa

Reimpreso de utrgvrider.com

Fatima Gamez Lopez

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Recipiente de DACA, Karina Hernandez, describe la espera para obtener el permiso para permanecer en los Estados Unidos como “una lucha en la que estamos constantemente cada dos años”.

“Realmente queremos ver que nos den la oportunidad de ser legalmente permanentes”, dijo Hernández. “Estamos entre, ¿Qué va a pasar mañana? ¿Qué pasará el 31 de octubre? ¿Qué pasará el próximo año? ¿Qué pasa si ya no puedo renovarlo? ¿Qué nos pasa a los que estamos esperando?”

Un tribunal federal de apelaciones ordenó una revisión de primera instancia de las revisiones de la administración de Presidente Joe Biden a la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA por sus siglas en inglés), un programa que impide la deportación de cientos de miles de inmigrantes traídos a Estados Unidos cuando eran niños.

El 5 de octubre, un panel de tres jueces del Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de EE. UU. dictaminó que el programa DACA es ilegal. Los recipientes actuales de DACA están protegidos contra la deportación y pueden continuar renovando sus permisos de trabajo, pero el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional no aceptará nuevas solicitudes.

La decisión fue escrita por la jueza principal del quinto circuito de EE. UU., Priscilla Richman, y se unieron



Aura Velasquez/FOTO RIDER

Los manifestantes sostienen pancartas mientras cantan “Únete a la lucha” el lunes frente a la corte federal en Brownsville.

a ella los jueces Kurt Engelhardt y James Ho. El panel decidió que el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional no tiene la autoridad para brindar protección a los inmigrantes bajo DACA.

Sin embargo, la corte de apelaciones dejó en claro que no estaba emitiendo un juicio sobre la regla final de la administración Biden, emitida el 24 de agosto y en efecto el 31 de octubre, que puso a DACA en el proceso administrativo completo en un esfuerzo por fortalecer el programa contra los desafíos judiciales.

En una entrevista con The Rider,

Belia Peña, abogada de inmigración en McAllen, dijo que hay diferentes opiniones sobre la regla.

“Muchas personas no están de acuerdo con esa acción en particular que tomó [el entonces presidente Barack Obama] [porque] la mayoría de la gente piensa que se supone que el Congreso debe crear la ley”, dijo Peña sobre el programa del 2012. “Todos se unen para votarlo para estar de acuerdo en una ley. Ese es el problema de ir a juicio porque depende del juez. Depende de la jurisdicción”.

DACA permite a las personas “que llegaron a los Estados Unidos cuando

eran niños ... solicitar la consideración de acción diferida por un período de dos años, sujeto a renovación. También son elegibles para autorización de trabajo”, según uscis.gov.

Peña dijo que las personas pueden renovar su estatus porque es una política de derechos adquiridos, una excepción que permite a los recipientes de DACA continuar con las actividades que fueron aprobadas antes de la implementación de las nuevas reglas.

“La gente puede renovar su estatus porque hay mucho conflicto en los tribunales en este momento”, dijo Peña. “Están permitiendo que las personas que lo tenían antes de las demandas continúen renovando. ... El problema que sucedió ahora es que debido a que los tribunales y los jueces dicen que es ilegal, las personas que en el pasado tenían la capacidad de presentar una solicitud inicial ... no pueden hacerlo ahora”.

El presidente Joe Biden dijo en un comunicado que estaba decepcionado por la decisión.

“La suspensión de la corte proporciona un indulto temporal para los recipientes de DACA, pero una cosa queda clara: las vidas de los Dreamers permanecen en el limbo”, escribió Biden el 5 de octubre. “Mi Administración está comprometida a defender a los Dreamers contra los ataques de funcionarios republicanos en Texas y otros Estados”.

UTRGV no registra el número de recipientes de DACA que asisten a

Vea PROGRAMA, Página 11

I.T.

TECHDAYS

Cyber security > Web design > Gaming > UI/UX > IT Support Services

Join us at IT Tech Days in Harlingen to meet university IT professionals and learn how to join their team!

Harlingen:
UTRGV Clinical Education Building
Auditorium / Rotunda & Hallway
Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022

Open to UTRGV students (student ID recommended).
Visit utrgv.edu/IT/events/ittechdays for details.

UTRGV Information Technology

House of Fashion club holds pop-up thrift shop



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Kimberly Gomez, a graduate student in communication science and disorders, stops at the pop-up thrift shop hosted by the House of Fashion.

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

House of Fashion Vice President Camila Sobrevilla and Art Director Nolan “Fish” Navarro spoke about fashion sustainability during a club pop-up thrift shop last Wednesday outside of

the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Navarro, a mass communication senior, said it is important to promote second-hand shopping because of the amount of pollution fast fashion creates.

“I don’t think most students understand the repercussions

that comes with shopping on fast-fashion sites like Shein or even shopping at La Plaza Mall [in McAllen],” they said.

Sobrevilla, a mass communication freshman, said holding a thrift shop helps people spend their money on clothes that no longer support the practices of

larger companies that damage the environment since those clothes can be simply reworn.

