

THE RIDER

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BSN Program to change admission requirements

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

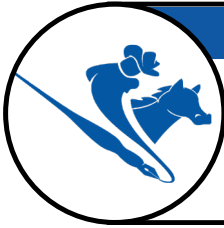
Students seeking Fall 2019 admission to UTRGV Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program will be required to take the HESI admission assessment exam. “We do not have unlimited space in the program,” said Sharon Radzynski, dean of the nursing program. “We would like to take all 300 or 400 students that apply to the

program, but we simply don’t have the space. So, we have to narrow it down to the students who are the best qualified and the most likely to succeed.”

critical thinking. “The ability to look at something and appropriately judge and make a response based on the information that they have, those are crucial attributes for a nursing student,” she said.

Each year, about 350 students apply to the program and less than half are accepted.

“One hundred twenty get accepted each year,” she said. See **BSN**, Page 2



IN SPRING 2020

The program will begin twice-a-year admissions for the spring and fall.

Radzynski said the Health Education Systems Inc. exam looks at math skills, science skills and



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Selena Cavazos (left) and Lupita Martinez, nurses at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Emergency Room in Edinburg, modify orders for a patient’s medication in 2017.



Jorge Abundiz/THE RIDER

The UT Health Rio Grande Valley Surgery and Women’s Specialty clinic opened last Wednesday at 614 Maco Dr. in Harlingen. Shown during the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left) Harlingen Mayor Chris Boswell; Michael Patriarca, senior associate vice president for Finance and Administration for the UTRGV Division of Health Affairs and executive vice dean for Finance and Administration for the UTRGV School of Medicine; Michelle Reid, physician assistant; Dr. Ash Hilmy, assistant professor of surgery; Andreas Holzenburg, professor; Dr. Laura Faye Gephart, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. Vijian Dhevan, assistant professor of surgery; and Dr. Samuel Snyder, chair of and professor in the Department of Surgery.

Surgery and women’s clinic opens

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, the UTRGV School of Medicine inaugurated the UT Health Rio Grande Valley Surgery and Women’s Specialty clinic in Harlingen with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the facility.

Ash Hilmy, a professor of surgery for the UTRGV School of Medicine, said the clinic will provide medical

care for the residents of the Rio Grande Valley and also educate medical students.

“We do have medical school meetings here, we have students rotating with our faculty here, observing and participating in patient care,” Hilmy said. “We have a conference room, we give lectures for surgery students, so it’s a busy enterprise.”

Services offered at the clinic include general, bariatric, vascular and endocrine

surgeries, and consultations and procedures related to gynecologic oncology and urogynecology.

“We are growing and there are more and more services offered here today than there were previously,” Hilmy said. “Patients don’t have to leave the Rio Grande Valley, they don’t need to go to San Antonio or Houston, because we are bringing more and

See **CLINIC**, Page 2

Student wins alma mater contest

Klaudia Cedillo
THE RIDER

Some students hearts’ swell with pride and joy when they hear their university’s alma mater performed, and for music education senior Roberto Garza, it will be especially satisfying.

The aspiring music teacher recently won the UTRGV Alma Mater Contest, sponsored by Student Activities last fall, and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Student Program Adviser Maria Almanza chaired the committee that coordinated the contest. She hopes students will appreciate the hard work Garza and other entrants put into the contest, as well as enjoy and find their own meaning in the school’s alma mater.

Students voted among the three finalists’ lyrics between Nov. 19 and 30 through V-link. Garza was announced as the winner of the contest during the President’s Holiday Reception, where his lyrics were declared as the official alma mater.

“His lyrics, although I didn’t officially have a say, I do think his lyrics were one of the best, which it doesn’t surprise me because he has a background in music,” Almanza replied when asked about the lyrics.

Garza gained experience in songwriting by composing for school and in his free time. He said he felt he had an advantage being a music education major and being a singer.

“Having experienced singing a lot of good writing and poetry, it gives you perspective on how things should be done,” he said.

Garza found his inspiration for the lyrics by revisiting his past school alma maters, and finding what UTRGV really meant to him by looking back on his favorite memories and moments.

“I was really trying to highlight all those key points and to represent pride and unity for our school,” he said.

Asked about how he felt after winning the contest, Garza replied that he felt immediate relief and happiness that his hard work had paid off.

“The most satisfying part is realizing that you’re going to be a part of school history, and I think that it’s going to mean a lot to students, and to just leave your mark in some way, shape or form,” Garza said. “And, it was just great to get to do that.”

Asked if he had any advice for other aspiring songwriters, Garza replied, “If there’s an inspiration, stick with it, keep doing it, and have patience, more than anything, a lot of patience. All ideas are good ideas, sometimes they just don’t always come at the right time.”



Roberto Garza



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Communication Lecturer Marcy McQuillen teaches public speaking on the Edinburg campus.

UTRGV lecturer battles cancer

Samantha Garza
THE RIDER

Marcolfa “Marcy” McQuillen, a lecturer in the UTRGV Communication Department, wife and mother of three, did not allow her fight against cancer to interfere with her passion for teaching.

McQuillen graduated from legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American with a bachelor’s degree in speech-communication in 1999, and

a master’s degree in speech communication in 2001.

She began her career as a high school teacher in August 2000 in the Donna Independent School District. Four years later, she entered postsecondary education at UTPA, teaching a learning framework course for freshmen. Although she cherished helping students with the transition from high school to college, she returned to her calling. In 2017,

she began to work for the Communication Department, teaching public speaking.

“Communication and leadership have always been my second and first love,” McQuillen said.

