

THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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ESPAÑOL:



¿Te late un latte?

Página 5

'STAR WARS':



A far, far away tale

Page 6

SPORTS:



An ace of a championship

Page 10

LOCAL

Ten Commandments ruling stands after appeal

ETHAN MALDONADO
THE RIDER

Despite a recent federal appeals court decision allowing the requirement to move forward in Texas schools, the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District has not put the Ten Commandments on display in classrooms, according to an ECISD official.

School districts cannot use state funds to purchase the displays, leaving them dependent on outside donations. "Our policy remains the same," wrote Lisa Ayala, director of public relations and media communications for ECISD, in an email to The Rider April 24.

"If someone were to donate posters, then we will get direction as to putting them up. Up to now, there have been no donated posters or items with the Ten Commandments.

See **COMMANDMENTS**, Page 3

ON CAMPUS

Students learn tools for finals

SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA
SPANISH EDITOR

As finals approach, the UTRGV Learning Center hosted the Finish Strong: Finals Prep workshop online Wednesday and Thursday for students interested in learning about study strategies, time-management techniques and tools to stay focused, according to the event flyer.

Fatima Hernandez, an academic coaching for excellence coach at the Learning Center, said the workshop is one of the most important ones during the semester.

"It's almost finals, and this is when students are most stressed and might not know what to study or the tools available," Hernandez said.

She said for freshmen, this might be the first time they hear about the resources the university offers, such as the Writing Center, tutoring and coaching.

During the workshop, Samuel Cosay, a peer coach at the Learning Center, gave a presentation to the students in attendance that covered the essentials for finals: problem-solving strategies, time-management tools and study strategies.

See **TOOLS**, Page 3

ON CAMPUS

CELEBRATING A DECADE



SAMANTHA CANTU /THE RIDER

Students cheer and raise their hands as SM6 performs during the UTRGV 10 Year Celebration Thursday in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus.



MARIAJOSE GARZA /THE RIDER

Michael Williams sings during the 10 Year Celebration Tuesday on the Main Building lawn on the Brownsville campus. Williams was a contestant on American Idol season 21 in 2023.



MARIAJOSE GARZA /THE RIDER

Students enjoy a swing carnival ride during the 10 Year Celebration Tuesday on the Main Building lawn on the Brownsville campus.



SAMANTHA CANTU /THE RIDER

A student shoots a basketball, attempting to win a prize, during the 10 Year Celebration Thursday in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus.

THE RIDER

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Destress Express
The School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling will host Destress Express: Dot your way to Zen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

The Wrangler
The Student Union will host The Wrangler from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

Pre-Dental Society Fundraiser
The Pre-Dental Society will host a fundraiser from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

K.I.S.S. General Meeting
The Korean International Student Society will meet from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. and at the same time through Thursday in Liberal Arts Building North

Room 101 on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday Funding for Undergraduate Research Engaged Scholarship and Learning will host a Learn How To Get Funding For Creative Works workshop from noon to 12:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.406 and at the same time Wednesday in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.214 on the Brownsville campus.

Access for Sex-Ed Weekly Tabling
Access for Sex-Education will host a tabling event from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and at the same time Thursday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Beta Alpha Psi-Xi Phi Chapter General Meeting

The Beta Alpha Psi-Xi Phi Chapter will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Health Affairs Building East Room 1.114 on the Edinburg campus.

Psi Chi Fundraiser

The Psi Chi Honor Society will host a fundraiser from noon to 2 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

BAA Meeting
The Brownsville Accounting Association will meet from 5 to 6 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Wednesday Creative Writing Club Meeting
The Creative Writing Club will meet from 5 to 6 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 180 on the Edinburg campus.

Bible Study
The Christians at RGV will host a Bible study from noon to 1:45 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.221 on the Brownsville campus.

Ask About Islam Tabling
The Muslim Students' Association will host a tabling event from noon to 2:30 p.m.

outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday Holy Mass
The Catholic Student Association will host a Holy Mass from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Friday Psi Chi Induction Ceremony
The Psi Chi Honor Society will host an induction ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. in Community Engagement and Success Building Room 1.300 on the Edinburg campus.

Beta Alpha Psi Initiation Ceremony

The Beta Alpha Psi-Xi Phi Chapter will host an initiation ceremony from 6 to 7 p.m. in Health Affairs Building East Room 1.114 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Mariah Escobar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 22 and 29.

April 22 9:51 a.m.: An officer responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision in Lot H-5 on the Harlingen campus. No injuries were reported.

12:15 p.m.: A student reported his unsecured electric scooter was stolen from the University Recreation bike rack on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

4:45 p.m.: An officer responded to a minor traffic collision involving a Roma Independent School District school bus and a parked car in Lot E-19 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

April 23 9:46 a.m.: An officer was dispatched regarding a fraudulent check in the University Financial Services Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

11:04 a.m.: A student reported his AirPods were stolen days prior in the University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

4:28 p.m.: An officer responded regarding a stolen electric scooter in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The scooter was left unsecured outside her apartment. The case is under investigation.

April 24 12:11 p.m.: An officer responded regarding an active fire alarm in the Research Education Building on the Edinburg campus. Upon arrival, the officer observed no smoke or fire in the area. Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management arrived at the location and reset the panel.

April 25 12:32 a.m.: A student reported her vehicle's rear window was damaged in Lot E-36 on the

Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

April 26 6:48 p.m.: An officer responded regarding individuals seen jumping the fence in the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. Further investigation determined a burglary of a building had occurred. The case is under investigation.

April 27 11:27 a.m.: An officer was dispatched regarding an active fire alarm in the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus. Upon arrival, no signs of smoke or fire were observed. Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management arrived at the location and reset the panel.

3:51 p.m.: A student reported her scooter was stolen from the bike rack in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

April 28 5:01 p.m.: An officer was dispatched regarding students stuck inside an elevator in the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. Campus Facilities Operations arrived and assisted the students out of the elevator; the students reported no injuries. A work order was generated by facilities, and the elevator was placed out of order.

April 29 7:57 a.m.: An officer located an unattended cash box near the northeast restroom in the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. The case is under investigation.

7:44 p.m.: A student reported an unknown individual had taken items from his vehicle without his consent while his vehicle was parked and unattended in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Narda Serna

COMMANDMENTS

Continued from Page 1

So, we do not have any displays in classrooms."

Texas Senate Bill 10, requiring Ten Commandments displays in public schools, was introduced on Feb. 10, 2025, and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott on June 21, 2025.

Following a federal district judge's block in August 2025, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard the case, and on April 21, reversed the lower court to uphold the law.

"It's this funny thing that they're required to post them, but they can't actually use state funds to buy them, so they have to be donated," said Mark Kaswan, UTRGV associate professor of political science. "So, what do you do if nobody donates them?"