“Thrift shopping is extremely important because they’re one-of-a-kind clothes that no one else will have and you’re not really spending your money on clothes that were made in an unsustainable manner, whether it’s in, I don’t know, sweatshops and stuff like that,” she said. “You’re spending your money on clothes that will not harm the environment because they have already been worn and you’re just rewearing them.”

Mathew Castaneda, a theatre freshman, shopped at the pop-up thrift store and said the return of fashion trends, such as the Y2K style, is what makes thrift stores popular and prevents further post-consumer waste.

“It’s actually really helpful to me, because, I mean, I get to find cute clothes but ... it also, like, helps the environment because there’s not so much waste of clothes,” Castaneda said.

Gabriela Peña, a management sophomore, also shopped at the pop-up thrift store and said she has been shopping at secondhand stores since she was young and is glad to see how certain trends come back after a long

time. She also talked about high-end brands’ product disposal practices.

“There’s a lot of brands who, if something isn’t sold within a time period ... instead of, like, donating it, some fashion stores will burn it so that way nobody can have their work without paying for it,” Peña said.

Besides clothes, Navarro said the items sold at the pop-up shop were either donated, thrifted or curated from vintage shops.

Along with supporting fashion sustainability, the thrift shop will help the club raise funds for its fashion show Dec. 6.

Navarro said the House of Fashion will host another pop-up thrift shop later this month. Sobrevilla said it will have a Halloween theme.

The club plans to conduct a “casting call for models, designers and stylists who are interested in showing at the fashion show,” Navarro said.

“If you’re interested in getting your hands into fashion and getting a little bit more experience, this is a casting call to come to,” they said. “It’s essentially just to help promote people who are trying to get into the fashion industry and give them a job to do for the fashion show.”

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UTRGV TM Office for Sustainability

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY DAY



OCT. 25 | OCT. 26
EDINBURG | BROWNSVILLE



FUN, FOOD & GAMES SOCIAL!

NOON - 2 PM

EDINBURG

BROWNSVILLE

CHAPEL LAWN

MAIN COURTYARD

OCT. 25

OCT. 26

CLIMATE JUSTICE & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



RAMON CRUZ
SIERRA CLUB PRESIDENT

EDINBURG CAMPUS

BALLROOM

5:30 PM

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

SALÓN CASSIA

5:30 PM

UTRGV TM

Sociology



POPCORN MOVIE NIGHT!

6 PM - 8 PM

EDINBURG

BROWNSVILLE

BALLROOM

SALÓN CASSIA

OCT. 25

OCT. 26



SUSTAINABILITY...
ADELANTE!
A UTRGV OFS SOCIAL



SUSTAINABILITY...
ADELANTE!
A UTRGV OFS FILM SERIES

Get to know the faculty through art

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

For the first time, the UTRGV School of Art and Design (SoAD) has three simultaneous exhibitions in three gallery spaces through Oct. 28 featuring art pieces from 29 faculty members.

The SoAD Faculty Exhibition showcases all types of art mediums, from digital artwork, oil paintings and color pencils on paper to cardboard sculptures, metalwork and ceramic pieces.

Works are displayed in the Visual Arts Building Gallery and the Charles and Dorothy Clark Gallery in the Liberal Arts South Building in Edinburg and in the Rusteberg Art Gallery in Brownsville.

Ed Pogue, director of the UTRGV SoAD, attended the opening reception Oct. 7 in both Edinburg galleries and told *The Rider* it was wonderful to see the faculty's artwork displayed.

"The variety of materials that are used, the various ways that our art faculty engaged the process and the materials, how they use space, three-dimensional space and

two-dimensional space, the use of multimedia is really strong in all three shows," Pogue said. "I think that shows the depth of our faculty's ability to work with various materials in a cohesive way."

He also said he thought it was a great opportunity for students to understand how the faculty engages in the art-making process.

Asked what else he hopes the students will get out of the Faculty Exhibition, Pogue replied, "The understanding of the incredible talents of our faculty and the quality and the high expectations that our faculty place on their own art-making, as well as the high expectations that we have for our students."

The first-year director said having the exhibition simultaneously gives UTRGV students more opportunity to see artwork and be engaged in it.

Jesmil Maldonado, a lecturer for the SoAD and gallery coordinator, told *The Rider* that one of the decisions behind having the exhibition in each gallery was to let students know what is offered in Edinburg and in Brownsville through the faculty artwork.

"It's for students to also get to know



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Theatre arts performance senior Jacklyn Flores-Barreiro attends the Faculty Exhibition in the Charles and Dorothy Clark Art Gallery last Tuesday in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. Flores-Barreiro said she felt as if she was in nature, within the grass as she observed "Mexican Hats #1" (oil on canvas) by School of Art and Design Associate Professor Donald Jerry Lyles Jr.

most of the faculty," Maldonado said. "Because a lot of the times, they don't know who this professor is or, like, they haven't seen their work so they're

not too sure of what they can get out of the professor."

She said by showcasing Brownsville See ART, Page 11

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-As time keeps passing by, more things are starting to settle in. Stop anticipating the future. Be present in what is happening now before things pass right by you. There is never a right or wrong way to do things. Lead with what you desire and it'll manifest right in front of you.

