



'Empowering each other'

UTRGV celebrates Women's History Month



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

History Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator Megan Birk discusses women's pensions during the Civil War on March 7 in the University Library Shary Room on the Edinburg campus.

Nubia Reyna THE RIDER

Continuing its annual tradition, UTRGV will celebrate Women's History Month with a series of events on both campuses.

"It has a lot of history," said Linda English, director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program. "Women's History Month actually started as International Women's History Day and over the course of the 20th century, it

was expanded. As historians, it is important to recognize that for a lot of [time] in the historical record, women were not part of it; the focus was political leaders [and] white men."

Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change, said that it is important for students to come together and celebrate women.

"Right now, we need to lift each other up and celebrate one another's differences and

what brings us together," Sandoval said. "And, so, I think celebrating our women and empowering each other and just having that opportunity to do that and to highlight different things. I love that every area is coming together to celebrate different things."

"Whether it's motherhood, whether it's superheroes, whether it's women who inspire, they are all very different

See MONTH, Page 2

De La Torre ready to take office

Zugay Treviño THE RIDER

When she begins her term of office, President-elect Ingrid De La Torre said she will focus on fixing internal Student Government Association problems first.

"We have to fix some of the problems within the organization so that we can better serve the student body," De La Torre said.

With 611 of 993 votes in the SGA Elections held Feb. 25-March 1, Mission Possible was elected as the executive ticket for the 2019-2020 academic year.

De La Torre said she was overwhelmed with joy from all the support she received after announcing her candidacy. She said Mission Possible traveled between the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses to talk to as many students as possible.

"We were very, very excited, and I feel we weren't able to rest until Tuesday, when we got the confirmation that we won," De La Torres said.

Serving with De La Torre will be Roy Cantu, vice president on the Brownsville campus, and Alexandra Smith-Macias, vice president for the Edinburg campus.

De La Torre, Cantu and Smith-Macias ran against the Action Taker ticket, composed of Carlo Flores, Victoria Lozano and Alex Saldivar, whose executive ticket received 382 votes.

Their term of office will begin May 6.

De La Torre said she would like to shorten SGA's first-year intern program so it is only a semester and students can serve during their second semester.

"We would also like to restructure SGA elections, just so that there's more student involvement. ... However, there was a lot of things laid out by former President Denisce Palacios last year," she said. "So, one of my goals this year is to finish everything that we started last year because I was also on her executive ticket."

De La Torre said she wants to work on campus pride by uniting Brownsville and Edinburg.

"Not only is it specifically athletics and student involvement, but it's getting that sense, 'After I leave UTRGV I'm going to be proud I'm a Vaquero or Vaquera. I'm going to be proud to say where I graduated from,'" she said.

De La Torre would like students to see an increase in the SGA's involvement on campus.

She plans to address SGA's low membership by having more student involvement and outreach.

De La Torre would like to add more to SGA's Facebook page, working as a team and attending campus events.

"Mission Possible is very ready to serve the student body," she said.



Ingrid De La Torre



Roy Cantu



Alexandra Smith-Macias

See SGA, Page 8



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Civil engineering students (from left), senior Ivan Rodriguez, junior Bianca Hernandez, sophomore Maria Pruneda and freshman Jose Alaniz collaborate to create a functional canoe made from concrete. The students are members and officers of the UTRGV American Society of Civil Engineers.

Hard as concrete, light as a canoe

Klaudia Cedillo THE RIDER

UTRGV's student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers have accomplished the difficult task of making concrete float in preparation for the fifth annual ASCE Texas Student Symposium.

The symposium, hosted by the UTRGV student chapter of ASCE, is set to take place April 10 to 13 at the South Padre Island Convention Center.

At this event, schools from across Texas and Mexico are invited to participate and compete, building not only concrete canoes, but also connections with other civil

engineers and students.

Robert Jones, interim department chair of the College of Engineering and Computer Science and a mechanical engineering professor, said that because of our area's location, there has been "more teams from Mexico than ever before," possibly due to the fact that they don't have to make as long a drive compared to previous symposium locations.

Oscar Hernandez, ASCE president, said that they are expecting around 450 students and about 50 professionals to attend the event.

"We do have to fundraise for the whole conference and it is a pretty penny to do a

conference as big as this one," Hernandez said. "Up to now, I think it's around [\$70,000] to \$75,000. I think in just catering food, we've spent about \$40,000, but keep in mind we're feeding ... around 550 people."

The ASCE student symposium is geared toward the civil engineering field and is carrying out a variety of events such as guest speakers, a career fair, vendors and several competitions.

Hernandez said this year, the event is conducting concrete bowling, concrete Frisbee and concrete canoe

See CANOE, Page 5

THE RIDER

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

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Taco' Bout It
Some More
Leadership
and Social
Change will host

a panel discussion on cultural issues pertaining to **Women's History Month** at 11 a.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Free tacos and drinks will be served. For more information, email leadership@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Mixer and Meet and Greet

Interact with English majors, minors and English faculty at 12:25 p.m. in the Clark Art Gallery in the First Floor of the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the event will take place at the same time Thursday in Main Room 1.220. Free pizza will be served. For more information, call 665-3421 or 882-8246.

Socialize while at Lunch

A social for Spanish majors, minors and prospective majors will be held at 12:15 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 186 on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the

event will take place at the same time Thursday in Main 2.420. Free pizza will be served. For more information, call 665-3421 or 882-8246.

