

TUITION INCREASE



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

According to an email sent out to the campus community Nov. 15, the 7% tuition increase will not affect those who are currently enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students at UTRGV.

Incoming Fall 2020 freshmen to pay 7% more

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com
Victor G. Ramirez
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

All 2020 incoming freshmen at UTRGV will pay more after The University of Texas System board of regents set tuition increases for all its academic institutions, according to an email sent to the university community on Nov. 15. Universities with a variable-tuition plan will increase their tuition 2.6% annually totaling to at least 10.4% over a four-year period. Institutions with a fixed rate, such as UTRGV,

will have an increase of 7% over a four-year period, according to the email. "The increase will not affect current UTRGV undergraduate or graduate students because of the university's four-year, guaranteed tuition and fees," the email states. "However, starting Fall 2020, all new undergraduate and graduate students will pay a 7% increase in tuition." The increase will not affect UTRGV's Tuition Advantage students with a household income of less than \$75,000, according to the email.

Students in their fifth year of college will not be affected by the 7% increase, according to Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University Marketing & Communications and university spokesman. "Students not graduating within the guaranteed period will shift to the lowest rates available among all open (non-expired) plans," Gonzales said in an email sent to The Rider Nov. 21. "The new rates may be lower (but never higher) than the rates applicable to entering students."

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EDUARDO GALINDO

Let the next journey commence

Brigitte Ortiz
 THE RIDER

About 2,500 students are expected to graduate during the Fall 2019 commencement. The ceremonies will take place Dec. 13 in the Harlingen Convention Center and Dec. 14 in the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg.

As previously reported by The Rider, Brownsville graduates will attend the ceremony in Harlingen and Edinburg graduates in Edinburg. Harlingen students can choose which location to attend.

University Registrar Sofia Montes said students can request to change their locations but the Office of the University Registrar is

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Students meet Senate hopeful

Alejandra Yañez
 THE RIDER

Democratic hopeful for the Texas Senate and Brownsville native Ruben Cortez attended One-to-One with UTRGV students on Nov. 21.

The event, hosted by Texas Rising, aims to help student voters become acquainted with the candidates' views.

Students voiced their concerns with the Senate hopeful regarding abortion, health care, education, gun laws, LGBTQ rights,

legalization of marijuana and immigration laws.

Cortez currently serves on the Texas State Board of Education and said he plans to implement those same principles in the Senate.

The Senate hopeful said he believes in a bottom up approach, going to the classroom first to see first hand what implementations need to be made in the boardroom. Cortez said he will carry out this philosophy

See **MEET**, Page 8

UTRGV School of Medicine receives \$1M from McAllen

Klaudia Cedillo
 THE RIDER

From funding new laboratory equipment to researchers' salaries, the recently donated \$1 million from the City of McAllen has already begun to fund the endeavors of the UTRGV School of Medicine.

On Nov. 15, the City of McAllen presented the check to the UTRGV School of Medicine in the Biomedical Research Building in McAllen.

McAllen Mayor Jim Darling said it is the city's second \$1 million donation to the school. However, this year, the money presented will be used specifically for the School of Medicine's cancer immunology program housed in the Biomedical Research Building.

Darling said the city tied its donation to research and asked the School of Medicine to develop a budget for the cancer program.

"[The School of Medicine is] gonna add some diabetes research and when they come up with a budget for that, we

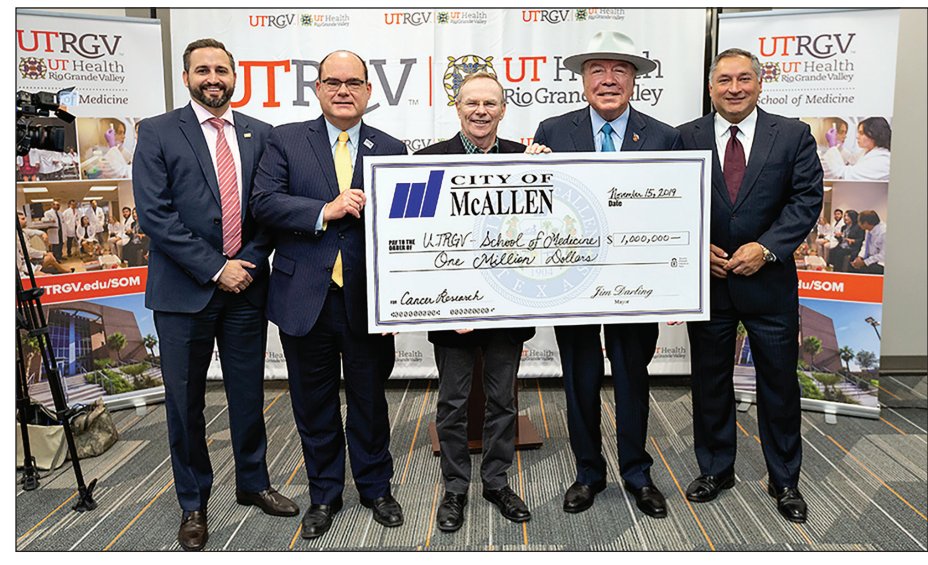
will reconsider on whether we'll fund [it]," he said. "The diabetes research, I think, is very important because we have the highest instances of diabetes in my understanding, some people say in the country. And if that's true, well, the more diabetes research we can do, the better off we are."

Darling said the money given to the school came from McAllen's economic development fund, which is derived from the city's sales taxes.

John Krouse, dean of the School of Medicine and executive vice president for Health Affairs, said these kinds of funds are necessary in order to provide and deliver on the UTRGV School of Medicine's missions to train the next generation of medical professionals, expand clinical services across both primary and specialty care and provide research.

Krouse said the cancer immunology program started in June and will focus on three types of cancer research:

See **MEDICINE**, Page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

The City of McAllen donated \$1 million to the UTRGV School of Medicine on Nov. 15 to support the school's cancer immunology program. Shown are McAllen City Commissioner Victor Haddad (from left), UTRGV Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and School of Medicine Dean John Krouse, McAllen Mayor Jim Darling, Texas Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and McAllen City Commissioner Javier Villalobos.

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
12 Days of Fitness
Students can complete the workout of the

day from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The first 12 people to complete the challenge win a prize. The event will take place at the same time Tuesday through Thursday and from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday. To avoid elimination, students are encouraged to participate every day.

Breakfast Wrangler

The **Student Union** will have **free food, games and prizes** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and from 8 to 11:30 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday

Men's Basketball

The **UTRGV Men's Basketball Team** will face off against **Sam Houston State University** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free to all UTRGV students with a valid ID. **Free tacos** will be provided to the first 200 students. There will be a pregame rally and launch of the "**Vaquero Village**" at 6 p.m. in the courtyard.

One-Stop-Shop

The **Graduate College** will host a workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Ballroom on the Edinburg

campus for students regarding graduate school, financial aid and registration.

Posada Navideña

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **Posada Navideña** from 3 to 7 p.m. on the Library lawn on the Brownsville campus. Free food, games and prizes will be provided.

Wednesday

Wellness Wednesday

Students can get **free wellness checks**, such as body mass index, blood pressure and glucose levels and body fat percentage, from noon to 2 p.m. in the **Texas Southmost College Recreation Center** in Brownsville.

Flautistas Navidad Carol & Candlelight

The **UTRGV Flute Studio** will host its annual flute ensemble concert at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free.

Friday

Men's Basketball

The **UTRGV Men's Basketball Team** will face off against **Mid-America Christian University** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free to all UTRGV students with a valid ID.

Upcoming

The MOLLY Prize

The **MOLLY Prize for Best Student Journalism** is a new annual award for student reporting in Texas. Entries may be print, online, in video

or audio on the basis of either a single piece or a series of up to four related articles or columns. The winner will receive one of two \$500 prizes from the **Texas Democracy Foundation** and the **Texas Observer**. Deadline for submission is Feb. 1. All MOLLY student journalism contest participants will also be eligible to take part in a mentoring program in either Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin or Rio Grande Valley areas. As part of the program, student journalists will be paired with working journalists for a networking opportunity in small group settings. For more information, visit texasobserver.org/the-molly-prize-for-best-student-journalism-in-the-state-of-texas or email kanin@texasobserver.org.