Leo-You've been avoiding a certain conversation for some time. Sooner or later it will come back and haunt you. As uncomfortable as it may be, the universe is suggesting you open up about that topic. Don't feel afraid of what will happen; the outcome will certainly lead you to a compromise that should've been settled long ago.

Sagittarius-Start accepting what is happening in your life instead of dreading it. Nothing can be done now except changing your perception. Soon, you'll start being OK with the things around you. Bring peace in your life by applying this characteristic in every aspect and your stress levels will decrease.

Libra-Take advantage of the energy your zodiac is providing during your season. Use this time to balance yourself throughout any situation. The universe is on your side, so start planning your goals. Be a free spirit, Libra. Your time is now.

Gemini-Be smart with the choices you'll need to make in the next couple of days. Avoid letting your emotions make decisions for you. Take a moment to reflect on the situation and once you've made peace with it, be open to discuss it. Lead with what you know is right instead of what you feel.

Aquarius-The only person that can have an opinion about your life is yourself. Disregard what others may say about you and do as you please. If you let others' opinions become a factor, this will be the start of a downfall. Instead, keep your head up high and walk with confidence.

Scorpio-All of your struggles are coming to an end and all the exciting moments are about to begin. Just because this new phase is entering your life, don't leave out the importance of hard work. Be humble and proud of how you got here. Don't mess it up by letting pride get in the way.

Pisces-Just because boundaries are implemented does not mean they are forever. Bring up any concerns to find a solution to rules you don't like. Speak up for what you believe in rather than just dealing with it. If something does not work for you, then do not force yourself to follow it.

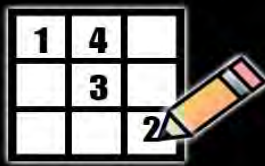
Cancer-Give yourself a chance to experience what is out there in the real world. Avoid being a homebody for too long as it can cause you to become introverted. Although that is OK, sometimes, some sort of human interaction is needed. Go out for a bite with friends in the next couple of days.

Taurus-Although you have a busy schedule, attempt to make room for your well-being. Whether it may be doing a face mask, going for a walk with your pet or simply hanging out with friends, take at least half an hour out of your day to do something for yourself.

Virgo-Pay attention to the small details in life before they start to disappear. Sometimes we don't acknowledge things at face value and miss out on it. What is life without appreciating the small things along the way? Incorporate this feature to take pleasure in a better life.

Capricorn-Releasing control is a habit you need to work on. Once you start to let go of having authority, life will become easier and you will feel at ease since things will happen naturally without forcing them. Genuinely enjoy the moment.

Sudoku



4	8					3		
				1				
				6			8	
		3		7				1
		6	5	4				7
			6		2			
			9					
		9				8		6
2	1							4

Last week's puzzle answer key:

2	4	3	7	1	5	8	6	9
7	6	1	4	8	9	3	5	2
5	9	8	3	6	2	4	7	1
4	7	9	5	3	6	2	1	8
6	8	2	9	4	1	7	3	5
3	1	5	2	7	8	9	4	6
9	2	7	1	5	4	6	8	3
8	5	4	6	2	3	1	9	7
1	3	6	8	9	7	5	2	4

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña





Jackie Howard Gonzalez



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Finance freshman Jackie Howard Gonzalez plays for the UTRGV Women's Golf Team. Gonzalez attended the *Colegio Americano de Durango* in her hometown of Durango, Mexico.

Q: What are your career goals?

A: "First of all, I really want to pursue my sport in the future. I wanna see what I'm capable of doing. ... I really like my teachers, so I really want to find a job in a way to do finance. ... Overall, I think I'm planning on staying in the U.S. after my career just to look for a job and settle down for a bit."

Q: What movies or shows do you like?

A: "I love 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine.' 'Supernatural' is a very good TV show as well. I really like comedy ones, too, like 'Friends,' 'How I Met Your Mother,' 'The Big Bang Theory.' Those are super good TV shows. I don't watch a lot of movies, but I really enjoy comedy ones and romantic movies as well and true crime."

Q: What kind of music do you like?

A: "I'm really into pop, West Coast rap as well, country music. I listen to a lot of music, actually, like, I don't have a preference. Ice Cube, Eminem, Tupac. ... For pop, I really enjoy listening to Drake. He's one of my favorite artists. I also love reggaeton."

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "I think my biggest role models have to be my parents, both my mom and my dad. They've both been through a lot and I really respect what they do and how much they put into our family. So, I look up [to] them."

Q: What has been your proudest moment?

A: "My proudest moment, I think, would be signing into UTRGV, because that has been my dream. Competing in a Division 1 school for my sport has been my dream since I was 8 years old."

Q: Do you have any fun facts about yourself?

A: "That could be that I don't like chocolate. ... Candy, overall, I like. ... Just chocolate, I just can't. I love peanut butter."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

Women's golf improving after initial struggle



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Sophomore Maria Jose Ramirez (right) swings her club as she hits a ball last Wednesday on the Los Lagos Golf Course in Edinburg. Also shown is sophomore Madi Ozuna.

