

THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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Photo Illustration by Sergio Garcia

Story and photos, Page 6-7



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

EMS Captain Oziel Garcia speaks during a news conference last Tuesday inside SPI City Hall about a mobile medical unit operating 24 hours from March 14 to 16. Also shown are (from left) Interim City Manager Randy Smith; Director of Marketing, Research and Analytics at SPI Convention and Visitors Bureau Michael Flores; Shoreline Management Director Brandon Hill; Environmental Health Director Victor Baldovinos; and Beach Patrol Capt. Jim Pigg.

A tropical state of mind SPI, UTRGV ready for Spring Break

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Aside from its annual preparations, the City of South Padre Island will collaborate with Texas Search and Rescue to ensure the safety of visitors during the upcoming Spring Break.

Texas Search and Rescue deploys throughout the state at the request of local, state and federal agencies, offering a wide variety of highly

specialized resources which may not be otherwise available, according to its website.

"We've got Texas Search and Rescue that's coming down; they're providing about 20 volunteers that are going to bring Humvees, trucks that are going to come down, [utility task vehicles] [and all-terrain vehicles]," Beach Patrol Capt. Jim Pigg said during

See **BREAK**, Page 11

Pulse magazine honored with 7 ADDY awards

Klaudia Cedillo
THE RIDER

At this year's American Advertising Awards Gala, the Pulse magazine staff was pleasantly surprised with the announcement that the 2018 issue of the magazine had won seven ADDYs (three Gold, and four Silver).

On Feb. 21, the pop art-themed ceremony was held at the Grand Banquet and Conference Center in McAllen to honor and recognize individuals for their work in advertising by the American Advertising Federation-RGV.

The AAF is one of the "oldest federations of its kind" and contributes to the community in a variety of ways, including scholarships and programs for students. The federation, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has over 200 chapters

throughout the U.S. representing thousands of advertising professionals.

Kimberly Selber, an associate professor for the UTRGV Department of Communication and one of the directors for the AAF-RGV chapter, served as chair for the ADDY awards this year. She was tasked with organizing the competition and the American Advertising Awards Gala.

"Dr. Selber and her team, they really put a lot of work into it and a lot of thought and when you went there, whether you went as a student team or as an individual or as a professional team," said Erik Webster, editor-in-chief of Pulse. "I mean, it felt kind of like the Oscars."

With about 108 entries in the student category, 12 Gold and 22 Silver Student Awards were presented. The

Pulse winners are as follows:

--Gold	ADDY-Publication Design Magazine Overall, 2018 Pulse Magazine Staff
--Gold	ADDY-Publication Design Cover, Alexandria Canchola, Artist; Arael Meza, Graphic Designer
--Gold	ADDY-Illustration Single ("SnapSex"), Celeste Stange, Artist; Erik Webster, Writer
--Silver	ADDY-Still Photography Color ("Pandemonium Doll"), Erik Webster, Photographer/Writer
--Silver	ADDY-Illustration Campaign ("Attack of the Imperishables"), Cecilia Sierra, Artist; Ashley Mathew, Writer
--Silver	ADDY-Online Interactive Website (utrgvpulse.com), Erik Webster, Designer; Arael Meza, Designer; Jehudi Meza,

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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 University Recreation will host a group session at noon in the UREC

second floor conference room on the Edinburg campus. A registered dietitian will be present during the meetings for questions on how to improve a daily meal plan. Vegetarian panini will be served at the session. For more information, email urec@utrgv.edu.

Movie series

Leadership and Social Change will host a movie screening of "Lady Bird" at 11 a.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the screening will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union. Free popcorn and drinks will be served. For more information, email leadership@utrgv.edu.

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. The registration fee is \$10. For more information, email urec@utrgv.edu.

'UNO' tournament

An "UNO" tournament will take place at noon in the game room on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

Tuesday

'Super Smash Bros.'

A "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate"

tournament will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the game room on the Edinburg campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn VBucks. Participants need to bring their own Nintendo Switch. For more information, call 665-7890.

Student Ensemble Series

Patron of the Arts presents **UTRGV Symphonic Winds** at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Support group

The **Office of Victim Advocacy and Prevention** will host a **free support group** at 12:15 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West 1.142 on the Edinburg campus. The support group is for

in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the event will take place at the same time on Thursday at the Performing Arts Center. The orchestra will perform works by **Beethoven, Kennedy, Musella** and more. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Thursday

Super Mario Day

Students may play any "Mario" game for free all day in the game room on the Brownsville campus. Nachos will be served. For more information, call 665-7890.

Friday

Pregame concert

Country singer **Matt Castillo** will perform at 6 p.m. in the UTRGV baseball stadium on the Edinburg campus. **The UTRGV Baseball Team** will face the **University of Massachusetts** at 7 p.m. Attendees may purchase a friends and family four pack, which includes four tickets, four hot dogs and four drinks for \$25. For more information, call 665-3415.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Break Events

Campus Programming Board will host a trip to Las Vegas from March 10 to 16. Tickets are \$600 and include transportation, hotel, meal vouchers, tickets to WAC tournament, a tour and a show. To purchase tickets, call 665-3415 or visit International Trade and Technology Building 1.406 on the Edinburg campus between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, email cpb@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez



Have an announcement?

Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu

dating, domestic violence, and sexual assault victims and survivors. For more information, call 665-8287.

Release party

The **Student Union** will host "Dead or Alive 6" at noon in the game room on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at noon Wednesday in the game room. The event is free. For more information, call 665-7890.

Wednesday

Student Ensemble Series

The **UTRGV Symphony Orchestra** presents its **spring concert** at 7 p.m.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 21 and 27.



Feb. 21

8:37 p.m.: A student on the Edinburg campus visited an online chatroom and became offended when inappropriate comments were made.

9:28 p.m.: A student was approached by an unknown man asking for donations for military care packages on North Sugar Road near the Edinburg campus. The student gave him some U.S. currency. The man is the same person from another case on Feb. 20.

Feb. 22

11:44 a.m.: A student lost control while driving on a wet road and hit a stop sign on FJRM Avenue near Lot B-4 on the Brownsville campus. No one was injured, but the stop sign sustained damage. Facilities Services was notified to replace the stop sign.

12:34 p.m.: Two students were arguing loudly over an incident during a written exam at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. Both students decided to leave their separate ways.

4:58 p.m.: A student reported that another student made her feel uncomfortable by following her around and trying to talk to her at Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. She did not feel threatened but told him to stop following her.

11:58 p.m.: While conducting a stop for a traffic violation in Lot E-38 on the Edinburg campus, an officer noticed

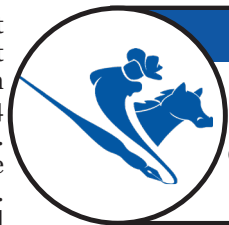
that the driver possessed a case of beer in the backseat. Both the driver and her passenger were under age 21. They were issued court appearance citations for the violation and released.

Feb. 23

7:21 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Health Affairs Building East on the Edinburg campus. The alarm was triggered by a water flow monitor. The building was later deemed safe for re-entry by the Edinburg Fire Department.

Feb. 24

6:56 a.m.: The Edinburg Fire Department responded to a fire alarm



University Police

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

Building East on the Edinburg campus. The alarm was triggered by a water flow monitor. The building was later deemed safe for re-entry by the Edinburg Fire Department and a work order was placed to have the fire system checked.