Wednesday

Faculty Artist Series

UTRGV flute Associate Professor **Krista Jobson** will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Also performing will be Lecturer **Oliver Jia** on piano, Professor **Mark Ramirez** on marimba and vibraphone and Lecturer **Hector Rodriguez** on guitar. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3881.

Spring Career Expo

Over 60 organizations will attend the **Spring Career Expo** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the UREC on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. Recruiters attending the event include H-E-B, Idea Public Schools, Valley Baptist Health System and more. For more information, email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Coffee & Careers

The Career Center will host a

discussion on **career-related topics** at 3 p.m. in Cortez Hall 129 on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at 4 p.m. in Student Services Building 2.101. Discussion topics will include frustrations, dealing with rejections, career exploration, internships and more. A free cup of coffee will be served. For more information, email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Thursday

Flower Day

Create your own **flower crown** at 11 a.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the event will take place at the same time in El Comedor. For more information, call 665-7890.

Friday

Faculty Artist Series

Mark Joseph Ramirez, UTRGV associate director of the School of Music and area coordinator for percussion, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3881.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 26 and March 4.



Feb. 26

6:38 a.m.:

A suspicious non-affiliated male juvenile was taken into custody by U.S. Border Patrol on the 1900 block of West University Boulevard near the Brownsville campus.

8:14 a.m.: A student reported that his vehicle window shattered due to a nearby UTRGV groundskeeper trimming grass in Lot E-21 on the Edinburg campus. Arrangements were made to replace the student's window.

4:34 p.m.: A faculty member received two suspicious phone calls from an unknown person in Portable Building 1 on the Brownsville campus. The faculty member was not threatened, but wanted to document the incidents.

11:19 p.m.: A student received text messages from an unknown person at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. She texted them to stop contacting her, and so far, they have complied. The student was advised of the services available at UTRGV.

Feb. 27

12:58 p.m.: A student suffered a seizure at the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. Brownsville Emergency Medical Services arrived and transported the student to a medical facility.

5:20 p.m.: A student injured himself after falling from his skateboard along the covered walkway on the Edinburg campus, suffering scratches on his face and left elbow. He declined emergency medical services and received treatment at Student Health Services.

Feb. 28

12:18 p.m.: A student's UTRGV ID card with V Bucks was used without her authorization in several locations on the Edinburg campus. Another student has been identified as a suspect.

3:50 p.m.: Several rolls of toilet paper were stolen from the restrooms at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. The dispensers had signs of being tampered.

9:27 p.m.: A non-affiliated woman reported that her daughter, a UTRGV student, had not returned home from school. The student was later located in Mercedes and reunited with

her mother.

10:39 p.m.: An officer responded to a fire alarm at the thermal plant on the Brownsville campus. The alarm was triggered by a smoke detector. The Brownsville Fire Department determined that the alarm sounded due to electrical components of a chiller burning out.

March 1

11:09 a.m.: A student reported being sexually assaulted in October 2018 by a non-affiliated man in Brownsville.

March 2

1:53 p.m.: A vehicle caused damage to the left side of a parked Weslaco Independent School District bus at the Academic Performing Arts Complex Circular Drive on the Edinburg campus, and then left the scene. There were no injuries and the only person on the bus was the driver.

March 4

11:07 a.m.: A Casa Bella staff member found marijuana in a plastic medicine bottle during a health and safety inspection in a dorm room at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. The marijuana was confiscated and released to an officer.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

MONTH

Continued from Page 1

but all different [commonalities] that brings us together to empower and celebrate women."

The events kicked off March 4 with the showing of the coming-of-age movie "Lady Bird" on the Brownsville campus and March 7 on the Edinburg campus.

"[Today], we will have a 'Taco-Bout It Some More' panel and we are inviting three different lecturers and professors from the Brownsville campus," Sandoval said. "We are going to be hosting and collaborating with different departments. Different departments will be hosting their own events."

The panel will be held from 11 a.m. to noon today in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

"We will be talking about women who inspire with the emphasis on the media and, so, we will be giving out free tacos," she said.

There will be a cultural chat, "Latinas World of Wisdom," from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday on the Edinburg campus.

"It will be a discussion panel open to the student body," Sandoval said.

Gender and Women's Studies will also host "Natural VS. Fosterlove," as part of its mini lecture series, from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday in Main 1.220 on the Brownsville campus.

"The mini-lecture series, of course, is a celebration of women's experiences, lives and contributions to history," said Friederike Brühöfener, assistant co-director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program. "As students and scholars, you can study the history of women, you can study the history of motherhood, whether you are a woman or a man. Your sex and gender is not relevant in that regard."

The University Library will show the documentary "Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines." The screening will take place from noon to 1 p.m. March 26 in the Instructional Library Room on the Brownsville campus and in the University Library second floor on the Edinburg campus. "They will be having some snacks and also showing the documentary for that day," Sandoval said.

The 2012 documentary was directed and produced by women. The film traces the "fascinating evolution" and legacy of Wonder Woman. From the

birth of the comic book superheroine with the 1940s to the blockbusters of today, "Wonder Women" looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's liberation, according to the documentary's official webpage.

Brownsville will have a "Brown Bag Chat" from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 27 on the Student Union lawn.

"We will be having small trivia, free lunch, kind of, like, a grab and go but also still learn," Sandoval said.