Matthew Gonzalez
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Golf Team has had a rocky start this year, placing 10th of 13 at the Bearkat Invitational last month in Huntsville and 10th of 15 at the Golf Iconic Classic Oct. 3 to 5 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Even though the team has had a rough start, head coach Bryan Novoa is confident that his team has improved since its first tournament.

"Well, I think we got [off] to a slow start [and] just had to shake a little bit of rust off the first tournament," Novoa said. "The second tournament, I saw a great improvement from the first couple of weeks of practice and then getting kind of acclimated to a competitive environment. I noticed that our scores went down. Gosh, I think on average, like 10 shots for the tournament itself and per round, and that was really, really a good step in the right direction."

Novoa has thought of an exercise for when the team may feel discouraged with its performance in tournaments.

"The exercise is what do you want to be the best at," Novoa said. "It can be anything. It can be being a mother, a wife, their career they choose or what are they gonna be great at. And the reminder is: We show up to be great every day. That, ultimately, is the goal."

"And, you know, when certain things in our mindset take us in a different direction or distract us or get us off course, I simply remind them that the

present moment is their best friend, and we get aware of our environment's surroundings and remember that we can control this moment and this moment only with our processes and decisions that we're making."

Novoa said his ultimate goal is to create an environment for his athletes to succeed in all their goals.

"The ultimate goal is to help each player discover their own self-belief in themselves, to be the best they can be."

--Bryan Novoa
UTRGV Golf Head Coach

"The ultimate goal is to help each player discover their own self-belief in themselves, to be the best they can be," Novoa said. "You know, I wish I could wave a wand and create the self-belief necessary to be successful. ..."

"Unfortunately, I can't do that. I just attempt to create the environment every day and create the atmosphere of understanding, personal growth, intelligence. ... And my true goal is for them to do it on their own and do it without me so they can be the best they can be."

While the team has had a rough start, individual players, such as sophomore Maria Jose Ramirez, who posted a

career-best three-under par 69 in the second round of the Golf Iconic Classic, have had success.

Ramirez became the sixth golfer in program history to break 70 in her second round and tied for the third lowest single-round score in program history.

"So I've been working a lot to improve my short game, like course management, compared to last year," she said. "It has been a lot better. And, even though our first tournament wasn't the best, we came back to practice and practiced even harder, not only on our techniques but also with our minds because that's super important when you're playing golf."

"And, in the last tournament, I had a really big breakthrough with my golf and inside my head also. So that's a goal that I have achieved. And there's still a lot more to add, just to keep up with the pace that we have in the future tournaments."

At the Golf Iconic Classic, junior Samantha Garza earned an impressive 223.

"What I'm hoping to achieve by the end of the season is definitely knowing that I stay committed to how I plan to play certain types of courses," Garza said. "And also committing to the processes we develop as a team. And just knowing that we're always prepared for whatever is thrown at us."

The women's team will compete in the Clash at Boulder Creek in Boulder City, Nevada, Oct. 23 to 25.

For more information, visit goutrgv.com.

This Week in Sports

Men's Soccer

6:30 p.m. Friday vs. U.S. Air Force Academy

AT THE UTRGV SOCCER AND TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

Noon Sunday vs. Grand Canyon University

BROWNSVILLE
Continued from Page 1

Brownsville.”
Keila Taboada, also a Brownsville resident, said many people are angry after learning what the report says.
“I think it’s time you guys take action in reducing [utilities] rates that were raised for us,” Taboada said about rate increases that were implemented to fund the project. “Because, clearly, they went to nowhere, just to enrich other people.”
She said there are people in Brownsville that cannot afford their bills, and they continue to fall behind.
“All of you have family members here,” Taboada said. “You have friends that live here. You should want to see the whole community thrive.”
The CRI Forensic Examination Report states that the “driving force” behind the interest in building a generating station was a “widely publicized impending capacity shortage” described in a 2011 Integrated Resource Plan developed by engineering firm Black and Veatch (B&V) for BPUB to aid in “long-term planning by evaluating supply and demand for energy services.”
However, information from the Black and Veatch Integrated Resource Plan has been repeatedly proven wrong or unlikely, such as the projection that gas prices from Henry Hub, a distribution hub on the natural gas pipeline in Erath, Louisiana, would increase year after year and double by 2035, according to the CRI report.

Ruvalcaba also described the Tenaska Project as an “elaborate plan to steal money from the citizens of Brownsville.”
One objective of the investigation was to identify “whether any irregularities or illegal acts” took place in furtherance of or in relation to the project, according to the report.
In late summer of 2011, BPUB management reached out to Tenaska to express interest in building a local 800 megawatt natural gas-fired generating station to meet demands for the Brownsville area.
Of the 800 MW capacity, Brownsville would have been entitled to 200 MW and Tenaska would have to find subscribers for the remaining power.
At the time, BPUB management was Bruciak; Fernando Saenz, former assistant general manager and chief operating officer; Leandro Garcia, former chief financial officer; and Marilyn Gilbert, former director of Energy Services and Energy Risk manager. Gilbert left BPUB in 2014 and returned in 2022 as the current assistant general manager and chief operating officer.
In October 2011, BPUB and Tenaska formed a non-disclosure agreement to facilitate discussions. On Jan. 25, 2013, definitive agreements were finalized and a commercial operational date was set for June 2016.
However, Tenaska’s inability to find subscribers despite at least six deadline extensions led to the termination of