In the summer of 2017, McQuillen was recovering from surgery she underwent in May for gallbladder and pancreatic complications, but she felt that wasn’t the end of it.

See **CANCER**, Page 5

THE RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Texas Hold'em tournament

The Student Union will host a Texas Hold'em tournament at noon in the game room on the Edinburg campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn VBucks. For more information, call 665-7890.

Hot chocolate bar

The Student Union will serve free hot chocolate with toppings at noon on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

Faculty Artist Series

A piano trio concert, featuring UTRGV Lecturers Tido Janssen, Stacy Kwak and University of Pennsylvania Professor Peter Isaacson, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The concert is part of the UTRGV

Patron of The Arts program. For more information, call 665-3881.

Tuesday Gaming hour

The Student Union will offer free play from noon to 3 p.m. in the game room on the Brownsville campus. Play video games, board games, air hockey and billiards. For more information, call 665-7890.

Belay Clinics

University Recreation will host a course on how to safely belay climbers at 7 p.m. in the UREC on the Edinburg campus. Students who complete the course can belay others at the UREC Rock Climbing Wall. Registration fee is \$10. For more information, email urec@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Millennial Lotería night

Play Millennial Lotería at 3 p.m. in the Student Union La Sala on the Brownsville campus. For more

information, call 665-7890.

Auditions

The Treble Thrivers will host auditions to join the group at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Auditions will continue at the same time and location Thursday. The organization is described as a show choir, glee club or an a cappella group. For more information, email treblethrivers@gmail.com.

Thursday

Family game days

The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team faces Chicago State University at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Students receive free admission with valid ID. The first 200 fans in attendance will receive a mystery giveaway item at 6 p.m. For more information, call 882-2256.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 17 and 23.



Jan. 17

4:33 p.m.: A student was taken to a local hospital after she felt dizzy and ill in Lot E-8 on the Edinburg campus.

Jan. 18

5:18 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the police department lobby on the Edinburg campus in regard to a student who wanted to report an off-campus incident. The officer determined that the student was intoxicated due to his slurred speech, bloodshot eyes and smelled like alcohol. The student was released to the care of an adult at the officer's discretion.

7:33 a.m.: Officers contacted a non-affiliated man in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus due to his strange behavior and several illogical statements he made. Officers found that he was in possession of his mother's medication, but determined that the man was not dangerous. The medication was confiscated, and the man was issued a criminal trespass warning. He was transported to the Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Center for further evaluation.

9:36 a.m.: An officer stopped a driver for several traffic violations. However, upon closer inspection, he detected the smell of marijuana inside the vehicle. The officer obtained written consent to search the vehicle, where he found marijuana residue.

1:11 p.m.: A student who was found unconscious after falling in the common area of the Village Apartments was transported by ambulance to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance.

8:40 p.m.: An officer stopped a driver on the Edinburg campus for failing to dim his headlights. On further questioning, he admitted to possessing narcotics. The driver was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and of control substance penalty group 1 (cocaine).

Jan. 22

6:47 a.m.: An officer fell while walking down a flight of stairs in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus and injured his right shoulder.

11:23 a.m.: An officer on the Brownsville campus contacted a student in regard to a filed harassment

report against her ex-boyfriend with the Brownsville Police Department.

12:12 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Mathematics and Science Academy on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that a burnt noodle soup in a microwave caused the alarm to sound. The building was later deemed safe for re-entry by the Edinburg Fire Department.

12:38 p.m.: A student on the Edinburg campus reported receiving a suspicious phone call from an unknown man asking about his personal information. The student revealed his Social Security number and date of birth to the man over the phone.

Jan. 23

11:34 a.m.: An officer on the Edinburg campus contacted a student in regard to a filed harassment report against her ex-boyfriend with the Mission Police Department.

2:28 p.m.: A staff member suffered a seizure at the University Center on the Edinburg campus. Officers responded to the scene and the staff member was transported to a hospital.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

BSN

Continued from Page 1

"We are hoping [HESI] will make the applications fair.

"We don't want to take in students who are not going to be able to pass, students who are not going to be successful in nursing because that keeps out someone who might or would have been a better candidate."

The average grade-point average to enter the program is about 3.5 and it gets higher every year, according to Radzynski.

"This year, you needed over 3.8 to get into the program, especially in science and math," she said. "We have known since the 1940s that individuals who succeed in the school of nursing, and do well, also succeed in science

and math."

Another change in the program is that starting in Spring 2020, the BSN will begin twice-a-year admissions for the spring and fall.

"Right now, we take all 120 students at the same time," Radzynski said. "Next year, we are going to take 60 in the fall and 60 in the spring. We are taking the same 120, but we are taking them in two different sections for a couple of reasons: one, smaller class size. ... It gives us access to what we call 'interactive learning.' When you have smaller class size, the teacher can better interact with students.

"It is also if for any reason a student needs to repeat a course, right now, the student has to sit out a whole year. But if we admit students twice a year, it means that we have to teach every single class every semester. So,

if a student needs to retake a course, they can take it immediately the next semester."

Radzynski said these changes will improve the educational experience students have with the nursing program.

"It is to help the student, so that we can pick, really, the best students out of those who apply, who are likely to be successful and who are likely to be really good, strong nurses," she said.

Students who do not get accepted to the program can reapply the next semester.

"Do well in science and math," Radzynski said. "I know I keep saying that, but that is one of the No. 1 things we look at because we have 80 years of data that shows that students who do well in science and math, do well in nursing."

CLINIC

Continued from Page 1

more specialists to serve the needs of our community."

