

Parking, dining concerns aired

Croyle steps down as VP

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER



Kristin Croyle

Committed to serving students, Kristin Croyle worked as the vice president for Student Success even before UTRGV opened its doors, but she will return to the classroom in Spring 2019.

On Aug. 31, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia McHatton sent an email to the UTRGV community stating that Croyle was stepping down as vice president “to return to faculty, effective immediately.” She thanked Croyle for her dedicated service to Student Success.

Croyle’s work for the UTRGV community started in 2014, when the university was being created from the merger of the University of Texas at Brownsville and University of Texas Pan American.

“I was hired to develop student success for UTRGV, to make sure we have policies and procedures in place that supported students and put students first,” Croyle said.

Before UTRGV, she worked at UTPA as the vice provost for Undergraduate Education, the inaugural dean of the University College, and interim dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Rider asked Croyle why her position change had been immediate. She replied, “That’s a good question, and I’m sorry I don’t have an answer for that.”

However, the position change should not affect the Division for Student Success nor the UTRGV community, as all initiatives should continue and the position will be advertised, McHatton and Croyle said.

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Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Josue Puente, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in Mexican-American Studies, expresses his concerns regarding parking and student permits during the first Student Government Association meeting for Fall 2018.

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

During a Student Government Association meeting, UTRGV’s Parking and Transportation Services asked for input about future changes and students asked SGA members to help improve dining hall services.

Josue Puente, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in Mexican-

American Studies, said it is a bit odd how the dining hall no longer offers to-go food. Puente has friends who have a dining plan and are sometimes unable to use the dining hall due to its limited operational hours.

On-campus residents are required to purchase at least a minimum meal plan each semester, according to the UTRGV Department of Housing and Residence Life.

“We should allow students to [have] food to go. ... SGA should get involved because it affects student life and students’ well-being,” Puente said during the Aug. 31 SGA meeting.

SGA member Alexandra Smith-Macias, senator at large for Edinburg and chair of the senate, said the campus life and community affairs committee

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Tough times Fund assists students

Ana Trujillo
THE RIDER

UTRGV program helps students who experience unforeseen circumstances and seek monetary assistance.

Student Life and the Dean of Students office launched the Student Financial Hardship Fund grant last fiscal year.

“[It’s] funding that helps support life circumstances,” said Rebecca Gadson, associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students. “[It] can help keep students in school and not be derailed by some type of unexpected hardship or experience that comes along.”

This aid is considered a grant; therefore, students are not required to pay back the funds, Gadson said.

The grant was started with donations of unrestricted funds from the President’s Office. Initially, the department applied for grants off campus, but it was not selected and was forced to look to alternative sources within the university.

“We looked internally at how we could establish with just a little bit of money and get started,” Gadson said. “The need was there and, so, we can continue to look for grants and other sources of funding, but we had ... a few

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Sergio Garcia/THE RIDER

THE RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Vaquero Ice Cream Bar

The Student Union will serve free ice cream with toppings at noon in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

'NBA 2K19' Release Party

Play "NBA 2K19" for free from noon to 3 p.m. in the game room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

Wellness Mondays

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

Billiards Tournament

The Student Union will host a billiards tournament from noon to 3 p.m. in the game room on the Brownsville campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn

V-Bucks. To participate in Student Union events, you must present your Vaquero One Card. For more information, call 665-7890.

Time management

The UTRGV Counseling Center will host a time management workshop, titled "Ain't Nobody Got Time for That," from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union's Palmetto Room on the Edinburg campus. The workshop focuses on how to prioritize activities and balance it all. For more information, call 665-2574.

Tuesday

Mass celebration

Join the Catholic Campus Ministry for a celebration of Holy Mass at 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email crobles@cdob.org.

Wednesday

National Video Game Day

Celebrate National Video Game Day and get free play and snacks starting at 10 a.m. in the game rooms on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. For more information, call 665-7890.

Thursday

Late Night at the Rec

Learn about the University

Recreation facilities and recreation programs offered on the Brownsville campus from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Recreation Center. For more information, call 295-3710.

Love your #selfie

An interactive workshop on self-love and self-compassion, hosted by the UTRGV Counseling Center, will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union's Palmetto Room on the Edinburg campus.

Friday

Faculty Artist Series

Associate Professor Brendan Kinsella will present a yearlong performance study of J.S. Bach's seminal keyboard work, "The Well-Tempered Clavier (Volume I)," at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free.

Fortnite Fridays

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

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 29 and Sept. 4.



Aug. 29

9:58 a.m.: A student reported that his vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot B3 on

the Brownsville campus. The vehicle had visible damage to the right front-quarter panel.

4:46 p.m.: While in the University Bookstore on the Edinburg campus, a student reported feeling dizzy. Emergency medical services was dispatched and she was transported to a hospital for further evaluation.