Redistricting Hearings

The **Texas House Committee on Redistricting** will conduct public hearings to solicit input on the 2021 legislative redistricting process and provide context to the official 2020 census data that the **87th Legislature** will receive by April 2021. In Edinburg, the hearing will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 13 in the Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance (Halls A and B), located at 118 Paseo del Prado. In Harlingen, the hearing will take place at 11 a.m. Dec. 14 in the Texas State Technical College Cultural Arts Center, 1825 N. Loop 499. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2JIFemd>.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 11 and 17.



Nov. 11

10:42 a.m.: A non-affiliated elderly man was found injured and laying on the floor during a welfare check at an off-campus residence in Brownsville. Emergency

medical services transported him to a hospital.

7:50 p.m.: A student was found to be allegedly intoxicated at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. He admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages and displayed signs of intoxication. The student was released to an adult without incident, and no criminal charges were filed at the officer's discretion.

Nov. 12

10:35 a.m.: A staff member lost her university-issued keys for the UT Health RGV Surgery & Women's Specialty Clinic at an off-campus location.

1:12 p.m.: The word "\$HAZ" was found graffitied on the fence near the Cueto Building on the Brownsville campus. Facilities was notified of the incident.

1:27 p.m.: A student's coat was stolen from the men's restroom in the Science Building on the Edinburg campus.

10:54 p.m.: UTRGV officers assisted the Texas Department of Public Safety with a major one-vehicle collision at an off-campus location. A non-affiliated man was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance.

Nov. 13

8:19 a.m.: A faculty member received two emails from a student and found one to be troublesome due to a previous incident in 2018.

10:17 a.m.: A fire alarm was activated at the Mathematics & Science Academy on the Edinburg campus. An Environmental, Health and Safety staff member was found on site conducting maintenance on the fire

alarm system and stated the cooling plant he contacted failed to notify the police department. The Edinburg Fire Department later cleared the building for re-entry.

8 p.m.: A fight broke out between two students/roommates over an argument at Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. One of the students was arrested on charges of assault. He was jailed in the Edinburg City Jail.

Nov. 14

10:41 a.m.: A faculty member lost three university-issued keys off campus.

1:33 p.m.: A staff member leaned back and fell off the top row of the bleachers while sitting at the Performing Arts

Complex B on the Edinburg campus. He declined medical attention.

11:32 a.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle sustained damage in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. The damage was later determined not to have occurred on campus via video cameras.

1:23 p.m.: A Texas Southmost College student was seen walking and balancing himself on a rail on the wooden bridge on the Brownsville campus. A friend of the student claimed he was being immature and messing around, and an officer determined the student was not a danger to himself or others. He was advised to properly use the bridge.

7:21 p.m.: A man was seen running away from the U.S. border fence, north on Levee Road near the Brownsville campus via border cameras. UTRGV and U.S. Border Patrol officers were dispatched and searched the surrounding area. The man was located and detained by the Border Patrol. He was a Mexican national.

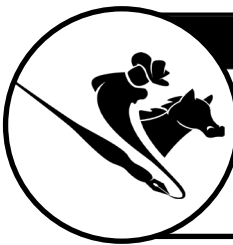
Nov. 16

6:51 p.m.: A non-affiliated man suffered a seizure at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. Emergency medical services responded, but he declined medical assistance.

Nov. 17

2:24 p.m.: Two men were seen walking away from the U.S. border fence, north on Levee Road near the Brownsville campus via border cameras. A UTRGV officer contacted and detained the two men before the U.S. Border Patrol's arrival. One man was from Honduras, and the other claimed to be from Jacksonville, Florida, but currently resides in Brownsville. U.S. Border Patrol took custody of both men without incident.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo



University Police

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

Complex B on the Edinburg campus. He declined medical attention.

2:35 p.m.: A student displayed aggressive behavior in class at the Visual Arts Building in Edinburg. The student was irate but eventually calmed down when an officer contacted him and concluded no elements to a crime were met. The student left the property with his father.

10:31 p.m.: A student reported his assigned university jacket was stolen from the indoor soccer facility.

11:43 p.m.: While on foot patrol, officers detected the smell of marijuana in the area where two students were located near the Health Affairs Building West Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. One of the students admitted to owning and voluntarily gave officers the marijuana, which was under 2 ounces, in a green container and a smoke pipe. He was issued a court appearance citation on charges

4.0 szn: Finals begin Friday

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

With finals approaching, students at UTRGV voiced their concerns and questions with experts on how to concentrate and study efficiently.

This week's Ask the Expert questions come from students Michel Valdez, an occupational therapy freshman, and Christopher Cortez, an electrical engineering junior.

Cortez said what he is most worried about with finals approaching is, "How everything's gonna be spaced out, because since I have classes almost back-to-back, I'm afraid that they're gonna interfere with my study time."

Both students told The Rider that they set aside about three hours a day to study for classes.

Asked what unconventional methods he has for studying, Cortez replied that listening to music helps him focus. Listening to a specific song while studying a problem helps him remember the problem during the test, he said.

Valdez said the way that he studies for finals includes reviewing the professor's study guide, PowerPoints and creating a study guide for himself if one is not provided.

Asked what advice he had for other students, Cortez replied, "Get a lot of rest, stay hydrated, study but don't study too rigorously 'cause you'll put too much stress on yourself."

Cortez said a question that he has for students is how he can be more productive academically and efficient in studying to transfer that onto the



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Criminal justice junior Itzel Abundis studies for an exam Nov. 19 in the UTRGV University Library on the Brownsville campus. With finals approaching, the University Library will be open 24 hours from Sunday to Dec. 12 for students to study for their exams.

final.

"My main goal is to go for an A, how do I strive for that?" Cortez asked.

Asked what questions he had for experts regarding finals, Valdez replied, "How can I concentrate 100% 'cause I get distracted easily?"

UTRGV Experts

Jerwen Jou, a psychological science professor, offered some of his expert tips with students on how to effectively

and efficiently study for finals.

He advises students to talk to their professors to know firsthand what is being asked of them and to know if the final will be comprehensive or non-comprehensive.

"It depends completely on the specific courses," Jou said. "The person who can give the best answer should be the instructor of the course."

Some of his tips on how to study are

Ask the Expert: Fifth in a series

to review old lecture notes.

Students should check Blackboard to review any PowerPoints, documents or videos professors provide throughout the semester, Jou said.

He recommends students use their limited time to master the material they already know and if there is extra time, to study the more complicated concepts.

"Take care of the easier parts first before you tackle the more difficult parts," Jou said.

He advises students who are easily distracted while studying to "go to a quiet room or place, the library, or your private study room at home, long distance from the television or activities or other members of the family."

Jou said students need to have the willpower to concentrate on what they are studying and should keep away from sources of distraction.

"Don't let your mind wander away from the material you are studying," Jou said.

Grant Benham, a psychological science professor with a specialty in stress, sleep and health, advises students to avoid procrastination and to not focus exclusively on studying.

To prevent stress, Benham suggests students give themselves breaks between study sessions.

"Try to fit in some exercise as a way of taking a break to recharge your batteries," Benham said.

Other stress reduction exercises include deep breathing, which students

See **FINALS**, Page 10

Departments, students trim the waste



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

A Facilities department employee unloads branches cut from trees on the Edinburg campus. "Every week, they're trimming around an average of 50 trees per week," said Carlos Chavez assistant director of the Edinburg Facilities Programs.

Maleny Ortega and Omar E. Zapata
THE RIDER

Although the university does not have an official recycling program, departments contribute to the reuse of materials and waste in an effort to reduce on campus.

Carlos Chavez, UTRGV assistant director of program and services for Campus Facilities Operations in Edinburg, said they try to reuse whatever they can. One

of the ways Facilities does this is by reusing cabinets when an office or department no longer needs them.

"There's a lot of places on campus and when they do renovations, a lot of times they pull some of those old fixtures because they want some new cabinet or anything like that," Chavez said. "So when they do, the cabinets that they remove, they actually don't throw them away. They bring them over here to the physical plant and then they resurface them again, repaint them, change

anything on the hardware that needs to be changed and then they'll go ahead and use them in any other places that they do."

Facilities even has a locksmith on hand to make new locks for the recondition and as many keys needed for them.