During the event, Michael Patriarca, executive vice dean for the School of Medicine, said the clinic will potentially serve as a research site.

"This site will eventually serve as a clinical research site, where we gather data on patients and making findings on the Hispanic, understudied population that has needed it so badly," Patriarca said.

Harlingen Mayor Chris Boswell spoke about the importance of the clinic, its impact on the community and on the students.

"This is a place where medical students who train less and less in the classroom and more and more in facilities like this are going to get to learn about practicing medicine," Boswell said.

The Surgery and Women's Specialty Center team includes:

Department of Surgery:
--Dr. Vijian Dhevan, general surgery
--Dr. Ash Hilmy, general and vascular surgery

--Dr. Henry Reinhart, endocrine and general surgery

--Dr. Minerva Romero Arenas, endocrine and general surgery

--Dr. Samuel Snyder, endocrine and general surgery
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

--Dr. Laura Faye Gephart, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery

--Dr. Lyuba Levine, gynecology oncology

--Dr. Mark Reedy, obstetrics and gynecology.
The clinic is located at 614 Maco Dr. in Harlingen.

Groundskeeper recalls experiences

Maleny Ortega

THE RIDER

Enrique Castro Jr. uses his work experience to help maintain a presentable campus as a staff member of the UTRGV Campus Facilities Operations.

Castro, a groundskeeper, started working for UTRGV in 2008, but has been employed since 1979 in various fields, such as farm work, *maquiladoras* and construction. He has worked in Florida, North Carolina, Minneapolis and Houston.

He recalls the hard work of his time in the fields.

“Working in labor, well, it’s hard,” Castro said in Spanish. “It is waking up at 3 in the morning, preparing breakfast and boarding a bus that takes you to work eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 hours in the sun or in the cold, whichever of the two, depending on where you were assigned.”

Castro is from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, where he had businesses such as a jewelry shop, shoe store and *taqueria*, but had to leave the city because of the violence and to improve himself.

“I came here due to the danger there was in Matamoros,” he said. “We had to come to Brownsville. I

got married here, had my son and, well, to not be over there in the danger.”

Castro’s duties as a groundskeeper include operating the excavators, forklifts, installing pipelines, working with the irrigation systems and repairing machinery.

He likes the opportunities given to the employees to try out new ideas that will benefit the campus, using their previous experience and knowledge.

“We try to give our two cents and give better ideas to take advantage of time ... and try to always maintain the campus presentable for the students,” Castro said.

When he is not working, Castro likes to spend his time off making repairs at home, exercising or playing racquetball.

Daniel Gonzalez, the superintendent of Grounds Maintenance, said Castro is a hardworking and dependable employee.

“He’s always willing to go above and beyond with his co-workers and as a personal friend,” Gonzalez said. “Outside of work, he’s a family man and always there for his family and for his friends.”

While working with Castro, Gonzalez said he has learned



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Groundskeeper Enrique Castro Jr. has been working at the university since 2008, where he operates excavators and forklifts, installs pipelines and repairs machinery.

about irrigation, carpentry and mechanic work.

Castro spoke about various experiences during his time as a groundskeeper at the university, such as working during inclement weather, when he worked through wind and rain while picking up fallen trees, and also being present throughout the

university’s transition from legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville to UTRGV.

After he retires from his full-time position at UTRGV, Castro plans to continue working, either part time at the university or doing repairs at home, such as remodeling, mowing the lawn

and painting.

Castro advises students to keep progressing, working and studying to shape a better future for generations to come.

“It’s never late to start,” he said. “It’s never late to study or work. It doesn’t matter if we are old, as long as our bodies hold.”

Pizza Hut openings on campus delayed



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Contract negotiations and remodeling have delayed the opening of the Pizza Hut concessions on both UTRGV campuses.

Klaudia Cedillo

THE RIDER

The Pizza Hut stations on campus, which were originally scheduled to open last fall, have been delayed.

On the Edinburg campus, the pizza station was set to replace Slice of Life in the Student Union. On the Brownsville campus, it was arranged to be next to the Subconnection station in the Student Union’s El Comedor.

Robert Cantu, executive director of UTRGV’s Business Auxiliary Services, said the delay was mainly due to prolonged contract negotiations with Pizza Hut that were eventually settled. The complete remodeling of the area on the Edinburg campus also played a role in its postponement.

“We had to provide everything by their exact specifications, down to the actual pans that were going to be used to bake the pizzas in,” Cantu said.

With negotiations and construction completed, officials are now waiting on

restaurant equipment to come in to be assembled and organized.

Asked if there is a set date for the opening, Cantu replied, “Unfortunately, no, but once we get a firm timeline, we’ll probably have a two-week marketing plan set up to let everyone know.”

Clarissa Morales, a biology junior, believes that despite the delayed opening, Pizza Hut will be popular.

“It was kind of a surprise because I didn’t think it was going to be that difficult since they replaced that Slice of Life and it was already a pizza place,” Morales said about the delay. “I thought it was going to be like just renaming it.”

Cantu said he was thankful to everyone involved in the process of getting the pizza concession.

“The planning, the construction and, hopefully, the opening very soon of the Pizza Hut has been a long process,” Cantu said. “And we’re doing our very best to ensure we provide students with the food choices that they want.”

Workshop to help students get ready for Engaged Scholar Symposium

Klaudia Cedillo

THE RIDER

Students planning to participate in the annual Engaged Scholar Symposium can receive help on their submissions at Super Scholar Friday, set from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 1.