9:11 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus due to a physical fight between two men playing basketball. The men were identified as a current and a former student. When the officer arrived, one of the men had already left. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 30

12:13 p.m.: A student thought

that her purse was stolen from the University Library on the Edinburg campus. It was later learned that the Police Department received her bag as a found article. The bag was intact and no property was missing.

2:05 p.m.: A fire alarm sounded in the Education Building on the Edinburg campus. Upon evaluation, officers determined that an alarm pull station had been activated, causing everyone to evacuate the building. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

Aug. 31

12 p.m.: Two students were involved in a minor traffic collision in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. No injuries were reported. The vehicles sustained minor damage.

Sept. 1

7:57 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus regarding an intoxicated man. The man was walking around the area, and when officers

approached him, the man had an odor of alcohol in his breath. He displayed signs of intoxication, such as slurred speech and unsteady balance. The man was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of public intoxication and was issued a criminal trespass warning.

Sept. 4

10:33 a.m.: A staff member reported that she strained her neck and left shoulder when she was standing on a chair and removing some boxes on the Edinburg campus. A UTRGV First Report of Injury form was completed.

11:27 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to University Financial Services regarding two fraudulent checks. The case is under investigation.

2:19 p.m.: A faculty member reported that he received a counterfeit bill from a student on the Brownsville campus. The student paid a \$20 fee with a \$100 bill for joining a student organization. The bill was later confirmed as counterfeit at the Bursar's Office.

--Compiled by Ana Trujillo

CROYLE

Continued from Page 1

McHatton said the position announcement is being worked on, and the goal is to fill the position as soon as possible.

Asked why Kristin Croyle was no longer the vice president for Student Success, McHatton replied, "We really don't discuss issues with regards to our employees."

Rebecca Gadson, associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students; Cindy Valdez, associate vice president for Student Educational Outreach; Jonikka Charlton, associate vice president for Student Academic Success; and McHatton will work

collaboratively until the position is filled.

"We are looking for someone that is totally and completely committed to students, to student success, to maximize the support services that we provide students," McHatton said.

Starting next year, Croyle said she also expects to be involved in the new clinical psychology doctoral program, as she is a licensed psychologist and has previously taught in the graduate and undergraduate psychology program at UTPA.

As a faculty member, Croyle hopes to teach undergraduate students.

"I feel a very close connection to undergraduate students, especially incoming freshmen," Croyle said. "I

want to make sure that no matter what role I serve in, they have a great experience with the faculty and in class."

She has not yet been assigned to a specific course; however, Croyle hopes to be assigned to teach on both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses since she has spent several years going back and forth on a regular basis.

"It has been really a great honor to serve the students of UTRGV," Croyle said. "They are amazing. I'm inspired every day by the work our students do, and the staff and faculty who are very devoted to their success. So, my work as vice president has been a joy on the whole because of the students at UTRGV."

SGA

Continued from Page 1

will look into Puente's concern.

Anthony Rivera, a mass communication senior, also spoke about the dining hall change.

"We weren't notified that we weren't going to have to-go plates. So, my first day here, I had a class, and I had no time to eat at the dining hall," Rivera said. "And yesterday, one of my classes is right at the time dinner is at, so, I didn't get to eat dinner yesterday."

Rivera also said he has a friend who has never used the dining hall plan despite its required purchase, "because [Dining Hall's] schedule doesn't go

with his class schedule."

Gabriel Zuñiga, director of transportation services, discussed the Star Shuttle and expansion of other operations.

Zuñiga along with Letty Benavides, UTRGV's associate vice president for campus auxiliary services, also responded to questions asked by students.

"No new services were provided. Why was there a price increase and so exponentially high? ... Yet, on the UTRGV website, enrollment has increased and tuition has increased along with it. So, can we please get some financial transparency? ... How can we access that transparency?" asked

Roxana Carrion, a graduate student in English, referring to parking.

Benavides replied, "The revenue that is generated is solely off of the permits and citations that are associated with the service itself," she said.

She also said \$1.2 million has been spent on police and security, including cameras and patrol officers.

"What we are looking at, as far as technology is concerned, is we've been looking at parking lot counters," Benavides said.

She explained the parking lot counters would track how many vehicles are in and out of parking lots. They will also allow students

See SGA, Page 3

YAQUERO VOICE



Study tips for students by students



"Yeah, I really do believe in going to sleep early, reading your books and also just not procrastinating. That's basically the best advice I could give."

Carlos Gutierrez
Biomedical science junior



"Don't pull all-nighters when you study. Eventually, you get to a point where you are very tired and you aren't going to learn anything. You're just going to be going through the motions and you aren't going to learn a thing, so best to study early and sleep early as well. ... I listen to a lot of soft music, but nothing that I know, like low-fi or hip-hop, stuff that doesn't have lyrics or music that I don't know because if you listen to something that you know or like, you're going to end up jamming out instead of studying. So, it's just something smooth and that helps me out as well."