Kaswan said the policy raises constitutional concerns related to the separation of church and state.

"On the face, it appears pretty much exactly the kind of thing that the founders intended to prohibit with the First Amendment," he said.

Kaswan added displaying the Ten Commandments in

classrooms could be seen as promoting a specific set of religious beliefs.

In an April 21 news release, the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas wrote, "The First Amendment safeguards the separation of church and state, and the freedom of families to choose how, when and if to provide their children with religious instruction. This decision tramples those rights."

The statement came after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld Senate Bill 10, which requires the display of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom in Texas.

Kaswan said the long-term impact of the policy remains unclear though supporters may view it as part of a broader effort to shape public life.

"What it's oriented toward and its intention is to create a more Christian society," he said.

Kaswan added the policy may have limited impact inside classrooms.

"I think the vast majority of kids who go into a classroom and the Ten Commandments are there are going to ignore it," he said.

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Butterfly center may be at risk

EMMA CASTILLO
THE RIDER

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which allocates funds for the construction of a border wall, may affect the National Butterfly Center as the wall may run through protected areas, raising concerns among local residents.

Jeffrey Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association, said the possible construction through the area stems from a shift in federal funding language, under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Title IX, 139 STAT. 258.

"This has been going on since 2017," Glassberg said. "And in that first go around, Congress wrote into the appropriations bill an exemption for the National Butterfly Center. ... Apparently, when the appropriations bill was signed last July, the final product didn't include that exemption. ... And so, the federal government now is poised to go forward."

Per the bill, Congress allocated approximately \$46.5 billion for border barrier construction and technology.

Environmental Awareness Club members said the issue reflects a pattern of environmental and community concerns across South Texas.

"[My reaction] was kind of like, 'This again?'" said Sofia Martinez, the EAC fundraising officer and an environmental science senior. "We've already seen this with Santa Ana [National Wildlife Refuge] ... and Big Bend [National Park]. ... It's kind of, like, we've known that it's going all around the border."

Anthony Hoshing, EAC president, said he was "very disappointed" by federal



SAMANTHA CANTU / THE RIDER

A butterfly feeds from a flower April 15 at the National Butterfly Center, located at 3333 Butterfly Park Drive in Mission.

action tied to the funding bill.

"This isn't gonna help the community," Hoshing said. "The infrastructure that they're planning to replace to build this border wall can't be reproduced in our lifetime."

According to Glassberg, in addition to housing over 250 species of butterflies and birds, the center also serves as a community space.

Vivian Salinas, the EAC co-treasurer officer and an environmental science student, said the loss could affect not only the region's inhabitants but also the education of future generations.

"This National Butterfly Center really gets youth to care about things like the environment and endangered species,"

Salinas said. "I know a lot of people who experience field trips to places like these as kids. ... It really starts young."

Hoshing said the environmental impact could be long-lasting and possibly irreversible and referred to examples of species movement that could be disrupted if national parks stay unprotected, such as the black bear population in Big Bend.

Black bears have crossed the border and repopulated habitats without human intervention, according to a Borderlands Research Institute study.

"That success story could be trifled so easily," Hoshing said. "This [research] could help us rehabilitate so many [endangered] species and discover their behavior, but what made this such a

success would be gone. This [migration] is ... unheard of ... and we need to study this, but that ... opportunity would be lost."

The club president also commented on the broader environmental effects of construction.

"Adding more steel and concrete to this area will definitely be ugly," Hoshing said. "... It's already hot. ... Adding more concrete isn't going to solve that problem."

Glassberg said the environmental damage would begin once construction starts. Beyond habitat destruction, he said, additional infrastructure and lighting could further disrupt ecosystems and even tourism.

"It immediately destroys the habitat where they're doing the actual physical construction," Glassberg said. "All of the plants that live there ... and, therefore, all of the animals that are dependent on the plants are also gone from that area."

U.S. Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-Edinburg) and Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza were contacted but, as of press time, were unavailable for comment.

According to Glassberg, the National Butterfly Center has "no problems" with illegal border crossings through its property and feels the construction is "political theater."

He said he hopes lawmakers will restore protections moving forward.

"They should maintain that status quo ... and put into any new appropriations bill that there won't be a wall through these same areas," Glassberg said. "Destroying this tremendous asset ... for no reason ... just seems such a shame."

For a better connected region

HUGO A. SEPÚLVEDA
THE RIDER

The City of Brownsville announced on April 21 in a press release that nearly \$22 million in grant funding was awarded through the Texas Middle Program to support a major expansion of its Broadband Fiber Project.

"The project is expected to impact approximately 50,000 residents, enhancing access to high-speed broadband for households, businesses, healthcare providers, and educational institutions," according to the press release.

Jorge Cardenas, chief information officer for the City of Brownsville, said the city decided to go out and get an additional footage of miles of fiber to help neighboring cities.

"[It is] to make sure they are enabled as well to get all the connectivity and fast-speed and low-cost internet connection," Cardenas said.

He added Brownsville has been working on the project since last year, of which two months were spent on applying for financing.

"There was an application that needed to be submitted, and the requirements were that the city had already a middle-

mile fiber infrastructure to add additional miles to the project to help additional cities," Cardenas said. "So, we applied last year around November and, this year, lucky to get that award of almost \$22 million."

He said the next step is to build the additional 130 miles, adding about 17 communities tying into the Brownsville middle-mile fiber.

"The impact will be around 50,000 to 60,000 people in that area," Cardenas said. "So, going from Brownsville to San Benito way to Rio Hondo, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, down to Brownsville, and we also included the new city and area, which is Starbase."

The chief information officer said Brownsville already has fiber infrastructure that allows the city to deploy fiber and wireless internet connection in the area.

"So, we already have our private 5G already covered in the City of Brownsville but, with this additional fiber, we can actually enable other cities," Cardenas said. "We can enable some and bring our private five connections to that area utilizing our own infrastructure to connect them."

In 2017, Brownsville was named the worst connected city by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. With the

project, the city is looking to provide a reliable connection for the community benefit, according to the chief information officer.

Cardenas said the city's expectation is to bring regional collaboration to make everybody see what Brownsville is doing.

"Brownsville is not just thinking about Brownsville," he said. "Brownsville is thinking about the region and how we can grow this area and making sure that we enable those businesses."

Jarred Ochoa, a UTRGV electrical engineering junior, said he was not aware about the Broadband Fiber Project but believes it will be "very helpful."

"Especially with people who lack internet, of course, and just overall I believe it's beneficial," Ochoa said.

He added he believes the internet is definitely one of the biggest demands in today's world.

