

# MÁS PATRIA

## Elected officials to participate in RGV conference

**Hania Rocio**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV and The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at The University of Texas at Austin will host the State of the Rio Grande Valley Conference on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses Wednesday through Friday.

The conference will discuss issues such as immigration, deportation and voting in the Valley.

Conference day will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus with three different sessions.

Wednesday there will be an Internship Expo from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Main Courtyard and the same event will be held on the

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Edinburg campus at the same time Thursday in the Ballroom.

Also on Wednesday, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., a session titled "RGV Stories from the Border" will be held in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

"This is the second annual State of the RGV conference," said Ronnie Garcia, assistant director for Employer Relations for the Career Center at UTRGV. "It's a great opportunity for students to become aware of the community, get involved civically, get to know about other issues that concern the region. Last year, the entire conference was on the Edinburg campus, and so, this year we expanded a session to the Brownsville campus. ... They are going to have a session called 'Stories from the Border,'... it's going to be a conversation reflecting on our community, and earlier that day we will have an internship expo as well."

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Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

The Council of Cultural Activities hosted the Fall 2019 Cultural Mixer last Thursday at the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. A similar event took place that same day at the University Center Circle on the Edinburg campus. The events provided attendees an opportunity to learn about different cultures and foods.

## UTRGV celebrates Hispanic/Latinx Heritage

**Maleny Ortega**  
THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will celebrate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month with food, music, literature, and a movie throughout the month of September.

The monthlong observance is an opportunity for students to celebrate and learn about various Latin American cultures and interact with students of those cultures.

Raul Leal, a program coordinator for Leadership and Mentoring, said the month is important for students

to learn about themselves and the cultures represented in Latin American countries.

"I think it is important for us as individuals to really know who we are, especially once we graduate as students and we're trying to engage in positions

See **HERITAGE**, Page 3

## Auxiliary services promotes sustainability initiatives

**Alejandra Yañez**  
THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Campus Auxiliary Services is offering new compost to-go trays, reusable containers and bottles to promote environmental sustainability on campus and also implementing healthier food options for students.

This fall, the university introduced compost to-go trays on both campuses that are free of plastic and "easy on the environment," said Robert Cantu, executive director of Auxiliary Business Services.

Another effort that the university took toward sustainability was ending the use of large plastic serving trays in the Dining Hall.

"A few years ago we eliminated trays," Cantu said. "Since it was all you can eat, people would over-serve, causing thousands and thousands of pounds of wasted food. Not only did we reduce the food waste but we also

reduced the water consumption that it took to wash those trays."

Susie Gonzales, a registered dietitian/marketing coordinator for Sodexo, said the company also wants to eliminate the use of Styrofoam plates.

"So, if students can keep that in mind and be mindful and request to have their food in a tray, that way they can dine in at the location," Gonzales said.

Residents who have a meal plan at the university can purchase to-go meals in reusable containers on the Edinburg campus for their hot meals. After students are done with the containers, they can return them to the Dining Hall, where they are washed and available for the next use.

"Eat, return and repeat," Cantu said is the motto for the program's reusable containers, a system that was implemented last fall.

In addition to these eco-friendly efforts, Gonzales said Sodexo plans to implement the use of paper straws by

See **AUXILIARY**, Page 6



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Sodexo employee Luisa Sandoval fills a student's Eco-Takeout container, a new feature implemented by the food service company at the campus dining hall in Edinburg. Meal plan holders can ask for a container and return it when they are finished with their meal.



# 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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## Correction

An article headlined "Cosmic research continues" and published in the Sept. 9 issue of The Rider misspelled the name of Hyun-chul Lee, a lecturer in the department of Physics and Astronomy.

## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Today Taste of the Union

Students can enjoy free samples from Student Union

restaurants at 12:15 p.m. in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus and 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7898.

## Super Smash Tournament

The Student Union is hosting a Super Smash Bros. Tournament at 12:15 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. Finalists will be awarded VBucks. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7898.

## Fiestas Patrias 2019

The Campus Activities Board will host a celebration of Mexican-American heritage and Mexico's independence. The event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Wednesday on the Quad lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 882-5111 or 665-7991.

## Tuesday

### UNO Tournament

An UNO tournament will take place at 12:15 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. Students will have the opportunity to win VBucks. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7898.

### Late Nite at the REC

University Recreation will host Late Nite from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Recreation, Education, & Kinesiology Center in Brownsville. Free food and T-shirts will be provided with a valid student ID.

### Volleyball Home Opener

UTRGV Volleyball will face off against Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the first 200 fans to arrive will get a free Beat Corpus T-shirt. Students receive free admission with a valid student ID. For more information, call 665-2221.

## Wednesday

### Poker Tournament

Students can participate in the Student Union poker tournament for a chance to win VBucks. Free

popcorn will be provided at 12:15 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7898.

## Thursday

### Cultural Movie Series

As part National/Latinx Heritage Month, Leadership and Mentoring will show the movie "The Way He Looks" from 12:20 to 2 p.m. in Music Science & Learning Center 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email culturalcouncil@utrgv.edu or call 882-5937.

## Friday

### Flag Toss Fridays

University Recreation will host a Flag Toss from 3 to 7 p.m. every Friday in September on the Edinburg campus. Students can participate and win prizes. For more information, email urec@utrgv.edu.

### Women's Soccer

The UTRGV Women's Soccer Team will face off against Grambling State University at 7 p.m. at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-3747.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

# POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 4 and 8.



## Sept. 4

**9:03 a.m.:** A staff member reported a former employee approached another staff member to try to get personal information on him

off campus in Edinburg. The former employee was terminated, so the act was thought of as suspicious.

**2:18 p.m.:** A student's wallet was stolen from her unattended purse on the shuttle bus on the Edinburg campus.

**4:33 p.m.:** A student's parked, unattended vehicle was damaged in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. There was a single, deep scratch along the right side of her vehicle.