Feb. 25

12:09 p.m.: A student had a panic attack at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. She declined emergency medical services.

1:47 p.m.: A cash register prop made out of recycled paper was stolen from the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus.

4 p.m.: A student reported that her ex-boyfriend was harassing her via telephone at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. He also threatened to share sexually explicit photos of her to her friends without consent via text.

4:44 p.m.: A student was assaulted by another student during a basketball game at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. The suspect punched him in the face and the back of his neck.

5:07 p.m.: A staff member reported that his vehicle's hubcaps were stolen while it was parked in front of the Financial Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

8:31 p.m.: A staff member reported that a faculty member used offensive language toward her regarding the officiating of an intramural basketball game at the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com

Inspiring through FESTIBA

Zugay Treviño THE RIDER

UTRGV celebrated the Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA) Feb. 25 through Sunday with events including art and writing panels, exhibits and presentations.

Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV's assistant vice president of public art, said the event is 12 years old. This year's theme was Inspiring Communities: Celebrating Cultural Heroes.

"There are certain, I would say, high points within the events, one of those being GEAR UP days, where we bring GEAR UP students onto campus and show them different presentations to inspire them, to be creative, to understand the value of reading and writing," Guerra said. "That's the main focus with the GEAR UP kids, just get them college ready and open up your creative skills."

She said another high point is the Reading Rock

Stars Program, which is a collaboration with the Texas Book Festival. Authors are sent to six public schools. Each school has at least two authors.

The nine authors who were part of the Reading Rock Stars Program last Friday were Peter Reynolds, author of "Say Something"; John Scieska, author of "Math Curse"; Jennifer Torres, author of "Flor and Miranda Steal the Show"; Cecilia Cruz, author of "A Gift from Abuela"; Steven Weinberg, author of "You Must Be This Tall"; Julissa Arce, author of "Someone Like Me"; Rafael Lopez, author of "Whole World in Our Hands"; Tony Piedra, author of "The Greatest Adventure"; and Marcus Emerson author of "Ben Braver."

"One author presents to little bitties and then another author to a little bit older kid. Every child in the school gets a book that's signed by the author, and they get it in their hands and the little kids



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Author Sylvia Garza (left), UTRGV Writing Center Director Rebekah Hamilton, and Literatures and Cultural Studies Assistant Professor David Bowles are shown during the Authors and Presenters Reception Thursday night in the Performing Arts Complex Lobby on the Edinburg campus. The reception was part of the university's FESTIBA events.

see their book and they're so grateful to get their book," Guerra said.

A third high point, she said, are the faculty presentations.

"Faculty submit their presentations ... and all week long there is a different presentation every day," Guerra said. "And so, you can see what the faculty are interested in, and what they're studying, what they're researching."

She said it is important because it lets students see what faculty are doing.

Photography and expressive arts Lecturer Marilyn Carren is one of UTRGV's faculty members who gave a presentation during FESTIBA titled "Comics and Mental Health, Helping Hearts and Minds Using

Narrative Forms."

"Expressive arts is actually not art therapy, but it's kind of related to art therapy," Carren said. "Expressive arts is different in that we use the tools of art to let people express themselves but we don't tell them what they're feeling."

She said it helps access new and nontraditional ways to help people feel better.

"I personally think that social media has brought in this new wave of poor mental health," Carren said during the lecture, which took place last Tuesday on the Edinburg campus. "People are anxious about what they're posting, they're nervous about how they look, they are depressed if they don't get enough likes. And so, I think it's causing a

big, big problem."

Carren said the good news is that if people can reimagine their narratives, they can get out of their shells and create new lives. She listed several apps including Morfo Booth, Autorap, Garage Band, WordFoto, Juztaposer, 8mm HD and Samplr as helpful.

"It's amazing the worlds we can create," she said.

A community festival at the Edinburg City Hall grounds was celebrated last Friday evening as part of FESTIBA.

On Saturday, a mariachi competition and concert was held at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

FESTIBA ended Sunday with the UTRGV Dance Adjudication Festival and the Gala Concert.



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

UTRGV photography and expressive arts Lecturer Marilyn Carren gives a presentation Tuesday on how mental health is being expressed in comics and how creating them helps cope with depression and anxiety. The presentation on the Edinburg campus was part of the university's FESTIBA, a weeklong festival on international books and arts held on both campuses.

Professors recognized for work with RGV PUEDE

Maleny Ortega THE RIDER

UTRGV philosophy professors received an award for their work in Dual Education, which promotes bilingual studies.

Alex Stehn, associate director of the Center of Bilingual Studies and a philosophy associate professor, and his wife Mariana Alessandri, a philosophy assistant professor and an affiliate faculty in Mexican American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies, started the Rio Grande Valley Parents United for Excellent Dual Education, or RGV PUEDE, when they found out there were few opportunities for their own kids to have a bilingual education in McAllen.

"We really wanted to find out about the different kinds of Spanish [programs] that [were] offered for elementary students," Stehn said. "We talked around with a lot of other faculty, especially faculty in the College of Education, and we found out that there was this thing called dual language enrichment education ... but what we found out while we were talking with all these other faculty is that those programs weren't really widespread."

Stehn said that parents who were looking for the same opportunities for



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rio Grande Valley-Texas Association for Bilingual Education recognized Mariana Alessandri (left), a philosophy assistant professor and an affiliate faculty in Mexican American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies, and Alex Stehn, associate director of the Center for Bilingual Studies and philosophy associate professor. Also shown are their children Sebastián Alessandri and Santiago Alessandri, and RGV-TABE board member Karina Chapa.

their kids needed an organization to advocate for those programs.

They started with help from other UTRGV faculty by sending an announcement through UTRGV Messenger asking staff and faculty

if they were interested in finding out more about dual language enrichment opportunities for their children.

"We wrote a letter in English and Spanish and took it to, like, our Spanish-only preschool and we

found out that there were some other Spanish-only preschools that our colleagues were sending their kids to," Stehn said. "So, we asked them if we could drop the letters off there. Basically, we just started organizing mostly in McAllen. ... But again, we realized that for dual language to really be successful, it can't just be in just one district, it really needs to be, we think, the whole Valley."

Stehn and Alessandri hope to expand the program to other cities such as Pharr, San Juan, Alamo, Harlingen, Brownsville, Donna, La Joya, Mission and Rio Grande City.

Alessandri said the goal of RGV PUEDE is to support districts, to value and implement quality dual language education and to inform parents about dual language education and how it differs from traditional bilingual education.

"When you teach a native Spanish speaker in their language, they do better in English, in Spanish, in their subjects and ... it affirms that their language is useful and good," Alessandri said. "And when you don't do that, it makes them think that their language is something to be ashamed of and they lose it."

Asked how their work helps UTRGV's strategic plan to become a B3 institute, Stehn replied that by

See **PROFESSORS**, Page 11

VAQUERO VOICE



SPRING BREAK



“Since now that I’m older, I’m more responsible. Well, just stay busy with work and help my mom at home. I don’t have time to go out now ’cause I have things to be responsible for. So, just the best thing is just to stay home and just keep busy. I mean, if you have hobbies, it will be more easier instead of just going out, [instead of] going traveling to places. I mean, just to avoid the roads during that time would probably the safe way.”