A chat about mothers and motherhood in history will take place from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. March 25 and 28 in the University Library Shary Room on the Edinburg campus.

"[These] are mini lectures where faculty from the history department and the Gender and Women's Studies Program present research that focuses on mothers, motherhood and history," Brühöfener said.

International's Women's Day will be celebrated from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 28 in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus, where the recipients for the "Outstanding Female Student Award" will be announced.

For more information about the events, email vanessa.sandoval@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV, HCISD to build early college high school

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

UTRGV is collaborating with Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) to construct a new early college high school campus, which will open in Fall 2021.

Veronica Kortan, HCISD's administrator for organizational development, said the university signed an interlocal agreement on Feb. 28, in which each institution will pay \$7.5 million to build the new campus.

The new campus, to be located near the northeast corner of Camelot Drive and Hale Street, will be used by Harlingen Early College High School, whose students will graduate with about 40 college hours. HCISD is expecting to enroll 100 students per grade.

"But, also, UTRGV will be offering other coursework that will lead to a baccalaureate program. It's really important for our community because it's going to bring some of the coursework here in Harlingen. Currently, our people in Harlingen travel either to



UTRGV has partnered with the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District to build a new early college high school campus, near the northeast corner of Hale Street and Camelot Drive.

Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Edinburg or Brownsville for coursework," Kortan said.

She said she hopes Harlingen residents will be able to use the facility there and the next phase of the partnership is to finalize the last details.

The current partnership

consists of UTRGV professors going to the students' classrooms.

"With this new facility, I would imagine, our students will be taking courses in the UTRGV building and their professors will be there as well," Kortan said.

Students will follow UTRGV's schedule.

Transportation for students will be provided by the high school and possibly UTRGV shuttles, depending on the program and course offerings.

Students would be able to start their academic core

classes and three different pathways, including an aspiring teacher residency academy, pre-engineering and computer science.

"We are looking at offering all of the courses in the academic core, but also working with the individual colleges, to identify courses that our students could take in high school that would help them as they are matriculating into UTRGV," Kortan said.

Requirements for students are being designed and will depend on the student's program.

"The application process is going to be much like the application process to get into an Honors College at UTRGV," she said.

Kortan said high school juniors and seniors will take high school classes but will mostly enroll in university courses.

"Our goal is to have our students, yes, complete the academic core, and, yes, get all the course work that they need to be considered for those pathways at UTRGV, but ... we are embedding

See HCISD, Page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Guadalupe Garza, a UTRGV dance sophomore, poses in front of the U.S. Capitol. Garza performed with the UTRGV Ballet Folklorico at the American College Dance Association's National College Dance Festival in June 2018.

UTRGV student shares his dance journey

Samantha Garza
THE RIDER

Guadalupe Garza, a dance sophomore from UTRGV, took a *folklórico* class in middle school. Now, he tours the country performing with UTRGV's Ballet Folklorico and Ballet Nepantla, a New York ballet folklorico company.

Garza accidentally discovered his artistic talent in seventh grade at Elias Longoria Sr. Middle School. He said he only took folklorico because he did not want to take P.E., but as time passed he realized he was "pretty good at it."

During his freshman year at Edinburg North High School, he took swimming "for some reason," but it was not a long time before he tried out for the high school folklorico company.

When he tried out for the group he was recognized by Ismael Villarreal, his former middle school dance director. Villarreal told Garza to join the after-school program, Ritmo Dorado.

"I think high school was when I really fell in love with it," Garza told *The Rider*.

In his sophomore year he joined Dancentre of Edinburg under the direction of his first dance director, Yvonne Guajardo.

Garza continued dancing for his alma mater and for Dancentre, but during his senior year in high

school he was recruited to dance for Ballet Nepantla.

Ballet Nepantla was founded in January 2017 by Andrea Guajardo, daughter of Yvonne Guajardo, who was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley.

"She was looking for strong male folklorico dancers, or male dancers in general, and Miss Yvonne had the idea of putting me in [Andrea Guajardo's] company," Garza said.

By the time he graduated from high school, he knew he wanted to pursue his bachelor of fine arts at UTRGV and has been in folklorico since his freshman year.

"I am going to dance for UTRGV, *Ma*," Ana Berta Garza said her son told her right after his college application was accepted.

Ana Berta Garza has worked as a custodian at UTRGV for 12 years, and his father Guadalupe A. Garza has worked as a mechanic at the university's Facilities Planning & Operations for seven years.

"Imagine *mija*, seeing him in a beautiful theater and everybody applauding," Ana Berta Garza said in Spanish. "Watching his show fills us with pride."

Garza's mother said she is proud of the person her son has become.

"Mostly because he is a great son, very loving, very respectful to us and to everybody around him," she said.

See DANCER, Page 8

Graduate students receive fellowship to start sustainability research project

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

This semester, 15 students were awarded the Sustainability Fellowship to start their own project or collaborate on an existing one with the Office for Sustainability.

The fellowship awards students with a \$15,000 scholarship that will cover the student's tuition and fees as well as their living expenses for a year.

"We describe sustainability as the use of planet resources in a way to support the current human generation and the future generations," said Parwinder Grewal, UTRGV executive vice president for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development. "We don't restrict it to any particular area or discipline background matter. What makes the student special is their passion about [sustainability], the interest in the sustainability topic."