the project, but the city did not receive formal notice of this until August 2020, according to the CRI report.
“One of the things that ... had been shown to us by our former mayor, [Tony Martinez], and by the city commission and [BPUB] at that time was that we were going to get this great entity called Tenaska and it was going to come and bring all this economic development to our area,” Brownsville resident Erasmo Castro said during the public comment. “Unfortunately for us, we learned that Tenaska ... was not going to happen.”
Castro also spoke about how utility rates have increased 36% due to the Tenaska Project. He noted the number of security officers in the room and said he believes the meeting’s “increased level of security” was due to the realization that the people in the community are “very upset.”
Near the end of the meeting, the board went into executive session, during which it met with legal counsel for advice on matters, including the CRI Forensic Examination Report.
Upon return, the board announced it will conduct an expedited review of the report, according to local news reports.
At 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, BPUB issued the following statement:
“It is clearly important that we respond to the audit in a measured, factual, and deliberate manner that takes into account what is best for the community, the City, and Brownsville PUB.

“We must do this quickly and in such a way that we capture the narrative of the audit with our collective objectives in mind with the aim of minimizing negative external impacts to our ability to function effectively in the future.”
“We do caution that even after the brief time we were given to read and digest this extensive report, there are some potential factual issues. This is important because in order to determine how to proceed with what’s best for our community, we need a common base of agreed facts.”
“We feel it prudent to allow those listed in the report a specified period of time to respond to the opinions and allegations specified in the audit.”
“We will conduct an expedited review of the audit, either internally or with the possible help of outside professionals, to help us sort through the facts and present an accurate foundation for moving forward.”
“We understand and we feel the tremendous concern conveyed to Brownsville Public Utilities Board by the public. So, once we have taken the above steps, we aim to engage with the City to address in an expedited fashion the mistakes that were made, the root causes, and make whatever structural and/or personnel changes that are needed to ensure the Brownsville Public Utilities ship returns quickly without delay to its core mission and the major challenges we and the entire utility industry are facing.”

CONFERENCE
Continued from Page 1

areas. It sort of elevates [the arts] for the students, for the faculty members.”
Some arts education majors also believe that there are differences between them and students in other content areas.
“Art teachers cannot necessarily give out the ‘right’ answers, but only point them in the direction they believe is best for their students,” theatre graduate student Joseph Balderas said. “This requires a relationship between student and teacher outside the scope of a math and science teacher. ... It requires trust.”
While this event is focusing on arts education majors, some of the panels are geared toward a specific subject matter.
Theatre Professor David Carren is hosting “Big Ideas in a Small World,” which will focus on the creative ways a

small budget can be used creatively and effectively.
“Nowadays, [young filmmakers] can be producers,” Carren said. “They can go and make an interesting story.”
Other panels will focus on educational content.
“Teaching the Spirit of Collaboration” will be hosted by School of Art and Design Lecturer Lilia Cabrera and aims to teach young students how to collaborate with each other to strengthen themselves and their field.
“You have to collaborate with people,” Cabrera said. “You aren’t always in agreement with what others have to contribute but you kind of have to honor others’ contributions and try to include others.”
UTRGV professors will not be the only presenters at the event. Four students

will also be presenting, Sadlier said.
He said students will also be involved in other ways.
“Also happening during the day ... [are] a few performances and presentations from students in the College of Fine Arts,” Sadlier said. “Student musical ensembles, the flamenco ensemble [will] dance ... visual art presentations as well.”
Panel topics will include “Influence of Arts in School,” “Student Led Anxiety Workshops” and “Natural Dyes in Application.”
The keynote speaker will be Donalyn Heise, an award-winning porcelain artist, educator and author, according to her website. Heise is based in Austin, where she is an assistant department chair of Art Education at the University of Texas at Austin.
“She is going to be doing a presentation

on resilience through art and how art can help rebound from traumatic experiences,” Sadlier said. “That’s her specialty. She’s a visual artist ... which is really exciting.”
The purpose of the event is to give arts education students information and knowledge on their field and provide encouragement.
“Days where you feel uninspired will also come to pass,” music education major David Guterrez said.
Asked how this event could make them stronger students, Sadlier replied, “Broaden your mind. This is an opportunity to get different perspectives ... see what’s out there. It might underscore your speciality but open up your mind to ways to collaborate with others.”
Admission to the conference is free.

VACCINE
Continued from Page 1

have there, either to previous boosters or previous disease, would neutralize it.”
Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people to get the bivalent vaccine at least two months after their last COVID-19 vaccine dose, Melendez recommends four months.
He said Hidalgo County has received 500 doses of the Moderna and 500 of the Pfizer bivalent vaccines.
“So we had a good response,” Melendez said. “And, so, we received our 1,000 vaccinations initially, are expecting more, and we’ve had a good response in people wanting it.”
Esmeralda Guajardo, Cameron County health administrator, said the county has seen numbers spike in COVID-19 cases in the last year.