Luis Delgado, an exercise science freshman, said he was not aware about the project but believes increasing the level of connectivity will be beneficial for Brownsville and neighboring cities.

"So ... you could be in connection with your loved ones and also for your classes," Delgado said. "You need Wi-Fi for your classes."



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER

Jorge Cardenas, chief information officer for the City of Brownsville, discusses the city's nearly \$22 million grant from the Texas Middle Mile Program to expand its Broadband Fiber Project during an interview Wednesday at the Market Plaza, located on East Adam Street in Brownsville.

TOOLS

Continued from Page 1

Cosay encouraged students to use active studying, summaries, teaching others and practice problems.

"So, active learning and active studying [are] different from passive," he said. "Passive is just reading, listening and watching."

Cosay added creating topic-specific study guides, forming study groups and using campus resources are some tips for finals preparation.

"Don't make your studying very general," he said. "... Know which segments belong to which chapters and do active learning."

Students should use technology to their advantage by exploring apps

that enhance their study experience, according to the presentation.

"Quizlet for flashcards, Forest app to avoid distractions, Notion for planning, and studying and providing exam motivation with a motivational study timer," Cosay said.

Hernandez said the center gives students a small guide for the upcoming finals that includes checking the syllabus and making sure they have the important materials for class.

"We conduct our sessions with the aim of ensuring that the student has a goal at the end of our session," she said. "... For example, if they say they got an A on their math exam, then you could talk to them about what you would need to do to get an A."

Hernandez said she knows the

workshop is important for helping students feel they can successfully go through finals. She added the Learning Center has workshops all semester long, such as "what you need for classes or a guide about Brightspace ... or more specifically, an organization workshop."

Hernandez said students should give themselves the opportunity to attend the Learning Center's workshops.

"They might be students who are currently doing very well in their classes and, truth be told, don't have any problems; however, it's possible that a particular strategy could still be of help to you," she said.

Hernandez added the coaches at the center are undergraduates and, if students are interested in a one-on-one appointment, they should not hesitate to

reach out.

"It's a safe space for them, where we understand them because we are students too," she said.

Mia Fernandez, an integrated health science freshman, said her experience at the Learning Center has been good even for her first year at UTRGV.

"Whenever I need help, my [Peer-Led Team Learning] leader helps me," Fernandez said.

She said she encourages students to use the Learning Center's resources.

"At first, it can be intimidating because it's small and it can be scary, but everyone's minding their own business, and it's not that scary," Fernandez said.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Last one before walking



SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA
SPANISH EDITOR

As I sit in The Rider's office for my last week at work, I know this is one of the last things I will write as a reporter. Every week since spring started, I've been telling the editor-in-chief I wanted to write the last column of the semester. I didn't really know what I wanted to write about, but I knew that it had to be special for me. So now that I'm here

writing, I want to tell you about how I feel about college. As the spring semester comes to an end, my college years are also ending. After four years, three major changes, two scholarships, one job and tons of assignments, I am feeling proud of myself but also sad about leaving UTRGV. Every time someone brings up graduation, I tell them I can't talk about it, in a joking way of course but, inside, it brings a weird feeling of uncertainty within me. The fact that, when this is published, I will be 12 days away from walking on stage feels surreal. It makes me think about all the things I won't be able to experience ever again. I won't be 22 ever again. I won't work at The Rider ever again. I won't see my roommate in the same apartment ever again. But even though I won't be able to do

this again, I'm happy I got to experience it all.

"I won't be 22 ever again. I won't work at The Rider ever again."

When I first started college, I didn't fully understand how fast it would go. As an international student, everything felt new and kind of unfamiliar. I was trying to figure out who I was while also trying to figure out where I belonged. There were moments where I doubted myself, where I felt out of place and where I questioned if I was doing the right thing. But somewhere between changing majors, meeting new people and pushing myself out

of my comfort zone, I started to grow into someone I'm proud of. Being part of The Rider was one of those moments that changed everything for me. I had no previous experience, but Student Media believed in me and my potential. Here, I got a space to tell stories, to connect with people and to find my purpose in a way I didn't know I needed. It turned what felt like just a job into something meaningful. This job gave me a new perspective that showed me what I wanted to do as a career. If I could tell my freshman self anything, it would be to slow down. And I'm telling this to you, too: Slow down. Say yes to more opportunities, make more memories, stay a little longer in the moments that feel small but end up meaning everything. In the end, it's not just about the degree, the "A" on

an assignment or an honors cord. It's about the late nights, the laughter, the stress, the friendships and all the little memories that quietly shape who you become. And now, as I get ready to walk across that stage, I still feel that uncertainty. But it's different now. It's not fear; it's the feeling of stepping into something new. I don't know exactly what comes next—fingers crossed it's a job—but I do know that everything I've experienced here has prepared me for it. So this isn't really a goodbye. It's more a "hopefully, I'll see you later" to the place that helped me become who I am today. And I hope the time between today and Commencement slows down, so I can make more memories and keep those forever.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

I think everyone does?



VAQUERO VOICE

What is one word to describe your semester and why?

--Compiled and photos by Alizzaya Guel

Ruby Mendieta
American Sign Language and interpretation senior

"Brutal.' I'm in my senior year. I think that explains it."



Jade Rodriguez
American Sign Language and interpretation senior

"Formidable' because, ugh, these internships."

Jose Castro
theatre senior

"Discombobulated' because I am doing six classes, I got two jobs, and I got no time for myself. So, everything is just falling apart. But we keep on going, though, yes, yes."



Aaron Aguilar
theatre and kinesiology senior

"It would be 'busy' because I'm a double major. ... It's mostly theatre ... this semester because I accidentally took up too many projects."

WACKY WEB POLL

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:
YOU'RE AN ICON, YOU'RE A LEGEND, YOU'RE THE MOMENT. THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS WORLD YOU CAN'T DO, EXCEPT?

Whistle while balancing 100 plates on my nose. | 50%

Being able to dance in a straight jacket. | 12%

Create a brand and empire based on your favorite dessert. | 0%

Write a hit comedy series called "Abbott Elementary." | 38%

@UTRGVRIDER
SEE YOU ALL NEXT SEMESTER!

Toma un vistazo a la comunidad en el campus

Inspirada en una tendencia de TikTok, una estudiante trae una actividad interactiva al campus



KARLA HERNANDEZ / FOTOS RIDER

Una caja de trinkets, creada por Michelle Garcia, una estudiante de último año en educación de la infancia, inspirada en una tendencia de TikTok, está ubicada en la parada del autobús de UTRGV en el campus de Brownsville.