"It doesn't become a new purchase of something new because you already have it, you just recondition it so it looks like new," Chavez said.

He said this is ongoing since departments across campus

are always getting renovated.

Facilities also reuses parts of equipment that has broken down.

"If there's some usable parts that we can still use for any of the other equipment, then what we do is evaluate each one," Chavez said, adding that some parts are kept to fix other equipment that might break.

Another way Facilities tries to reduce waste and expense is by chipping trimmed tree branches and reusing it as mulch.

"Depending on how many inches thick is the branch, we have [a chipper] that breaks it down," he said. "It breaks it down to smaller pieces of wood that we can go ahead and reuse

on the beds on campus when we do replanting or anything like that. And then that saves us money."

Chavez said the grounds crew trims an average of 50 trees per week and has two chippers.

The crew members use the mulch in replanting or when they notice flower beds need more mulch.

The chipper allows for branches no thicker than 3 inches. Anything more will damage the equipment. This doesn't stop Facilities from finding ways to reuse bigger branches.

"Every year we do a Christmas lunch/dinner and we're a little bit over 200

employees, so some of that wood we actually save because we barbecue with it, so that keeps us from buying it," Chavez said.

Facilities also gives large branches to students who request them for school projects.

Surplus

Abraham Hernandez, UTRGV director of Campus Facilities Operations in Brownsville, said he is in charge of surplus pickup that is then taken to a warehouse on campus.

The items stored are kept there until needed by the university or until they are auctioned.

If a department wants furniture, it can schedule a visit with Central Receiving, look at the items, tag them, make arrangements

and then Facilities will deliver them where needed.

"As part of our normal practice, whenever we take anything apart we try to reuse whatever items are still good just to reduce our cost," Hernandez said.

Asked if Facilities has any plans to implement a program that would make it easier to reuse waste, he replied that when the department implements a recycling program, the majority of the materials reused are going to be recycled.

"I guess the recycling

See **WASTE**, Page 10

Recycle, reduce, reuse: Last in a series

VAQUERO VOICE



FAVORITE MEMORY



“My favorite memory is when I moved to the United States. I moved here in 2011 from Mexico. It’s my favorite memory because it gave [me] so many opportunities, like the opportunity to come to college. I also really like Disney shows like ‘Hannah Montana’ and, like, ‘Kim Possible.’ I feel like old Disney is the best Disney and new Disney is just not good.”

Stephenie Bearty
Mass communication freshman

“Era cuando fui pa’ Six Flags porque como era mi primera vez yendo. Por que me gustaron los rides y quería experimentar cómo se sentía. Me gustaron los roller coasters porque siempre quería subirme a una”.



Feliciano Perez
Estudiante de primer año de ciencias de la computación



“My favorite memory of the past decade was actually graduating from my high school, considering that it was a really big challenge since we had a lot of classes that were really high level and none of us were expecting it. So, now that I’m here in college as a freshman, I feel like I’m really motivated to continue.”

Marc Campos
Psychology freshman

“I got to travel around Europe with my mom and my sister and also got to see my grandma that I haven’t seen in 11 years. That would be it.”



Gaby Sanchez
Psychology freshman

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019



Dear Santa, I want health care for all



Amanda Vela

THE RIDER

The end of the year always brings about reminiscent feelings of joy, thankfulness and hope. Hope for a happy holiday with friends and family, hope for a better new year and hope for better health and wellness. Yet, many people find themselves this time of year scrambling to have access to basic health care.

A report by the World Bank and World Health Organization found that about half of the world’s population does not have access to crucial health services, such as vaccines and blood pressure checks. The United States is one of the wealthiest nations on the planet and some of the best hospitals and doctors are found right here within our borders. Yet, most residents go medically untreated because they do not have the right health insurance or simply none at all.

We are living in a country where we have access to the best health care, if you can afford it. Wellness becomes a burden to a portion of the population. What does that say when the residents of a country are being pushed into poverty, or worse, still

having to wait long periods of time to be treated only for their condition to get worse? Are we born with the right to have access to the best health care that our country can provide? Or are we left to fend for ourselves, health care becoming a commodity to capitalize on, paying for only what we can “afford”? Should medicine and doctor visits be considered a luxury, similar to buying a fancy new car? Or should the overall quality of life be a country’s main

“Health care has become unattainable to certain groups in our population, putting lives at stake. Our country needs to reform our system to one that emphasizes quality of living to its residents. Greed, selfishness and material things are characteristics that, within our society, are viewed as malicious.”

concern for its residents?

It is profit over prevention. Some doctors prescribe and recommend treatments or tests because they are benefiting from it. Patients are turned into consumers and their lives are put at stake. Most doctors are focused on prolonging a person’s life versus preserving a person’s quality of life.

What pays is the treatment of a patient. However, being able to pay for services does not necessarily guarantee the services provided are the best options out there. Patients buy into “the latest and greatest,” without having the medical

knowledge to understand what it is they are purchasing. Doctors have a huge responsibility in keeping their patients informed, but more so, patients should keep themselves aware before and after their visits.

Most doctors, I believe, have the intention of doing well for their patients. However, temptations from pharmaceutical companies and the incentive of giving the patient tests they don’t need makes doctors deviate from their morals.

Health care has become unattainable to certain groups in our population, putting lives at stake. Our country needs to reform our system to one that emphasizes quality of living to its residents. Greed, selfishness and material things are characteristics that, within our society, are viewed as malicious.

Why then do we continue to let health care become unreachable in a country with vast resources? No one wants to think about losing a loved one during the holidays; no one wants to lose a loved one ever. Something has to change. It does not seem fair to treat a person as a product. We all should be able to have access to basic health care.

Health care should not create a burden on an individual. The holidays are a time for family and friends to celebrate together, happy and healthy.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

Que el próximo viaje comience

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Se espera que cerca de 2,500 estudiantes se gradúen durante la ceremonia de graduación de otoño del 2019. Las ceremonias se llevarán a cabo el 13 de diciembre en el Centro de Convenciones de Harlingen y el 14 de diciembre en el Bert Ogden Arena en Edinburg.

Como informó anteriormente The Rider, los graduados de Brownsville asistirán a la ceremonia en Harlingen y los graduados de Edinburg en la Arena. Los estudiantes de Harlingen pueden elegir a que lugar asistir.

Registradora Universitaria, Sofia Montes dijo que los estudiantes podrán solicitar un cambio en sus ubicaciones pero la Oficina del Registrador los está revisando de manera específica.

“Hasta ahora, hemos podido acomodar todas las solicitudes a las ceremonias”, dijo Montes. “Ya sea de Edinburg a Harlingen o de Harlingen a Edinburg. En este momento pueden solicitarlo, pero los estamos revisando caso por caso”.

Montes dijo que los boletos para la ceremonia de graduación se distribuirán de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. esta semana en U Central en los dos campus.

Ella dijo que los estudiantes recibirán un correo electrónico con información sobre donde registrarse y estacionarse en los lugares de Harlingen y Edinburg.

Se requiere que los estudiantes que participen compren los artículos de graduación apropiados en la librería de la universidad.

Estudiante de último año en ciencias del ejercicio y próximo a



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

Los boletos para la ceremonia de graduación estarán disponibles en U Central en los dos campus de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. esta semana. Se entregarán seis boletos a quienes se gradúen en el Centro de Convenciones de Harlingen y nueve boletos para aquellos que se gradúen en el Arena Bert Ogden.

graduar, Gabriel Figueroa, asistirá a la ceremonia en Harlingen, después de inscribirse por primera vez en UTRGV en el semestre de otoño de 2016.

Figueroa alienta a los estudiantes de primer año entrantes a hacer conexiones durante sus primeros años de universidad.

“Encuentra tu ritmo desde el principio”, dijo él. “Entra en tu ritmo porque si ya tienes uno o dos años y todavía estás en una rutina, en cuanto a si quieres continuar la carrera en la que estás, va a volver y morderte”.

Después de la graduación, Figueroa

perseguirá una maestría en ciencias del ejercicio en el Colegio de Profesiones de la Salud.

Se entregarán seis boletos a los graduados para el Centro de Convenciones de Harlingen y nueve para el Bert Ogden Arena.