“People that were getting COVID two years ago ... they’re now getting it again ... because the omicron is so strong,” Guajardo said. “It’s one of those very infectious strains, and so that requires some sort of protection against it. And, so, this new vaccine allows a form of protection against it. So, hopefully, this will decrease the number of cases that we’re seeing here in Cameron County.”
She said the county received 2,100 doses of the bivalent Pfizer vaccine and 2,000 of the Moderna.
“We’re making it available at our clinics at no cost and anyone can come into our doors to get it,” Guajardo said. “I know we had a vaccine drive this past week at the flea market, and we had a substantial number of people. I’m going to say over 160 people [took] advantage of [the] vaccine, so, you know, that’s a great number.”

She said the county is trying to make the vaccine available to people by removing all barriers, including cost or location.
“We don’t know what’s gonna happen in the future in terms of costs and the vaccines,” Guajardo said. “You know, whether the funding for this is going to start slowing down, but people need to take advantage of it while it’s available at no cost to them.”
Melendez said college students should keep three things in mind when it comes to COVID-19.
“One, you may not be in the highest-risk group, but people like you have had big trouble,” he said. “No. 2, you can serve as a source of infection for those who are high-risk groups and three, people look up to you as a source of knowledge and will emulate your behavior. And so I strongly encourage

you to get vaccinated.”
Jose Campo Maldonado, a UTRGV assistant professor of medicine and board-certified infectious disease specialist, said there is a quiz on the CDC website where individuals can find out if they are eligible for the bivalent booster vaccine.
“Let’s not play with this,” Maldonado said. “Even though we’re not experiencing what we were experiencing before ... we are just starting to understand the long-term impact [on] people [who had COVID-19]. Not getting into a hospital doesn’t exclude that you can get so many other symptoms that can last and impact your life for a very long time. So I will say I try to get the maximum protection. Make sure you are just up [to date with vaccines].”
To make an appointment, call 833-888-2268.

CHANCE
Continued from Page 3

a little more visible and something that they could put up a little quicker than creating the benches or the picnic tables,” she said.
German Club Vice President Yhamil Garcia Montiel hopes it will help them reconnect with students and gain more members.
“I really like the idea [of the posts],” Montiel said. “We are trying to reboot the group because of the [COVID-19] situation. [For] two years we stopped having the group. We stopped recruiting people because of that.”
Christine Vega, president of the Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society, said, “I think it’s really cute. We did the bench

painting initiative in Edinburg as well.”
Vega also said it is a step toward having the recognition needed on the Brownsville campus.
“I think it’s a start, but there definitely needs to be more so that the Brownsville campus could kind of come into its own and be just as well recognized as Edinburg,” she said. “Our organization used to be just an Edinburg-based organization.”
“I really wanted to bring it to both campuses just because I felt so bad, especially when I would take classes in Brownsville to be so excluded from everything that Edinburg has.”
Juana Jimenez, the Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society’s secretary, said she would also like to see benches installed

on campus.
“I think we would also like to have benches on this campus and not make it only for Edinburg but for Brownsville, too,” Jimenez said.
Romo said when the sign-up process opened through V Link, the 12 available spots were quickly filled within the week.
She explained the sign-up process, saying that each student organization had to be in good standing and active status with the Center for Student Involvement, which meant that all necessary trainings and documents had been submitted to their office.
“I love it,” said Chelsea Hughes, president of RedRover Readers RGV. “I think it’s a great way to engage student organizations and create a sense of

community and let the student population and staff and faculty know what’s going on campus. I think it’s awesome.”
Romo said the posts are not bulletin boards for flyer distribution, and that she would prefer that no flyers be placed, as they might accidentally ruin the paint and art. She wants to make sure the art on display lasts the entire year.
Romo hopes that because the posts are in the main area of UTRGV, they will be more visible and attract more traffic, as well as inspire students to join various student organizations.
“A lot of students will get inspired and, you know, that’s another great way for them to start looking into student organizations and being active and engaging on campus,” Romo said.

DACA

Continued from Page 3

happens around DACA and we are saddened to know that this policy [is] still at the hands of the court when it shouldn't be the case anymore," Chavez said. "It's time that those that are writing the policies understand everything that border communities are going through and we need to defend DACA recipients. We need to give them a pathway to citizenship and we need to protect border communities."

LUPE is a social service nonprofit organization that is based on values of self-help and services to be able to do peaceful organizing and give back to the community.

Hernandez, a DACA recipient, said she is tired of living on hold.

"It really is a fight that we are in constantly every two years," she said. "We live on hold. We live in response to being

told, 'OK, DACA is going to make you [a U.S.] citizen or permanent resident.'"

Abraham Diaz, a LUPE social services provider, said the organization is going to support DACA recipients.

"For DACA recipients, we offer different things," Diaz said. "One of them is immigration services preparation, so we prepare documents. We have our attorney on staff, and we are also directly accredited with the Department of Justice to do immigration petitions, in this case, work permit renewals and we also do deportation defense. If the worst case scenario comes, we are able to represent them in immigration court."

On Oct. 10, LUPE hosted a protest to defend "Dreamers" where more than 50 members of the community gathered in front of the federal courthouse in Brownsville.

"We were there to show that we are not going to be giving up on this," Diaz said. "If you are currently a DACA recipient,

we encourage you to renew your work permit as soon as possible. There is so much uncertainty in the future."