SOPHIA CORTEZ
THE RIDER

Una pequeña caja de trinkets, ubicada en la parada del autobús del campus de Brownsville, llena de pequeños objetos como llaveros, figuritas, cartas de Pokémon y más, se ha convertido en una forma de unir a la comunidad de estudiantes. Michelle Garcia, una estudiante de último año de educación de la infancia, dijo que se inspiró en traer la idea al campus de Brownsville después de ver una tendencia en TikTok y puso la caja el 12 de abril.

“Entre a la página de Facebook de los estudiantes de UTRGV, y vi que alguien dijo, ‘¿Por qué no tenemos una en el campus? Deberíamos empezar una.’ Y fue algo chistoso porque yo quería empezar una también”, Garcia dijo.

Compartió el proceso de la construcción de la caja con ayuda de su esposo, quien tomó una caja de primeros auxilios y la pintó de rosa para ayudarla. Garcia agregó que uno de los propósitos de la caja

es el compartir alegría entre los estudiantes.

“Especialmente ahorita, todo es tan caro”, dijo. “Yo pensé que [era] la mejor manera de tener una caja de trinkets y no tener que pagar por ella. Lo único que tienes que hacer es intercambiar algo por algo”.

Dariana Fuentes, una

“Es una gran experiencia el solo ver que puedes encontrar y poner algo ahí”.

Gonzalo Cerbella
estudiante de último año de ingeniería eléctrica

estudiante de primer año de biología, dijo que pensó que la dinámica es una gran forma de lidiar con el estrés abrumador de la universidad, sirviendo como una distracción y ayudando a unir a los estudiantes. Le gustaría ver más de esto en el

futuro.

Garcia dijo que ella se emocionó al ver otros estudiantes inspirarse en el concepto, haciendo sus propias cajas, y cómo esto ayuda a compartirlo en el campus. Dijo que le gustaría traer una caja de trinkets al campus de Edinburg.

Cuando The Rider le preguntó qué le diría a los estudiantes que desean llevar un concepto como este a la comunidad estudiantil, pero que tal vez tengan miedo de hacerlo, respondió, “Simplemente háganlo; honestamente, no sobrepensen. Nunca se sabe el impacto que puede tener en alguien. Tal vez, alguien esté teniendo un mal día y, de repente, se encuentre con esta caja, y eso le cambie por completo el día”.

Gonzalo Cerbella, un estudiante de último año de ingeniería eléctrica, dijo que es bastante genial que exista una regla no escrita de que tienes que llevar algo para poder tomar algo.

“Pienso que no es algo que haya visto antes en el campus”, Cerbella dijo. “Es una gran experiencia el solo ver que puedes encontrar y poner algo ahí”.

Agregó que el concepto, como el de la caja de trinkets, expande la creatividad de los estudiantes y los inspira a adentrarse en actividades más allá de las que son organizadas por la escuela.

Garcia dijo que espera que después de que se gradúe en mayo, las personas puedan continuar a transformar la caja con el propósito de compartir el uno con el otro, y espera compartir esta idea con sus estudiantes cuando empiece a ejercer su profesión.

--Traducido por Sofia Cantú Saucedo.

VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

Too Latte: Un sabor único

SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA
SPANISH EDITOR

Lo que comenzó como una idea impulsada por la pasión por el café, hoy se ha convertido en Too Latte Coffee, un negocio local que refleja el espíritu emprendedor del Valle del Río Grande.

Jose Gilberto Guerra, propietario y barista de Too Latte Coffee, una cafetería móvil de matcha y café ubicada en 1725 E. Price Road Suite B en Brownsville, ha tenido una pasión por el café desde la preparatoria.

“Yo siempre supe que quería hacer algo con el café”, Guerra dijo. “[...] Siempre quise hacer algo con el café, más nunca supe cómo empezar. Tal cual, la idea de Too Latte empieza a nacer por mi amor al café”.

El nombre de su negocio surgió de una experiencia que Guerra dijo que tenía durante la universidad.

“Cuando estaba en la universidad, siempre llegaba tarde y llegaba con café”, dijo. “[...] Quería algo muy viable que funcionara en español y en inglés”.

Guerra dijo que el nombre es un juego de palabras entre “tu latte” y “too late”.

Agregó que al principio sabía que no podía abrir una tienda física para su café. Entonces, vio inspiración de un carro de café y decidió traer esa idea al Valle.

“Así fue la primera vez que yo tuve como una noción de Too Latte, como un deja vu”, Guerra dijo. “Después de ahí, yo me puse manos a la obra”.

Too Latte Coffee abrió en 2024 y comenzó su operación en un evento pop-up dentro de Matilda Restaurant, ubicado en 2325 Central Blvd. en Brownsville.

“Una de mis amigas más cercanas es dueña del restaurante y me invitó al restaurante para tener el café ahí”, Guerra dijo. “Creo que de ahí empecé a conocer mucha gente [...] pero no tenía mi carro. Ahí solo podían probar”.

Compartió que, después de esto comenzó a tomar más importancia en las redes sociales, empezó a hacer más pop-ups y a jugar con la diversificación del menú.

“Empecé a aprender lo que le gusta a la gente”, Guerra dijo. “Yo estoy muy en la demográfica de lo saludable, y quería al principio ofrecer más como queirme por ese lado. Pero, cuando vi que eso no era tanto el target de aquí, tuve que ajustarme a lo que las personas querían en realidad”.

Dijo que una de las cosas que hace resaltar a Too Latte Coffee de otros cafés en el Valle es la experimentación que él hace con el menú cada mes.

“Me baso mucho en temáticas”, Guerra dijo. “Yo creo que eso es algo que también le gusta mucho a la gente, sobre todo porque mi mercado es mucho de las mujeres. [...] Es un negocio que es muy [Instagram]-friendly y es algo como muy visual”.

Agregó que, como propietario, el estar innovando también es un reto para que las personas sigan viniendo.

Guerra dijo que, ahora, ha notado que el café ha crecido y ha evolucionado a algo muy diferente.

“Ya noto lo que a mí me funciona y la actividad en redes sociales es súper importante”, dijo. “He aprendido a perfeccionar los sabores y a hacer el cold foam in-house”.

Guerra compartió que Too Latte también puede ser contratado para cualquier evento como catering, fiestas, bodas y eventos corporativos.

Después de recorrer su propio camino como emprendedor, ahora busca compartir lo que ha aprendido con otros estudiantes que sueñan con iniciar su propio negocio.

“Siempre tienes que mantenerte fiel a ti [...] siempre ten fe y échale ganas”, Guerra dijo. “No hay manual de cómo hacer las cosas. Es aprender de tus errores e ir aprendiendo de tu intuición”.

FOTO CORTESÍA TOO LATTE



Jose Gilberto Guerra, propietario y barista de Too Latte Coffee, prepara una bebida en su cafetería móvil de matcha y café, ubicada en 1725 E. Price Road Suite B en Brownsville.