To apply for the fellowship, students had to be accepted unconditionally to

a graduate program, provide a one-to two-page statement about their sustainability interests and be a full-time student for the awarded year.

"[Students who received the fellowship were] students who were passionate about their work in sustainability," Grewal said. "That is, looking at sustainability development, looking at recycling, looking at addressing hunger. So, they passionately describe that they care for the society in the longer term. It can also be part of the sustainability projects that are coordinated by the Office of Sustainability."

Asked how the idea for this fellowship started, Grewal replied it was because he has a strong interest in sustainability.

"We have an office of sustainability that tries to engage students in sustainability-type projects," he said. "I wanted to enhance their activities by engaging students and providing funding to the students to dedicate their time to engage in sustainability projects."

Perla Melendez, a graduate student in English, was awarded the fellowship for her recycling project.

"It was a great opportunity to start doing something for the university and use our skills in order to improve the university," Melendez said. "I am mostly focusing on recycling, reducing and reusing. ... I will create posters and other type of [advertisements] to get the university engaged in [recycling]."

She said this fellowship allows students to help each other in their research.

"It gives us the opportunity to work in collaboration with other people from different majors," she said. "We help each other [in our research]. We all have some type of skill that is important that we share with the community to improve it. Each one of us is good at something and if we use that, we can create a better community."

Diana Lara, a translation and interpreting graduate student, said she is excited about the fellowship because it allows her to use her own skills without being limited.

"I [am] really excited," Lara said. "I [did not] know how my degree applies to sustainability because, at least before I got the scholarship, I thought it was about the environment and science. They want us to implement our own skills. They don't want to limit us, which I think is excellent about this fellowship."

"They did not specifically just choose people that are science majors or math majors; they wanted to choose a variety of different people so that we could contribute."

Lara will focus her project on helping translate surveys and data to both English and Spanish.

"At least here in the Valley, we need to have both English and Spanish and I would be able to contribute with that," she said. "Breaking the language barrier and breaking the cultural barrier."

Asked how the fellowship will improve her academic career, she replied, "It will open my eyes to how I can contribute to the world and how I can improve my community."

VAQUERO VOICE 

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN



“One of the persons I have always looked up to is this famous woman or artist, Frida Kahlo. Personally, for me she’s been an inspiration icon due to the fact that she stood up against many social norms. One of my favorite quotes from her is, ‘*Pies para que los quiero, si tengo alas pa’ volar.*’ She found the beauty in many of the things people would not find beauty in, for instance, her injuries and many of the stuff that she had to go through. And, personally, I admire that very much and that’s why I look up to her.”

Fatima Garza
Anthropology sophomore

“I think that one of my favorite female artists, or someone that I look up to, is Sofia Coppola. I really like her film ‘The Virgin Suicides’ with Kirsten Dunst, that girl from ‘Spider-Man,’ what’s her name, Mary Jane. She’s the daughter of Francis Ford Coppola, the director of these great films, like ‘The Godfather’ and ‘Apocalypse Now.’”



Nabil Leal
Business junior



“I would say Audrey Hepburn because she was a dancer, a humanitarian, you know. She taught us endless optimism and that means that nothing’s impossible.”

Sandra Salazar
Biology sophomore

“I think Captain Marvel because, you know, she’s really strong and she’s incredible, and I think that she’s a great role model for little girls and women everywhere that want to be as strong as her one day.”



Joel Rojas
Psychology junior

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



The walking deer



Klaudia Cedillo
THE RIDER

My first encounter with deer meat was in my high school woodshop class, where I found my teacher boiling the head of his latest kill on the stove in our building. He pulled on one of the antlers, exposing the skull of a buck with flesh falling back into the pot, reminiscent of a zombie falling to pieces. I was never a hunting or deer meat-eating kind of girl but after that encounter, I was permanently put off by it.

After reading recent news reports on “zombie deer disease,” my lack of love for venison has only grown stronger. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) causes deer to stumble, drool, be more aggressive toward humans and waste away until they die. These symptoms are classic signs of a zombie, aside from the lack of a cannibalistic hunger for brains.

Prions, which are misfolded proteins, are said to be the

cause of this fatal disease in the deer population. Once a deer is infected with this prion, it will gradually deteriorate over the course of several months, spreading it to nearby populations. But to me, the craziest part about this disease, isn’t its zombielike symptoms but the fact that there is a possibility it can spread to humans. With all the zombie movies and shows I’ve seen over the years, from “Pet Sematary” to “Resident Evil,” the chance of this happening in the real world seemed almost impossible. The fact that it could start with deer? Even more so.

The disease is hypothesized that it could possibly infect humans by eating infected deer meat. Despite the common idea that once you cook something it is safe to eat, in the case of prion-contaminated meat, it is not.

In an article published March 5 in the Minnesota Post Bulletin, Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota is quoted as saying, “It is probable that human cases of chronic wasting disease

associated with consumption of contaminated meat will be documented in the years ahead.”

A study is being conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on the infection capabilities of CWD. So far in their investigation, researchers have observed that it can infect hamsters and mice, but they aren’t sure how yet. It makes me wonder if hunters and avid venison eaters should take precaution and stop the practice altogether.