Super Scholar Friday will take place in Sabal Hall 1.104 in Brownsville and in Student Academic Center 2.103 in Edinburg.

The event will be hosted by the Office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning and the Writing Center.

“It’s pretty much like an office open house that allows

for our students to come in, ask for any last-minute help, or ask any questions about how to go about submitting

our call for submissions,” said Estela De La Garza, program coordinator for Engaged Scholarship and Learning.

Although focused primarily on UTRGV undergraduates, Super Scholar Friday is open to all university students for a chance to have their work edited for the Engaged Scholar Symposium, which is scheduled April 16-17.

Students from all backgrounds are welcomed to display their work ranging from biological

do in their classes and out of them,” De La Garza said. “And to really stress that we are happy to see all of the work that our students are doing in all of the disciplines.”

Asked about the symposium, biology senior Lorenah Vasquez replied, “I first thought it was for scholarships.

... I’ve never been to this event before, but it sounds interesting.

The deadline for submissions for the Engaged Scholar Symposium will be midnight Feb. 7. Students may submit their work at utrgv.submittable.com/submit.

science research posters to short stories.

“I’d just like to reiterate the importance of our students knowing that this is a symposium for them, so that they’re able to showcase all of the hard work that they

“We hope that if they do submit, they submit before 5 p.m. so that we can do any troubleshooting while were in the office,” De La Garza said. “We definitely recommend that they take advantage of [Super Scholar Friday]. ... In the case that students have any issues, we can help them out.”

She encourages students to also attend the Engaged Workshop: Share Your Work from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, where students will learn useful tips and tricks. The workshop will be held in Main Building 1.422 in Brownsville and Student Academic Center 2.130 in Edinburg.



Super Scholar Friday

When: 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Sabal Hall 1.104 in Brownsville
Student Academic Center 2.103 in Edinburg

VAQUERO VOICE



First week of class



“So far, from what I’ve seen, is that my class load is a little hectic. There is a lot of deadlines already and, so, I foresee that it will be a really busy semester. But I am a senior, so it’s going to be a very exciting one. It’s my last one. Hopefully, I’ll be in the master’s program next year, but it’s a very, very busy schedule that I have and I just have to keep on track. I have to stay on top of my schedule and I’m going to be really successful if I do that.”

Bianca Alvarez
English senior

“I believe that you can tell how the rest of the semester is going to be within the first week of school because the teachers basically set the pace. So, if they give you how many exams there is going to be, how much homework assignments, then that way you know how you are going to plan out your semester, so you can make room for your other classes.”



David Gomez
Civil engineering senior



“I think that it’s going to go pretty good. I have certain classes that I think are a little tough, but I think I’ll be able to tackle them down with going to tutoring and, you know, just studying and paying attention in class. So, I’m wishing the best for this semester.”

Iris Gamez
Mathematics junior

“I feel like I’m going to have to put more work into it. Last semester, I got by without reading textbooks and stuff, just going by the notes. I know for sure, now, I’m going to have to put more into reading and taking more notes like that.”

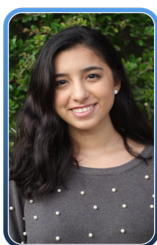


Vincent Guerrero
Computer science sophomore

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



Moving from English to Spanish



Samantha Garza
THE RIDER

Growing up, I moved around several times.

Location has never been a problem, but my language always seemed to define me, becoming the curse I couldn’t escape.

The first nine years of my life I lived in the Houston suburb of Katy. I was in second grade, had moved schools once and graduated from a bilingual program. Until then, knowing English and Spanish had been a blessing. After one year, I was comfortable in my new English classes, then my parents decided to move again. Only this time, we would move 492 miles south to Allende, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. I went from an all-English class to an all-Spanish school.

I arrived to my first day of school with no worries about my Spanish, because I had graduated from a bilingual program. However, I was made fun of for mispronouncing simple words and for having an “American accent.”

One student even created a

rhyme with all the words I had mispronounced. It wasn’t a big deal until it made teachers laugh. My bad pronunciation had begun to define me and being bilingual became a curse.

In sophomore year of high school, I had the next five years of my life planned out; I knew which school I wanted to attend and the career I was going to pursue. I was placed in a bilingual program of Spanish-French. I was becoming trilingual! I still struggled with Spanish, but I had come to terms with it.

Then, just when I was comfortable, my parents decided to move 193 miles north, to Edinburg. This move has been the most difficult one I have experienced.

I was ready to start my junior year of high school, but my records said I had just moved from Mexico. This led to my placement in a freshman English-learning classroom. This meant that for three hours a day, two times a week, I was going to learn the essential words of the English language.

There was one teacher, “the one who taught me English,” who made it clear to me and

my classmates how I thought too much of my abilities, and if I were to leave his program, I would be back in less than a week. After telling my parents what had happened, they went in to speak to my counselor and successfully got me into regular junior-level classes. By this time, the teacher had gotten into my head and scared me into speaking English.

Since my speaking self-esteem was so low, I decided to take easy classes and focus on getting out of high school. I never saw myself being in an advanced English class. I heard that college was all about writing, and all I could think about was how my “bad” English was going to set me back. After two years of thinking I wasn’t good enough, I got accepted to UTRGV and thought to myself, “I must be doing something right.”