Una caja de trinkets, creada por Michelle Garcia, una estudiante de último año en educación de la infancia, inspirada en una tendencia de TikTok, está ubicada en el Main Building en el campus de Brownsville.

'STAR WARS': THE FORCE THAT TRANSFORMED™ A LIFETIME

Pete Mendoza
COPY EDITOR

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, a story was created that changed not only fiction but the people of our world, as well.

"Star Wars" is a running saga that has been alive for nearly 49 years. It is beloved by its fanbase and known even to those who have never laid their eyes upon it.

It is a story filled with drama, action, politics, beliefs and never-ending possibilities, where the limit is only fans' imagination.

The saga was created by George Lucas with the first movie, "Star Wars: A New Hope," released in 1977.

The original trilogy created an opening for a new era in fiction.

John Trevino, a UTRGV theatre lecturer, said "Star Wars" changed the way a story could be told, even with a story that was out of this world.

"It showed you there is no bounds," Trevino said. "... They broke all the rules with that."

He said Lucas made the story with Joseph Campbell's book, "The Hero's Journey," in mind, helping make the story universal, with a sci-fi twist.

"So, people can relate to that," Trevino said. "It's not so much the lightsabers and the guns and the spaceships; it's the actual story."

He said every story needs a beginning, middle, end, character, location, a problem and solution, adding "Star Wars" is one of the few that did it perfectly.

This feeling of relatability can even bring people together, according to the lecturer. Trevino added people meet in parks, have "Star Wars"-themed weddings, cosplay and some even created languages.

He said the saga continued to unify the community through diversity.

"You don't have to be a guy," the lecturer said. "You don't have to be a

boy. You don't have to be a white kid.

You can be anybody you want, and you can still be a Jedi. ...That makes it universal, so everybody can like Star Wars."

The story has never been just a story, but a life lesson, as well. Trevino said, for those

in the Rio Grande Valley, it can even mean a real connection.

"This guy, [Anakin Skywalker], all he wanted to do was get out," he said. "And you hear a lot of people, 'I want to get out of the Valley. I don't want to live in the Valley.' That's what this whole guy's dream was. To get off his space farm ... out in the desert and change the world. And the guy did it."

Leonardo Delgado, a UTRGV cyber security senior, said his dad introduced him to the saga when he was 5 years old.

"At first, it was just a cool action story but, then, it turned out to be a bunch of multiple stories that you can actually connect with," Delgado said.

He said it could teach people how to control their own emotions.

"It has a lot of lessons that people can actually learn from," Delgado said. "Like, not to let your anger get the best of you. Always find someone to actually talk with so you can actually not go into negative feelings. And just enjoy your life."

Osiel Garcia, a mass communication sophomore, said he only recently started watching "Star Wars" but has grown a connection to it.

"From what I heard, it was really something special when it came out, and it's still something special to this day," Garcia said. "... It just gave people something to come together."

He said the movies really showed what a piece of cinema could create.

"It kind of shows people that, even if it's something that you think is only for children or something, it can be something great and beautiful that can affect everybody, and not just what you think it's gonna affect," Garcia said.

Trevino added "Star Wars" shows how the viewer can do "anything as long as you want

to do it and just don't believe anybody telling you to stop."

The saga can even be seen through a political stand point, the lecturer said, adding it even took influence from the Vietnam War.

"When you see the prequels, you can see that it's all government," he said. "... It was a democracy and, then, they turned it into a [monarchy] with the Palpatine guy to where he's the one now in charge of everything."

Alejandro Chavez, a Comic Cave employee, located inside Sunrise Mall in Brownsville, said "Star Wars" can still be seen as a relevant topic.

"I think that we can take a lot from the politics in the movies and apply them to what's going on right now," Chavez said.

It was not just the story that caused an effect but how it opened the door for other pieces of fiction to thrive, according to Trevino.

"These epic movies like that, whether fantasy or sci-fi, would not be around if it wasn't for 'Star Wars,'" he said. "... But it's crazy being able to reference [and] say 'Oh, it's like 'Star Wars.''" It changed the whole game."

Garcia said it is crazy how the original movies were made.

"Like now, we have all the CGI and everything," he said. "So, it was pretty special because they made something groundbreaking."

Chavez said he believes the saga has one of the biggest influences on sci-fi.

"I mean there's Star Wars references everywhere," he said, adding customers ask about "Star Wars" at least five times a day. "The lightsabers are one of the most popular things of, like, all media. And I think its impact is gonna be felt forever."





1

3

"YOU CAN BE ANYONE YOU WANT, AND YOU CAN STILL BE A JEDI."

-JOHN TREVINO, A UTRGV THEATRE LECTURER

1. Shown is a statue of Darth Vader and two Stormtroopers April 24 at the McAllen Public Library, located at 4001 N. 23rd St.

2. Rene Gonzalez, a computer science sophomore, cosplays as "Star Wars" character Obi-Wan Kenobi during Union Con March 27 on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

3. Massiel Muñoz, UTRGV Student Union assistant director, cosplays as "Star Wars" character Ahsoka Tano during Union Con March 27 on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Photos by Mariajose Garza and Draya Rios.

REVIEW

Mendelssohn's Elijah at UTRGV

EDUARDO ESCAMILLA
A&E EDITOR

UTRGV's University Choir and Master Chorale recently undertook the significant challenge of performing Felix Mendelssohn's 1846 oratorio, "Elijah." Although the work is grounded in the mid-19th-century revival of the Baroque tradition, its recent performance resonated as a timely commentary rather than a mere historical artifact.

The April 25 performance was conducted by assistant professor Matthew Coffey and associate professor Sean Taylor, with professor Juan Pablo Andrade serving as pianist.

Featured soloists included professor Rebecca Coberly, part-time lecturer Samantha Luna, soprano Diane Walters, assistant professor Shayna Isaacs, part-time lecturer Casey Joiner-Isaacs, tenor Ricardo Diaz-Garcia and professor Daniel Hunter-Holly.

The performance also featured guest high school treble singers from throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

The oratorio follows the Old Testament prophet Elijah, a figure defined by

his uncompromising and often isolated devotion to truth, according to the show's program.

From his prophecy of a devastating drought to his cinematic showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah is a man standing

playing was characterized by dynamic and forceful articulation on the Steinway piano.

Choral ensembles have historically exerted a subtle yet significant influence on mainstream music.

Examples such as Pink

vocal technique enabled their voices to project with remarkable flexibility, enveloping the audience in a resonant and immersive soundscape.

To fully comprehend the oratorio's central themes, it is necessary to examine the character at

state-sanctioned trends of ancient Israel, their modern counterparts can be identified in the phenomenon of the cult of personality.