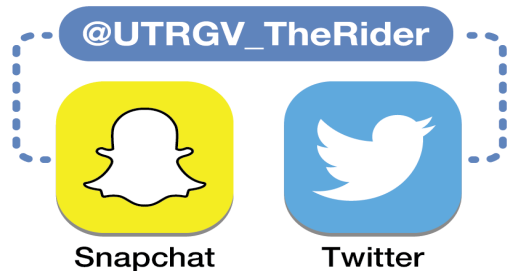
Although there have not been any reported cases of the disease being seen in humans, due to the recent news reports and its spreading to 24 states since being identified in the 1980s, people are concerned about the chance of it affecting humans. I don’t bet, but despite the lack of hard evidence for it, I believe that there is a small chance of this “zombie deer disease” expanding to our species.

Another prion-based disease that scientists, too, thought could never be found in humans is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a version of mad cow disease that causes neurodegeneration.

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!



Estudiantes discuten sobre educación sexual



Jorge Abundiz/Fotos The Rider

Daphne Alcalá, una educadora juvenil del departamento de Health Services, habla sobre los tipos de preservativos el pasado 4 de marzo durante el evento "Let's Taco-Bout Sex". Más de 25 estudiantes asistieron al evento en el Casa Bella Clubhouse en el campus de Brownsville.

Jessica Mendez THE RIDER

El pasado 4 de marzo, una presentación y demostración sobre el uso correcto de los preservativos tomó lugar durante la discusión "Let's Taco-Bout Sex" en el Casa Bella Clubhouse en el campus de Brownsville.

Más de 25 estudiantes asistieron a las pláticas de educación sexual, las cuales se concentraron en los síntomas de diferentes enfermedades de transmisión sexual (ETS) y consejos para su prevención, y los recursos de salud disponibles en UTRGV. Se les otorgó preservativos y tacos gratis a los asistentes.

Glenda Loza, una auxiliar de residentes de Casa Bella Apartments, organizó el evento para que el departamento de Housing and Residence Life proporcionara

recursos educacionales para los estudiantes.

"Creo que nuestra población, nuestra población de 20 años está en la edad donde tienen relaciones sexuales", dijo Loza. "Así que, creo que es importante tener la iniciativa y enseñarles sobre como usar condones, anticonceptivos para que así no se propague ninguna enfermedad sexual".

La presentadora Daphne Alcalá Zúñiga, una educadora juvenil de UTRGV Health Services, proporcionó estadísticas sobre las consecuencias del sexo sin protección y otro tipo de encuentros.

"Los estudiantes deberían saber que el riesgo de no protegerse se presenta con las ETS, embarazos, es decir, puede tener un impacto muy fuerte en su desarrollo escolar", Zúñiga dijo.

Ella dijo que la audiencia fue madura durante la presentación.



Eduardo García, estudiante de primer año en kinesiólogía (izquierda) y Miguel Mejías, un estudiante de segundo año en ciencias biomédicas, comen tacos el pasado 4 de marzo durante el evento "Let's Taco-Bout Sex" en el Casa Bella Clubhouse en el campus de Brownsville.

"De hecho, me gustó mucho este público ya que estuvieron participando activamente y fueron muy amables y relajados sobre el tema", dijo Zúñiga. "No hicieron bromas, es decir, talvez pensaron sobre varias ... pero está bien. A veces, es su forma, yo digo, de liberar algo de la tensión de este tema".

Ella dijo que Health Services también ofrece presentaciones acerca de relaciones sanas, nutrición, bienestar de las mujeres y otros temas relacionados con la salud que no reciben tanta atención.

Jose Rodriguez, un educador juvenil de UTRGV Health Services, mostró a los estudiantes los tipos de preservativos que pueden obtener gratuitamente en su oficina y los servicios que ofrecen.

Rodriguez añadió que las pruebas de VIH ahora tienen un costo de \$25 dólares. Otras pruebas están

disponibles por un costo adicional.

Isamar Ibarra, una estudiante de tercer año en educación artística, dijo que la educación sexual está limitada para ciertos segmentos de la población, pero aun así es importante.

"La información para el sexo seguro no está disponible para todos en las escuelas públicas aquí en Texas", dijo Ibarra. "Así que, todos venimos de diferentes lugares con ... diferente información y pues es algo triste que tengan que esperar hasta que estén en un ambiente, como el de la universidad, para que puedan recibir esta información".

Zúñiga dijo, "Tenemos que entender que ese momento, literalmente cinco minutos de sexo sin protección, puede cambiar toda tu vida. Puede ser algo curable como clamidia o puede ser algo que te cambie la vida como el VIH".

CANOE

Continued from Page 1

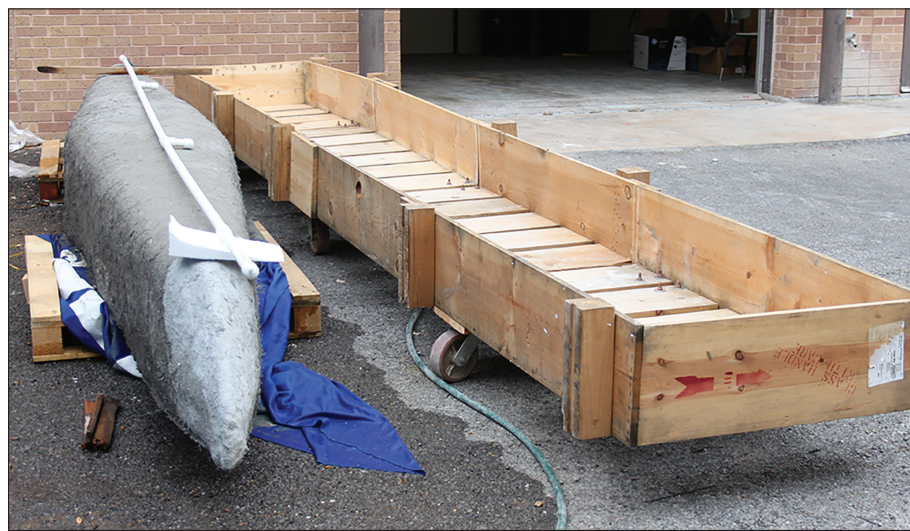
competitions. ASCE chapters use their wits to design working versions of the items with concrete.