“El lugar en Edinburg es mucho más grande, por lo que podemos acomodar a más estudiantes y más invitados”, dijo Montes. “Queríamos maximizar esto, así que pensamos que daríamos tantas entradas como el lugar permitiera. El centro de convenciones de Harlingen es más pequeño, por lo que la mayor

cantidad de boletos que podemos dar de acuerdo al número anticipado de graduados es seis, así que se trata únicamente del tamaño y la capacidad”.

En Harlingen, la ceremonia comenzará a las 9 a.m. para el Colegio de Artes Liberales.

Al mediodía se llevará a cabo la ceremonia del Colegio de Negocios y Emprendimiento Robert C. Vackar, la Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias de la Computación, el Colegio de Profesiones de la Salud, la Escuela de Enfermería y la Escuela de Trabajo Social.

La última ceremonia a las 3 p.m. incluye a la Facultad de Educación e Integración P-16, la Facultad de Bellas Artes y la Facultad de Ciencias.

En Edinburg, la primera ceremonia tendrá lugar a las 9 a.m. para el Colegio de Negocios y Emprendimiento Robert C. Vackar, el Colegio de Profesiones de la Salud, la Escuela de Enfermería y la Escuela de Trabajo Social.

A las 1 p.m., se llevará a cabo la ceremonia de la Facultad de Educación e Integración P-16, la Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias de la Computación y la Facultad de Ciencias.

La última ceremonia es a las 5 p.m. para la Facultad de Bellas Artes y la Facultad de Artes Liberales.

“La oficina del registrador se complace en coordinar nuevamente las actividades de las ceremonias de graduación”, dijo Montes. “Es fácilmente uno de los mejores eventos con los que asistimos cada año, definitivamente el más emocionante, por lo que estamos muy orgullosos de todos nuestros graduados y queremos felicitarlos sinceramente por todos sus esfuerzos y trabajo duro”.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez

Vaquero Tech Centers abiertos en las librerías

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

Los productos electrónicos de Apple ahora están disponibles para su compra en el recién inaugurado Vaquero Tech Center en ambas librerías del campus.

UTRGV celebró las ceremonias del corte de cinta para los Vaquero Tech Centers el 19 de noviembre en las librerías de los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg.

Los centros exhiben varios productos electrónicos para su compra. Estos incluyen computadoras, tabletas y relojes de marcas Apple, Dell, Surface Pros, Chromebooks y HP.

Los servicios de reparación y asistencia de Apple Care también estarán disponibles para los productos, según Joanna Garza, gerente de la librería del campus de Brownsville.

“Eso se basará principalmente en Edinburg, pero tendremos un servicio de entrega en Brownsville para reparaciones”, dijo Garza. “Básicamente podemos enviarlo, recibirlo y luego devolverlo al cliente”.

Los centros estarán abiertos durante las horas regulares de operación de la librería del campus.

Estudiantes, profesores, personal y ex alumnos de UTRGV y Texas Southmost College recibirán un descuento del 8% durante todo el año del

precio minorista. En eventos especiales durante el año, se podrá ofrecer un descuento adicional del 8%.

Garza dijo que tendrán varias promociones que se alinean con Apple. Por ejemplo, el programa de regreso a clases de la compañía en el que los compradores reciben auriculares Beats gratis si compran una Mac o MacBook Pro.

Ella cree que los centros beneficiarán enormemente a los estudiantes.

Los estudiantes pueden realizar compras en el Vaquero Tech Center antes de recibir sus cheques de ayuda financiera.

“Ellos podrán comprar por adelantado a través de nuestra tienda o en línea para obtener el equipo que necesitan para poder tener éxito en sus aulas”, dijo Garza.

La Oficina de Ayuda Financiera ofrecerá ajustes de costo de asistencia a los estudiantes con recibos de artículos comprados en los centros.

Garza dijo que la tecnología es importante para los estudiantes.

“Quiero decir, todo lo que hacemos está en nuestro teléfono”, dijo ella. “Siento que cada día y cada año, cada vez más nos alejamos de los libros de texto físicos y nos movemos hacia los libros electrónicos. ... Estamos realmente entusiasmados de poder facilitar y proporcionar esto a los estudiantes en el



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Funcionarios de la universidad posan para una foto durante la ceremonia de inauguración del Vaquero Tech Center el pasado 19 de noviembre en la librería de UTRGV Campus en Brownsville. Se muestran Elena Venegas (de izquierda), profesora asistente de estudios bilingües y de alfabetización; Art Brownlow, profesor de música y miembro adjunto del Provost de Innovación Académica en UTRGV; Robert Cantú, director ejecutivo de Servicios Auxiliares; Jeff Graham, director general de Tecnología de la Información; Joanna Garza, gerente de la tienda UTRGV Campus Store en Brownsville; Janna Arney, vicepresidenta de UTRGV; Patricia McHatton, vicepresidenta ejecutiva de Asuntos Académicos; y Letty Benavides, vicepresidenta asociada de Servicios Auxiliares.

campus”.

Art Brownlow, miembro de la facultad de Innovación Académica de la Oficina de Asuntos Académicos, dijo que han estado trabajando en los centros tecnológicos desde 2016 en colaboración con las librerías del campus, Auxiliary Business Services, Academic Affairs y Apple.

“Antes, la tienda Apple más cercana estaba en San Antonio”, dijo Brownlow. “Ahora, esta es la única tienda de Apple de cualquier tipo al sur de San Antonio. ... Entonces, esto permite ... que nuestros estudiantes tengan acceso a Apple y otras tecnologías para el éxito de sus estudiantes, para su

alfabetización digital”.

El dijo que la asociación con Apple continuará.

Cuando se le preguntó por qué la tecnología es importante para los estudiantes universitarios, Brownlow respondió que hay una interrupción en la fuerza

Hello from around the world!

Hania Rocio
THE RIDER

UTRGV Edinburg and Brownsville campuses were filled with music and food that made International Education Week a fun experience for students.

International Education Week is a series of events that seek to display various cultures around the world to the UTRGV community. The event is hosted by the Office of Global Engagement, International Admissions and Student Services, International Programs and Partnerships and the Language Institute.

The event began with the International Education Week Opening Ceremony on Nov. 18 in the Ballroom in Edinburg. Students and staff were offered food while the guest speakers took the podium.

"I would highly encourage students to participate in these important events because they will get to meet new friends from other parts of the world," said Samantha Lopez, director of International Admissions and Student Services. "We want for them to get culturally enriched by the events that we do and for them to enjoy their student life but at the same time be a world citizen."

On Nov. 19, the Brownsville campus hosted the International Food Festival:

A Taste of *La Frontera* in the Student Union's PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. The festival featured a wide range of food that consisted of Mexican and American gastronomy, including *tacos de rajas*, *bistec con leche*, burgers, banana pudding and cheesecakes.

At the same time in the Salón, students learned about the opportunity to continue their education in another part of the world at the Study Abroad Fair.

On the Edinburg campus, the Study Abroad Fair took place Nov. 20 in the Student Union Commons. Student organizations sold food and clothes. Students also visited booths that displayed information on Study Abroad programs in England, Spain, China, South Korea, among others, and interacted with the people in charge of the programs.

"It is very important [for UTRGV students to study abroad] because by ... studying in other countries and living in other countries they can have a more ... broader perspective," said Dongkyu Kim, an assistant professor of political science.

Kim and political science Professor Mi-son Kim encourage students to travel with them to South Korea through the Study Abroad program to learn about politics. "South Korea is an



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

International Programs Specialist Luis Alcocer and Mexican American Studies professor Juana Dolores Montiel dance to cumbias during the International Food Festival: A Taste of *La Frontera*. About 170 people attended the event on Nov. 19 at PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. The International Food Festival: Bangladesh/India was held on Nov. 21 in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

interesting place, culturally and politically and socially," Mi-son Kim said. "It's very different from the United States. ... If you go to Korea, you will learn a whole lot of different cultural aspects."

The International Food Festival: Bangladesh/India was held Nov. 21 in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Students were provided with different foods such as Tandoori Chicken, white rice and *samosas*, a savory fried or baked pastry.

Students enjoyed the South Asian atmosphere as they ate with their friends.