For secular audiences, the false idols referenced in the Old Testament may be interpreted

whistleblower. He observes the consequences of uncritical idolization and recognizes the resulting spiritual and social deprivation, which leaves a culture lacking empathy and depth.

The oratorio's message is particularly resonant as a form of social commentary.

When the choir intensifies to portray the fervor of Baal's followers, the performance evokes the formidable momentum characteristic of collective movements.

Mendelssohn effectively conveys the disorder of a society that has lost its direction, thereby heightening the impact of Elijah's eventual quiet resolve.

At the performance's climax, Elijah's ascent to heaven in a whirlwind underscored the notion that the pursuit of absolute truth is frequently an isolated and challenging endeavor.

UTRGV's ensembles did more than narrate a story; they critically examined the underlying values and objects of reverence in contemporary society.

The absolute truth and virtue that Elijah pursued remain as elusive and essential today as they were in 1846.



AARYKAH NAVARRO/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV's University Choir and Master Chorale perform Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" April 25 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

against the current of a society that has traded its moral compass for the convenience of false idols.

Experiencing a live choir can be transcendent, the collective voices create an immersive and powerful auditory experience for the audience.

At the beginning of the production, the pianists established a turbulent atmosphere. Their

Floyd's incorporation of a youth choir in "Another Brick in the Wall" and Rosalia's collaboration with the Escolania de Montserrat in her 2025 album, "Lux," demonstrate the collective human voice remains a fundamental means of expressing both the sacred and the urgent.

During the UTRGV performance, the choir's

its core.

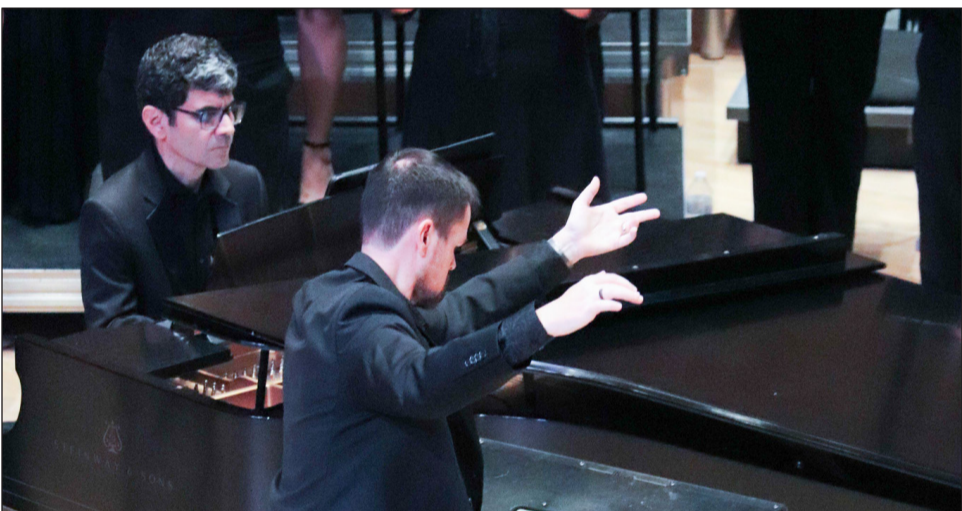
Elijah does not conform to the archetype of a conventional hero; rather, he functions as a disruptor. In contemporary terms, Elijah symbolizes the solitary voice that challenges prevailing narratives within digital echo chambers.

Whereas the prophets of Baal once embodied the

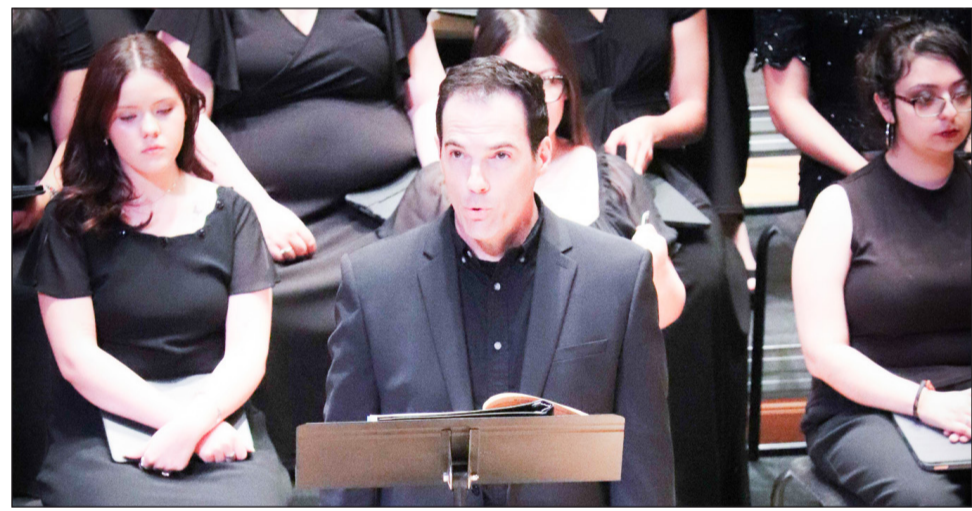
as analogous to contemporary icons such as Western celebrities, political figures and the idealized representations prevalent on social media.

We witness a society that iconoclastically tears down old truths to worship at the altar of the viral and the influential.

Elijah's internal struggle, then, is the struggle of the



Sean Taylor, an associate professor, conducts Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" April 25 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



Daniel Hunter-Holly, a professor for the UTRGV School of Music, performs a solo during Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" showcase April 25 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Cadaver conversations #12

HEY, SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT. I CAN'T BELIEVE I NEVER ASKED WHO YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE, Y'KNOW, ALIVE.

MY NAME WAS JUNIPER-MAY O'KEEFE. I WAS A LIBRARIAN FOR 20 YEARS, THUS THE BOOKS AND, WELL, WORDY VOCABULARY. HEART ATTACK DID ME IN ON JUNE 10, 2004.

IT'S NICE TO OFFICIALLY MEET YOU, FLACO. NOW, COULD I GET YOUR REAL NAME, OCCUPATION AND DATE OF DEMISE?

MY NAME WAS FRANCISCO BANDERAS. AS YOU KNOW, I WAS A MORTICIAN, PERO I DIED TOO YOUNG. PARTYING IN THE '50s WAS DANGEROUS.

HUH? OH, NO! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, FLACO. I NEVER REALLY INTRODUCED MYSELF. BESIDES, "DR. NERD" IS A FUNNY NICKNAME. BUT IF YOU WANNA KNOW ...

OH, CALL ME FLACO FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT, MY FRIEND. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO, JUNIPER-MAY.