"One of the major competitions that we have in this student symposium is a concrete canoe competition where we have to make a canoe out of concrete," he said. "And then, we have to set up a display, we have to write a paper about it, we have to present it and the canoe is supposed to float in water."

Hernandez said students were taught how to mix concrete and other "civil materials" in a hands-on lab but learning how to make the canoe float took hours of research.

"It's a lot because we're working with concrete and as an engineer, you have to come up with new ways of creating stuff, making it work, and this was our task," he said.

Hernandez said that creating the mold for the canoe took about six months, but if anything went wrong during the curing method or while taking the cement out of the mold, they would have to do the



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

The UTRGV American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is building a canoe made out of lightweight concrete for the fifth annual ASCE Texas Student Symposium.

process all over again. He said they are planning on making a second canoe to set for 28 days, "just in time for April 10."

"Even though we're a new department, a fairly baby department compared to others, I think our chances

of winning are pretty high," Hernandez said. "I have confidence in the team because they've been working pretty hard. It's been a daunting task because they just don't have to concentrate on the canoe, but also in the symposium

HCISD

Continued from Page 3

true experiences in that pathway," she said. "If our students are wanting to be educators, then every year of their four-year high school career, they have different activities that are appropriate for their learning, but that will also give them an idea of what it looks like and feels like to be an educator."

Skills including lesson planning and working with students would be taught during their high school career.

"We are going to be embedding something that we are calling 'capstone projects,' and so the capstone projects will allow students to really take a deep dive into the research part of their career," Kortan said.

She said students who are going to study a medical field could do a research project about a health-related issue.

Design work for the building will begin after Spring Break.

"It usually takes us about a year to build a campus, a school," Kortan said. "So, if we're opening up in the fall of 2021, then we would probably

start somewhere between the spring of 2020 and the fall of 2020."

She said she hopes the campus will make college a reality for students.

"Considering our area, we have several families who would not have otherwise been able to afford a full college education," Kortan said. "So, when you think of that, we are bringing college to all of our students, and that college can become a reality for them, that's the most important part of our work, a college for everybody. It's a reality for everybody that comes through the doors of early college high

planning and their courses. We have it twice as hard as anybody else."

Jones said that in previous years, there have "generally" been problems with transporting the canoes. They either break on the way, or when they're being unloaded. Despite this, he believes that the group will do "OK."

He said the group made a good team and that he's seen them "working their tails off" for this competition.

The concrete canoe competition will take place April 13 at Dolphin Cove in Isla Blanca Park on South Padre Island.

The competition will consist of three categories: women's rowing, men's rowing and co-ed rowing.

"If people want to go see, all they have to do is pay the entrance fee for Dolphin Cove, which is for the county, and you'll get to see UTRGV and the other schools from the state of Texas and Mexico compete [in] a friendly rowing competition," Hernandez said.

He said that he wanted to thank the university, the ASCE professional chapter, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the students, because without any of their support, this wouldn't be possible.

school."

Harlingen Early College High School is in its 11th year of operation.

"Watching that early college as it's grown, there are a lot of stories of us breaking cycles of poverty, and really giving students the ability to attain their college education, which is their dream," she said. "And for me, I think, that's the most important thing, is that they're leaving there knowing that they had every opportunity to complete a four-year-and-beyond education at the college level. And, it all starts at our early college high school."

All that jazz

Student ensemble to include improvisation

Britney Valdez
A&E EDITOR

The Jazz Combo student ensemble is a concert in which students incorporate improvisation, informative history and upbeat jazz music to create an interactive experience for the audience.

It will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5.

Low brass Assistant Professor William Haugeberg is directing the ensemble.

As a director, his responsibilities include helping select the music, providing guidance to the students and helping them improve their skills.

The concert will consist of a rhythm section made up of various instruments paired with an improvisation section.

"The Jazz Combo ensemble is what we consider small chamber jazz

music," Haugeberg said. "So, this consists of a rhythm section which has bass, drums, hand percussion, piano and horns. This will include trombone and saxophone [and] we go ahead and play standard jazz heads."

Graduate student Marco Guerra said the smaller group of five or six musicians in the ensemble is a more intimate, condensed version of other shows he has previously played.

There will also be an improvisation section made up of different arrangements done by students.

Music education junior Jeremy Warner plays double bass in the ensemble.