On the same day, the Academic Panel Study Abroad Ambassador Network presented students with their different study abroad experiences. The students informed the audience about their involvement in the country where they continued their academics. They spoke about countries such as Peru, Germany, Spain, South Korea and others.

Mechanical engineering senior Alexandra Salinas went to study abroad in Ireland and encourages other students to participate as well.

"I am also part Irish, so that's a part of myself that I actually never got to learn about or experience," Salinas said. "So, the opportunity came up ... and I was able to discover another part of myself. The beauty of studying abroad is that it opens so many doors, and it opens so many different connections all across the world."

Vaquero Tech Centers open in bookstores



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Entrepreneurship and innovation senior Laura Leon (from left), criminal justice junior Camila Lopez and clinical laboratory science junior Daniela Sanchez use Apple products at the grand opening of the Vaquero Tech Center Nov. 19 in the UTRGV Campus Store in Brownsville. UTRGV and Texas Southmost College students attended the event.

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

Apple electronics are now available for purchase in the newly opened Vaquero Tech Center in both campus bookstores.

UTRGV held ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Vaquero Tech Centers on Nov. 19 in the Brownsville and Edinburg campus bookstores.

The centers display various electronic products for purchase, including computers, tablets and watches from brands such as Apple, Dell, Surface Pros, Chromebooks and HP.

Repair services and Apple Care assistance will also be available for

products, according to Joanna Garza, the Brownsville campus bookstore manager.

"That will mostly be based in Edinburg, but we will have a drop-off service in Brownsville for repairs," Garza said. "We can basically ship that out, receive it and then get it back to the customer."

The centers will be open during regular campus bookstore hours of operation.

UTRGV and Texas Southmost College students, faculty, staff and alumni will receive a year-round 8% discount off the retail price. In special events during the year, an additional 8% discount might be offered.

Garza said they will have several

promotions that align with Apple. For example, the company's back-to-school program in which buyers receive free Beats headphones if they buy a Mac or MacBook Pro.

She believes the centers will benefit students greatly.

Students can make purchases at the Vaquero Tech Center before receiving their financial aid checks.

"They can shop in advance through our store or online to get the electronics they need so that they can succeed in their classrooms," Garza said.

The Financial Aid Office will offer cost of attendance adjustments to students with receipts of items purchased in the centers.

Garza said technology is important for students.

"I mean, everything we do is on our phone," she said. "I feel like every day and every year, more and more we're shifting away from physical textbooks and moving towards electronic books. ... We're really excited that we're going to be able to facilitate and be able to provide this for students on campus."

Art Brownlow, faculty fellow for Academic Innovation with the Office of Academic Affairs, said they have been working on the tech centers since 2016 in collaboration with the campus bookstores, Auxiliary Business Services, Academic Affairs and Apple.

"Before, the nearest Apple store was in San Antonio," Brownlow said. "Now, this is the only Apple store of any kind south of San Antonio. ... So, this allows ... our students to have access to affordable Apple and other technologies for their student success, for their digital literacy."

He said the partnership with Apple will be ongoing.

Asked why technology is important for college students, Brownlow replied

that there is a disruption coming to the American workforce.

"If our students aren't digitally literate, if they don't understand how to work these devices and what they're all about, their futures will be compromised," he said. "They need to understand technology. They need to be digitally literate and this is going to help them do that."

A drawing for \$25 and \$50 gift cards, as well as a pair of AirPods, was conducted during the event. Winners were David Fisher, Alexis Moreno and Joan Morales, respectively.

Nayeli Garcia, an English graduate student, said the center is making products more affordable for students.

"They are letting Financial Aid know about it as well, so Financial Aid is going to be able to offer some kind of monetary benefit for them so that way they can go ahead and afford them, as opposed to your retailer store, where you have to get it on credit or you might not even be able to apply for it," Garcia said.

She is looking forward to buying products from the tech centers and believes they will be beneficial to students.

"I think that [technology is] very necessary in order to be successful so that we can access our homework, our assignments, our lessons or even just tutorials, different things that are offered because, and it makes it a lot easier because it's all online," she said.

Emmanuel Garcia, a music senior with a concentration in piano, said that although he does not plan to purchase a product soon, the center is "cool."

"It's very, very important because times are changing," he said. "Technology is the future of college and it really helps kids like me ... and also, it benefits teachers."

HOLIDAY CONCERTS BEGIN THIS WEEK



COURTESY PHOTOS

The UTRGV Master Chorale, Chamber Orchestra and Festival Chorus perform Handel's "Messiah" last year in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. This year's performance will take place at 7 tonight in the center.



The guest choir sings during the Handel's "Messiah" performance last year. This year's high school guest choirs include Rivera Early College High School, Porter Early College High School, Veterans Memorial Early College High School, San Benito High School, Harlingen High School, Harlingen High School South and Los Fresnos High School. General admission is \$10 and \$5 for senior citizens and students.

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Patron of the Arts series will offer many unique performances students can enjoy while taking a break from studying for finals.

Patron of the Arts is a series of performances that take place throughout the year for the students, staff and the Rio Grande Valley community's entertainment. It was started in 1984 by Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. The program provides the community and students with learning and enrichment opportunities, according to patron. utrgv.edu.

[Patron of the Arts performances] are exciting," said Dahlia Guerra, associate vice president for Public Art. "There's a lot of variety. It's a great opportunity for [students and the community] to see what's happening in the arts, both in music and dance, and it's just to make them happy about being alive because that's what the arts do for you."

One of the upcoming performances will be Handel's "Messiah," presented by the UTRGV Master Chorale, Brownsville Festival Chorus, UTRGV Chamber Orchestra and guest soloists.

It will be conducted by Sean Taylor, an assistant professor of music. The "Messiah" is an oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel. Songs from the oratorio have become a representation of Christmas.

"The expected outcome of the performance is to engage the community and give a performance of

"The expected outcome of the performance is to engage the community and give a performance of the masterwork in the [Rio Grande] Valley for the local audience."

the masterwork in the [Rio Grande] Valley for the local audience," Taylor said.

Other performances scheduled this month are Flautista Navidad Carol & Candlelight, UTRGV Trombone Choir, An Evening of Flute and An Evening with the Ballet Folklórico de

la Universidad Veracruzana.

"It's a good program, the Patron of the Arts program, in that you get a lot of different genres of music," said Tony Casas, senior program coordinator for the Edinburg Performing Arts Complex. "You get jazz, you get classical music, you get opera, you get mariachi. Here is a chance to learn

citizens and students.

Flautista Navidad Carol & Candlelight, performed by the UTRGV Flute Studio, will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the UTRGV Music, Science & Learning Center Multipurpose Hall (Room 1.217) in Brownsville and Wednesday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Auditorium in Edinburg. Admission is free.

The UTRGV Trombone Choir will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Auditorium in Edinburg and Dec. 9 in the TSC Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free.

An Evening of Flute will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday at the UTRGV Music, Science & Learning Center Multipurpose Hall in Brownsville. Admission is free.

An Evening with the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana is scheduled at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg and at the same time Sunday in the TSC Performing Arts Center. General admission is \$20 and \$15 for students and senior citizens.

For more information, visit patron.utrgv.edu.