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Baseball looks to slide into postseason spot

STEPHEN GUTIERREZ
THE RIDER

With the regular season coming to an end, the UTRGV Baseball Team is looking to solidify their place in the postseason during a point where each win matters, according to the head coach.

As of press time Thursday, the program sits in the middle of the standings at 14-13 for conference play, and a season overall of 20-25, according to the Southland Conference's website.

Head coach Derek Matlock said with the team placed where it currently is, making the conference tournament is not an automatic guarantee.

"We're sitting, I think in fifth place," Matlock said. "I know with 16 wins, we're in [the Southland Conference Tournament] ... so we gotta focus on winning the [next] series."

The Vaqueros faced the University of Incarnate Word on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in their last SLC regular season series. As of press time, results were unavailable.

According to Matlock, the team has been tense this season, which he finds weird but still remains confident in its ability to finish the season strong.

"We've definitely played with a lot of pressure all year," he said. "But we have a great team and, if we show up when it matters, we can beat anybody in the country. I really believe that."



THE RIDER FILE PHOTOS

Rocco Garza Gongora, redshirt junior outfielder, swings to hit the ball during the April 17 game against the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.

Matlock said the team has also been "up and down" at times during the season. While the offense has proven its ability to compete with some of the "best arms" they've faced, other aspects still have room to improve.

"Our offense is our offense, and they're going to be just as good as anybody," he

said. "We gotta pick up the pitching and the defense, and that can really take us to a new level."

The head coach added he feels the component that has been lacking is "consistency."

"We need some pitchers to do a little bit better job," Matlock said. "We need

them to step up there and do it. They definitely have the ability to do it, but they just haven't done it consistently."

He said, however, the team has started "moving in the right direction" lately. Matlock credits redshirt junior infielder Armani Raygoza and junior infielder Easton Moomau for taking leadership and playing a part in making it happen earlier in the month.

"They had a team meeting after the first two losses at Stephen F. Austin [State University]," he said. "After that ... we won the Sunday game, and I think we won every series since."

Matlock added the Vaqueros have gotten better at responding to playing under pressure, listing the recent series against McNeese State University (2-1) as an example.

"We lost the leads ... then, we came back and won the game both times to win the series," he said. "We're pretty tough and gritty. We'll fight to the end."

As the team gears up to finish its regular season strong and qualify for the SLC championship tournament, Matlock said he is looking beyond that.

"Our whole focus, every game and the schedule we put together is for one reason: to get us prepared to win a conference tournament and get into the [NCAA] regional," the head coach said. "That goal that we want is still right there to grab."



Graduate infielder Diego Villescás runs a base during the April 17 game against the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.



Easton Moomau, a junior infielder, waits for a play during the April 17 game against the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.

Vaqueros golf takes the SLC crown

Gael Espinoza
THE RIDER

For the first time in program history, the UTRGV Men's Golf Team is king of the Southland Conference, after beating out the University of the Incarnate Word by a point.

The 2026 conference tournament took place from April 20 to 22 at the Comanche Trace in Kerrville, Texas.

The win gives UTRGV a spot in the NCAA Division I regionals, which will take place from May 12 to 14. The team will find out in which regional it will play during the NCAA Selection Show Wednesday.

The program's first conference win was in 2010, when legacy institution the University of Texas-Pan American won the America Sky Conference Golf Championship at Los Lagos Golf Club in Edinburg.

Junior golfer Esteban Gonzalez said he is proud the team brought the title to the Rio Grande Valley, especially since he's been here his whole life.

"I mean, it feels really good, the best thing I've been a part of," Gonzalez said. "...

I'm glad that my third year is just bringing it home, and it's pretty cool. ... I have a lot of pride. All of my family [is] from the Valley, and I grew up here.

He added he hopes youth golfers in the area know "someone from the Valley can make it to that next level and be successful."

Sophomore golfer Gabriel Dulon Villoslada said the relationship between the players off the field helps and translates on the field.

"Obviously, we are going to train harder than what we are trained for," Villoslada said. "But nothing is going to change that much, just keep playing how we are playing."

Houston Moore, UTRGV director of Golf, said he is amazed by the win, but the team is still focused on practice.

"Hard work pays off; the dedication has value, and ... their year [has not] come to an end yet," Moore said. "So, just all good things, all good things ... back to our normal practice routine, we keep a pretty clean game. We know what we do; we work on our stats. We base our practice on our stats, and we work on stuff individually, not a whole lot of team-driven stuff. So, they're all grinding back on their craft."



PHOTOS COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

The UTRGV Men's Golf Team won the 2026 Southland Conference Championship, which took place from April 20 to 22, at the Comanche Trace Golf Club in Kerrville, Texas.



The UTRGV Men's Golf Team celebrates after winning the 2026 Southland Conference Championship, which took place from April 20 to 22, at the Comanche Trace Golf Club in Kerrville, Texas.



Freshman golfer Jorge Martín Sampedro walks on the green during the 2026 Southland Conference Men's Golf Tournament, which took place from April 20 to 22, at Comanche Trace Golf Club in Kerrville, Texas.

A DECADE OF VOICES

UTRGV Student Media celebrates 10 years



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV STUDENT MEDIA

Former UTRGV Student Media employee members Annet Del Toro (from left), former radio station manager; Jessica Mendez, former advertising sales representative; Jesus Sanchez, former The Rider editor-in-chief and now director of the department; Leslie Medrano, former advertising sales manager; and Albert Monrroy, former The Rider photographer, pose together for a group photo in 2017.

MYKEL DEL ANGEL ONLINE EDITOR

Many programs at UTRGV are celebrating a decade since the university's founding in 2015. Among them is Student Media, a program whose roots stretch back long before UTRGV existed.

Before the university's creation, its legacy institutions, the University of Texas–Pan American, the University of Texas at Brownsville and UTB/Texas Southmost College, laid the foundation for what Student Media is today.

At UTB/TSC and, later UTB, Student Media included The Rolling Stone, The Collegian, The Scorpion Sting, The Palmegian and El Charro.



Lesley Robles, former The Rider photographer

newspapers, as well as The Collegian News Webcast and UTB Radio.

At UTPA, El Sol, The Beacon and The Pan American newspapers, as well as Panorama magazine, Gallery magazine, Bronc TV and Bronc Radio made up student media.

Former Student Media Director Azenett Cornejo played a key role in expanding the UTB Student Media department. Hired in 1997 as student publications coordinator and later promoted, she grew the program from a single newspaper into a multimedia operation that included television and radio.

Clarissa Martinez, former editorial cartoonist for The Rider, said Cornejo's experience and leadership left a lasting impact on students.

"She knew her stuff," Martinez said. "... She liked to get straight to the point to work

efficiently and get things done."

She added working under Cornejo helped shape how students approached their work.