"What makes the Jazz Combo different from other ensembles is just a few musicians that get together in a room and just read off some charts," Warner said. "Usually there is a conductor to help cue our parts, but this, we have to look at each other to



Sergio Garcia / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Low brass Assistant Professor William Haugeberg (from left), music education sophomore Brandon Treviño, graduate student Marco Guerra and music education junior Jeremy Warner rehearse for the Jazz Combo student ensemble which will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



The Jazz Combo student ensemble has been preparing for about half a year. The show will consist of small chamber jazz music and informational sessions between pieces.

communicate what's going on."

Informational sessions discussing jazz and its history will also take place in between music pieces.

"We're going to have some informational talking in between the pieces so they know a little bit of history of what's going on with it," he said. "We'll introduce the members and talk a little bit about jazz in general, but it'll be semi-educational."

Haugeberg said the show differs from other classical performances since it's more flexible in structure.

"It's more upbeat than your normal classical ensemble concert," Haugeberg said. "It's not quite so uptight, so there is more audience interaction and it's not quite so stuffy, as some might say."

Large ensemble jazz bands are usually sit-down events in which attendees experience large-scale arrangements with multiple instruments. Up to 16 members play music that spans different eras.

This concert differs from past jazz ensembles by incorporating improvisation.

"What we're doing, instead, is you're taking a melody that is being interpreted by the performer and then there is going to be a lot more

improvisation in there, so a lot of things will be made up on the spot, for lack of a better term," Haugeberg said. "So, it's based off of patterns and the chords that are going on and a lot of jazz history."

Rehearsal for the show began about half a year ago and the musicians rehearsed up to two times a week to prepare for it.

Music education sophomore Brandon Treviño, a saxophonist, said attending the show gives the campus community the opportunity to experience the ideas of the music group.

"It's really interesting, like, to make people get to hear an ensemble like this, where they get to hear different sorts of ideas which is what we do, we put our ideas down to our playing when others might not even know that we are."

Haugeberg said he hopes the concert will be an enjoyable experience for the campus community.

"Jazz is kind of fun," he said. "People tend to enjoy it. You tap your toes to it a little bit more and this is, you know, something that people might even dance to. I'm just hoping that it's going to be a fun experience and I'm looking forward to it."

Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite

MIDTERMS GOT ME LIKE...



Junior guard's star on the rise

Men's basketball player Jackson shares his journey to UTRGV

Ramiro Barrera
SPORTS REPORTER

For UTRGV Men's Basketball Team junior guard Jordan Jackson, family, tradition and ritual are important aspects in his life.

Jackson has played with the Vaqueros since 2017. His role on the team is crucial this season.

He is the son of Women's National Basketball Association legend and Hall of Famer Sheryl Swoopes and Erick Jackson, who has a mass communication degree. This is where Jordan got his skills in basketball and his interest in mass communication.

The process of becoming a Division 1 player began when he was a teenager at St. Pius X High School in Houston, where he averaged 9.8 points per game as a sophomore and 13.4 points per game as a junior.

"I mean, I started playing at a young age, a very young age," Jackson said. "And I went on to high school to play at St. Pius X. ... and had a pretty successful career there."

In the 2015-16 season, Jackson signed with the Masked Raiders of Texas Tech University. It's there when he began his collegiate career, scoring 26 points and 17 rebounds in 122 minutes across 23 games as a starter.

After Texas Tech, he played for Midland College during the 2016-2017 season, before he was recruited by UTRGV. At Midland, Jackson averaged 9.0 points and 4.1 rebounds in 26 games, 10 of those as a starter.

In 2017, UTRGV Men's Basketball Team Head Coach Lew Hill announced Jackson as a new guard for the Vaqueros.

Jackson praised the Rio Grande Valley.

"I love the Valley," he said. "It's a great place, you know, with really good food. The weather is nice. I mean, as of late it hasn't been so nice. The people out here are really friendly and nice. So, you know, the Valley is a great place to be."

During the 2018-19 WAC regular season, which ended March 7, Jackson scored an average 8.6 points per game, which helped the Vaqueros be ranked No. 4 in the conference.

Asked what he believes he brings to



Mariana Gomez/THE RIDER

UTRGV junior guard Jordan Jackson scores during the Nov. 6 exhibition game against the Texas A&M University-Commerce Lions in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

the team, Jackson replied, "I believe I bring a lot of energy to the team. A very athletic scoring guard that can defend, you know, the 1-4 positions. I feel like, you know, I just bring energy to the team and certain leadership qualities."

Many college and professional basketball players have their own routine before starting a game. Jackson has a unique pregame ritual.

"For every game, I obviously listen to my music," he said. "I go in the training

room, I sit in the hot tub for about 10 minutes, and then I have to eat cookies before the game. I drink milk and eat cookies before the game. I listen to hip-hop, some R&B. Before the game, I usually listen to Drake and 2 Chainz and Lil Wayne and Roddy Rich before the games."

Jackson also explained why he wears jersey No. 22 and the importance of that number. Wearing the number 22 has become a tradition in his family.

His mom and dad wore it, but now it's time for him to carry the number on his back.

"I've had No. 22 my whole life," he said. "You know, my dad wore it in college and my mom wore it her whole life and she's made that number almost like, you know, [the] family number to wear. So, I wear that number in honor of my mom and dad."

Asked what he would do if basketball were no longer an option for him, Jackson replied that he would continue with his education to earn a master's degree in mass communication.

"Well, I would continue to pursue my master's degree and then, I would really want to be a broadcaster for, you know, like ESPN or, you know, TNT."

Jackson shared his future goals.