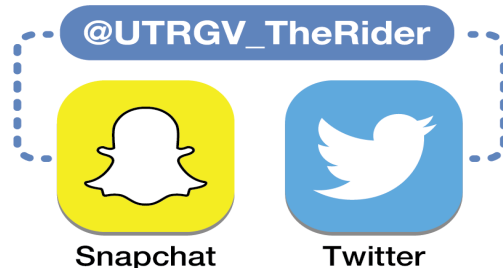
Two English classes and a writing class later, I found a love for writing in both languages. Being a bilingual writer is a blessing, but it becomes a curse when there is no exact English version of the words *ajeno*, *compadre* or *estrenar*, etc., but that’s a story for another time.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter’s author or the letter cannot be published.

Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

FOLLOW US!



El enlace entre dos naciones

Casi listas las oficinas de UTRGV en Matamoros



Eric Montoya/Fotos The Rider

El Instituto Matamorense para la Cultura y las Artes (IMACULTA) será el hogar del U Central Matamoros. La ciudad de Matamoros le otorgó a UTRGV este espacio para oficinas, el cual no tendrá ningún costo de renta o de servicios públicos.

Eric Montoya

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Después de seis meses de planeación, un centro de servicio de UTRGV en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, se encuentra cerca de abrir sus puertas para servir como un enlace entre la universidad y sus estudiantes que residen en México.

Una ceremonia de inauguración se llevará a cabo el 18 de febrero.

“Tendremos una ceremonia de corte de listón el 18 de febrero y ese sería más o menos como una introducción y de ahí nos moveremos hacia pleno funcionamiento después de eso”, Janna Arney, delegada del rector de UTRGV, dijo durante una entrevista telefónica con *The Rider*.

U Central Matamoros, el cual es el nombre oficial del centro de servicio,

fue aprobado el 14-15 de noviembre durante la última reunión de la junta directiva del Sistema Universitario de Texas (University of Texas System).

La oficina “imitará a las otras oficinas de U Central en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg de UTRGV”, de acuerdo con un comunicado de prensa emitido el pasado jueves.

Arney dijo que el centro contará con empleados con conocimientos amplios y hábiles en varios campos quienes “serán capaces de trabajar con los estudiantes, ya sean futuros estudiantes o estudiantes que ya están inscritos”.

“[Los empleados] los ayudarán con sus preguntas, su papeleo o lo que sea que necesiten, y si ellos no lo pueden hacer personalmente, servirán como un enlace con el campus, el cual les facilitará

el proceso en beneficio de los estudiantes”, ella dijo.

Al preguntarle si hay planes para añadir otros servicios, Arney contestó, “Estamos empezando con lo que nosotros creemos que los estudiantes van a necesitar y después responderemos a lo que realmente necesiten. ... Nuestro propósito es responder a sus necesidades y ser un recurso para ellos, para sus dudas, pero por el momento no sabemos exactamente cuales van a ser, así que, nuestro propósito es aprender de las necesidades de los estudiantes y adaptarse debidamente”.

El centro de servicio de Matamoros estará localizado en la Avenida Constitución 57, Colonia Jardín Matamoros. La oficina estará dentro del Instituto Matamorense para la Cultura y las Artes (IMACULTA), el cual está enfrente de la

Escuela Preparatoria Federal por Cooperación Ricardo Flores Magón.

Este espacio fue elegido por la ciudad de Matamoros debido a su proximidad al Parque Cultural Olímpico y al nuevo Consulado General de Estados Unidos en Matamoros que se encuentra en construcción, así como también por su cercanía al Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge, popularmente conocido como el “puente viejo” o “old bridge”.

“Está adentro de un edificio más grande, así que, estamos ocupando una pequeña porción de este, cerca de 1,600 pies”, dijo Arney. “Está ubicado en una zona céntrica, es un espacio hermoso, muy accesible para los estudiantes y sus familias, y es accesible en cuanto al puente”.

El espacio, compuesto de cuatro oficinas y un área de recepción, será un “espacio con renta gratuita en el edificio IMACULTA ... con servicios públicos incluidos, sin ningún costo para la universidad”, de acuerdo con el comunicado de prensa.

Al preguntarle cuanto dinero se ha usado para el proyecto, Arney contestó,

“Es demasiado pronto para determinar la cantidad total de fondos que invertiremos, pero estaremos pagando por el personal, equipo señalización. Esos fondos serán pagados por los departamentos responsables de dichos gastos”.

Éxito Estudiantil, Inscripciones Estratégicas (*Strategic Enrollment*) y la Oficina de Compromiso Global son los departamentos de UTRGV que han estado involucrados en las conversaciones respecto al centro, de acuerdo con Arney.

Ella dijo que el propósito del nuevo centro es “traer los servicios a donde los estudiantes están, en lugar de pedirles que ellos vengan a nosotros”.

“Cada estudiante que busca ayuda tiene diferentes preguntas y una necesidad diferente”, dijo Arney. “Así que, lo proveeremos de personal quienes puedan hacerse cargo de la mayoría de estas necesidades o que puedan contactar a alguien que pueda”.

--Leslie Medrano, editora de contenido web, contribuyó a este reporte.



Se muestra del lado izquierdo las oficinas designadas para el futuro U Central Matamoros. El centro de servicio se usará para ayudar a los actuales y futuros estudiantes de UTRGV quienes residen en México.

CANCER

Continued from Page 1

“I had a hard time getting someone, or one of the doctors, to listen to me because they thought it was just recovery,” McQuillen said. “But my gut told me it was something more.”

While teaching classes in October 2017, she was in disbelief when she was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.

“I didn’t freak out; it was just hard to believe,” McQuillen said about her reactions to the diagnosis. “I was 41, and I was thinking, ‘Really?’”

Shortly after being diagnosed, McQuillen began to visit the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Road trips would become part of her and her husband Jeffrey McQuillen’s routine for the next couple of years.