**6:39 p.m.:** A student reported he received messages via a social media app from several different numbers since September 2018 at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. He was able to contact them via text, but when he attempted to call back the numbers, they were found to be not working.

## Sept. 5

**2:05 a.m.:** UTRGV police officers on special assignment on UT Permian Basin assisted in a vehicle pursuit of a suspected intoxicated driver by UTPB officers. The pursuit ended on the 4100 block of East 52nd Street in Odessa. UTRGV police officers assisted with apprehending the non-affiliated man, who was arrested on charges of evading arrest with a motor vehicle and driving while intoxicated.

**11:21 a.m.:** A student felt uncomfortable because of another

student near her trying to talk to her at the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. She told the student to leave her alone and there was no physical contact or offensive language involved. Both students have class in the same area, so she wanted to document the incident.

**1:45 p.m.:** A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus. It sustained visible damage to the passenger side.

**1:22 p.m.:** A student and a staff member were involved in a minor two-vehicle collision in Lot B-3 on the Brownsville campus. No injuries were reported.

**1:43 p.m.:** A student reported an unknown man was staring at her while she was walking toward her vehicle on Sept. 4 at the Biomedical Research Building II on the Brownsville campus. She again observed the same man walking by the North Office Building on the Brownsville campus and decided to report the incident.

**3:13 p.m.:** A student was struck by a vehicle off campus on the 1600 block of West University Drive near the Edinburg campus. He was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for medical treatment. The student is in stable condition.

## Sept. 6

**8:23 a.m.:** A staff member reported a faculty member misused a state-issued handicap placard at the Vaquero Plaza on the Brownsville campus. The staff member was referred to Human Resources for the faculty member's failure to follow parking regulations. The staff member was also advised to contact the police if any more handicap

violations were observed.

**9:16 a.m.:** A staff member lost two university-issued keys at the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

**10:40 a.m.:** A staff member suffered a laceration on a finger of his right hand while working on a conveyor belt in the Research Education Building on the Edinburg campus. He was treated by Hidalgo Emergency Medical Services and was transported to a local hospital.

**1:30 p.m.:** A student reported losing her Korean passport in a Houston airport.

**2:46 p.m.:** A student and her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend had an argument while in his vehicle in Lot E-31 on the Edinburg campus. She reported that he pushed her four times to get her out of the vehicle. She was not injured.

## Sept. 7

**12:45 a.m.:** A staff member detected the smell of marijuana while responding to a noise complaint at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. UTRGV police officers arrived, identified students and detected the odor. Officers obtained consent to search the room, but no drugs were found. One of the students admitted to smoking marijuana before the officers arrived.

## Sept. 8

**4:18 a.m.:** A fire alarm was activated at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that an unknown woman activated a fire alarm pull station and left the area. The Edinburg Fire Department later cleared the apartments for re-entry.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

## RGV

Continued from Page 1

Texas House of Representatives members Terry Canales (D-Edinburg), Armando Martinez (D-Weslaco) and Eddie Lucio III (D-Brownsville), will also attend the event. State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) will be a guest speaker as well.

"I believe that students should really be informed... just knowing what's out there and learn from these individuals who are serving on the panel," said

Alyssa Guajardo, chair for the State of the Rio Grande Valley Conference and an exercise science senior. "As college students, we play a big role in our democracy. ... The reason why I wanted to bring these reps and the senator is because I want people to know who they are voting for. ... I think it's really important to know who represents you and what they stand for."

The State of the Rio Grande Valley Conference will also provide information about the 2020 census, local candidates and voting updates.

Ryan Noble, president of the Political Science Association and a committee member of the State of the Rio Grande Valley Conference, said he thinks it's very important to know what's going on in the Valley.

"A lot of people don't really tend to care about local politics, just because it's not interesting or sensational, but I think if they do come to this conference, they'll see why it's important," Noble said.

For more information, call 665-2243.



# Improve your English skills

## UTRGV institute offers language classes

**Hania Rocio**  
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Language Institute provides English courses open to students and anyone interested in learning the language. It offers a variety of classes that range in difficulty depending on the intensity of the course.

“The Language Institute is designed for students whose first language is not English,” Language Institute Director Norma Ramos said. “We offer an intensive English program where a student studies eight weeks in a level. We offer 10 levels ranging from the basic level all the way to an advanced level. The student will take a placement test and it will determine the level that he will be placed in. The placement test is a two-hour test and we test them by giving them an oral exam, a written exam and a multiple-choice exam.”

Teachers at the Language Institute are required to teach reading, listening, grammar and speaking skills to their students.

Students come from different countries such as Colombia, Venezuela, South Korea, France and others.

“We have students here who are parents and they are here because they want to help their children with homework,” Language Institute Learning Instruction Specialist 1 Blanca Duarte said. “We have students who have their businesses in the USA, and they are from another country, and they need to know the language. I like to do conversation more than anything else. ... In class, I make them participate with not only one person but to get engaged in different groups since we have students from different countries.”

The Language Institute also offers Spanish classes, as well as other language courses such as Chinese and German. A variety of electives including TOEFL Prep, Business English and Adult Ed are also offered, but the English course is the most popular one.

“This is the first time I am learning English, and it’s been helping me a lot,” Intermediate English student Karen Arce said. “I’ve been living here since four years ago, and I think it’s time to speak properly. ... We have grammar classes in the morning and then we have this class that is for listening, reading and we practice a lot and I really like that.”



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Language Instruction Specialist 1 Blanca Duarte teaches during an English intermediate class last Thursday at the Community Engagement and Student Success (CESS) building in Edinburg. UTRGV offers the class to anyone who is interested in learning English.

### HERITAGE

Continued from Page 1

of power when we get jobs, and we are moving up in our lives, to really remember where we came from,” Leal said. “I think that it’s important for students, while they’re here at the university, to really be provided with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of really being Hispanic or Latinx identifying, especially within a Hispanic-serving institution.”