"I want to, you know, make it to the NCAA tournament again," he said. "I want to win a conference championship here and, ultimately, I want to play at the highest level possible. I want to be able to, you know, turn my dreams into reality, which is making this my profession. You know, I want to be a professional basketball player someday. If that doesn't work out, well, I just want to have a successful life. I want to stay motivated and all this good stuff."

This week's game schedule

Men's Tennis (UTRGV Spring Break Showdown)

● 11 a.m. Friday vs. Nicholls State University at Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

● 11 a.m. Saturday vs. Alcorn State University at Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

Sports Club Spotlight



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

UTRGV computer science sophomore Alonso Vidal (left) and computer engineering sophomore Marin Chavez are members of the Rock Climbing Association.

Name: Rock Climbing Association

Coach: Cristian Cano

President: Michael Winarto

Vice President: Cailey Granado

Secretary: Ryan Luna

Historian: Andre Contreras

Adviser: Arturo Cabrera, UREC recreation specialist and Youth Program assistant director

Established: 2011

What is the main purpose of the club? "The main purpose of the club is to compete. We want to compete, we want to get our name out there. So, we want to go to other schools and look as they said, 'Oh! They are the UTRGV guys and they're good.'"

Highest Level of Competition: Collegiate Climbing Series

Season: Year-round

Meetings: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Climbing Wall in the UREC.

Requirements: None.

Fees: \$15

Instagram: rgv_rca

-Compiled by Ramiro Barrera

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

SGA
Continued from Page 1

Also elected are the following:
--Yaw Sam, senator for the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship;
--Marco Charles and Genta Kaieda, senators for the College of Engineering

and Computer Science;
--Andrew Delgadillo, Alyssa Guajardo and Diana Saldana, senators for the College of Health Professions;
--Carmen Galvan, Montserrat Prado and Franklin White, senators for the College of Liberal Arts;
--and Oscar Cazares and Jorge Contreras, senators for the College

DANCE
Continued from Page 3

Garza's father said he is proud of his son, and that he is "very cheerful" and always dances with a "big smile." Guadalupe Garza has visited New York; Washington, D.C.; Colorado; and Arizona, dancing with UTRGV and Ballet Napanla.

"It's definitely an amazing experience to travel and experience all the different cultures," he said.

Asked to describe his first time performing, Garza responded while laughing and reminiscing.

"It was just nerve wracking," he said. "I was scared, but excited at the same time."

It was during his high school's "Burning of the C" that he danced a swing piece to "Rock Around the Clock" choreographed by Villarreal.

Asked to compare his first to his most recent performance, he laughed along with his girlfriend, Brizaida Garcia, a UTRGV dance sophomore who accompanied him to the interview with *The Rider*.

"Super different, totally different, we performed 'Mexico' and 'Veracruz,'" Garza said. "Veracruz" is like intense footwork, like amazing posture. You think you are the best 'up here,' and 'Mexico' is like a contemporary [and] traditional mix of modern movements," Garza said.

Garza, who is described by Garcia

as "outgoing, funny, nice and helpful," advises anybody who is pursuing a career in dance to be persistent.

"Practice and practice and practice, because there is always going to be someone better than you," he said. "You are never going to be at the top. So if you slack off, there is always going to be someone there who is going to take your place. You need to train, train, train and just do it because you love it. Never do it because, like, you want to prove something--I don't know. Do it because it's your passion and that's what you like. At least that's why I do it."

Garza said the most challenging obstacle in his career has been his height.

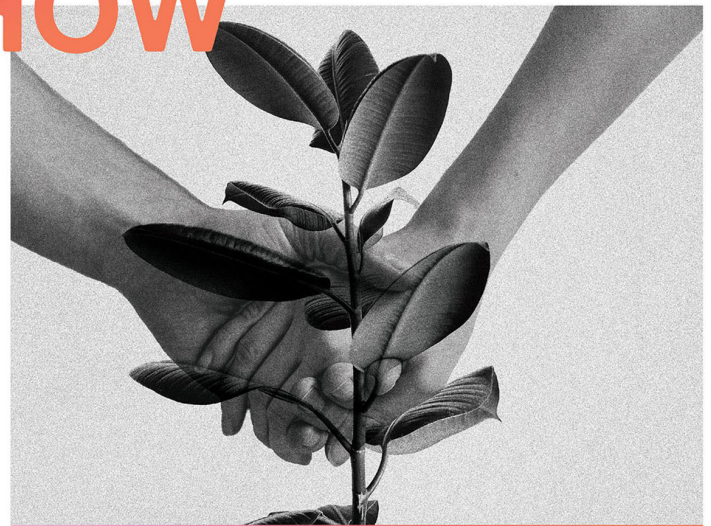
"I'm 5'3". There is a lot of other people who look better on stage simply because they are taller than me," he said. "It's hard to be able to stand out. In a group piece, I definitely stand out the most since I am the shortest."

The 20-year-old dancer aspires to move to New York to dance for Ballet Napanla and travel around Mexico to experience each state's folklórico firsthand, in order to one day gain the knowledge to teach the "traditional way" to other companies.

He wants to master Baja California's "Calabaceado." Garza said that he wants to perform for as long as his body allows him to. After that, his dream is to have his own folklórico company in Texas.

JURIED SHOW

selected work to be displayed in
PULSE MAGAZINE 2019



they say home is where the heart is, but where is home?

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