Charleen Fuentes
Criminal justice sophomore

“Well, I guess if I ever go out with friends or something for Spring Break, just try to stay together with your friends, like, always keep communication with them or have your phone with you all the time. Just be safe, it’s common sense to be with them or to be with people that you trust and not just go with strangers all the time, you know, those kinds of things. ... If you don’t really have plans to go out somewhere, keep it simple. It’s not too hard, it’s just a couple of [days].”



Alejandro Reyes
Graduate student in health sciences in nutrition



“Basically, staying home most of the time. If I go out, I’ll go out with a group of friends, not staying alone. ... Be safe, always go out in a group, never go anywhere by yourself, especially girls.”

Faith Rodriguez
Psychology sophomore

“For Spring Break, I’m going to be turning 21 this Spring Break and I mean, I’m planning on partying and drinking, but I plan on sticking to my close friends and staying safe that way. Definitely using Uber and Lyft and services like that, for sure. I won’t ever do anything dumb enough drinking and driving or anything like that. So, yeah, that’s pretty much what I’m going to be doing this Spring Break. I’m not gonna lie.”



Ryan Flores
Information systems junior

—Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



Tough path to college



Mariana Gomez
THE RIDER

Every now and then I still wonder how I ended up here. To be honest, I never thought that I would end up getting a college education in the United States. When I was 14 years old and barely graduating from middle school, my parents decided to send me to a boarding school in Kingsville. When they first talked to me about it I thought they were kidding, but days after my graduation I realized that the decision was already made and they did not even ask for my opinion. I still remember my mom telling me that I was going to be there only for a year, just for me to learn English, but of course I never believed her.

Once my freshman year started, I had to confront many challenges, such as being away from home, not knowing anyone, adapting to a new culture, having more responsibilities and the most difficult one for me, having all my classes in a completely

different language. But luckily, I was not the only one who did not know English at all. There were people from other countries, such as Rwanda, China, Korea and others who were in the same position. The process of learning English was not easy at that school since we were punished if we accidentally spoke a word in a language other than English in front of a faculty member. But with that in mind, I knew somehow I was going to learn faster and get back home.

Along with all the school responsibilities, we had to clean our rooms every day in the morning before heading to breakfast, and if we wanted to go home for the weekend, we had to pass our room cleaning inspections every day. In addition, each student had a mandatory job after class and sports practice afterward. To summarize, they had a strict schedule for students to follow. Not to be too dramatic, but during my first year, I compared that school to jail because I was not used to having all those responsibilities.

As time passed, I was right and my parents made me return for my sophomore year

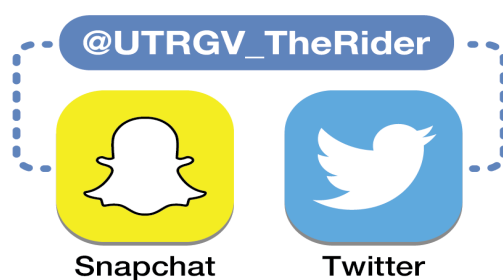
and somehow I completed all my high school education at the same school. Believe it or not, I started to like the school during my second year, or at least I got used to it. As a high school graduation requirement, I had to apply to at least one university in Texas, so I applied to UTRGV, but my plan was to go back to Mexico.

Unfortunately for me, my parents did not like the idea of me returning to Mexico due to the difficult situations that the country was going through, so I enrolled at UTRGV in Fall 2015. If there is one good decision I made in my life, it would be attending that boarding school and enrolling at UTRGV. All sacrifices were worth it and I am now a senior majoring in accounting. There are many opportunities that the university provides to its students, and I’m taking advantage of them. It is funny how I still remember my high school teachers saying, “We do this for you. We push too hard because once you attend college, things will get even harder.” Well, in my experience, college life has been way easier than high school.

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!



UTRGV hosts '100 Women, 100 Words' exhibit

Britney Valdez
A&E EDITOR

More than 45 people attended an exhibit last Wednesday at the University Library on the Brownsville campus that gave women the chance to showcase their artwork to the community.

The "100 Women, 100 Words" exhibit was held as part of the UTRGV FESTIBA events.

Speakers at the opening included Art Gallery Associate Gina Otvos, Hinovations Art Gallery Director Raquel Hinojosa, South Texas College Assistant Professor Patricia Ballinger and UTRGV Professor Kristin Croyle.

The exhibit consisted of miniature canvases paired with a short written piece. The exhibit aims to feature influential women from the Rio Grande Valley from a wide array of backgrounds.

One of the pieces done by Rachel Comminos, the owner of Comminos Studio, described her self-realization about her right to set her boundaries for herself concerning physical contact.

Comminos' canvas was covered in a blue and purple floral print fabric, embroidered with the words "Don't Touch Me" in gold thread with beads accenting the letters.

The South Texas College Art Department and the Library Art Gallery curated the exhibit to "honor South Texas women who have made an impact to the community."

Some of the women featured in the exhibit are educators, administrators, health care professionals, small business owners and community activists.

Jennifer Cahn, UTRGV School of Medicine grant research officer, also spoke at the event.

"My background is in art history and museum studies, so I was really excited to participate in this project and to come tonight," Cahn said.



Jorge Abundiz / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jennifer Cahn, UTRGV School of Medicine grant research officer, talks about the purpose of the art exhibit, "100 Words, 100 Women" last Wednesday at the University Library on the Brownsville campus. The exhibit was part of UTRGV's FESTIBA.

She and others spoke on the purpose of the exhibit and the importance of giving women a platform to give their artwork exposure.

Cahn appreciates the exhibit for celebrating the diverse women who have contributed to the community and for giving women the opportunity to share their art with the public.

"As a museum person, I am very aware of the fact that [women's] art doesn't get shown in museums as often as men," she said. "[Women] still have a lot of hurdles to overcome in the world of art, so I'm very proud to be part of this group of women and I hope we do more things like this."

Cahn said the artwork, in combination with the stories of the contributions the women made to the environment of the Valley, made for an inspiring experience to share with her daughter, Natalie Fisher.

"I made my daughter come tonight," she said. "I wanted her to see women who maybe [are in fields that] have nothing to do with our literature or creative fields, but they created beautiful things and said amazing things."

"Telling their stories, the words they chose, it's very thoughtful. It's really vibrant and diverse and I just wanted her to see that she belongs to a group of really wonderful people as well."

Natalie Fisher, a high school student at the Science Academy of South Texas, attended with her mom, Cahn, who was featured in the show.

Fisher enjoyed the variety of stories presented and made personal connections to some of them.

"It's really inspiring to see [the women] ... expressing their opinions and beliefs and sharing their stories," she said. "There are ones that I don't relate to, but I

empathize with. There's ones that I totally understand and feel the same way about."

Fisher found the exhibit inspiring because of the opportunity it gives to women

artists, like her mom, to share their creations with the community, that they otherwise wouldn't have.

"I know just from seeing it from [my mom's] point of view that a lot of the things she does, the little pieces of art she does at home, she never puts them out into the world and no one ever gets to see them," she said. "I'm assuming a lot of the women in this exhibition have that same [situation]."

Jessica Angel Ortega, a Texas State Technical College student, said she liked how the women used their art to discuss important issues about growing up, learning and wisdom and to also share what they learned.

"I think they are able to read stories that people are trying to show like, 'Hey, this is my story. This is what I've learned from it and someone else will probably learn from it [too] without having to go through that harsh experience the other person did,'" Ortega said.