Vanessa Sandoval, a program coordinator for Leadership and Mentoring, said the month allows students to see a different perspective of Hispanic Heritage Month.

“It really opens up the mindset to see, it’s beyond just Mexican-American,” Sandoval said. “It’s different cultures, so we may not be highlighting a certain culture this year, but we’re getting it started.”

The annual celebration was previously known as Hispanic Heritage Month. Leal said the name was updated to be more inclusive of other Latin American nationalities and of gender identities.

“When we all came to the table, we were kind of discussing the importance of the way that we titled the month,” he said. “And so, there were some students, some individuals who thought that leaving it just as Hispanic Heritage Month wasn’t as inclusive for students who might not necessarily feel like they identify with the term Hispanic, but feel that they do identify with Latino, or Latina or Latinx based off of the regions that they came from.”

There will be five events throughout the month of September that celebrate Hispanic and Latin heritage.

Fiestas Patrias kicks off the celebrations from 4 to 7



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

The Council of Cultural Activities hosted the Fall 2019 Cultural Mixer last Thursday at the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. The event offered free food and information about various cultures to the campus community.

p.m. today on the Brownsville Student Union lawn. The event will take place at the same time on Wednesday at the Quad on the Edinburg campus.

It is sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and designed to celebrate Mexican-American heritage and Mexico’s Independence Day.

“Fiestas Patrias will be on both campuses for Edinburg and Brownsville,” Sandoval said about the event. “They’ll be having, celebrating the Mexican-American heritage, showcasing the Mexican-American culture to the campus community. They’re going to be providing food. [Organizations] are providing, they’re invited to promote themselves. They’re actually hosting a costume contest also. So, students can go and sign up through Vlink, and they’re able to participate in both campuses for that.”

Café Latino Americano will

be hosted by Leadership and Mentoring and CAB from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the Edinburg Ballroom and from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 24 in Brownsville Music, Science and Learning Center 1.105.

The event celebrates Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month with cuisines from Mexico, Argentina, Puerto Rico and El Salvador.

“We provide information about those countries,” Leal said. “We give students the opportunity to really immerse themselves in the cultures of those countries but then understanding that each Latin American country is as unique as also the individuals are.”

A cultural movie screening will show “The Way He Looks,” which is a “sweet and tender story about friendship and the complications of young love,” according to event descriptions provided by Leadership and Mentoring.

Leadership and Mentoring will host the screening from

12:20 to 2 p.m. Tuesday in Brownsville Music, Science and Learning Center 1.105 and from 3:45 to 6 p.m. Sept. 26 in the Student Academic Center 1.112ABC on the Edinburg campus.

Inqspot Book Club is participating in the celebration of the month by discussing “Bodega Dreams,” a novel by Ernesto Quiñonez that combines the “gritty rhythms” of Junot Diaz and “noir genius” of Walter Mosley, according to event descriptions provided by Leadership and Mentoring.

The book club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Sept. 25 in the Loft on the Edinburg campus and La Sala on the Brownsville campus, and is a collaboration between Inqspot Book Club, Student Union and Writing and Language Studies.

Celebrando Latinx Music & Poetry in the RGV will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27 on the Chapel lawn on the Edinburg campus.

It is a collaboration between Leadership and Mentoring, First Year Experience, Student Union, Center for Mexican American Studies, Student Activities and Gallery magazine.

The event will consist of performances by Amalia Ortiz, Jo C. and UTRGV poets. There will be a DJ and students can sign up for the poetry open mic to perform their work.

Amalia Ortiz is performing her book “The Canción Cannibal Cabaret, A Punk Rock Musical” with her band Las Hijas de la Madre.

Emmy Perez, a creative writing professor and co-organizer of the event, said they wanted students to have a place to show their work and hear an accomplished UTRGV graduate.

“The month is important because we need to celebrate the beauty and the complexity and the artistic and historical and institutional accomplishments of Latinx people,” Perez said, “especially during times when the borderlands are being vilified by other people.”

She said the event is important to demonstrate how powerful individual voices can be.

Perez said arts are a way to draw people in.

“It’s another way for us to learn about history, about contemporary issues in a very engaging way,” she said.

Sandoval hopes for more collaborations in the future such as the music and the fine arts departments.

Leal encourages students to attend the events.

“I just think that our staff across our entire university are taking a lot of intentional time to build and create these pieces and these events for our students to feel represented in different ways,” he said.



# VAQUERO VOICE



## PARKING PROBLEMS ON CAMPUS



“Well, it’s kinda hard to explain. What happens is, I usually don’t find parking. I have Zone 2 parking, so I usually don’t find one and I have to park on Zone 1. Occasionally, I’ll find one after, like, driving around for 15 to 20 minutes. So, parking is kinda hard to get here. And trafficwise, getting here isn’t so bad. Parking is the main issue. I missed my class today because of traffic, but that’s because it was raining.”

**Jay Castillo**  
Computer science freshman

“Getting to school early. We have 8 a.m.’s, and even the parking lot I want to park in, by like 7:45, is full. So, I’ll usually leave the house at like 7:10, 7:15 and be in my class even 30 minutes before it starts, so I can get the spot I want.”



**Megan Douthit**  
Graduate student

“I usually try to come here as early as possible ... before everyone else comes in. So, I can get a parking spot and if I don’t, well, I just go park at the Lincoln Park.”



**Ariana Medrano**  
Biology freshman

“I try to find [parking] somewhere else. I try to avoid it at all and I just try to find another place to park, wherever that is. On campus, or even off campus sometimes, so I think the parking situation here at the Brownsville campus and Edinburg campus is a little too constrained, or I don’t know what the word is. I mean there’s a lot of area to put more parking in even closer proximity.”



**Michael Bernard**  
English sophomore



EM 9/16/19

## Where’s my parking space?



**Angel De La Cruz**  
THE RIDER

“Parking is just horrible, t h e y should do something about that,” criminal justice junior Noelani Castellano said.