Sean Taylor

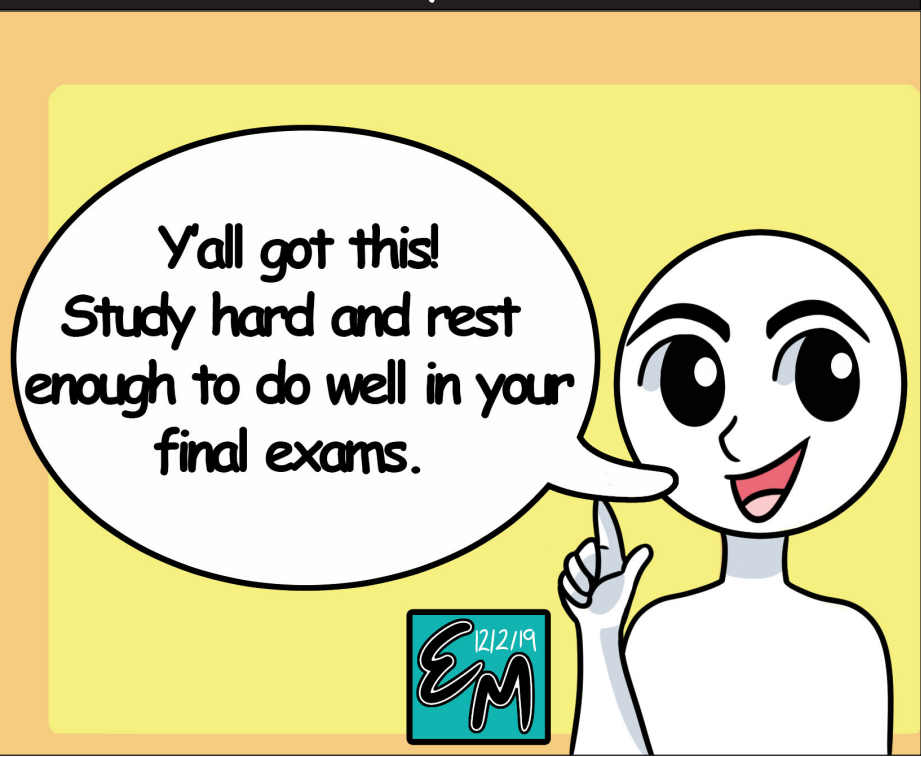
Assistant professor of music

about a lot of different types of music. ... I think it's a good part of your overall education."

Handel's "Messiah" will be performed at 7 tonight in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. General admission is \$10 and \$5 for senior

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



TUITION*Continued from Page 1*

UT System Chancellor James Milliken said during the Nov. 14 regents meeting that it is the board's interest to continue to maintain the affordability of the institutions for Texas students and their families.

Milliken said he met with the presidents from all institutions to discuss the affordability, high quality education and cost containment while still providing enough notice for family and students to plan.

"As a result of these discussions, we are proposing, at this meeting, that the board adopt an overall tuition rate for our academic campuses at the rate of inflation only based on the higher education index for institutions across the country, and that's 2.6% and that would be an annual tuition increase for 2020 and 2021," Milliken said.

Current students who take 12 credit hours pay \$4,068 in tuition and mandatory fees at UTRGV. Incoming Fall 2020 freshmen will pay \$4,461, a \$393 difference, according to Gonzales.

About \$4.5 million will be generated

from the increase each year, he said.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said in an interview with The Rider on Nov. 20, the university will hire more faculty and staff with the additional funds.

"We're hiring 32 new advisers," Bailey said. "That's the first thing we're doing. And the new advisers are crucial to our student success and we're way out of whack with our current student adviser ratio and this will bring us into the recommended ratio. And so, the second thing we're doing, we're hiring additional faculty. We need to be able to offer more classes and sometimes you're on the waiting list and so, we're

trying to expand the number of classes we offer, and we need new faculty to do that. So, that would be a second thing that the money is used for and then we'll cover inflationary increases, too."

The University Services fee will also have an increase for incoming Fall 2020 freshmen in support of academic advising.

"Students currently pay a \$29.10 University Services Fee, the fee for incoming freshmen will be \$38.10 and that \$9 increase is in support for academic advising," Gonzales said.

--Leslie Medrano contributed to this report.

COMMENCEMENT*Continued from Page 1*

reviewing them on an ad hoc basis.

"So far, we have been able to accommodate all requests to the ceremonies," Montes said. "Whether it was from Edinburg to Harlingen or from Harlingen to Edinburg. At this time, they can request it, but we're reviewing them on a case-by-case basis."

Montes said tickets for the commencement ceremony will be distributed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this week at U Central on both campuses.

She said students will receive an email with information on where to check in and park in both

the Harlingen and Edinburg venues.

Students participating are required to purchase proper graduation regalia from the University Bookstore.

Graduating exercise science senior Gabriel Figueroa will attend the ceremony in Harlingen after first enrolling at UTRGV in the Fall 2016 semester.

Figueroa encourages incoming freshmen to network in their early years of college.

"Find your rhythm early on," he said. "Get into your groove because if you're already a year or two in and you're still in a rut, as far as whether you want to continue the major you're in, it's going

to come back and bite you."

After graduation, Figueroa will pursue a master's in exercise science in the College of Health Professions.

Six tickets will be given to graduates for the Harlingen Convention Center and nine for the Bert Ogden Arena.

"The venue in Edinburg is much bigger, so we're able to actually accommodate more students and more guests," Montes said. "We wanted to maximize this, so we thought we'd give as many tickets as the venue allowed for. The Harlingen Convention Center is smaller, so the most number of tickets we can give with the anticipated number of graduates is six. So, it's purely about the size and capacity."

In Harlingen, the ceremony will commence at 9 a.m. for the College of Liberal Arts.

At noon, the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Health Professions, School of Nursing and School of Social Work ceremony will take place.

The last ceremony, at 3 p.m., includes the College of Education and P-16 Integration, College of Fine Arts and the College of Sciences.

In Edinburg, the first ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, College of Health Professions, School of

Nursing and School of Social Work.

At 1 p.m., the College of Education and P-16 Integration, College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Sciences ceremony will take place.

The last ceremony is at 5 p.m. for the College of Fine Arts and the College of Liberal Arts.

"The registrar's office is very happy to coordinate commencement activities again," Montes said. "It's easily one of the best events that we assist with every year. Definitely the most exciting, so we're very proud of all our graduates and we want to sincerely congratulate them for all their efforts and hard work."

MEET*Continued from Page 1*

in the Senate, if elected.

Asked why he decided to run for public office, Cortez replied, "As I've been able to see what goes on in Austin, I get outraged and, believe me, deciding to run against this guy who's gonna raise millions of dollars is not an easy decision to come to because I'm gonna be outspent 10, 15 to one. I'm not afraid of his money because I believe people are ready. I think people are concerned."

One in 10 voters this election cycle will be 18 years old, according to Cortez, and for this reason he said, "That means the younger generation, all of you guys, those 25 and under, you guys can make such an impact in this race and being able to connect with you guys is critical."

The Senate hopeful said an advantage that he has is that he has already been elected in this Senate district three times, which means voters approve of him.

Student Ofelia Alonso, a field coordinator for Texas Rising, asked Cortez what he would do if elected to make sure women in the Rio Grande Valley receive proper reproduction and abortion care.

He replied, "If I'm fortunate enough to win this Texas Senate District 27, I would be a strong advocate to make sure that women have the opportunity. I don't think that a woman's right should be infringed by the state of Texas."

In regard to universal health care, Cortez said a family, undocumented or not, should never have to decide between taking their child to the doctor or putting food on the table.

"In communities like this, that are



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

UTRGV accounting graduate Vicente Fernandez (left) asks Ruben Cortez about his views on several issues during the Texas Rising One-on-One with Texas Senate Candidates held Thursday on the Brownsville campus. Ruben Cortez is seeking the Democratic nomination for District 27 in the March 2020 Primary. Also shown are Texas Rising Field Coordinator Ofelia Alonso (left) and activist Stephanie Dominguez.

amongst the poorest if not the poorest, according to the U.S. Census, there's so much that we could do to create these opportunities and create the opportunity for health care, which should be a basic human right," Cortez said. "I would absolutely stand in favor of it and would champion it at any legislation I could."

The Senate hopeful supports the LGBTQ community and said, "Whatever I can do to champion civil liberties not to be restricted and to help reinstate some of these things that Eddie Lucio [Jr.] has fought hard for, including discrimination to disenfranchise a group of people, I will do everything in my power to

undo that."

Using the example of incumbent Eddie Lucio Jr., students asked Cortez how they can ensure that he will be able to separate his religious ideologies from decision making in the Senate.

"The last time I checked, God's doors were open to everybody. If he's made these choices and he blames it on his religion, I think, that's a cop-out," Cortez said.

Cortez said in his current position he pushes to keep politics out of the classroom and that same idea transfers to his beliefs that, "My personal view and my ideology should have nothing to do with my decision making."

In regard to education, Cortez said

the Texas State Board of Education is already working on how to address accurate sex education in schools for LGBTQ students.

"As students are coming into their identity, they need to be able to have these conversations. ... We need to have real discussions and abstinence-only is not the way to go," Cortez said. "We need to have medically accurate information that is available to our students and that is something that I'm directly fighting for currently."