Daniel Oyoque
Theater senior



"I would say to not procrastinate, make sure you do all your readings beforehand. Make sure you understand the material or attempt to understand the material before you get to class. Then, bring questions to class to try to get as much information as possible."

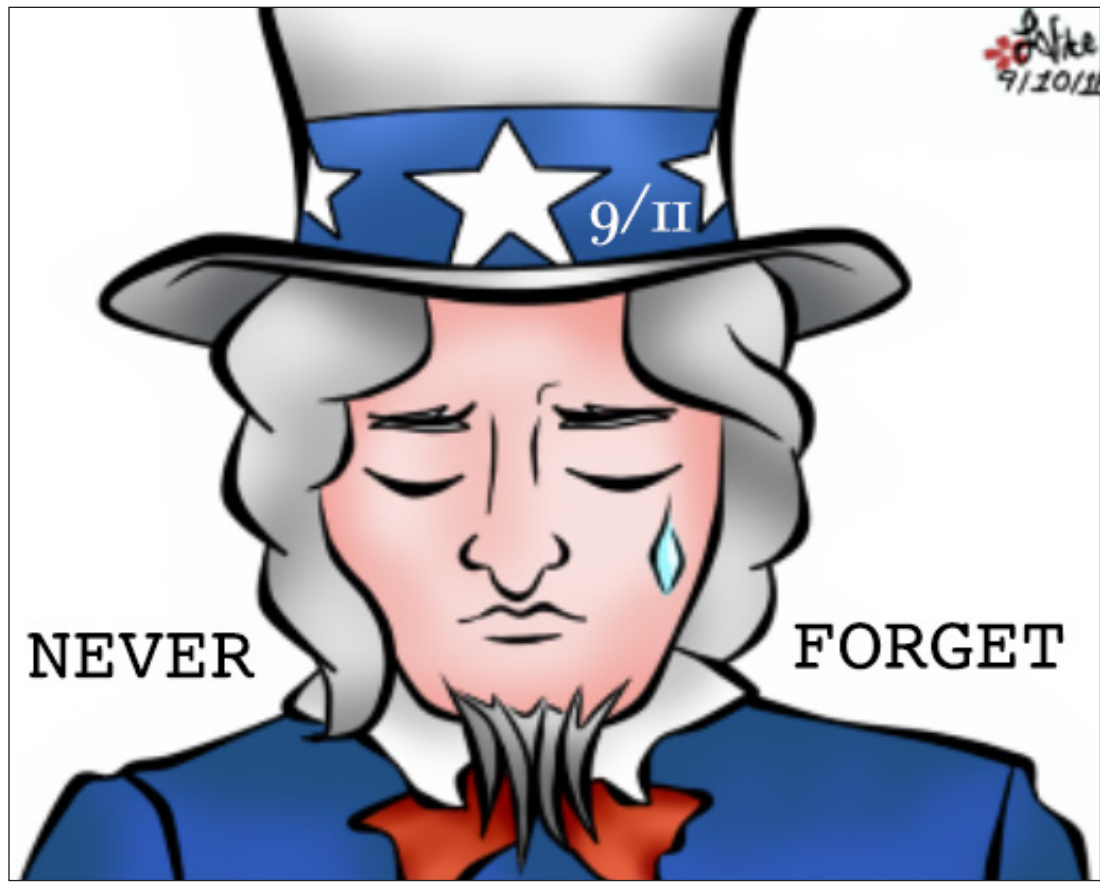
Myrsa Perez
Biomedical science freshman



"Well, when I study, I usually chew gum and it kind of makes me calm down and take my time studying. Usually, don't wait till the last day to study before a test. ... It still usually happens, but when it does happen, I usually chew gum so I can ease my nerves, and I eat a banana, so I can remember. It's a little ritual I do before I take the test because that helps me remember."

Ibeth Martinez
Accounting junior

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Phillip D. Garcia



Coming out



Lindsey Villalpando
COPY EDITOR

Ever since I was young, I knew there was something peculiar about me, but not in the traditional sense. No, not because I liked to dye my hair different colors, or because I was obsessed with Zac Efron. I was different because I was romantically attracted to boys and girls.

From the time I was in second grade, I was always perplexed about how children my age were only limited to like someone of a different gender. I always had this impression that everyone could love anyone, in a romantic way, no matter what the gender was.

You see, this came naturally to me; it wasn't a great slap in the face or a transformation when the full moon came out. It was simply something that was always there, and I didn't find anything abnormal about it.

My first realization that I

was bisexual was when my feelings for my best friend arose. She always made me feel safe and happy when I was around her.

I did not find these emotions peculiar or embarrassing, nor did I question them because, ultimately, they made me who I am. However, I slowly started to observe how not everybody else thought this way.