Parking specifically has been a chief concern among students at UTRGV.

In order to voice the student’s opinion, I took the liberty to ask about their parking experiences during their time at the university.

Electrical engineering senior Feigh-Hung Lee asked why sophomores and freshmen are now allowed to park in Zone 2 when he was denied that opportunity as a freshman.

“I always thought that was a good privilege for juniors and seniors ’cause you would want to come to school,” Lee said. “But now that freshmen and sophomores have that opportunity, I don’t want to pay for the permit anymore cause what’s the point? There is no space.”

Director of Parking Services Pablo Aguilar, explained how their solution was based on an equity issue, especially when dealing with parents, in response to Lee’s concern.

“Concerned parents said, ‘How can my child park at the furthest location, or they’re forced in a way to park in a further location, versus the

other students that have been more time on campus and they know their way around,’” Aguilar said.

Asked where he finds parking when spaces are unavailable, Lee said he sometimes parks at Dairy Queen.

Business senior Irvin Gomez believes the scheduling has a lot to do with parking issues.

“Well, I don’t know where other people park, but my past two years, I park in Zone 2, and I don’t have too much of a problem,” Gomez said. “Then again, it can be the scheduling.”

At the moment he parks off-campus, since this year he did not order his permit either.

“If you actually look at the numbers, we are getting bigger and bigger [as a] school,” Gomez said. “The parking garage would be the best solution.”

Which brings me to my main point. Is a parking garage possible?

“Here at UTRGV, we assess the supply and the demand for parking and it’s a continual basis,” Aguilar said. “So while it may become necessary in the future, there are currently no plans to make a parking garage because there is still plenty of underutilized remote parking.”

He also explained how the standard ratio for permits to space is 4, which means, that for every parking space, up to four vehicles can use that parking space during the day, since not everyone enrolled

attends campus at the same time.

The ratio for UTRGV is one parking space for every three vehicles, which is under the standard.

With about 6,900 parking spaces for students in Edinburg, and another 1,800 spaces in Brownsville, without including the common areas the university shares with Texas Southmost College, which is an additional 2,000 spaces, the department has been analyzing the demand as far as parking spaces and is working toward a solution to accommodate everyone.

“For example, in 2017, we were able to add Parking Lot B4 in Brownsville,” Aguilar said. “That was an additional 295 parking spaces ... and it still goes heavily underutilized. People don’t really use it.”

Asked about the possibility of creating more parking spaces, Aguilar said in 2017, 2018 the university added an additional 207 spaces on the Edinburg campus with a parking expansion in parking Lot E25 and E26, which also included rezoning in Brownsville due to the high demand of parking spaces, especially within Zone 2.

Students in Brownsville are still parking at Lincoln Park and walking the remaining distance instead of purchasing a parking permit, just like Castellano, from the Edinburg campus, who would rather park at Walmart.

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## 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](mailto: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.



# Construyendo estructuras y fuerza

**Klaudia Cedillo**

THE RIDER

Desde su fundación en 2014, la Facultad de Medicina de UTRGV se ha expandido a través del Valle del Río Grande, educando y ayudando a varias personas a lo largo de su crecimiento.

El desarrollo más reciente de la escuela, el Centro de Aprendizaje de Trabajo en Equipo (TBLC por sus siglas en inglés), se completará en marzo de 2020 y está ubicado en el lado este de la Facultad de Medicina y la biblioteca en el campus de Edinburg.

Marta Salinas-Hovar, vicepresidenta asociada de Planificación y Operaciones de Instalaciones, dijo que el TBLC es algo así como una expansión del edificio existente de la escuela de medicina, con aproximadamente 25,000 pies cuadrados brutos en general.

Salinas-Hovar dijo que el edificio consistirá de 45 oficinas para profesorado y personal, 20 áreas de trabajo de cubículos abiertos, ocho salas de Aprendizaje Basado en Equipo (TBL por sus siglas en inglés), dos salas de estudio para los estudiantes de medicina y un gran aula de conferencias con capacidad para 90 estudiantes.

El primer piso del edificio tendrá un gran espacio



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

El Centro de Aprendizaje de Trabajo en Equipo de 24,000 pies cuadrados costará \$13.7 millones y proporcionará espacio para estudiantes, profesores y personal. El centro contará con salas de estudio individuales y oficinas para profesores y administradores.

dedicado al “aprendizaje en equipo”. Alrededor de esta gran área habrá varias salas de Aprendizaje Basado en Problemas (salas PBL por sus siglas en inglés), donde los estudiantes podrán centrarse en diferentes estudios de casos y resolver problemas como un equipo. También contará con un servicio de café para llevar y un área de descanso.

El segundo piso tendrá espacios de estudio para estudiantes, oficinas para el profesorado, y espacios de apoyo y reuniones.

El vicedecano ejecutivo de la Facultad de Medicina, Michael Patriarca, dijo que las salas TBL tendrán “audiovisuales conectados a cada mesa” y será un espacio flexible para que los

estudiantes puedan “reducirlo o convertirlo en una sala grande” para diversos usos.

El explicó, que las aulas en el edificio se instalarán únicamente para estudiantes de medicina y de la Facultad de Asuntos de Salud, pero alienta a todos los estudiantes a que visiten las áreas de descanso y el servicio de café para llevar.

“Especialmente a medida que buscamos crecer más en el futuro, creo que nos dará más espacio para que los estudiantes se concentren y estudien [y] colaboren con sus compañeros de clase y solo fomenten un entorno para el aprendizaje y el crecimiento, en relación con el aumento en las inscripciones y nuestro currículum”, dijo Patriarca.

El costo total del proyecto de TBLC es de \$13.7 millones, financiado principalmente con la asignación del Fondo Universitario Permanente (PUF por sus siglas en inglés) de la Facultad de Medicina.