With the recent school shooting in California, student Fernando Alonso, a physics sophomore, asked the Democratic hopeful, "What will you do in terms of gun reform and also would you agree that we need to barricade schools and basically militarize them?"

Cortez replied that it is traumatic enough for students to have to do active shooter drills today and that he does not believe that schools should be militarized.

"More guns in schools isn't the solution and yet, [Eddie Lucio Jr.] is one of the primary reasons we have the martial school program from the original legislation," he said. "We need to have a real heart-to-heart discussion in this state about common-sense gun reform."

Cortez said he is not in favor of arming educators with weapons and said too many people having guns in schools is not a solution.

Cortez commented on Sen. Lucio's failure to meet with organizations saying, "we need a senator who's gonna be there for the hard ones, not just the easy ones."

The Senate hopeful said, "You want somebody that's actually gonna listen and fight on the tough issues and I have a history of doing that. That's what I would do as your next senator, I take on some of these tough issues."

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TEAMS ON COURT, FIELD THIS WEEK



THE RIDER FILE PHOTOS

UTRGV junior guard Valeria Tapia attempts to pass the ball during the women's basketball home opener Nov. 7 against Texas Southern University.



UTRGV guard Isaiah Fontaine attempts to dunk during the home opener against Howard Payne University Nov. 11 in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Angel De La Cruz

SPORTS REPORTER

While most students prepared for their Thanksgiving break, UTRGV athletes were warming up for their games this week.

As the volleyball team wraps up its season toward the Western Athletic Conference Championship, players set off for Orem, Utah, Nov. 19 for a chance to advance to the NCAA Tournament that takes place Friday.

The basketball teams continue on their trajectory in the South Texas Showdown, with the women playing against Texas A&M International University at 2 p.m. Saturday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The men's team will host Sam Houston State

University at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Mid-America Christian University at 7 p.m. Friday.

Junior point guard Javon Levi is out due to an injury Nov. 15 during the first game of the Islander Invitational in Corpus Christi.

"We weren't prepared to play without Javon," said UTRGV Men's Head Coach Lew Hill. "But what I learned about my team is resiliency. We never quit. We kept fighting. The guys played their butts off, they competed and they gave me what they had."

Nevertheless, the team needs to figure out how to adapt their strategy to play without their starting point guard.

"We're gonna play our regular game," graduate student guard Jordan Jackson

said. "We have a week full of practice. A lot of stuff to learn from. We have to work hard and we have to play together. And throughout the course of the season, I think you'll see that. We'll jell together and we'll be playing really good basketball here pretty soon."

In track and field, the men's and women's teams will kick off the season with their second annual Orange vs. White competition Dec. 7 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.

"Really, it's just an opportunity for us to get out and see where our fall training has put us," said Track & Field Head Coach Darren Flowers. "I think it's always good for the kids to get out and compete. You're gonna see a team with a lot more depth this year."



UTRGV middle blocker Talita Oliveira (left) and outside hitter Sarah Cruz struggle to block the ball from University of Missouri-Kansas City right side hitter Melanie Brecka Nov. 14 in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Elevating the fan experience

Juanita Maldonado

SPORTS REPORTER

One of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Intercollegiate Athletics Department's top priorities is to make the fan experience unforgettable. With the renovation of the Fieldhouse courtyard into Vaquero Village, fans will have a new way to enjoy game days.

"It's going to cater to our longtime fans, into adults of all ages, but it's also going to cater to our students," Director of Athletics Chasse Conque said. "We have a very interactive space for them to tailgate and hang out pregame. We'll have a kids' zone area. We'll have a Vaquero-branded bounce house."

Vaquero Village will be a new pregame experience at UTRGV basketball games. The Village will be split into four sections. Section one will contain picnic and patio tables for UTRGV students. Another section will be for children, which will feature a custom inflatable and picnic tables.

Professionals will be welcomed into the third section, which will have lounge furniture and cocktail tables. The last section will also have lounge



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

The Fieldhouse courtyard is undergoing renovation and will be turned into the Vaquero Village to uplift the fan experience before games. The new Vaquero Village will be unveiled before tonight's game at 5:30 p.m. Vaquero Village will feature new lighting and landscape with sections for children, students and corporate sponsors.

furniture and cocktail tables.

"I think it's something that our team

here has wanted to do for a while,"

Conque said. "That courtyard gives us

such a neat opportunity."

On game days, Vaquero Village will be open 90 minutes prior to the basketball game tipoff. During 7 p.m. games, the Village will be fully set up. For the weekend games that begin before 7 p.m., the Village will only be set up with the professional and special events/corporate partners zones.

"That courtyard is really what separates us apart from the rest," he said. "It gives us a neat opportunity to do something like this."

Vaquero Village is open to all fans with a ticket to the game. To enter the Village, current UTRGV students can have their student IDs scanned at the gate on the west side of the Fieldhouse. Other community members are encouraged to enter through the gate on the east side.

"We're trying to create something special here in the athletics department and it really touches everything we're trying to do," he said. "We want to start on campus first."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Village will take place at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday followed by the men's basketball game at 7 p.m. against Sam Houston State at the Fieldhouse.

MEDICINE

Continued from Page 1

cervical, pancreatic and prostate. He said the research is focusing on pancreatic cancer because it is a lethal cancer with a low cure rate, cervical cancer because it is an area with great importance to the women of the Rio Grande Valley and prostate cancer because it is the most common cancer in men. "We really are trying to look at

diseases that are common and try to find innovative approaches to treat some of these cancers," Krouse said. Darling said he believes the research the program is conducting, where "your own body fights the cancer cells," is cutting-edge and exciting. He said the program is comprised of an experienced, assembled team from Tennessee. Krouse said the School of Medicine hired six "doctorly trained faculty" and a number of fellows to work in the lab.

The program's founding director is Subhash Chauhan. With years of experience in cancer immunology research, and a Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STAR) award in the amount of \$5 million from the University of Texas System, Chauhan "organizes the whole team," according to Krouse. "[The team] is very expert in cancer immunology," he said. "In fact, this is probably the biggest area of opportunity in cancer now."

Krouse said the team is looking at innovative immunologic treatments and new ways to deliver drugs directly to the site of the tumor. He said he is thankful to the cities, county and the School of Medicine's partners. "It's with their generosity and their support that we're able to continue to grow and to provide those needed, mission-driven services to the communities here in the Valley," Krouse said.

TECH

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laboral estadounidense. "Si nuestros estudiantes no están alfabetizados digitalmente, si no entienden cómo funcionan estos dispositivos y de qué se tratan, su futuro se verá comprometido", dijo él. "Necesitan entender la tecnología. Deben estar alfabetizados digitalmente y

esto los ayudará a hacerlo". Durante el evento se realizó un sorteo de tarjetas de regalo de \$25 y \$50, así como un par de AirPods. Los ganadores fueron David Fisher, Alexis Moreno y Joan Morales, respectivamente. Nayeli García, estudiante de posgrado en inglés, dijo que el centro está haciendo productos más accesibles para los estudiantes.

"También están informando a Finacial Aid al respecto, por lo que la ayuda financiera podrá ofrecerles algún tipo de beneficio monetario para que puedan seguir adelante y pagarlos, a diferencia de su tienda minorista, donde usted tiene que obtenerlo a crédito o quizás ni siquiera pueda solicitarlo", dijo García. Ella espera comprar productos de los centros

tecnológicos y cree que serán beneficiosos para los estudiantes. "Creo que [la tecnología es] muy necesaria para tener éxito y podemos acceder a nuestra tarea, nuestras lecciones o incluso solo tutoriales, sino diferentes cosas que se ofrecen, y lo hace mucho más fácil porque es todo en línea", dijo ella. Emmanuel García,

estudiante de último año en música con concentración en piano, dijo que a pesar de que él no planea comprar ningún producto considera que el centro es "genial". "Es muy importante porque los tiempos están cambiando", dijo él. "La tecnología es el futuro de la universidad y realmente ayuda a niños como yo ... y también, beneficia a los maestros".