In middle school, my friends would constantly ask me what boy I liked, or if I would ever be interested in having a boyfriend. "Why don't you ask me if I like any girls?" I would ask, expecting an honest answer. Instead, they would observe me awkwardly, unable to answer.

It came to a point where they would ignore and avoid me.

After some research on my sexuality, I finally came to terms that I was bisexual. I was proud of who I was and was eager to let the whole world know; however, the world was unenthusiastic about my discovery.

My peers would constantly avoid me, refusing to acknowledge I even existed. I started losing my friends, and people started to talk behind my back. My self-esteem lowered, and I was not happy with myself.

However, once I arrived to high school, the way people treated me changed for the better. That year, I decided I was going to be confident. I did not care what people thought of me any longer because I was satisfied with myself. I came out to everyone, and they responded with a positive reaction.

Being bisexual might be a huge part of my life, but it is not the only thing that defines me. I'm an English major who copy edits at the student newspaper. I love to run and work out as much as I can. I enjoy volunteering and constantly helping people out. My sexuality does not make me any different than anybody else.

I am not "different" because of who I love.

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.

October 9

Last day to register to vote for Nov. 6 election

For more information, visit www.sos.state.tx.us

Art with a cause

Britney Valdez
A&E EDITOR

San Antonio-based artist Jesus Toro Martinez's gallery, "Creeks and Rivers," is made up of paintings that aim to bring attention to the Rio Grande Valley community's wetlands.

The show opened last Tuesday and runs until Sept. 28 in the Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus.

Previously, the exhibit was presented at the Lone Star Art Space, an incubation studio in San Antonio.

Martinez also has works in the Felder Gallery and the Dock Space Gallery in San Antonio and the Simon Fine Art Gallery in Paris, France.

Martinez seeks to spread awareness of and prevent illegal dumping with his work, according to his artist's statement. He completed the pieces by studying and working alongside the wetlands.

"[I have] been working on a body of work to bring attention to our community's rivers and creeks ... to preserve them and not see them become areas for illegal dumping or havens for collecting trash," the statement reads.

Martinez describes his works in the



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Fine arts senior Joaquin Casas takes notes on "Resaca Splash," by Jesus Toro Martinez, last Tuesday, the opening day of the art exhibit. The show is on exhibit in the Art Gallery in Rusteberg Hall through Sept. 28.

show as being unique and multimedia-based.

"This work is very unique and different. It is beyond the tube of paint," he said. "If you really want to think about it, basically, [the process] is experimental. There is a lot of

different materials that are being used to create this work, from tar to shoe polish to 24-karat gold leaf. There is a lot of chemical emotions happening."

He intends for his audience to use critical thinking to think beyond the impressionism and find personal

meaning.

Roberto Cruz, a senior in applied music, was among the attendees at Tuesday's opening. He described his admiration and immediate connection to Martinez's piece titled "Before the Wake| San Pedro Creek."

"This painting really got me because it's got these sapphire colors, the blue, the turquoise, the brown," Cruz said. "... What really got me was [his use] of shoe shine, 'cause I'm used to shining my shoes in the military. It's very captivating."

The show was also helpful for beginning artists looking for inspiration, according to Debbie Marquez, a junior at Pace High School in Brownsville.

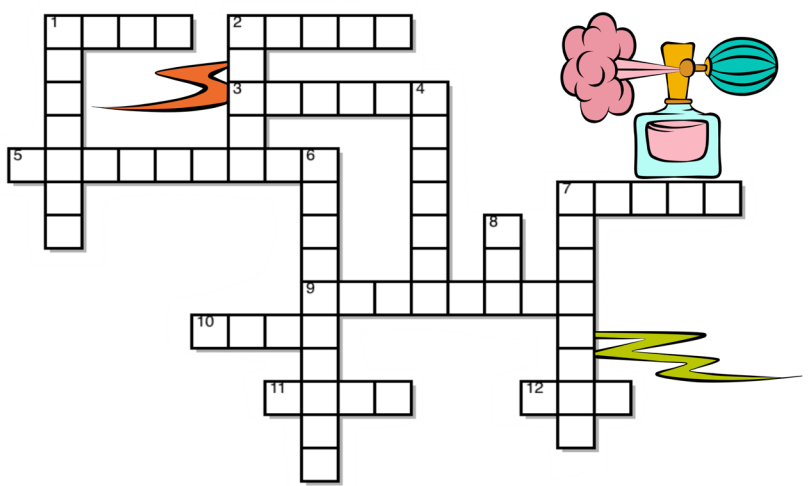
"I honestly wanted to find new ideas and learn newer types of art forms, how to do impressionism and abstract," Marquez said.

In addition to spreading awareness of wetland conservation, Martinez hopes his works will inspire and motivate continuing and veteran artists alike.