Special Collections Manager Milagro Resendez said she hopes that by hosting exhibits like these, students will become more cultured and inspired.

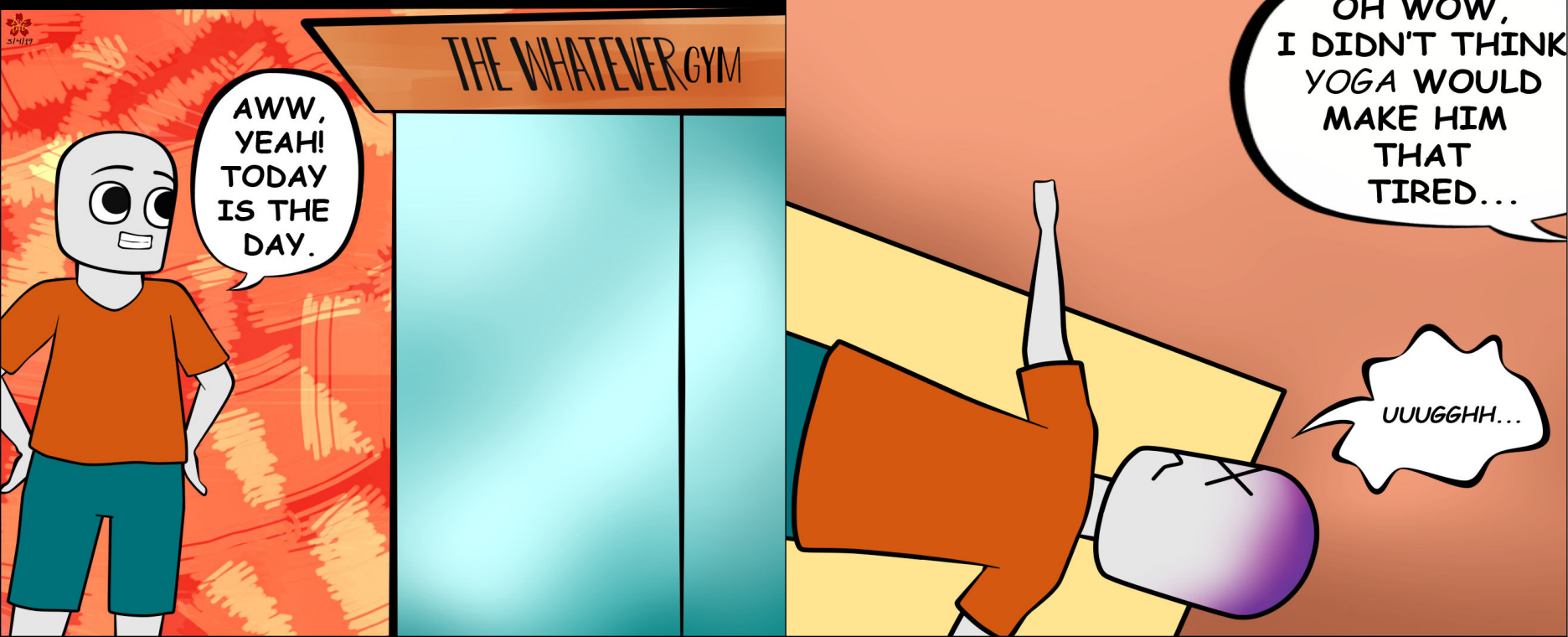


Shown are the artworks and writings of the "100 Women, 100 Words" exhibit. They will remain on display until May 10.

Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite

GETTING INTO THE FIT LIFE





Mr. Amigo 2018 Arturo Elías Ayub raises a foam finger during the TSC Amigofest last Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center. The foam finger was one of many swag items in a basket Mr. Amigo received from TSC.



Children of the Texas Southmost College Raúl J. Guerra Early Childhood Center dance during the TSC Amigofest held last Thursday in the TSC Performing Arts Center. This was one of six performances that took place.



Members of the Los Fresnos Folklorico Group dance during the TSC Amigofest last Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Performing College Arts Center. The Folklorico group performed two dance numbers.



Mr. Amigo 2018 Arturo Elías Ayub speaks during the TSC Amigofest held last Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center.



Members of the Mariachi 7 Leguas perform last Thursday during the TSC Amigofest in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center.



Incarnate Word Academy China Poblana & Charro perform a dance number last Thursday during the TSC Amigofest held in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center.



'We need more bridges, not walls,' Mr. Amigo says

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

With cheers and applause, an audience of more than 200 people welcomed Mr. Amigo 2018 Arturo Elías Ayub last Thursday to the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center.

The stage was decorated with colorful papier-mache flowers and black charro hats. From the ceiling, *papel picado* of different colors hung throughout the stage.

"Thank you so much for inviting me to this beautiful campus," Ayub said in Spanish. "After seeing the list of events I had to attend as Mr. Amigo, the one that excited me the most was coming to this campus."

Ayub is a businessman, entrepreneur, philanthropist and star of the reality TV show, "Shark Tank Mexico." He has served as the chief executive officer of Sociedad Comercial Cadena and as the CEO of the TELMEX Telcel Foundation. He is the CEO of Multimedia and Strategic Alliances of América Móvil, CEO of the TELMEX Telcel Foundation, director of Uno TV and president of the Instituto TELMEX del Deporte, according to the official TSC

Amigofest pamphlet.

Each year, the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen to promote international friendship and goodwill between the U.S. and Mexico. The honoree is recognized during Brownsville's Charro Days Fiesta. Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, holds *Fiestas Mexicanas* at the same time. Previous Mr. Amigos include Cantinflas, Juan Gabriel, Verónica Castro, Lucha Villa and Pedro Fernández.

"We just came from a beautiful event at the bridge where we talked a lot about the relationship between Mexico and the United States," said Ayub, who was wearing a light-brown *Cuera Tamaulipeca* costume. "We talked about the friendship, the love and the appreciation each country has for each other. We need more bridges, not walls."

Ayub, who said he likes giving talks at universities because his children are the same age as students, spoke about the importance of following one's passion while staying humble. "I want to talk to you all about life," he said. "I know it sounds kind of funny 'about life,' but I am very happy to be here," he said. "I am going to



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER PHOTOS

Mr. Amigo 2018 Arturo Elías Ayub greets Mr. Amigo Association President Arturo Treviño last Thursday during TSC Amigofest held in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center.

give you some advice that has worked for me throughout my life: Always dream big and do what you really like to do. Follow your passion."

Mr. Amigo encouraged the audience to not let society change their dreams and to live with strong values.

"Don't ever let anyone get into your heart and tell you

that you have to do this or that," he said. "You have to do what your heart wants. I have always liked to live my life with values. These two countries have beautiful values that we have to continue.

"The strong value of honesty the United States has is something we have to follow. Not being honest may bring some short-term benefits, but in the long run, things will always end bad."

The entrepreneur also emphasized the strong sense of family values Mexico has.

"The importance we as Mexicans place on family unity is something we should never lose," he said. "Don't ever lose this. The biggest blessing in my life is having my family together; this cannot be exchanged for anything in the world."

Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, president of TSC, said this is his second year participating in the Charro Days festivities.

