

THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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SPORTS



UTRGV Men's and Women's Track teams compete vs. Power Five schools Page 6

ESPAÑOL



Estudiantes se ofrecieron como voluntarios para el día de servicio de Martin Luther King Jr. Página 5

VAQUERO VOICE

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

"I think it's kind of wasted our time. Trump is already at the end of his presidency. Getting rid of him now is not going to change anything he's done for the past couple of years." Page 4

CHEER ON



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSAL EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Biology freshman Alexis Cruz (center) hypes up the crowd before the UTRGV Cheer Team's performance Jan. 17 at the Universal Cheer Association & Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading & Dance Team Championship. The team placed second in the Open Coed Game Day Competition. Also shown are dance education senior Jazelynn Gonzalez (left) and junior Victoria Griffin.

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

They ran across the stage, waving their pom-poms. The Vaquero mascot was waving the white flag

with the UTRGV logo on it. The audience was screaming. Their loved ones were rooting for them. Their school was chanting for them from afar and close. Their coach was watching, proud and ready to

see them perform.

The UTRGV Cheer Team placed second in the Open Coed Game Day Competition at the 2020 Universal Cheerleaders Association & See **CHEER**, Page 8

HESTEC returns

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

This semester, the Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) program will have different events throughout the semester.

Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications, said the reason for HESTEC no longer being one week is because it allows them to reach out to more people and include more of the university.

For more information about HESTEC, visit utrgv.edu/hestec/

"We really wanted to try to partner with university departments and colleges to put together these events," Gonzales said. "And spreading it throughout the semester allows us to do more and to let a lot of students in the community participate."

Dean for the College of Engineering and Computer Science Ala Qubbaj said this is better for the students because they can have one-on-one sessions with colleges and professors.

"When we bring 120 See **HESTEC**, Page 8

Symposium looking for talent

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

Students of all disciplines have the opportunity to present their research, art or creative writing at the Engaged Scholar Symposium on both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

The Engaged Scholar Symposium is the largest multidisciplinary gathering of undergraduate scholars in South Texas, according to a UTRGV web page. Students are free to present any kind of research, community engagement ideas, service learning projects or creative works.

"The symposium is our annual conference at the university that highlights creative works ... as well as undergraduate research on campus," said Estela Garza, program coordinator for the Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning. "So, let's say it's a poet or a creative writer and they would like to submit an abstract to have an oral

presentation or talk ... reading their actual piece, they can."

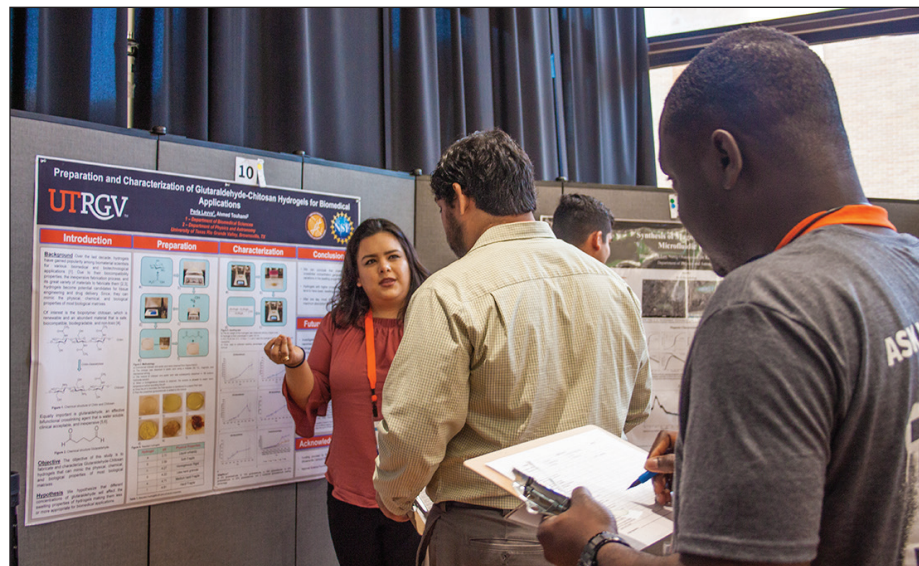
This program is held each April for UTRGV undergraduate students. However, this year UTRGV students won't be the only ones eligible to apply. External undergraduate students, graduate and Ph.D. students, and faculty speakers can apply as well.

Erika Pacheco, administrative assistant for the Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning, encourages students to take the opportunity this program offers.

"It looks great on their resumé," said Pacheco. "It's an opportunity for them to present their work. It's free, it's here for you. You have nothing to lose. It's a great opportunity to show us what you are doing."

Abstracts should be written for an interdisciplinary audience and should be between 100 and 500 words.