"For young artists, keep exploring," he said. "For mid-career artists, find yourself. And for professional artists, keep showing your talents so others can learn more."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

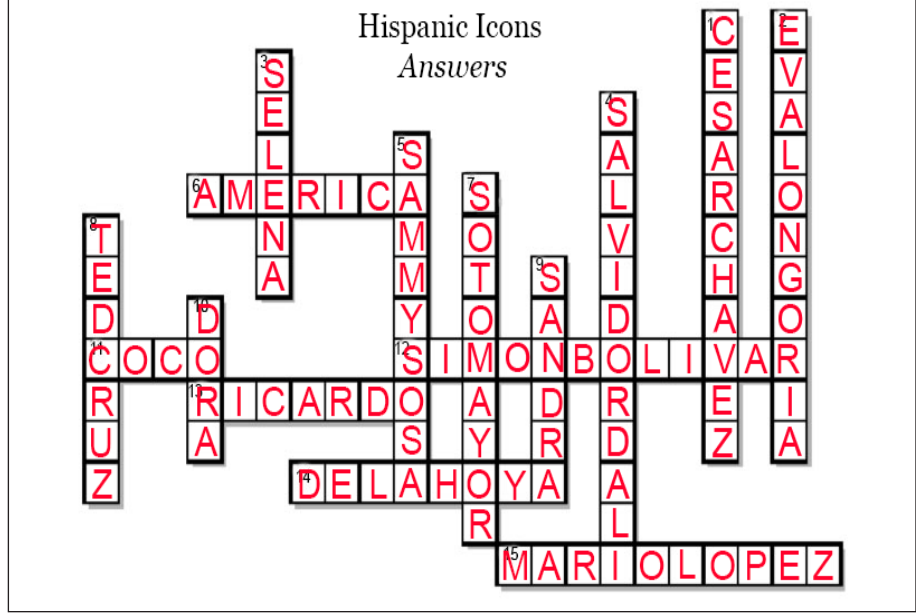
Makes Scents



Across

1. Filled with water and chlorine
2. Black-and-white-striped animal, smells awful
3. Vegetables with a strong smell, can make you cry
4. Lotion used to protect from harmful UV rays
5. A zesty citrus fruit used for lemonade
6. Shape often sold in air freshener form for cars
7. Whiteboard marker brand
8. Commonly used in gum, toothpaste
9. Fresh water droplets on the grass in the morning

Answers to last week's puzzle



Down

1. Chanel No. 5, Juicy Couture Viva la Juicy
2. Comes from cigarettes, fire, barbecues
3. Permanent marker brand
4. Used to paint your nails
5. Purple flower grows in fields. Often used in soap, home décor and perfume
6. Newly purchased vehicle. Classic new _____ smell

By Britney Valdez and Laia Vite

SGA
Continued from Page 2

to know how many parking spaces are available. Benavides hopes the addition will help students spend less time circling around parking lots.

"The peak class times are 8 o'clock, 9:25 and 10:50 [a.m.]," Benavides said. "At that time, 44 percent of classes are being held. Students are in classes at that time. The next time then is at 1:40. Between those four times, we've got over 60 percent of the classes filled ... any time of the week, Monday through Thursday."

Benavides said students who arrive early can find parking.

"I have a niece that comes in at 8 o'clock in the morning, and she has no trouble finding parking," Benavides said. "If you come at 10, you're not going to find it."

She recommended that students who are looking for parking at 10 a.m. buy Zone 1 parking and use a shuttle to go closer to classes.

Rodney Gomez, the executive director of Parking and Transportation, also attended the meeting and answered questions.

"There's a little over 11,000 total [parking spots] on both campuses," Gomez said.

Zuñiga confirmed there are two permits sold per parking space.

"We are a low-income university," Puente said. "... You work for people with low-income wages. You work for people who have to find a way to come here. ... A \$100 for us is a lot because it is \$100 that we do not have for books. ... You're blaming us for not being able to park in Zone 1 ... We are people who work two or three or four jobs a day. Our schedules are not set up, sometimes till the day before. ... You're

telling me that I have to park early and far away. ... For many students, that's not available. For many students, that's a luxury that they do not have."

Zuñiga said the department is planning on doing further outreach.

"It's up to all of us to do our part, and you all have to communicate with us what it is that you want. That's why we're here today," he said.

Toward the end of the meeting,

the senate approved the Fiscal Year 2019 SGA Operating Budget, which totals \$30,492. The budget includes \$2,250 for senate meetings, \$2,850 for initiatives and \$2,850 for signature events.

For more information, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/parking-and-transportation-services/> or email transportation@utrgv.edu and parking@utrgv.edu.

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Running toward a dream

Athlete leaves Kenya to join Women's Cross-Country Team

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

There is no doubt that the city of Iten is the capital of Kenyan distance running. It produces high-quality long-distance runners, including UTRGV's Mercy Chelangat.