"We are very proud and excited to be hosting TSC Amigofest," Rodríguez said. "I [am] overwhelmed by the community and how everyone comes together, from both sides of the border, to celebrate these traditions. These traditions [are] what makes Brownsville

such a unique and beautiful community to be part of."

Members of the audience also expressed their gratitude toward the continuation of these celebrations.

"I love that these celebrations are being preserved for future generations," UTRGV Lecturer II Lupita Strong said to *The Rider* in Spanish before the Mr. Amigo presentation. "Everything looks very beautiful, and even more so because my daughter is going to dance."

Before Mr. Amigo's arrival, Mariachi Siete Leguas performed songs such as "*El aventurero*," "*El mariachi loco*" and "*Como quien pierde una estrella*," while the audience clapped, danced and sang along to the well-known Mexican songs.

Two students from Incarnate Word Academy danced in China Poblana and Charro costumes. Also performing were The Los Fresnos High School Folklorico group and Mariachi Nuevo Halcón, and the TSC Raúl J. Guerra Early Childhood Center students.

"You should always dream as high as the sky, but keep your feet on the ground," Mr. Amigo 2018 said. "Humility will always take you far."



Children of the Texas Southmost College Raúl J. Guerra Early Childhood Center dance during the TSC Amigofest held last Thursday in the TSC Performing Arts Center.

Ciudades hermanas celebran

‘Encuentro Binacional’ reúne multitudes de Brownsville y Matamoros

Eric Montoya

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Mr. Amigo 2018 Arturo Elías Ayub se unió a la celebración del “Encuentro Binacional” el pasado jueves para festejar la unidad entre las ciudades fronterizas de Brownsville y Matamoros.

“Les puedo decir de verdad, de corazón, que para mí es de los momentos más increíbles de mi vida”, dijo Elías Ayub durante la ceremonia. “Es un recuerdo que nunca se me va a ir. Estar en un lugar de tanto contraste ... ver este puente con toda esta gente, abierto para todos y voltear allá y ver ese muro nuevo que me da escalofrío. Un lugar de contrastes en donde ves de verdad, de corazón, la amistad de cada uno de ustedes”.

Él habló sobre su plan de participar en un programa que tiene como propósito incluir un carril para bicicletas en el Gateway International Bridge o “puente nuevo”, donde se llevó a cabo la ceremonia.

“Hay un posible programa para cruzar la frontera, para poner una línea especial para las bicicletas para los jóvenes que viven en Matamoros y estudian en Brownsville”, dijo Elías Ayub. “Necesitan juntar 400 jóvenes que crucen en bicicleta para que este programa tenga más viabilidad. ... Yo estoy seguro que cuando le cuente a mi jefe, el presidente de la fundación, el Ing. Carlos Slim, de este programa, me va a decir que sí, y si me permiten humildemente en nombre de él y de su servidor, empezar a trabajar ya y donar esas 400 bicicletas el día de hoy”.

Elías Ayub es un famoso empresario mexicano, emprendedor y filántropo. Actualmente es el director general de Fundación Telmex Telcel, director de Alianzas Estratégicas y Contenidos de América Móvil y director de Uno TV.

También es conocido por



Victor G. Ramirez/The Rider

Federico Cantu (izquierda), de Brownsville, y Sara Alejandra Frago Medina, de Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, intercambian un abrazo y obsequios durante el “Encuentro Binacional” el pasado jueves en el Gateway International Bridge.

su participación en la serie de televisión *Shark Tank México*, un programa donde emprendedores, en busca de fondos de financiamiento, presentan sus productos o ideas de negocios a un jurado de inversionistas, o “tiburones”, quienes deciden si invertir, o no, en dichas ideas o productos.

Después de darle la bienvenida a varios funcionarios e invitados, niños de ambas ciudades intercambiaron obsequios y banderas de sus respectivos países.

El alcalde de Brownsville, Tony Martínez, también dio la bienvenida a varios dignatarios y habló sobre la historia y el significado de la ceremonia.

“Todos somos una gran familia merecedora de dignidad, vida y oportunidad con el mismo corazón”, dijo Martínez. “Así como nuestro ambiente y cultura están entrelazadas en ambos lados del Río Bravo ...

también lo está el futuro de nuestros hijos”.

Al acabar su discurso, le otorgó una cuera tamaulipeca a Mario Alberto López Hernández, presidente municipal de Matamoros, como símbolo de la amistad entre las ciudades. López Hernández también le dio un obsequio a Martínez. Las esposas de ambos alcaldes también intercambiaron flores y regalos.

Martínez también le obsequió un sombrero negro al Huésped Distinguido de Matamoros, Juan José Origel, mejor conocido como “Pepillo” Origel, y un par de botas a Irasema Torres Gárate, Orgullo de Matamoros.

Origel, quien es un conductor de televisión, periodista y productor mexicano, dijo que estaba contento por haber asistido a la ceremonia.

“La verdad que es un orgullo para todos los mexicanos, los de Matamoros con los

de Brownsville, estar aquí unidos”, dijo él. “Que bonito es esto. Estamos viviendo épocas muy difíciles pero que bonito cuando hay estos eventos, estas fiestas mexicanas y esta unión entre nosotros”.

Torres Gárate, una reportera y productora mexicana de NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises, recordó cuando solía asistir a las festividades como porrista del Colegio Don Bosco en Matamoros.

“Me siento muy alagada de estar acá compartiendo con todos ustedes y por representar lo que es Matamoros en otros lugares”, dijo ella.

Entre los dignatarios estadounidenses que asistieron a la ceremonia estuvieron el senador de Texas Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville), representante de Estado Alex Domínguez (D-Brownsville) y el juez del Condado de Cameron Eddie Treviño Jr.

Treviño habló sobre la emergencia nacional y la crisis

humanitaria en la frontera.

“Me quiero asegurar que todos aquí le hagan saber a todos los demás y al resto de los Estados Unidos, y al resto del mundo, que estamos seguros y a salvo en la frontera”, dijo él durante la ceremonia. “No somos un juego político, somos seres humanos. Somos dos naciones unidas por el río, no divididas por él”.

Elías Ayub también recibió una placa con la copia del Registro del Congreso de parte del diputado del Distrito 34, Filemon Vela (D-Texas), quien no pudo asistir a la ceremonia.

Cada año, el Mr. Amigo Association rinde homenaje a un ciudadano de México para promover la amistad internacional y buena voluntad entre los 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 Cantinflas, Juan Gabriel, Verónica Castro, Lucha Villa y Arath de la Torre.

Antes de concluir la ceremonia con la liberación tradicional de las palomas blancas, lo cual es un símbolo de paz, Elías Ayub aludió a la palabra “amor” y recalcó la importancia de la felicidad.

“Yo veo a gente feliz, muy feliz aquí y mi deseo al final del día, que es lo más importante en la vida, es que todos sean muy felices. Así es que, ¡God bless America y viva México!”.

Literatura, educación y teatro en FESTIBA

Samantha Garza

THE RIDER

Tres profesoras de UTRGV sostuvieron sus presentaciones sobre historias hispanas y eventos históricos chicanos durante el Festival Internacional de Libros y Arte el pasado jueves en el salón ELABS 185 del campus de Edinburg.

Edna Ochoa, profesora del Programa de Español, fue quien dio inicio al panel en español, introduciendo a Carmela García, asesora y profesora de español en el Departamento de Literatura y Estudios Culturales.