Always keeping the best interest of her students in mind, and with the Fall 2017 classes close to ending, she thought it wouldn’t be fair to them if she were to pass on her course to someone else.

And so, she finished the semester, then underwent surgery before the

year ended.

Communication Department Interim Chair Jennifer Lemanski, who was the associate chair at the time, “wanted her two be healthy over anything else.” Lemanski wasn’t surprised that McQuillen wanted to continue teaching and had “full confidence” that she could manage her time.

“She always strives to do the right thing and is a great person to know and to work with,” Lemanski said about McQuillen.

Jeffrey McQuillen, a communication associate professor, encouraged her to continue working.

In an interview with *The Rider*, McQuillen described his wife as “enthusiastic, dedicated [and] energetic.”

Marcy McQuillen said she was lucky to have the surgery in early December 2017, so she had a month to recover before classes began. She had a successful surgery in which doctors said they were able to remove most of the cancer, but they didn’t want to leave any room for error.

They recommended that she receive chemotherapy every other week at MD Anderson for the next six months.

“It was tough, but we did it. We

got through it,” Marcy McQuillen said proudly.

In Summer 2018, McQuillen successfully finished her chemotherapy sessions, and travels monthly to MD Anderson for follow-up tests.

The thriving lecturer believes continuing to practice her calling, the drive to help students and making sure their education wasn’t affected by her situation, made the process a lot easier.

“I thought, ‘Let me see if I can get through,’ and they were very, very helpful as far as the chair of the department and faculty here,” McQuillen said.

While receiving treatment at MD Anderson, McQuillen said she expected to have a similar recovery experience as to what is shown on TV.

“A lot of people walk in without a wheelchair. They are not totally depressed. It was a cheery place,” she said, about the hospital. “It helped to keep the mood up. It helped people focus on what they were doing but also that [cancer is] not something you can’t handle.”

The cancer survivor said she wouldn’t have been able to juggle all of her responsibilities if it weren’t for the help and support of her husband,

family, friends and co-workers.

“I’m quite the proud person,” McQuillen said, explaining that once she received the support from the people surrounding her, the last two years seemed to go by calmer.

She recommends that anyone dealing with cancer find supportive people who are willing to attend overwhelming doctor appointments with them.

Finding a hobby to add to a daily routine, such as reading a book, watching a TV series or working, can be helpful.

Lastly, she encourages patients to talk to people who have gone or are going through similar situations, as the sensitive topics might be difficult for family and friends to bear.

Being strong, proud and somebody who never gives up, she shared her situation only with the people it would immediately affect.

McQuillen hopes that by making her story public, she will help anyone in the community who is dealing with a similar situation and remind them they aren’t alone.

With tears welling in her eyes, McQuillen said she would like to thank her family, co-workers and students “for everything.”

UTRGV alumna joins NBA dance team

Britney Valdez

A&E EDITOR

Sarah Zepeda graduated from UTRGV in 2017 with an English degree. She is now a dancer for the NBA team, the Houston Rockets, and credits part of her success to the preparation she received at UTRGV.

Since graduating from college, Zepeda has danced at several dance companies, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and is now a Houston Rockets Power Dancer.

Her love of dancing began when she was 5 years old.

After showing interest and skill in dance, she became more invested and continued to pursue it well into high school.

"I started [dancing] around 5 [years old], it wasn't anything serious," Zepeda said. "It wasn't until my mom saw that I had a knack for it. She put me into a studio and it kind of stayed with me ever since."

After being in drill team throughout middle and high school, she began working for the American Dance/Drill Team, which provided her with many opportunities.

Zepeda attended UTRGV and enjoyed her time in college. However, she also faced financial and institutional obstacles during this time.

"With UTRGV, it was a roller coaster," she said. "I was there during the transition from UTPA to UTRGV, but once [they] made that change, the environment changed [as well]. There was a lot more help and then going through with my degree plan, the advisers and professors worked really well with it."

During college, Zepeda met fellow student Christopher Esparza.

Esparza is now the head theatre arts teacher at Harlingen High school. He graduated from UTRGV with a degree in mass communication.

He met Zepeda his junior year in his public speaking class.

"Sarah was a very professional and goal-oriented person," Esparza said. "She would come into class already in her dance gear. She would come in, do a great job and then leave. So, I was very intimidated in the beginning.



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV alumna Sarah Zepeda is now a dancer for the Houston Rockets NBA team. In addition to performing as a Houston Rockets Power Dancer, she has also danced with the American Dance/Drill Team and at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

I was, like, 'Man, this girl has got it going on!'"

Esparza and Zepeda initially bonded in class over their travel experience. They have been friends for three years.

"Throughout our friendship, I think the memory that stands out for me most is that she has been there for me through the toughest of times, even when she was [struggling in her] personal life and when my mom was, and still is, battling cancer," he said.

He appreciates Zepeda for being a positive influence in his life and for always being supportive.

"She would check on me and the day we found out that my mother was going back, because [the cancer] did come back, she was there for me," Esparza said. "She supported me and was my shoulder to cry on, and I'll forever be grateful for that."

He wishes the best for her in her journey as a Houston Rockets Power Dancer and knows that she will

continue to accomplish nothing short of greatness.

"I could not be more proud of her," Esparza said. "Sarah is one person whose goals have never been to be a big fish in a small pond. She always pushes herself to be the best she could be, regardless of failure [and] of how rough the past may be.

"She really puts all of her efforts into creating a better life for herself, her family and her friends. And she is so humble about it at the same time, which I love about her."