Iten attracts athletes from all over the world. When visiting Iten, people are in the pursuit of training with champions. It is believed that Kenya produces such high-quality distance runners because of the Kalenjin tribe.

The Kalenjin tribe is found in the Kenyan Rift Valley and produces some of the world's best runners, but there is no scientific explanation as to why the tribe is so successful in long-distance running around the world.

For many distance runners, it is a dream come true to even step foot and train in Iten, but Mercy Chelangat of the UTRGV Women's Cross-Country Team is lucky enough to call Iten her home.

Chelangat is a freshman who describes herself as a simple girl who came to the United States to study and run. One of her goals is to pursue a degree in nursing.

She graduated in 2016 from Kedowa Girls Secondary School in Kericho, Kenya. After graduation, she decided to train for the remainder of the year through 2017 and signed to run at UTRGV in August 2018.

For years, Chelangat dreamed of coming to America and realizing her dream of running at the collegiate level, but coming to America was not easy. Chelangat said she had to follow a long process of training and paperwork before she could set foot in America.

"I started training in 2017 through the guidelines from my brother, who was just telling me, 'Do this, do this,'" Chelangat said. "When you go to a training camp, they set an amount of what you're gonna pay and accommodations. You have to pay that amount. You start this process by doing an exam called the SAT exam."

"There are some clearances also and then you go for your passport. ... After you get your passport, you start applying for the schools. You just apply for the schools while training, attending time trials and when you get to your best times in the events that you are running, that's when you get a school."

She also had to deal with injuries, financial hardships and academics.

Chelangat's hard work and determination paid off when she received an offer to join the cross-country program at UTRGV. She did not hesitate and happily took the offer. Even after the hardships she faced, it never crossed her mind to not come to America.

When it came time to leave Kenya, Chelangat's family was



Aahliya Garza/THE RIDER

Mercy Chelangat is a member of the UTRGV Women's Cross-Country Team.

supportive of the idea of her leaving to live out her dream. Chelangat is beginning to make her dreams a reality, especially after the result of her first cross-country race.

On Aug. 31, Chelangat ran her first collegiate 4.1 K race at the Texas A&M University Aggie Opener in College Station. The highlight of the meet for Chelangat was obtaining a first-place victory with a time of 14:29.7. The last time UTRGV had a woman win a race was back in 2012, when Judith Chumba won the 5K at the Great West Conference

Championships.

Chelangat said she never imagined winning a collegiate race.

"No! We were too many, so I was like, 'I don't know how they run, I don't know how they've been performing,'" Chelangat said. "Some of them are not even freshmen, they are seniors."

Winning first place was not the only award Chelangat received. A few days after the meet, she was named the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) runner of the week.

Chelangat hopes to contin-

ue pursuing her dreams as the season continues. She wants everyone who is facing hardships, while trying to make their dreams a reality, to know that anything is possible.

"You should never give up, that's the first thing," she said. "Just have faith and determination and all will be well."

Chelangat will continue paving the road toward her dream on Sept. 21 at the Texas A&M University Corpus Christi South Texas Show-down.

UTRGV Men's Basketball returns from Costa Rica

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

The UTRGV's Men's Basketball Team has returned from Costa Rica, where they defeated Coopenae ARBA San Ramón and the Costa Rica national team.

Every four years, the NCAA allows programs to play abroad to give them additional practice time and the opportunity to play against international teams. Competing with international programs allows teams, such as UTRGV, to gain experience that can contribute to their success.

Head Coach Lew Hill quickly took advantage of the opportunity that NCAA was offering. Hill said he took the idea and presented it to UTRGV Athletics Director Chris King.

"This is a team I think can really be good," Hill said. "We lost a lot of players. We got a lot of new players, so I decided I wanted to go and, you know, the NCAA lets you go every four years and I don't really know if they've ever been on one, so I brought the idea up to Chris ... and he loved it, so you know, I told him it'd be a great year to do it."

Without thinking about it twice, King accepted the offer, but the original plan was to go to the U.S. Virgin Islands not Costa Rica.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UTRGV MEN'S BASKETBALL TWITTER

The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team visited Costa Rica from Aug. 17 to 23 and interacted with the local community.

Hill said, "We were gonna go to the Virgin Islands originally and the hurricane destroyed it, so then we had to find places where you can afford, first of all."

Before the team knew it, the Vaqueros were packing its bags to head to Costa Rica.

The foreign tour experience began on Aug. 18 for the Vaqueros. The team played its first game against Coopenae ARBA San Ramón resulting in a victory for UTRGV, 85-56.

The trip's primary purpose was to gain experience, but

"I've never been out [of] the country before. I've never been to, like a beach or anything, so it was a fun experience."