García, quien lleva tres años investigando sobre el tema, habló sobre el país Guinea Ecuatorial (Equatorial Guinea), que se encuentra en el oeste de África.

Inusualmente, el país africano es hispanohablante y lleva el español como lengua oficial desde 1884 hasta 1970. A través de los años, el país ha adaptado el francés y el portugués

como su segundo y tercer idioma. Sin embargo, Guinea Ecuatorial también cuenta con lenguas autóctonas, que son lenguas propias de los nativos.

García explicó que la cultura es “heterogénea”. Sin embargo, en cada comunidad se notan las influencias británicas, portuguesas y españolas de los colonizadores.

Se concentró en explicar la etnia *fang*, ya que el dictador del país es también del mismo grupo étnico, el cual es el más numeroso en el país.

La literatura del país es “casi invisible”, es tan desconocida que todavía no se le otorga un nombre propio. Según García, es conocida como literatura ecuatoguineana en español, literatura africana en español y literatura hispana negro-africana.

La falta de información sobre la literatura fue lo que le interesó para investigar más a fondo el país. Ella se pregunta que si la falta de literatura es porque “está escrita en español o simplemente porque es la gente negra



Mariana Gomez/The Rider

Estudiantes de UTRGV escuchan a la profesora de español, Edna Ochoa, quien dirigió el panel de literatura, educación y teatro del Festival Internacional de Libros y Artes, que tomó lugar el pasado jueves en ELABS 185 en el campus de Edinburg.

hablando español”.

En una entrevista con *The Rider* después del evento, García dijo que lo que le sorprende es que a pesar de

que el país siempre ha favorecido la potencia española dentro del país,

Vea LITERATURA, Página 11

VAQUERAS WALK OVER COUGARS

Women's basketball team wins its ninth conference game

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Ramiro Barrera
SPORTS REPORTER

The Vaqueras defeated the Chicago State University Cougars 84-38 last Thursday in their second-to-the-last home game of regular season in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

This is the fourth time UTRGV ties a record for most points scored by the Vaqueras in a Western Athletic Conference game. It is the first time they scored 84 points since their game against the University of Kansas City-Missouri in 2015.

UTRGV sophomore guard Amara Graham hit a 3-pointer and a layup to open the game and start a 14-0 lead in the first half. Junior forward Megan Johnson scored a couple of free throws that led the Vaqueras to increase their lead 18-2.

At the 01:01 mark, senior guard Nichole Hyman made a layup, assisted by senior guard Idil Türk, putting the Vaqueras 27-10 in the first quarter.

During the second half, UTRGV increased its lead 31-14, after both senior forward Madison Northcutt and junior forward Makaela Mosley made a layup, followed by another from by senior guard Quynne Huggins.

The Vaqueras finished the second quarter with a lead of 43-22 over the Cougars.

At the beginning of the third quarter, UTRGV was leading 43-23, but Türk hit a couple of 3-pointers. They were followed by a pair of free throws by Johnson and another couple of 3-pointers by Türk in their run to increase the lead to 68-34.

In the fourth quarter, the Cougars scored some points but the gap in

the score was nearly 30 points, and the Vaqueras earned the victory, improving their record to 15-12 overall and 9-5 in conference play.

“Well, I thought we really came out of the gates well and just played an awesome offense,” Head Coach Lane Lord said after the game. “Amara was huge early, finding open players and transition.”

On Saturday night, the Vaqueras faced off against Kansas City in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. Results were unavailable at press time. A special pregame ceremony honored the nine-member senior class.

This week's game schedule

Men's Basketball
● 7 p.m. Thursday vs. California Baptist University at UTRGV Fieldhouse

Baseball
(All at UTRGV Baseball Stadium)
● Three-game series vs. University of Massachusetts Amherst at 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday




Mariana Gomez/THE RIDER

Chicago State University junior forward Alexandria Cliff tries to block UTRGV senior forward Madison Northcutt on her attempt to score during last Thursday's game in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The Vaqueras outpaced the Cougars 84-38.

Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club conducts info session

Ramiro Barrera
SPORTS REPORTER

Last Wednesday, the Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club offered an information session for students who were interested in joining the team. The session was presented by club President Alejandro Garcia and Vice President Kevin Damken.

The presentation took place in the UREC conference room. During the session, the club officers gave a brief summary of the soccer club, how it began and what members have done since its founding in 2017.

“The purpose [of the session] is for the new players, or whoever who wants to be part of the club, to have an idea of what it is to be part of the club, what are the requirements, what do they need in order to be a member and just for them to have an idea of who we are, what we do and what our goals in the future are,” Garcia said.

He said the objectives for this semester are focused on a single goal: make an appearance at nationals.

As part of the UREC Intramurals program, the Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club is required to do community service. This was discussed during the meeting, as well as the fundraising

activities that the club has planned this semester.

The club not only offers an opportunity to students who want to play soccer at a higher level than high school. It also offers students the option of working on leadership skills by being a club board member or being in charge of a club committee.

Membership requirements are being a UTRGV student and paying a \$100 fee. The fee grants access to, games and competitions that the club participates in throughout the semester. Also included is access to the training sessions and a jersey.

Club Secretary and forward Andres Lomeli, a management senior, explained the responsibilities of team members.

“As a player and member of the team, the responsibilities would be, you know, making sure you come to practice, making sure you are responsible when it comes to your equipment that is given to you,” Lomeli said. “Obviously, paying your dues to the club and contributing by coming to the meetings, your opinions when we do surveys, when we do community services, anything like that would be part of your responsibilities.”

The Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club is directed by



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

UTRGV math senior Gustavo Torres (from left), English freshman Christian Aguilar, kinesiology sophomore Humberto Bernal and kinesiology freshman Jose Vasquez attend the information session about joining the Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club.

Head Coach Hugo Zuñiga, a graduate of legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American. Last semester, the team competed at the national level, where it finishing third in Pool E after falling 4-0 against Michigan State. Its goal for next fall is to return to nationals.

Zuñiga told *The Rider* what they have to improve for

next season.

“We are now in a higher level as a team,” he said in Spanish. “We are in a different situation, more complete, thanks to what was done last year. So, what we have in mind is to be stricter in the sport's level.”

Zuñiga also discussed what the team will work on during the preseason.

“We are going to work on physical conditioning,” he said. “As a Latino, Hispanic coach, we work a lot on the technique, which is something a lot of these players are deficient in.”

The Vaqueros Men's Soccer Club will practice from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the UREC Fields Complex.

A traditional *fiesta*



Jorge Abundiz/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV students create floral headbands last Wednesday during the Charreada on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. More than 100 students attended the event hosted by Student Involvement.

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

With traditional Mexican attire, *lotería* and music in Spanish, the UTRGV community celebrated Charro Days with its annual Charreada event last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Student organizations and UTRGV departmental offices decorated booths and tables, hosted games and sold Mexican *antojitos*.

Quesadillas, tostaditas, jicaletas, aguas frescas, bolis and corn in a cup was served by UTRGV organizations.

Several contests were held at the event, such as a *grito* contest, jalapeño-eating contest and a traditional

Mexican costume contest.

Vicente Mendez, a biomedical sciences senior, ate five peppers to win the jalapeño-eating contest.

"It wasn't that bad at the start," Mendez said. "I think, like, at the fourth jalapeño, it started to kick in. It's really bad right now because I don't have any milk, but it wasn't too bad."