Bailey's email states UTRGV offers the following resources for DACA recipients: --the DREAM Resource Center, which provides support services and resources in a safe space for all students.

--DREAM Zone Advocates, who are members of the UTRGV community who have been trained to support, guide and empower UTRGV members.

--the UT Employee Assistance Program, which offers a variety of services including counseling consultation services with a licensed mental health professional, legal and financial resources and work-life referrals.

--the Counseling Center, which provides confidential support for personal issues or concerns.

--Student Life and the Dean of Students, which advocates for UTRGV students.

Peña encourages DACA recipients to visit a lawyer.

"If you have the ability and the time to talk to a lawyer, just ask them, 'Hey, can you take a look at my situation? Is there anything there?'" she said. "There are a lot of options here that could be potentially a solution for them. Get some legal advice. Maybe they are married to a U.S. citizen. Maybe they suffered as a victim of a crime. Maybe the way they entered was [a] little suspicious."

Peña said she hopes that soon there will be a solution.

"['Dreamers'] are extremely successful in the United States," she said. "[A] large percentage of them have college degrees or higher, or they own their own businesses. A solution will come at some point. ... Keep seeking the solutions. Keep asking questions, because there's probably one out there for you. You just might not know about it yet."

SGA

Continued from Page 3

"I don't want to promise that if I become a graduate senator, I'll do this and I will do that, but I can assure you that I can bring the spirit of open-mindedness to the table and my critical thinking ability to the team, along with my diverse background, strong work ethic and passion for a change," she said.

During the executive team report, Vice President of Internal Affairs Kimberly Escalante gave an update on the library hours of operation and resources survey that the team is helping with. Escalante said they will meet with the Library Department Oct. 11 to complete "any last-minute touches."

She also said the team will meet with College of Fine Arts Dean Jeffrey Ward Oct. 13 "to discuss any issues the students in the college are facing."

Escalante said the team has been

working on meeting with School of Nursing Interim Dean Lilia Fuentes and will then plan to meet with College of Education and P-16 Integration Dean Alma D. Rodríguez and School of Social Work Dean Luis Torres-Hostos.

"We are going to want to get SGA representation from these colleges, you know, because we don't have senators at the moment," she said.

Escalante also said the parking and transportation focus group study, which took place on Sept. 26 and 27 on both Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, went accordingly.

"Students got to voice their opinions and any issues they had," she said.

Parking Services Director Pablo Aguilar said Walker Consultants, which is leading the focus group study, also met with other groups, including the SGA, faculty, staff and Student Accessibility Services, and said the study will serve as a road map.

"Our goal, in reality, is to improve the parking at the university, you know, by addressing campuses and area growth," Aguilar said. "Also [to] promote or [propose] specific projects ... to alleviate, you know, current concerns and anticipate future demand."

He also said Parking and Transportation Services will have a preliminary draft of the results by the end of the year and the complete study by early spring of next year.

The executive team plans to meet again with Parking and Transportation Services soon "to keep the open communication."

Escalante said students should be on the lookout for an upcoming survey from Parking and Transportation Services.

Aguilar said the survey will focus on recommendations for parking improvements and the students' experience. He said the survey will be available to students from today until Oct. 28 and will be sent to students' emails.

Josiah Gonzalez, chair of the Financial

Affairs Standing Committee and senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, said the committee approved four applications for student travel funds on Sept. 30 and that they would approve more funds at 7 p.m. that same day.

During the comments and announcements section, Odalys Saenz, chair of the Internal Affairs Standing Committee and senator for the College of Liberal Arts, spoke about the establishment of the Liberal Arts Student Advisory Committee, which the executive team discussed during a previous senate meeting.

"At this moment, everything has been approved," Saenz said. "We'll be soon reaching out to every chair in the department under Liberal Arts."

She said the advisory council will alleviate any problems within the College of Liberal Arts and will give students the opportunity to address their concerns.

PROGRAMA

Continuación de Página 5

la universidad, dijo la Decana de Estudiantes, Rebecca Gadson, en una llamada el 8 de agosto. Pero 611,270 personas vivían en los Estados Unidos bajo DACA al 31 de marzo de 2022, según datos del Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos.

Guy Bailey, presidente de UTRGV, anunció por correo electrónico el 7 de octubre que la universidad continuaría ofreciendo apoyo a los beneficiarios de DACA que tienen el permiso de trabajo renovable de dos años.

"Seguimos decepcionados con esta última decisión, pero mantenemos la esperanza de que el Congreso actúe rápidamente para brindarles a los Dreamers un camino hacia la ciudadanía", escribió Bailey.

Tania Chavez, directora de Análisis de Gestión de La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), dijo que es hora de dejar de jugar con el destino de los beneficiarios de DACA.

"Cada 5 de octubre, sucede algo en torno a DACA y nos entristece saber que esta política [está] todavía en manos de la corte cuando ya no debería ser el caso", dijo Chavez. "Es hora de que los que escriben las políticas entiendan todo lo que están pasando las comunidades fronterizas y necesitamos

defender a los beneficiarios de DACA. Necesitamos darles un camino hacia la ciudadanía y necesitamos proteger a las comunidades fronterizas".