--Quinton Johnson II

the Vaqueros were also there to explore. For a lot of the players, including freshman guard Quinton Johnson II, being able to travel outside of the United States for the first

time was different.

"It was a fun experience to go to Costa Rica," Johnson said. "I've never been out [of] the country before. I've never been to, like a beach or anything, so it was a fun experience."

On Aug. 19, the team explored the city of San José. The Vaqueros visited the market and landmarks, such as the Metropolitan Cathedral.

After a morning of exploring, the team got back to business. UTRGV played its final game of the tour against the Costa Rica National Team and

worked together to defeat their opponent, 87-68.

Coach Hill said one thing that really stood out to him was the toughness the team demonstrated during the games.

"Toughness, you know, we hadn't been as tough as I would like to be ... but I think we're getting there," Hill said. That's my personality, so I want the team to emulate. My personality is toughness, gritty, grindy and we showed a little bit of that."

After both games, Coach Hill focused on the second reason for the trip, to instill community service among the team. The Vaqueros hosted two community service events, including a basketball clinic for kids.

The trip to Costa Rica was nearing its end, so the Vaqueros took advantage of every second. The final days of the trip for the team included going zip lining, touring downtown San José, visiting the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Theater and the Central Market.

After living the Costa Rica experience, the team hopes to put into action what they learned during the first game of the season, schedule at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in Edinburg against Texas A&M University Commerce.

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STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

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WRITING CENTER

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Una pizza de México

Mr. Amigo Association prepara evento

Eric Montoya

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Mariachi, tequila y antojitos mexicanos serán el centro de atención durante *Una noche en Garibaldi*, evento que tomará lugar por primera vez a las 8 p.m. este viernes en el Market Square, localizado en el centro de Brownsville.

El evento es organizado por la organización no lucrativa, Mr. Amigo Association, en colaboración con Brownsville Community Improvement Corp.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Arturo Treviño, presidente de Mr. Amigo Association para el ciclo 2018-2019, dijo que el evento está enfocado en las celebraciones de la Independencia de México.

“Nos queremos enfocar en el tema que es de la semana del Grito, o de las Fiestas Patrias mexicanas, y por ello queremos reforzar ese tema con la comida, la bebida y con nuestra música que es el orgullo de México”, dijo Treviño.

Además, dijo que el evento servirá para recaudar fondos para dicha asociación.

“*Noche en Garibaldi*, lo vamos a tener por primera vez aquí en Brownsville para recaudar fondos para un posible museo y oficina de Mr. Amigo”, dijo él. “Queremos hacer una oficina pero que esta oficina tenga un tema de museo. ... Esa es la idea más o menos”.

Él dijo que esta oficina/museo ayudará a que las tradiciones e historia de Mr. Amigo sigan vivas.

Cada año, el Mr. Amigo Association rinde homenaje a un ciudadano de México para promover la amistad internacional y la buena voluntad entre Estados

Unidos y México. El homenajeado es reconocido durante las fiestas de Charro Days de la ciudad. Matamoros organiza las *Fiestas mexicanas* al mismo tiempo. Previos Mr. Amigos incluyen a Pedro Fernández, Cantinflas, Juan Gabriel, Verónica Castro, Lucha Villa y Arath de la Torre.

Treviño dijo que el Brownsville Chamber of Commerce creó al Mr. Amigo Association en 1964.

Graciela Salazar, encargada de relaciones públicas de Mr. Amigo Association, le dijo a *The Rider* que el museo contendría material perteneciente a los festejos realizados por Mr. Amigo Association a lo largo de su historia.

“Tenemos muchas fotografías, videos, recuerdos o reconocimientos que quisieramos que la gente pueda ver”, dijo Salazar. “Es algo que la gente siempre nos ha pedido. Un museo ... donde la gente pueda siempre saber de la historia de Mr. Amigo”.

Una noche en Garibaldi recreará varios de los elementos típicos de la famosa Plaza Garibaldi que se encuentra en la Ciudad de México y es conocida por su ambiente lleno de mariachis, sus reconocidas cantinas, sus fondas y su folclor tradicional mexicano.

Salazar dijo que el boleto para el evento les permite a los asistentes disfrutar de todos los elementos que el evento tendrá sin ningún costo extra.

“Con ese boleto van a tener acceso a [muestras de] antojitos mexicanos”, dijo Salazar. “Son alrededor de 15 restaurantes ... que van a estar mostrando su comida. Va a ver un restaurante que va a dar tamales, otros van a dar tacos, otros van a dar pollo asado,



Robert Benavidez Jr./Foto The Rider

Una noche en Garibaldi tomará lugar a las 8 p.m. este viernes en el Market Square en el centro de Brownsville. Mr. Amigo Association, en colaboración con Brownsville Community Improvement Corp., será el anfitrión del evento.

gorditas, nieve de aguacate, va a ver mucha variedad para que la gente pueda degustar distintas comidas mexicanas”.