Mendez is also a member of the Volunteers Around the World club, which was selling *aguas frescas*.

"Right now, we have a medical brigade trip planned for Peru, so right now we are saving up money to get supplies and stuff like that," he said.

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Association of Accountants and Financial

Professionals in Business, the Bilingual Education Student Organization, U Teach, PreDental Society, University Recreation, University Marketing and Communications, and International Student Admissions and Student Services were among the organizations present at the event.

The International Student Admissions and Student Services department hosted a traditional Spanish game called "*iBasta!*" for students who visited its booth.

"*iBasta!*" consists of a group of participants who receive a random letter from the alphabet and write a name, animal, thing, place, food and more that start with that letter. The first participant to finish yells "*iBasta!*" and the other players have to stop and

share their answers. No points are earned for answers that repeat among participants. Every correct answer earns a point and the player with the most points wins.

Angela M. Duarte, an exercise science senior, said the Charro Days festival is important for the community and should be preserved.

"Here, in Brownsville, since it's a sister city with Matamoros, I think it's very important to keep that connection, to keep that bond and show what our culture is about," Duarte said.

During the event, attendees were able to take pictures at a photo booth, create flower crowns and play the "Meltdown" inflatable game, which tested the participants' coordination as they tried to jump over revolving arms.



Art juniors Isamar Ibarra, Anayssa Gutierrez and art senior Miriam Casarez play the "Meltdown" inflatable game last Wednesday during the Charreada on the Brownsville campus.

Bike services coming soon

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

BCycle will replace Zagster as the new vendor for the BikeShare Rio Grande Valley program to start by late summer.

On Oct. 22, 2018, *The Rider* reported the end of the two-year interlocal cooperation contract with Zagster, which stopped offering its services on Aug. 29, 2018.

At that time, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council announced Lime as the new service provider for the BikeShare RGV program.

Ron Garza, executive director for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, said preparations for the end of the contract started in early 2018, with studies and presentations from different vendors.

"We wanted to look at truly regional sustainable solutions for bike share across the entire Valley," Garza said.

However, by the time Lime was selected as the new vendor, the bike share industry changed drastically from dockless bikes to dockless scooters, he said.

"One thing that is really important is, not only did we want to explore this alternative as a means of transportation, called multimodal transportation,



Jorge Abundiz/THE RIDER

Nursing junior Alessandra Cardona parks her bike Feb. 7 in front of the Life & Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus.

but one of our main priorities also was making sure we addressed the obesity issue in the Rio Grande Valley," he said. "The problem with scooters, it actually moves away from the exercise component."

Rodney Gomez, UTRGV executive director of Parking and Transportation, said the council decided to not move forward with Lime. Instead, the plan is to expand the bike

share program with BCycle, the company the City of McAllen currently uses.

"The region decided that we weren't ready for the electric products yet," Gomez said. "We had originally wanted just the continuation of bikes, because, that's what it was. It was a bike share program."

He said the current campus is not suitable for electronic products and safety was a concern.

"A lot of other campuses that have those products on their grounds have, like, dedicated lanes," he said. "They have policies and procedures in place to handle scooters."

The council was awarded two grants: \$408,000 from the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization, for use only in Hidalgo County, and \$250,000 from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation, which will go

toward Cameron County.

"Also, a lot of the cities are also participating into providing matching funds," Garza said. "So, they'll also be putting more money into the pot, so to speak."

In the City of McAllen, BCycle currently charges \$2 an hour for renting a bike. However, a local advisory committee will eventually set the rates for the rides for the entire RGV, Garza said.

"Our goal is to encourage people to have efficient, cheap means of using the system," he said.

Similar to Zagster, the process of renting a bike will be through a mobile phone by downloading an app.

BCycle is "a family and employee-owned business with over 40 years of experience driving innovation in the bicycle industry," according to its website.

"It's been a long journey, but ultimately, doing this route, it's going to be a sustainable model 'cause we actually own the equipment locally," Garza said. "No. 2, it actually addresses, not only transportation needs, but it also addresses health and wellness and the exercise component."

For more information about BikeShare Rio Grande Valley, visit facebook.com/BikeShare-Rio-Grande-Valley.

BREAK
Continued from Page 1

a news conference last Tuesday in SPI City Hall. "They'll be out there assisting us in any way to move patients off the beach, get them to safety and the emergency medical services that they need."

Spring Break Texas Week is scheduled from March 9 to 17.

During Tuesday's conference, SPI officials spoke about the upkeep of the beach, medical services and new additions to the staff.

Aside from Pigg, Interim City Manager Randy Smith, EMS Captain Oziel Garcia, Environmental Health Director Victor Baldovinos, Shoreline Management Director Brandon Hill and Michael Florez, director of marketing, research and analytics at

SPI Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke during the news conference.

After each Spring Break, city officials review the rights and wrongs that occurred during the week and prepare accordingly, said Smith, the former chief of police.

He said they have four times as many police staff during Spring Break compared to a busy weekend.

Pigg added the city will have 16 lifeguards on the beach.

"The fire department will bring additional personnel to cover the busy weekends," he said. "EMS staffing as well. We'll probably have around eight lifeguard towers that will be monitoring the beach and then roving units up and down the beach as well."

Garcia said the department will have a mobile medical unit that will operate 24 hours from March 14 to 16. It will be composed of eight nurses,

four paramedics and two doctors.

"We will have an AmBus," he said. "It's a bus that's capable of transporting up to 15 patients. Along with that, we will have nine ambulances with support from the surrounding cities. They will be operating in a period of eight-hour increments to support all events during the 24 hours of operations."

Pigg recommends that UTRGV students take safety measures when celebrating Spring Break.

"Come down and have fun and stay safe," he said. "Everyone is going to drink and they're going to have a good time but just try to not overdo it. Try to not get put into a situation where you're going to get hurt or be in a situation where people can take advantage of you. There are people that come down and do that. Don't hesitate to come up to any lifeguard or

EMS or [the fire department] or PD. People are here to help. They're not here to try to get anybody in trouble."

During the weeklong celebration, students who participate in UTRGV's Alternative Spring Break will travel to Houston and volunteer at local events.

"Alternative Spring Break is a nationwide opportunity for college students that are looking to make a difference, while enjoying time off from school," said Vanessa Sandoval, Leadership and Social Change program coordinator. "They take part in a weeklong volunteer service that are means to improve communities and the lives that are in those communities."

The university is planning to take 10 students to Houston, where they will help clean a state park and file paperwork at a homeless facility, according to Sandoval.

MAGAZINE
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Contributing Designer; Steven Hughes, Online Editor

--Silver ADDY-Social Media Campaign (Pulse 2018 Launch Event), Arael Meza, Designer

"It was really nice to attend the ADDYS this year and we had no idea that we were going to walk out with seven awards when we first went in," Webster said.

He said this was the first time the magazine had attended the ADDY's since the university became UTRGV in 2015.

"I don't know exactly the last time that a UTRGV magazine entered, but as far as I can tell, just from the certificates, 2008 was the last time," Webster said.

He said attending the event

was "a blast" and being able to meet other people interested in the same style of media was wonderful.

At the event, attendees walked around the room and viewed every entrant's artwork displayed, giving the experience a "special" and personal touch.

A majority of the Pulse staff attended the "Oscars"-like event, including former Pulse Editor-in-Chief, Sage Bazan.