LUPE es una organización de servicio social sin fines de lucro que se basa en valores de autoayuda y servicios para poder organizarse pacíficamente y retribuir a la comunidad.

Hernandez, beneficiaria de DACA, dijo que está cansada de vivir en espera.

"Realmente es una lucha en la que estamos constantemente cada dos años", dijo. "Vivimos en espera. Vivimos en respuesta a que nos digan: 'Está bien, DACA lo convertirá en ciudadano [estadounidense] o residente permanente'".

Abraham Diaz, un proveedor de servicios sociales de LUPE, dijo que la organización apoyará a los beneficiarios de DACA.

"Para los beneficiarios de DACA, ofrecemos cosas diferentes", dijo Diaz. "Uno de ellos es la preparación de los servicios de inmigración, entonces preparamos los documentos. Tenemos nuestro abogado en el personal y también estamos directamente acreditados con el Departamento de Justicia para hacer peticiones de inmigración, en este caso, renovaciones de permisos de trabajo y también

hacemos defensa de deportación. Si se presenta el peor de los casos, podemos representarlos en la corte de inmigración".

El lunes, LUPE organizó una protesta para defender a los "Dreamers" donde más de 50 miembros de la comunidad se reunieron frente al juzgado federal en Brownsville.

"Estábamos allí para demostrar que no nos daremos por vencidos en esto", dijo Díaz. "Si actualmente es beneficiario de DACA, lo alentamos a que renueve su permiso de trabajo lo antes posible. Hay tanta incertidumbre en el futuro".

El correo electrónico de Bailey indica que UTRGV ofrece los siguientes recursos para los beneficiarios de DACA:

--el Centro de Recursos DREAM, que brinda servicios de apoyo y recursos en un espacio seguro para todos los estudiantes.

--Defensores de la Zona DREAM, que son miembros de la comunidad de UTRGV que han sido capacitados para apoyar, guiar y empoderar a los miembros de UTRGV.

--el Programa de Asistencia para Empleados de UT, que ofrece una variedad de servicios que incluyen servicios de consulta de asesoramiento con un profesional de salud mental con

licencia, recursos legales y financieros y referencias de vida laboral.

--el Centro de Consejería, que brinda apoyo confidencial para problemas o inquietudes personales.

--Vida Estudiantil y el Decano de Estudiantes, que aboga por los estudiantes de UTRGV.

Peña alienta a los beneficiarios de DACA a visitar a un abogado.

"Si tiene la capacidad y el tiempo para hablar con un abogado, solo pregúntele: 'Oye, ¿puedes echar un vistazo a mi situación? ¿Hay algo ahí?'" dijo. "Hay muchas opciones aquí que podrían ser una solución potencial para ellos. Consiga algún consejo legal. Tal vez estén casados con un ciudadano estadounidense. Tal vez sufrieron como víctimas de un crimen. Tal vez la forma en que entraron fue [un] poco sospechosa".

Peña dijo que espera que pronto haya una solución.

"['Dreamers'] son extremadamente exitosos en los Estados Unidos", dijo. "[Un] gran porcentaje de ellos tienen títulos universitarios o superiores, o son dueños de sus propios negocios. La solución llegará en algún momento. ... Sigue buscando las soluciones. Sigue haciendo preguntas, porque probablemente haya una para ti. Es posible que aún no lo sepas".

STARTED

Continued from Page 4

coverlet was \$19. When I saw the price, I didn't believe it. At that time, I thought it was expensive because that's what my mom told me.

I asked my mom why they didn't want to buy it for me if it was only \$19, and she told me that, many times, they didn't even have \$19.

Three years ago I asked for a bed as my birthday gift. My parents took me to different stores to look at beds and while I was looking at the beds to select the one I wanted, I

remembered that 14-year-old girl. That girl who had the illusion of a bed.

After more than five years of living in the United States, I still think about how my family and I started.

I would have liked to go back in time and value the things I had, the things that my parents gave me. Now that I work and earn my own money, I understand that life is expensive.

I understand that they made an effort to give my brother and me everything and I appreciate that more than anything.

ART

Continued from Page 8

faculty artworks, it will bring awareness to art classes in Brownsville and be more inclusive of them.

Marking SoAD's first faculty exhibition since the COVID-19 pandemic, Maldonado said it is incredible to see the works together and how her colleague's art has grown in the last couple of years.

Maldonado said her art has shifted a lot in the last couple of years. Her work, "Percepción de Mortalidad" (colored pencil on black

paper), is part of the art show.

"This piece was just me looking more into the significance of the scarab beetle, exploring more of the psychedelic type of artwork," she said. "And then, just, like, returning to enjoy the process of creating again. ... I still keep on going with the repetition and the use of insects in my work, but this time is more of trying to search for answers, trying to search more for identity and to try to make sense of what is happening in my life right now."

Maldonado encourages everyone to check out the

exhibits since they are free and might spark an interest to take an art course at UTRGV.

The exhibits will close with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Rusteberg Art Gallery.

The Visual Arts Building Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Charles and Dorothy Clark Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. The Rusteberg Art Gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.



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