According to Zepeda, college helped her prepare for future endeavors, including joining the Houston Rockets Power Dancers.

"For me, it was a really great experience and it really helped shape me into the adult I am now so I can achieve what I needed to out here in Houston," she said.

The Houston Rockets Power Dancers

is a cheerleading group that performs, promotes and models alongside the Houston Rockets NBA team.

In order to become a Houston Rockets Power Dancer, Zepeda had to engage in a weeklong process that required her to study as well as dance.

The process begins with an audition that varies from year to year.

"We learned a hip-hop routine for round one," she said. "There were hundreds of girls there. We learned the routine, go out in our groups, performed them and [would possibly] make callbacks for second round."

Zepeda made it to the second round, which was similar to the first, but surprisingly got called in for a supplemental interview before making it to the finals.

"They had actually called me back for a quick interview and, usually, interviews don't happen until you make it to finals," she said. "They just asked me, being from the Valley, how I will balance the transition and they wanted to make sure I was mentally ready if I were to go on to the finals, would I be able to handle all that change."

After the dance auditions, she had to participate in the interview portion of the process, which tested the aspiring dancers on Rockets history.

Her responsibilities as an RPD member include maintaining physical health and beauty and representing the Rockets brand as a whole.

"We definitely have to make sure we look physically attractive," Zepeda said. "We don't have to wear makeup, just look presentable.

"With our [bodies], we don't have a diet plan, we don't have weight restrictions or anything like that. That's something I really love about the organization—that they just want you to be healthy."

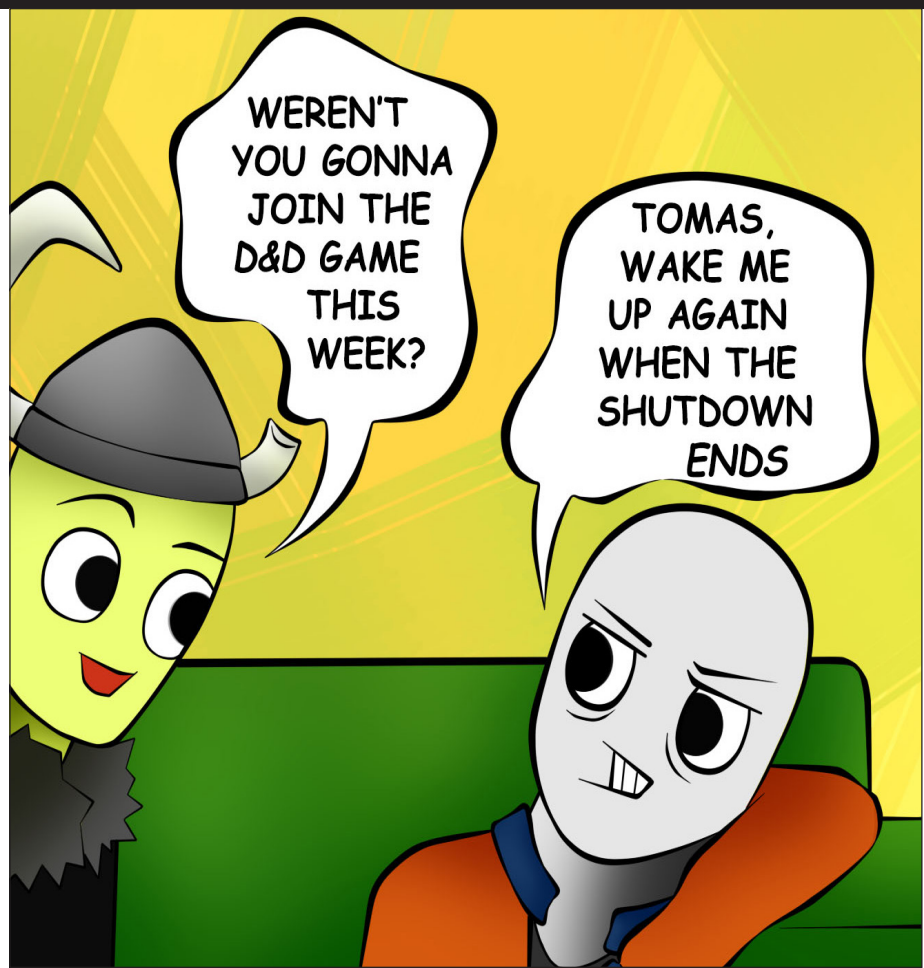
As of press time, the Rockets are 27-20 overall in the Western Conference.

Zepeda attends practice three times a week to prepare for March Madness.

"Right now, we're getting ready for March Madness," she said. "After that, we'll, hopefully, make it to the playoffs because if we make it to the championship, we get rings, so that would be really cool to get that on my first year on the team."

Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



Fall 2018 recap and Spring 2019 outlook

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's soccer, and volleyball all ended the season with record-breaking accomplishments.

The success started on the Women's Cross-Country Team, which ranked No. 7 in the region. Mercy Chelangat won two races and finished fourth at the WAC Championships, earning her First Team honors. She was then ranked as the No. 7 freshman in the nation. Senior Jennifer Zapata earned All-WAC Second Team.

On the men's side, senior Omer Almog and freshman Abraham Chirchir led the team to a historic season. Almog achieved a second-place finish at the WAC Championships, earning All-WAC First Team.

Chirchir brought home a third-place finish at the WAC Championships and earned All-WAC First Team. He then advanced to the NCAA South Central Regional, where he obtained second. Chirchir became the first UTRGV runner to advance to the NCAA Championships in 13 years. Chirchir finished the season ranked No. 9 in the NCAA and earned WAC Freshman of the Year.