Salinas-Hovar dijo que el Sistema UT dedicó \$100 millones para la creación de la Escuela de Medicina en asignaciones de \$10 millones cada año durante 10 años.

“Así que ... este proyecto se está financiando con parte de esa asignación”, dijo ella.

La construcción de otro proyecto futuro, el Edificio del Instituto de Neurociencias, comenzará en Harlingen una vez que se complete el TBLC en marzo de 2020.

Salinas-Hovar dijo que el instituto tendrá unos 29,900 pies cuadrados brutos y tendrá un costo de \$30 millones.

Patriarca dijo que este proyecto también fue

Vea EDIFICIOS, Página 8

## UTRGV promueve iniciativas de sostenibilidad



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Sodexo ahora ofrece contenedores ecológicos a los residentes que tienen un plan de comidas en la universidad sin ningún costo adicional. Estos contenedores reusables son parte de la iniciativa de la compañía para mantener una comida saludable para los estudiantes de UTRGV.

**Alejandra Yañez**

THE RIDER

El departamento de Servicios Auxiliares del campus de UTRGV está ofreciendo nuevas bandejas de compostaje para llevar comida, envases y botellas reutilizables para promover la sustentabilidad ambiental y también está implementando opciones de alimento más saludables para los estudiantes.

Este otoño, la universidad introdujo bandejas de compostaje para llevar comida en ambos campus que son libres de plástico y “protegen el medio ambiente”, dijo Robert Cantú, director ejecutivo de Servicios Comerciales Auxiliares.

Otro esfuerzo que la universidad tomó hacia la sustentabilidad fue terminar con el uso de las bandejas de plástico previamente utilizadas para servir en el comedor.

“Hace unos años eliminamos las bandejas”. Cantú dijo: “Como era todo lo que se podía comer, las personas

se servían en exceso, lo que causaba miles y miles de libras de comida desperdiciada. No solo redujimos el desperdicio de alimentos sino que también redujimos el consumo de agua necesario para lavar esas bandejas”.

Susie Gonzales, dietista/coordinadora de mercadotecnia de Sodexo, dijo que la compañía también busca eliminar el uso de platos de espuma de poliestireno.

“Entonces, si los estudiantes pueden tener eso en cuenta y solicitar que se les guarde la comida en una bandeja, de esa manera podrían comer en ese lugar”, dijo Gonzales.

Los residentes que tienen un plan de comidas en la universidad pueden comprar comidas para llevar en recipientes reutilizables para mantener su comida caliente en el campus de Edinburg. Después de que el estudiante haya terminado de utilizar el recipiente, lo devuelve al comedor donde se lava y está disponible para el próximo uso.

“Come, regresa, repite”, es el lema

de los contenedores reutilizables del programa, un sistema que se implementó el otoño pasado, explicó Cantú.

Además de estos esfuerzos ecológicos, Gonzales dijo que Sodexo planea implementar el uso de popotes de papel al final del semestre.

Se venden botellas reutilizables en C-Store en el campus de Edinburg y en The Grid en el campus de Brownsville. Con estas botellas, los estudiantes podrán comprar relleno de refrescos en las máquinas de Coca-Cola Freestyle del campus.

Cuando se le preguntó cómo benefician estos cambios a la universidad, Cantú respondió: “Creo que estos son pasos incrementales ... y creo que a medida que damos estos pasos semestre tras semestre estamos marcando la diferencia”.

La directora de Sustentabilidad, Marianela Franklin, dijo: “Se trata de tener un impacto positivo en el medio ambiente, la sociedad y la economía, todo al mismo tiempo”.

La universidad, junto con Sodexo, está haciendo un esfuerzo para volverse socialmente responsable en el uso de productos compostables y alternativas ecológicas, pero también en ofrecer opciones saludables para estudiantes, profesores y personal en el campus, dijo Cantú.

“Seamos realistas, en el Valle del Río Grande, tenemos una epidemia de obesidad, presión arterial alta y todas esas otras cosas que vienen con hábitos alimenticios poco saludables”, el dijo. “Sodexo está tratando de hacer todo lo posible para tener buenas ofertas”.

Desde el semestre de primavera de 2017, el comedor de Edinburg ofrece opciones de alimentación a base de plantas para los estudiantes, que incluye nuevos sabores de Medio Oriente en su menú, explicó Cantú.

Sodexo ha notado que los estudiantes tienden a elegir opciones que son bajas en calorías y actualmente está investigando cómo puede implementar las preparaciones de comidas para las personas que desean una semana de comidas.

La compañía también cuenta con otras ofertas, que incluyen medio sándwich servido con melón, tomates cherry y un puñado de pretzels.

“Es rápido, es fácil y solo tiene 500 calorías”, dijo Cantú. “Una cosa que notamos este semestre es que estamos vendiendo todos a diario”.

La universidad y Sodexo son conscientes de que los estudiantes son consumidores evolucionados que son leales a las marcas y productos con los que se sienten cómodos.

Cantú dijo que la responsabilidad de Sodexo es proporcionar a los estudiantes los productos que necesitan para tener éxito, como una simple taza de café.

“Realmente se trata más de proporcionar la mejor experiencia para nuestros estudiantes mientras están en el campus y retener a estos estudiantes y hacer que quieran regresar. ... Eso es realmente importante para nosotros”, dijo el.

Este semestre, el departamento de Servicios Auxiliares puso en servicio un carrito de comida en el campus de Edinburg llamado Snack and Go. Es un carrito de golf que recorre el campus y ofrece a los estudiantes refrigerios, opciones de desayuno y almuerzo. Su ubicación principal es en el Centro de Visitantes.

Servicios Auxiliares del campus también remodeló el Chick-fil-A en Edinburg este verano, como se requiere cada cinco años, de acuerdo con su contrato con la cadena de comida rápida.

Cantú dijo que la “actualización” se completó durante un período de tres semanas y se mantuvo por debajo del presupuesto.