Ella también dijo que habrá una degustación de tequila, pero además habrá diferentes bares que ofrecerán otras bebidas.

Diferentes mariachis reconocidos de la región, como el Mariachi 7 Leguas y el Mariachi Margaritas, amenizarán el evento con su música. Así mismo, al evento asistirán distintos cantantes de los cuales destacan Flor Amargo y Lluvia Vega, exparticipantes del programa televisivo mexicano *La voz... México*, y Jesús Urbina, exparticipante de la *La voz kids*, quienes interpretarán varias canciones.

Salazar dijo que están emocionados por este evento.

“Es la primera vez que hacemos este evento”, dijo

ella. “Estamos tratando de hacer cosas por Brownsville y Matamoros. Queremos que la gente se quede y disfrute de lo que Brownsville tiene que ofrecer”.

El costo de los boletos es de \$25 dólares. Si se compran el mismo día del evento el costo será de \$30 dólares. Se pueden conseguir boletos por internet en la página de internet *mramigo.com* o en la página oficial de Facebook de Mr. Amigo Association. En persona, los boletos estarán en venta en “Mi Pueblito Restaurant Bar & Grill”, en la taquería “El Ultimo Taco”, cualquiera de las tiendas de auto servicio de “Los Trevi Drive-Thru” y en el Brownsville Convention & Visitors Center.

Solo se les permitirá la entrada a personas mayores de 21 años.

Treviño espera que este

evento se celebre anualmente.

“Quisieramos que este fuera un evento que se siga haciendo año con año”, dijo Treviño. “[Queremos] que se vuelva una parte de la comunidad y que la comunidad lo siga apoyando año con año”.

Salazar incita a toda la gente y a los estudiantes a asistir a *Una noche en Garibaldi*.

“Ojalá nos puedan acompañar los estudiantes de Brownsville que están muy cerca al Market Square”, ella dijo. “También a toda la gente de Edinburg. Nos encantaría tener a muchos estudiantes ahí. Sabemos que la población de estudiantes internacionales es muy grande y pues nos encantaría que no nada más mexicanos, si no que personas o estudiantes de otros países también pudieran estar con nosotros para que conozcan un poco más sobre las tradiciones”.

FUND

Continued from Page 1

thousand dollars to get started.”

Students may apply online for assistance. The application form is available on the Student Life and Dean of Students web page on the UTRGV website, <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife>.

Applications take no longer than a week to be reviewed, according to Yanet McClanahan, administrative manager of Student Life.

“The application is submitted and then I will review [it to] make sure they meet all of the eligibility requirements,” McClanahan said. “I will share the application with Financial Aid just to see if there’s another form of assistance to help the student.”

Grants are awarded for a nonrecurring unexpected emergency that would keep them from staying in school. To apply, students must be

currently enrolled at UTRGV, be in good academic standing and provide documentation of the emergency.

The grant is not for students seeking financial support to pay for any school-related fees, such as emergency loans, books, lab fees, tuition, among others.

“If we have a student that’s not requesting tuition and fees ... I can view their [information], but I can also see if they have ... an emergency loan balance or if they have some sort of hold,” McClanahan said. “That takes an extra step of having a conversation with the student to explain ... we cannot use [the funds] to pay for tuition and fees.”

Awards are limited to one per academic year. Depending on the case, students can receive up to \$500 to cover expenses.

Students may apply anytime during the academic year.

“We’re really working to triage and make people aware of what resources there are on campus or in the community,” Gadson said.

Even though students applying for tuition assistance do not receive this grant, they are redirected to other financial aid that can help them.

Many of the applications received have been from students requesting help with paying for their university fees, according to McClanahan.

“We have about 43 applications that have come in since [Spring 2018],” McClanahan said. “The majority of them were to request assistance with tuition and fees ... but that’s not what the fund is for.”

Since this is a relatively new grant, not many students are aware of it, including Juan Garcia, an entrepreneurship and innovation sophomore.

Garcia recalled one time when he went skiing with his cousin, a UTRGV graduate. His cousin accidentally fell and broke his ankle.

“Since he was an international student, his [insurance] was from Mexico,” Garcia said. “He didn’t have any coverage in the U.S. ... Since he got

it broken over there, he had to fix it over there.”

The bills were high, and his parents earned pesos. Garcia said his cousin’s parents had to deal with tuition and medical bills since the accident occurred during summertime.

“To have that help [of the Student Financial Hardship Fund] ... it will take like a big weight out of you if you were to have [an emergency],” Garcia said.

The fund is limited and for students only, but UTRGV welcomes donations from staff and the community.

To donate and for more information, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife/student-resources> and select “Student Financial Hardship Fund.”

“This fund is one of many types of supports that we are providing at the institution and out of Student Life to support students and maximize their success,” Gadson said.

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