FINALS

Continued from Page 3

can use to relax. Some study tips that he suggests are to take a more active approach by asking yourself questions on the material or explaining a topic to someone else. These methods are proven to help students retain information, he said. Benham said students should recognize that sleep is critical for both mental health and memory. "By not getting enough sleep, you are

doing yourself a disservice," he said. For students who feel stressed about their finals, Benham said it is a matter of changing their perspective. "Recognizing that, while these finals are important, they are probably not the end of the world," Benham said. "If something goes wrong in one class, it's probably not gonna make or break the rest of your life." Dean of Libraries Paul Sharpe provided some resources the library offers for students during finals week. Starting Friday, libraries on both the

Brownsville and Edinburg campuses will be extending their hours. From Sunday to Dec. 12, both libraries will be open 24 hours. Finals begin Friday and end Dec. 12. The library will provide coffee and hot teas each night at midnight, along with free Scantrons for students. Some tips that Sharpe has for students regarding studying for finals would be to "find ways to relate the subject matter to things that actually interest you in life." Everyone has different ways of learning, according to Sharpe, whether

it be through music, movies or fictional stories. "Find your method or format that relates to you the best," Sharpe said. The library provides different environments for students with different study habits. These environments consist of business zones, which are typically the loudest level of the library; quiet zones, where students sometimes study in small groups; and silent zones where students typically study individually. Sharpe recommends students find the zone that works best for them.

WASTE

Continued from Page 3

program is going to take advantage of that because the items are going to be recycled," Hernandez said. "In regards to the campus reusing the items, it's like I mentioned, if a department no longer needs a particular item, then it is picked up. It is not typically disposed of. It is picked up and moved in to the surplus warehouse to try to be reused."

chair, an extra table, you can go get it from there. And, we also have that auction furniture. That auction furniture is the old furniture that, maybe, is missing a little wheel or has a little scratch, or you know, and it's something that is very old and nobody is going to use it on campus. So that area is designated to have an auction." Davila said that by reusing materials instead of disposing of them, it helps the university save money.

"Paint is basically all combined in one container and sold, because when you mix all the paint it becomes gray paint," Costello said. "So, what it does is it takes the gray paint, OK, and then it's basically sold as gray paint. In a lot of cases, what they do is they mix it with an epoxy so you can paint your garages." For laboratory waste streams, they are first looked and kept if they can be reused. "If it's a flammable

Professor's suggestion Amy Hay, an Environmental Studies program coordinator, said reusing waste that is produced from the cafeteria to create compost would be a great idea. "If we had some space where they could use it to create mulch ... you actually have to have space to do it and then use it for our gardens on campus," Hay said. She has started to notice that professors will leave out books, binders and folders to get them reused by someone instead of going straight to the trash. "They put folders and binders out so students can, hopefully, take them and not have to pay five bucks at Staples," Hay said. One way she tries to implement sustainability in her own classrooms is by switching her semester project from cardboard to digital display. "I used to have students do displays for their semester project," Hay said. "The only problem was that they would be up for maybe two hours." By switching to digital platforms for their semester project, it eliminates the need for students to buy cardboard and ultimately reduces their waste.

to be as mindful as possible in regard to how it recycles, reduces and reuses. "Recently, we needed to fix one of the puppets that we were using for our puppet walk, and instead of buying more paper, I was walking around, and I actually saw old newspapers," she said. "I was like, 'I'm going to take these and use them for the [puppet].'" Ariael Ortiz, a graphic design sophomore, said she has been reusing items for a long time and tends to reuse plastic bags. "We reuse them as regular trash bags or we use them to carry stuff around," Ortiz said. She also reuses Clorox bottles to put water in cars, coffee containers to store salt or sugar, water bottles and Ziploc bags. Ortiz said she does not have a recycling bin at home and, therefore, does not recycle at home. "Reuse," she said. "When it comes to littering, when you throw away food, like, let's say an apple ... into the environment, it does decompose and it makes compost for trees and plants." Kyle Jacinto, a graphic design junior, said he reuses old clothes by turning them into rags to clean around the house and also recycles plastics and cans at home. "With food scraps ... we just collect them in a bowl and bury it so it can decompose," Jacinto said. He also gathers leftover coffee grounds and tosses them in the garden. "Not only do you provide nutrients for the soil, but it will leave a very nice coffee smell," Jacinto said.

"In regards to the campus reusing the items, it's like I mentioned, if a department no longer needs a particular item, then it is picked up and moved in to the surplus warehouse to try to be reused."

**Abraham Hernandez
UTRGV director of Campus
Facilities Operation in Brownsville**

Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management is charged with picking up regulated waste streams, which include hazardous waste and universal waste such as oil, paint, antifreeze and batteries, according to the department's director, Richard Costello. "We do it two ways," Costello said. "There's a waste line called waste@utrgv.edu or if they generate large quantities, we put containers in their areas and those are for the waste streams that are generated on campus." He said that if anybody generates these kinds of wastes at home, they can drop them off at the campus safety offices. The majority of items generated come from auto shops and laboratories. They are collected by the department and disposed through a contractor, Veolia. Oil and antifreeze are automatically recycled while paint is mixed.

material, what it can be used [as] is actually a fuel, an input fuel into a hazardous waste incinerator," he said. "The other waste streams that are not recyclable, they're generally incinerated." Costello also said fluorescent light bulbs are picked up but they cannot be recycled. So they are used in asphalt. "It costs more to recycle, but the institution's mission is to be sustainable," he said. "With that mission, what we do is we basically direct all of our waste streams towards recycle or reuse, so we pay a little bit extra but that extra is basically affordable because we try to protect the environment."

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to be as mindful as possible in regard to how it recycles, reduces and reuses. "Recently, we needed to fix one of the puppets that we were using for our puppet walk, and instead of buying more paper, I was walking around, and I actually saw old newspapers," she said. "I was like, 'I'm going to take these and use them for the [puppet].'" Ariael Ortiz, a graphic design sophomore, said she has been reusing items for a long time and tends to reuse plastic bags. "We reuse them as regular trash bags or we use them to carry stuff around," Ortiz said. She also reuses Clorox bottles to put water in cars, coffee containers to store salt or sugar, water bottles and Ziploc bags. Ortiz said she does not have a recycling bin at home and, therefore, does not recycle at home. "Reuse," she said. "When it comes to littering, when you throw away food, like, let's say an apple ... into the environment, it does decompose and it makes compost for trees and plants." Kyle Jacinto, a graphic design junior, said he reuses old clothes by turning them into rags to clean around the house and also recycles plastics and cans at home. "With food scraps ... we just collect them in a bowl and bury it so it can decompose," Jacinto said. He also gathers leftover coffee grounds and tosses them in the garden. "Not only do you provide nutrients for the soil, but it will leave a very nice coffee smell," Jacinto said.

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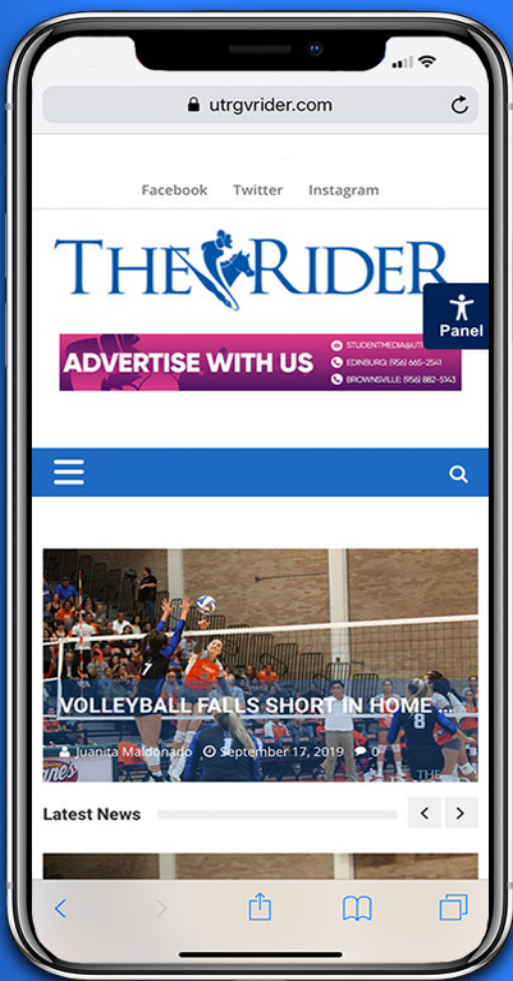
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