"It was fun," Martinez said. "... It was hectic, though, because it was a real job, and we had to meet very real deadlines."

Gregory Selber, former adviser for The Pan American newspaper at UTPA, described pre-merger student media as more experimental and less structured than it is today.

"We were a little more hit or miss ... we were a little more artsy," Selber said.

He said student publications at the time often took creative risks in layout and content, sometimes prioritizing visual storytelling and entertainment over traditional news structure.

When the legacy institutions merged in 2015, their media programs combined to form what is now UTRGV Student Media. Today, that includes The Rider newspaper, Pulse magazine, KVAQ-TV (formerly UTRGV-TV),

Vaquero Radio (formerly UTRGV Radio) and a newly formed marketing department. While

not formally part of Student Media, Gallery magazine remains a closely affiliated publication.

Cornejo continued as director through the

transition, leading Student Media for nearly a decade after the merger before retiring in 2024.

Director Jesus Sanchez, who began as the first newspaper editor-in-chief back in 2015, has led the department after Cornejo's retirement.

Donna Pazdera, former Panorama and Pulse magazine faculty adviser, recalled the transition into UTRGV Student Media as both unfamiliar and formative.

"It was weird," Pazdera said. "Nobody really had a great idea about how you merge two distinct campus cultures together."

She said the merger was the beginning of a new era, as staff worked to build a shared identity across campuses.

"We tried to include the people from Brownsville to make them feel like they're a part of it," Pazdera said.

P.J. Hernandez, former copy editor for The Rider, worked as a student employee during the early years of the department and said it felt like watching something take shape in real time.

"[We] kind of saw it being built from the ground up ... the campus in Edinburg and the campus in Brownsville being merged into one," Hernandez said.

He, who was based in Edinburg, said one of the biggest challenges during the time was the physical and cultural distance between campuses, often working with staff members he had never met in person.

"We didn't really know who the Brownsville staff was," Hernandez said. "You would just see names or talk to them on the phone."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Student Media adapted to a fully remote workflow, something former Pulse Social Media/Online Editor Michael Gonzalez experienced firsthand.

"It was all online, a lot of text messages, emails and Zoom meetings, just trying to stay as connected as possible," Gonzalez said.

Despite the challenges, he said the experience became a turning point in his career.

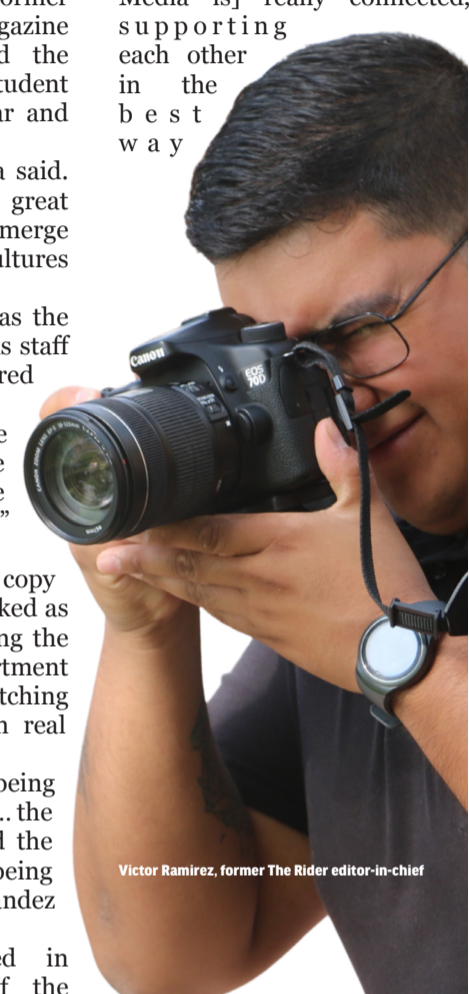
For Fernanda Gonzalez Salazar, former KVAQ-TV news director, Student Media was as much about people as it was about production.

"My time at Student Media was amazing," Gonzalez Salazar

said. "I wouldn't be the person that I am today, and I wouldn't be the working person that I am if it wasn't for Student Media."

She said one of the biggest changes she has seen over time is the sense of collaboration across programs.

"I feel like now all of [Student Media is] really connected, supporting each other in the best way



Victor Ramirez, former The Rider editor-in-chief

[students] can," Gonzalez Salazar said.

Delma Olivarez, associate dean for the Center for Student Involvement, said Student Media's growth over the past decade is reflected in both its students and its evolving resources.

Olivarez said recognition at competitions, such as the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference, which she attended this year as an adviser, highlights how far the program has come.

"I could tell that people were in awe ... and looked forward to seeing our students compete," she said.

At the 2026 TIPA conference, the program earned its fourth consecutive and fifth overall Director's Cup, the highest honor awarded by the association.

"Student Media has evolved significantly over the past 10 years," the associate dean said.

ALUMNI'S FAVORITE MEMORIES



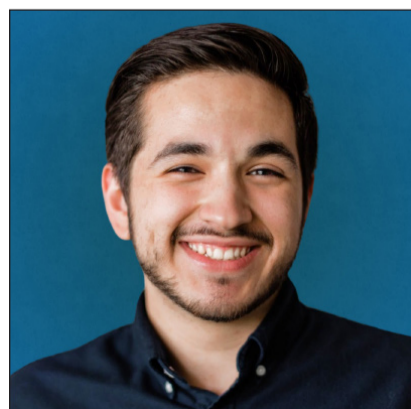
Clarissa Martinez
former The Rider cartoonist

"Thursday nights were always the busiest. I remember someone making pancakes. We just had pancakes everywhere."



P.J. Hernandez
former The Rider copy editor

"They made me a birthday video. They went to every single staff member, Edinburg and Brownsville, even people I didn't really talk to."



Michael Gonzalez
former Pulse photographer

"Seeing the Pulse magazine printed. That was the first time my work was printed in a magazine. That was really amazing."



Fernanda Gonzalez Salazar
former TV news director

"It was super cold outside. We saw a dog that was in a bad state, so we brought her into the newsroom, and gave her food and water."



Jocelyn Garcia
Marketing Specialist
Marketing



STUDENT MEDIA



**CLASS OF SPRING
2026**



Sofia Cantú
Spanish Editor
The Rider



Sophia Cortez
Reporter
The Rider



Carlos Castañeda
Copy Editor
The Rider



Narda Serna
Copy Editor
The Rider



Jose Rodriguez
Multimedia
Journalist
KVAQ-TV



Jasmin Espinosa
Multimedia
Journalist
KVAQ-TV



Pete Mendoza
Copy Editor
The Rider



America Salazar
Editor-in-Chief
Pulse



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A&E Editor
The Rider



Evelyn Tristan
Graphic Designer
Pulse



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