Nuevo en UTRGV también, es su asociación con Grubhub, que compró Tapingo. Grubhub ofrece a los estudiantes opciones de menú prepagado a través de su aplicación y elimina el tiempo de espera para los estudiantes en línea, al tener sus comidas listas para ellos cuando llegan al restaurante. La segunda parte de este proyecto es realizar entregas a través de la aplicación.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez



# 'Shattering Taciturnity'

## Graduate student breaks out of her shell through art

**Omar E. Zapata**  
THE RIDER

Jesmil M. Maldonado Rodriguez confronted her anxiety by creating art, which turned into her passion and profession.

"Shattering Taciturnity," her MFA Final Exhibition, opened Sept. 5 at the Charles and Dorothy Clark Art Gallery.

Rodriguez is a graduate student pursuing a master's in fine arts with a concentration in 2-D art. She is originally from Puerto Rico and shows it off. Some of her pieces have Puerto Rican Spanish slang in the artworks' titles, such as "Tipa," which means girl. Rodriguez handed out pens with the flag of Puerto Rico during the event.

Taciturn is an adjective describing when someone is reserved or uncommunicative in speech. The exhibition is her way of breaking it.

"Shattering Taciturnity" is my way of breaking the silence that I've always kept throughout my life," Rodriguez said. "I've always felt like my situations, my problems and my worries weren't important enough, so I didn't talk about them. Throughout my artwork is how I express it, how I let it go."

Many insects, patterns, colors and designs are repeated in her artwork.

"I use insects because that is a way I give a physical form to my worries, my fears, to all



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Jesmil M. Maldonado Rodriguez, a fine arts graduate student with a concentration in 2-D art, stands in front of her favorite piece, titled "Anormal en potencia/Weirdo at Full Capacity," a self-portrait on mixed media. "Behind the color scheme you can find on a person or on a piece, there is always that little bit of darkness that we don't know about. I also want [attendees] to get their own interpretations of things," she said. Rodriguez opened her MFA Final Exhibition exhibit Sept. 5 at the Charles and Dorothy Clark Art Gallery on the Edinburg campus.

of my emotions," Rodriguez said. "I couldn't express them throughout words or even talk about it, so I use insects."

At first, the patterns were a way for her to control her anxiety, she said. It then turned into an obsession with repetition and patterns. These designs made their way into many of the show's pieces.

Amaury Lopez, a visual arts senior who attended the

exhibit, noticed many of the patterns.

"I like a lot of the color," Lopez said. "I think it's pretty neat."

His favorite art piece is "Los Freekis," a linocut printed on marbled paper.

"I like the black lines over the colors, the contrast," Lopez said. "There's something about the whirly-ness of the colors mixing together."

Rodriguez said picking her favorite art piece was a difficult choice to make. She believes all of her art pieces have some part of them that makes them her favorite. Rodriguez said her most favorite piece is "Anormal en potencia/Weirdo at Full Capacity" (ink, spray paint and watercolor on paper).

"So far, my favorite would be the 'Weirdo,' my self-

portrait," she said. "It's the first time I do a self-portrait, and I put myself, and it's just me embracing who I am, accepting who I am and that it's OK to be a weirdo."

Every artwork at the exhibition is a message that Rodriguez wants the viewer to interpret for themselves.

"Behind the color scheme you can find on a person or on a piece, there is always that little bit of darkness that we don't know about," she said. "I also want them to get their own interpretations of things."

Rodriguez wants attendees to make a connection with the artwork and find some way to relate to it. That's precisely how graphic design freshman Abril Zepeda felt toward the exhibition.

"I really like it because of the colors and how she represents all these problems in society," Zepeda said. "It made me relate to the artist."

"Shattering Taciturnity" will be on display until Oct. 9 at the Charles and Dorothy Clark Art Gallery in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free.

"Come by and see it and enjoy it and see a little bit different because I'm not from the [Rio Grande] Valley, I'm from Puerto Rico," Rodriguez said. "So, I feel it's a little bit different from what we're used to seeing."

For more information, call the School of Art at 665-3480.

### AUXILIARY

Continued from Page 1

the end of the semester.

Reusable bottles are being sold at the C-Store in Edinburg and The Grid in Brownsville. With these bottles, students can purchase refills at the Coca-Cola Freestyle machines on campus.

Asked how these changes will benefit the university, Cantu responded, "I think that these are incremental steps ... and I think that as we take these steps semester after semester, we are making a difference."

Chief Sustainability Officer Marianela Franklin said, "It's about having a positive impact on the environment, on society and the economy all at the same time."

The university, along with Sodexo, is making an effort to become socially responsible in using compostable products and eco-friendly alternatives, but also in offering healthy options for students, faculty and staff on campus, Cantu said.

"Let's face it, the Rio Grande Valley, we have an epidemic of obesity, high blood pressure, and all those other things that come with unhealthy eating habits," he said. "Sodexo is trying to do their very best to have good offerings."

Since Spring 2017, the Dining Hall in Edinburg has offered plant-based eating options for students, which include new Middle Eastern flavors on their menu, Cantu said.

Sodexo has noticed that students tend to go for options that are low in calories and is investigating how it can implement meal preps for individuals who want a week's worth of meals. The company also provides mindful

offerings, which include half a sandwich served with cantaloupe, cherry tomatoes and a handful of pretzels. "It's quick, it's easy and it's only 500 calories," Cantu said.

The university and Sodexo are aware that students are evolved consumers who are loyal to brands and products that they're comfortable with.

Cantu said Sodexo's responsibility is to provide students with the products that they need to succeed, such as a simple cup of coffee.

"It's really more about providing the best experience for our students while they're on campus and retaining these students and making them want to come back. ... That's really important to us," he said.

This semester, Auxiliary Services put into service a food cart on the Edinburg campus called Snack and Go. It is a golf cart that drives around campus and offers students snacks, breakfast and lunch options. Its primary location is at the Visitors Center.