On the field, the Men's Soccer Team accomplished a historic season. The Vaqueros won 14 matches, the most wins in Division I program history. UTRGV finished second in the WAC, qualifying the team to the WAC Tournament. At the tournament, the Vaqueros won their first WAC Tournament match 4-1 over the University of Nevada Las Vegas. They advanced to the semifinal match but fell 1-0 to San Jose State University.

UTRGV earned nine All-WAC awards. Junior forward Kyle Edwards and senior defender Antone Jarvis were named to the All-WAC First Team. Junior forward William Akio earned All-WAC Second Team while sophomores Bryce Box (midfielder) and Guillermo Martinez (defender), juniors Andy Rios (goalie) and Arthur Rogers (midfielder), and senior midfielder Isidro Martinez earned All-WAC Honorable Mention.

Senior forward Rooby Dalusma and Edwards went on to be named to the 2018 WAC Men's Soccer All-Tournament Team.

Head Coach Paul Leese was named WAC Coach of the Year.

UTRGV was not done making history. The Vaqueros earned a fourth-



Mariana Gomez/THE RIDER

UTRGV junior guard Jordan Jackson scores Nov. 6 during the exhibition match against Texas A&M University-Commerce at the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg. The Vaqueros took a 91-84 victory over the Lions.

place standing in the regional ranking of the United Soccer Coaches Far West Region.

Edwards was named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Far West Region First Team and Jarvis earned Second Team honors. Akio earned NCAA All-Canadian Second Team by First Touch Football, a digital marketing company focused on creating opportunities for soccer players.

The Women's Soccer Team set a new program record of 12 victories.

Freshman forward Emily Zapata earned All-WAC First Team, as she led the team in goals, shots, shots on goal and game-winning goals. Top Drawer

Soccer, which provides coverage of college and high school soccer, also named Zapata No. 91 on the list of the Top 100 Freshmen in the country.

Junior goalie Kinga Szemik obtained All-WAC First Team and was called to play with the Polish Women's National Soccer Team. She also earned WAC All-Tournament Team and was named to the United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-West Region Third Team.

On the All-WAC Second Team list were junior forward Sarah Bonney and senior defender Tuva Rolstad Nilsen.

UTRGV finished No. 2 in WAC standings and went on to compete at the WAC tournament. The team made

history by obtaining the program's first-ever win in the WAC tournament and advancing to the semifinal round but lost 2-0 to Seattle University.

Closing off the success in UTRGV Athletics was the volleyball team. UTRGV broke seven NCAA Division I program records, which included RPI, wins, winning percentage, road wins, conference wins, conference winning percentage and conference road wins.

The Vaqueros were crowned the WAC Champions and advanced to the WAC Tournament, where they fell 3-0 to Utah Valley University in the semifinal match.

Senior outside hitter Ragni Steen Knudsen was named WAC Player of the Year, while senior middle blocker Alexandra Ecker and junior right side hitter Barbara Silva earned All-WAC Second Team.

Spring 2019 may bring the same success to basketball, tennis, golf, indoor and outdoor track & field and baseball.

Men's and women's basketball are under WAC play and hold a conference record of 2-3 and 3-2, respectively.

Both men's and women's tennis have begun the spring season. On the men's side, the Vaqueros picked up their first win of the season by defeating Alabama State University 4-1.

The women's team will vie for a back-to-back WAC regular season championship.

Women's golf will be back in action Feb. 11 at the Texas State Invitational in San Marcos. The men will begin the spring season Feb. 18 at the LaTour Intercollegiate in Mathews, La.

Indoor Track & Field will compete at the WAC Indoor Championships Feb. 12 in Boise, Idaho, and will open the outdoor season March 15 at the UTSA Invitational in San Antonio.

Baseball is set to begin the season Feb. 15 against Oklahoma State University.

This week's home game schedule

Men's Basketball
● 7 p.m. Thursday vs. Chicago State University at UTRGV Fieldhouse

Sports Club Spotlight



PHOTO COURTESY VAQUERO MEN'S SOCCER CLUB

Members of the Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club are (front row, from left) Kevin Damken, Nestor Arenas, Bryan Estrella, Abraham Aviles, Hector Rendon, Miguel Mateos, Solomon Dadzie and Head Coach Hugo Zuñiga. Back row: Assistant Coach Gabriel Camarena, Strength and Conditioning Coach OA Reyna, Andres Lomeli, Francisco Najera, Francisco Menchaca, Alexis Ovalle, Carlos Avila, Jonathan Gallardo, Alejandro Garcia, Alberto Araguz, Miguel Lopez, Roberto Vazquez and Eduardo Arambula, Health and Human Performance lecturer and sports psychologist.

Name: Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club

Coach: Hugo Zuñiga

Captain: Carlos Avila

Co-captain/Treasurer: Alberto Araguz

President: Alejandro Garcia

Vice President: Kevin Dunkin

Secretary: Andres Lomeli

Adviser: Fernando Labra, University Recreation competitive sports and camp coordinator

Established: Fall 2017

What is the main purpose of the club? "To give [players] the opportunity to keep playing at a higher level, but also for the coaches here [in] the [Rio Grande] Valley to pay attention about the talent we have."

Highest level of competition: National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association National Men's Championship.

Season: Year-round

Meetings: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in UREC's outdoor soccer field

Requirements: Must be a UTRGV student.

Facebook: Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club

E-mail: mensvsoccer@gmail.com

--Compiled by Ramiro Barrera

Want your sports club featured? Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!

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