"I think it was really important that [Bazan] was there, since she was such a big piece of that magazine," Webster said.

Bazan said she was surprised but thrilled by the fact that Pulse magazine won seven awards for its 2018 issue.

Asked what the awards mean to her, Bazan replied, "It meant that all the hard work

that we did was validated. All the nights that we stayed at the office until midnight, or on the weekend when we would go in and work, it really showed."

The 2018 issue had undergone "drastic changes," going down to a smaller size and using an entirely different kind of paper for the cover.

Webster said the reduction in size was to better suit the students and to save space, while the paper gave the magazine a "much more substantial" and cleaner look.

"We went with the National Geographic size for the reason that college students, you know students, they've got Chick-fil-A in one hand, they've got books and other stuff in the other," he said. "We didn't want people lugging around something that was large, so we wanted

to give them something that was a little bit more compact."

Bazan was proud and pleased with the final result for the issue, mentioning her love for the stories and the new "modern" look it now bears.

"We spent many hours outside of class talking and she brought me the blue lines when they came out, before they went to press, or right when it was going to press, and she was very proud," Selber said. "We sat on the floor of my office going through it."

Webster said one of the biggest hurdles was putting out a 144-page publication, and updating their weekly website with a small staff. Another complication they overcame was with the website, due to the staff's lack of an individual with experience in that field. Despite this complication,

Pulse was given the Silver award for its website.

He encourages people to "check it out" at <https://utrgvpulse.com/>.

"I think it's fantastic," Selber said about the awards Pulse received. "I was so excited when they entered! I was really, really happy that Pulse entered and was recognized for the great work that they did and have done."

She said two other students, J. Edward Moreno and Silver Salas, who work for the university's marketing office, won a professional silver award, and a MOSAIC image award for their video, "The UTRGV Student's Journey," which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7rlbbqJ6Rk&feature=youtu.be>.

In the Professional Category 11 Gold Awards and 21 Silver Awards were awarded.

PROFESSORS
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having schools who teach proper dual language education to kids early on, they prepare for a B3 institute and will be able to take a class in Spanish in the future.

Stehn and Alessandri were awarded the Rio Grande Valley-Texas Association for Bilingual Education and recognized as 2019 Distinguished Community Advocate Honorees, according to the UTRGV Newsroom page.

Stehn said that although he

liked the recognition, he felt more responsibility to keep working on the program.

"I feel like, 'Oh, my god, I have so much responsibility now,' because, you know, I do feel sort of personally responsible," he said. "If I don't do a good job helping parents get organized, and some kid this year that is starting pre-K and instead of starting a dual language program, they're in an early exit program. And by the time they get to third grade, the school's not going to be teaching them Spanish anymore. Like, I feel, like, I'm already too late for that kid.

I feel like I've already failed that kid."

Alessandri said the award was affirming and empowered them to keep going.

"It was a surprise," she said. "So, we just felt really empowered to keep going and to say, 'Wow! This is really being valued.' Then, the news broke out everywhere from that article. ... It was so interesting that it's really getting out. So, I think that a lot of people have their eye on the RGV as it could be one of the leaders of dual language."

Alessandri thinks it is important for young people in the RGV

to speak Spanish for job opportunities and to relate to the other people of the Valley. Stehn said there are so many languages in the world, and he feels sad when a kid is monolingual, especially in the Valley.

He said that although he is not perfectly bilingual, he respects people who are.

"We want our kids to be able to move through these two languages, whether it's reading, or writing or speaking," Stehn said. "Even though the world is still messed up, I feel like we can do a better job to make the schools less messed up."

LITERATURA
Continuación de Página 8

su literatura sigue siendo desaliñada.

Terminando su presentación, Ochoa introdujo a María Dolores Mendiola, coordinadora e instructora del programa de español médico en UTRGV, quien habló sobre las mujeres educadoras en el "México de afuera".

Mendiola inició su presentación explicando la ideología "México de afuera", la cual se inició durante la revolución mexicana. En esos tiempos, el caos político causó que mexicanos huyeran del país, quienes han sido nombrados al "México de afuera".

Dentro de los mexicanos que huyeron se encontraban mujeres quienes escribían y abogaban por los derechos de los mexicanos.

Siendo mujeres de distintos estratos sociales

y provenientes de muchas profesiones, fueron uniéndose por las mismas causas, iniciando grupos por la lucha feminista.

Fue así como inició la lucha por los derechos de igualdad laboral, educativos y políticos. Las mujeres protestaban por medio de la prensa y la literatura. Estas formas de protesta causaron que las mujeres buscaran refugio en Estados Unidos.

Mendiola dio breves biografías de las feministas quienes buscaron asilo en EE.UU.: Sara Estela Ramírez, Andrea Villarreal, Teresa Villarreal (hermana de Andrea), Leonor Villegas de Magnón, María Luisa Garza, Jovita Idár y María Luisa Ross Landa.

Cada mujer luchó por los derechos de los mexicanos "de afuera," y Mendiola mostró gran pasión cuando inició hablar sobre las mujeres que defendieron a la educación para los mexicanos.

Mendiola explicó que durante esta época la discriminación para los niños mexicanos, mexicano-americanos y tejanos fue inmensa, privando a pequeños la oportunidad de asistir a clases.

Durante una breve entrevista con *The Rider*, se le preguntó a Mendiola cual de dichas luchadoras fue quien tuvo más impacto en su investigación. Ella explicó que no podría escoger, ya que todas tuvieron un gran impacto dentro de sus trabajos.

Sin embargo, recalcó la historia de Ross, que incluso es parte de su disertación doctoral.

"Ella escribió cuentos que fueron utilizados como libros de texto para la educación en México, para las escuelas primarias," Mendiola dijo.

Incluso explicó que esos cuentos fueron publicados en Texas y fueron una gran ayuda para los mexicano-

americanos para tener una conexión con su cultura y su idioma.

Como la última presentadora del panel, Ochoa continuó con su presentación, "Zoot Suit de Luis Valdez: El teatro como factor de cambio".

Ochoa inició su tema explicando el teatro contemporáneo chicano, el cual tuvo su origen en California en 1965 junto al surgimiento del El Teatro Campesino.

Durante esta época, surgió el movimiento de César Chávez y Dolores Huerta, activistas de derechos civiles, que marcó el movimiento chicano en los 60.

Luis Valdez utilizó su teatro como un factor de cambio, dijo Ochoa en una entrevista con *The Rider*.

"En este caso, es cómo va a utilizar en la obra de 'Zoot Suit' al pachuco como uno de los precursores del movimiento chicano", dijo ella. "Esto es

muy importante, como lo utiliza en esa obra".

En estas obras, los artistas eran los mismos campesinos quienes ponían la producción para los mismos residentes del pueblo.

"Tiene una función de propaganda política para lograr, dar visibilidad a la lucha de César Chávez, y sobre todo porque como estaban pocos informados, se necesitaba que todos se unieran, que todos se aglutinaran porque también había muchos esquirols", Ochoa dijo.

Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales fue un personaje histórico quien organizó las cruzadas para la justicia en Denver, Colorado, en 1966, explicó Ochoa.

Ochoa terminó el evento explicando lo importante que es saber sobre la historia de los que lucharon de manera pacífica y obtuvieron derechos para los chicanos, ya que hechos históricos suelen repetirse.

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