Campus Auxiliary Services also remodeled the Chick-fil-A on the Edinburg campus this summer, as required every five years, according to its contract with the fast-food chain.

Cantu said the "refresh" was completed over a three-week period and was kept under budget.

New to UTRGV is its partnership with Grubhub, which purchased Tapingo. Grubhub offers students prepaid retail menu options through its app and eliminates the wait time for students in line by having their meals ready for them when they get to the restaurant. The second part of this project is to eventually carry out deliveries through the app.

## The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



## Have a story idea?

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# Making the impossible, possible



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Sarah Bonney practices passing the ball with the women's soccer team at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex. Besides soccer practice and games, Bonney juggles her time between work and school.

## Juanita Maldonado

SPORTS REPORTER

For Sarah Bonney, the dream of becoming a soccer player began when she was just a little girl and her mom gave her a doll. Bonney would see the doll, but instead of playing with it, she would cry because she realized that her four brothers had something even better, something that captivated her attention even more than her doll.

"I remember when I was, like, 7 or 8 my mom used to go to the capital [Accra]," she said. "She was a business woman, so she would buy a lot of stuff for a shop. So, when she would go, she would buy us stuff.

"She would buy me a doll, and she bought my little brothers soccer balls and game consoles. But I would always cry and tell my mom, 'I don't want the doll.' Fortunately, one of my little brothers didn't want the soccer ball or games, so we would switch."

But Bonney's love for soccer did not stop when she had the soccer ball in her hands. That was just the beginning of it all.

"Growing up, every time I came home from school, I would follow my brothers, I was the only girl," she said. "I would follow them out to the field to play every day. So, I think that's how I developed my love for it."

Since that moment, Bonney's soccer-playing days began. She continued to play soccer throughout the years. In 2013, it was time for her to graduate high school and think about the next step in her life. Most high school athletes dream of playing at the collegiate level, but Bonney had other plans.

"I didn't want to go to college," she said. "I didn't want to do anything. I just wanted to play soccer."

After high school, Bonney dedicated two years to soccer camps with hopes to one day play on the Ghana National Team.

"Right after graduation, I just wanted to train so hard and make the national team," Bonney said. "I graduated in 2013, and then in 2015, I was still at the camp playing soccer with no intention of going to school. My mom was mad at me because she thought that I was smart. She said, 'Maybe you should do something else with your life. Soccer is taking forever,' but it had only been two years. People have waited five years to go into the national team, so I wasn't discouraged at all."

For those two years, Bonney practiced long and hard hours, but things were not always easy for her. The sport that she loved was giving her a hard time. Her biggest hardship was when she had the ball at her feet. She was scared of being hit by other players. During her tenure at the soccer camp, Bonney practiced one thing over and over again, how to gain confidence.

"I dedicated two years of my life to become confident," she said. Bonney asked one of the girls at the camp in Ghana for her help, but the help she received came with conditions.

"Let's say practice would start at 3 p.m., I would beg them to take me at 2 [p.m.], but then I had to give something back," she said. "So, I would wash their cleats and everything. I would wash their practice gear after practice so that they would teach me."

It took Bonney two years to find

See POSSIBLE, Page 8

# UTRGV men's, womens' pre-season begins

## Angel De La Cruz

SPORTS REPORTER

Both UTRGV Men's and Women's Tennis Teams prepared for their upcoming season by participating at the Islander Open last Friday in Corpus Christi.

This past weekend, the tennis department put their efforts to the test, especially since there is a lot of young talent within the teams.

Women's Head Coach West Nott believes the women's team has done a great job so far. Nonetheless, he viewed the tournament as an opportunity to see how the team has come together as a whole.

"I think the first fall event is just all about, just seeing how we come together as a team, and just see if we can apply the things we have learned the first two weeks here in practice," Nott said.

Returning sophomore Sandra Putz described the team's chemistry this year.

"I mean, we're much younger this season," Putz said. "So, I think we're all really excited to play and compete."

She said there's more energy from the team in comparison to previous years, and a lot has to do with Nott.

"He's super nice," Putz said. "Just new training methods and also he's super motivated and excited."

Katarina Sasaroga, also a

returning sophomore, said the team is young this year.

"It's sophomores, we have one junior and two new freshmen," Sasaroga said. "So, just get to know everybody and show them how to compete."

Nott has the women's team excited and on board to go head-to-head against big teams such as Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M International University, as they prepare for the Western Athletic Conference tournament against Grand Canyon University March 21.

"I think it's a little unexpected as to how we're gonna do, but I can guarantee you we're gonna compete our butts off throughout the spring," he said. "And we'll see what happens."

For the men's team the goal is clear.

"The ultimate goal is always to win a conference championship," Men's Head Coach Dann Nelson said. "Always. You know, we play in the WAC, and in men's tennis, that is a strong conference."

Last year, Grand Canyon University won the WAC championship in a close match against the University of California, Los Angeles, and this year UTRGV faced the top team in the conference to begin the Islander Open.

"We have to improve, we have to do really well, we

have to fight every day and get a little bit better if we're trying to fight with a team like that," Nelson said. "We can expect that we're going to be a year older than we were last year. That just means that we should be a year smarter, a year more acclimated to college life and college tennis and Division 1 sports."

Michael Loyd, a returning junior player, said he has experienced the different level of college tennis.

"I already got two years under my belt," Loyd said. "It's a different atmosphere, way faster, you know, it's a team environment. So often this is an individual sport and with college you get to come together and work towards one goal."

Other returning players this season include Samuel de Felipe Garcia, who led the squad with seven single victories a year ago, according to the UTRGV official athletic website, and junior Zane Kohrs.

"I feel like everyone is closer together as a team," Kohrs said. "I feel like we are already all 10 best friends. I feel, like, everyone's motivated, everyone's on practice on time, people are even earlier than they need to be on practice, which is always a good sign. I feel like everything about our sense of urgency is just better this year."

Returning transfers are Alberto Mello and Carlo Izurieta.



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Freshman Valeria Montero prepares to hit a backhand during practice last Wednesday morning at the Orville Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus. The UTRGV Men's and Women's Tennis Teams competed at the Islander Open last Friday in Corpus Christi. Results of the tournament were not available at press time.



**EDIFICIOS***Continuación de Página 5*

financiado principalmente por PUF, y dijo que la fundación Valley Baptist Legacy había hecho una donación de \$15 millones a la escuela de medicina para apoyar el inicio de la infraestructura necesaria para comenzar el Instituto de Neurociencias.

“La Fundación Médica del Sur de Texas, que era una [organización sin fines de lucro] establecida en Harlingen, tuvo la amabilidad de donar 35 acres para la escuela de medicina para el crecimiento y el primer edificio que tenemos allí es el Instituto de Neurociencias”, dijo ella.

Patriarca dijo que el edificio

estaba destinado a ser un edificio interdisciplinario, el primer piso diseñado para la atención al paciente, así como una farmacia y el segundo piso para la investigación clínica.

“Esta tierra ... estaba destinada a ser donde se encontraba el ladrillo y el mortero, donde iba a estar ocurriendo la investigación real, por lo que ese fue realmente el proceso de pensamiento para ello, y además de eso, en las neurociencias, el Valle está severamente desatendido en investigación y atención al paciente”, dijo Patriarca. “Así que, la psiquiatría y la neurología permanecen entre las principales especialidades subrepresentadas.

Realmente necesitamos tener un impacto al proporcionar ese [tipo de] atención e investigación al paciente”.

Dijo que además de proporcionar atención e investigación al paciente, la Facultad de Medicina también quiere comenzar una residencia en neurología para construir sobre la residencia actual de psiquiatría en Harlingen.

Patriarca dijo que la Facultad de Medicina está tratando de aumentar el número de aprendices en las ciencias de la salud en un intento de “hacer frente” a la escasez de proveedores de atención médica en el Valle.

“El Centro de Aprendizaje Basado en Equipo [en Edinburg] y el Instituto de Neurociencias de Harlingen contribuirán, una vez más, a la misión de investigación y educación clínica que fue una promesa a la génesis de la escuela”, dijo Patriarca. “Por lo tanto, seguimos realmente

entusiasmados y esperamos que el Valle y UTRGV, en general, también estén entusiasmados”.

Salinas-Hovar dijo que el contratista para ambos proyectos será la misma compañía que trabajó en el Edificio de Ciencias y el Edificio Interdisciplinario de Ingeniería y Académica, Vaughn Construction.

Ambos proyectos también tienen el mismo arquitecto, Muñoz & Co., una empresa con sede en San Antonio.

“Estamos entusiasmados con el crecimiento que estamos viendo con la Facultad de Medicina, y esperamos implementar nuevos proyectos para ellos, lo que les ayudará mucho con su plan estratégico general para hacer crecer la escuela por todo el Valle”, dijo ella.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez

**POSSIBLE***Continued from Page 7*

the confidence that she was looking for. She realized that her confidence was finally where she wanted it to be when she played a life-changing game.

“There was a game against one of the biggest teams in Ghana,” Bonney said. “They called them Hasaacas Ladies. They were really good. We beat them 3-1 and I scored two.”

From that moment on, her life would change. Bonney went from being second string on the team to playing as a starter. Eventually, everything would fall into place for her. In 2015, her lifelong dream of being called to the Ghana National Team came true, but life had other plans for her.

When Bonney got called to the national team, she met a

group of people who scouted players that wanted to play at the collegiate level, but she wasn't on the list of scouts because she had missed the first day.

Bonney did not keep her arms crossed. She went directly to the scouts and told them that she was interested, but she was told that first they needed to see how she played.

She returned the following day to show the scouts how she played. The scouts had invited coaches from different areas to come and scout for players. On the list of coaches was Head Coach of the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team Glad Bugariu. When Bonney showed up, Bugariu already had his team set from the players that he saw on the first day, which Bonney had missed, so the only option was to have her play against his team.

In no time, Bonney was switched from the opposing team to coach Bugariu's team and was asked to play for UTRGV.

“After they scouted me, I told my mom, ‘I know I wanted to be on the national team, I'm already in there,’” Bonney said. “Although I didn't get to travel with them [the national team], because it was the national team or here, so I chose here [UTRGV].”

Since Bonney arrived at UTRGV, her work ethic on and off the field has always been her priority. Her hard work and dedication were shown in the classroom during Spring 2019. Bonney was not only balancing practice, traveling and games, but she was also balancing a job and the life of a full-time student taking 21 hours.

As an accounting major, Bonney had seven rigorous

classes that required studying and time management.

“I try to use the little time that I have to study,” she said. “There's a trick that I have. Before I go to class, I try to be a little bit ahead of the professor. I try to read, so when I go, I am just there to get the things that I didn't understand on my own and get a better understanding of the things I already understood by myself.”

Even after games, you will find Bonney studying a little bit more to get a better understanding of her courses. You will never see her learning for an exam on the same day and she likes to get ahead on her assignments. Because of her hard work and long study hours, Bonney earned a 4.0 GPA during the spring.

Bonney's hard work does not stop there. On top of everything

she also has a job. Bonney is employed at the Department of Human Development and School Services at UTRGV, where she works with the accounting team.

This semester, Bonney is balancing practice, games, traveling, 18 hours of school and a job.

“Practice is from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and then I go to work 11 to 2 and then I have class,” she said.

But Bonney's main goals are to break records and help the team obtain a championship.

“I want to see what's after the championship,” she said. “I want to be in it. I want to take the team there and see. That's all I want to do. Break records. Set new records. Win the championship and see what's beyond the championship. That's all I want to see.”



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