See **SYMPOSIUM** Page 8



FILE PHOTO

Biomedical science senior Perla Leyva presents her research to students, faculty and community members during the 2018 Engaged Scholar Symposium in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Judge Rolando Botello and Graduate Assistant Olusola Ogunkunle observe Leyva's project.

MARCH 3 PRIMARY **VOTER REGISTRATION COUNTDOWN:** **07 DAYS** **DEADLINE FEB. 3**

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 Poker Tournament
A poker tournament

will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. The three finalists will be awarded **VBucks**.

Motivational Monday

University Recreation will have **healthy eating tips, recipes, food samples and goodies** for all UREC members from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Recreation Conference Room on the Edinburg campus.

Vaquero Hot Chocolate Bar

The **Student Union** will have a **hot chocolate bar** with **toppings**

to choose from starting at noon in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday Game Release

Students can play **Mega Man Zero/Zx Legacy** for free starting at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus.

Vaquero Fiesta

Students can enjoy **free food and games** from noon to 2 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus and 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday National Puzzle Day

Students can build a **puzzle** starting at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in El Comedor

on the Brownsville campus.

Night at TopGolf with the Vaqueros

Students, faculty and staff will receive **free play** from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at **TopGolf**, 1901 W. Interstate 2 Frontage Road in Pharr. Students can also meet and greet with UTRGV Director of Athletics Chasse Conque, coaches and student athletes.

Thursday Men's Basketball

The **UTRGV Men's Basketball Team** will face off against **Grand Canyon University** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free to all UTRGV students with a valid ID. The first 200 students to arrive will receive a mystery giveaway.

-- Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 15 and 22.



Jan. 15

1:10 p.m.:

An officer was dispatched to Lot E-32 after a witness observed a traffic accident and the driver fleeing the scene. The owner of the vehicle was contacted. The case is under investigation.

4:31 p.m.: A female faculty member reported she experienced harassment via email and social media by unknown individuals. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 16

7:43 a.m.: U.S. Border Patrol apprehended two males from Mexico inside the bush area between Lot B-1 and River Levee Road. The males had been noticed by a UTRGV Police communications operator through the border cameras on the south side of the fence. The males then fled toward the golf course toward University Boulevard.

8:53 a.m.: A light fixture in the courtyard of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus was damaged. It is unknown how the light fixture was damaged and it was reported by a staff member.

12:21 p.m.: A female student was approached on the Brownsville campus by a male student who wanted to form a romantic relationship with her. She felt uncomfortable and wanted his behavior to stop. Student Rights and Responsibilities will further review of this incident.

Jan. 17

9:09 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the UT Health Bob Clark Clinic in Brownsville due to a non-affiliated male recording in the lobby. The clinic staff had told him to lower his voice while talking on the phone, and this upset him. He had been attempting to prove that the Zumba music playing in the clinic was louder than him. The staff requested this incident to be documented.

11:26 a.m.: An officer responded to the University Financial Services building regarding an attempt to cash 13 fraudulent checks off campus. The case is under investigation.

1:47 p.m.: A male student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle's right front bumper was damaged. The case is under investigation.

3:30 p.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot H-1 on the Harlingen campus. The right front bumper and right front quarter panel of the vehicle were damaged. The incident occurred on Jan. 15. The case is under investigation.

3:39 p.m.: A student received two fraudulent checks, one UTRGV check and one from a private company. Her bank notified her the checks were not authentic. The student filed a police report with the Brownsville Police Department.

3:52 p.m.: Officers responded to the smell of marijuana coming from a Unity Hall dorm room on the Edinburg campus. After obtaining written consent to search the room from the occupants, the officers searched the room. There were no drugs found.

3:42 p.m.: A male driver was arrested for evading and resisting arrest. An officer had originally attempted to stop the man for a traffic

violation when he refused to stop and fled. The officer then responded to the registered owner's address in Brownsville and located the vehicle. After making contact at the residence, the officer attempted to arrest him and he resisted. Officers were eventually able to handcuff him. The man showed symptoms of intoxication from alcoholic beverages. He was jailed in the Brownsville City Jail. A Use of Report Form was completed.

Jan. 20

10:01 a.m.: An overflowing toilet and a clogged drain caused hallways and nearby classrooms to flood with water in the Liberal Arts Building South third floor on the Edinburg campus. A staff member reported the standing water on the hallways of the west side.

1:43 p.m.: Graffiti markings were made by a permanent marker inside the men's restroom near the 1200 wing of the first floor of the Biomedical Research & Health building on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded to the scene, and the case is under investigation.

2:49 p.m.: A non-affiliated man was arrested for public intoxication. He had been found asleep on a concrete bench next to a university bus stop. After making contact, the officer determined he was intoxicated to the degree that he was a danger to himself or others. He was transported to the Edinburg City Jail. The stop was near the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

Jan. 22

9:07 a.m.: A male staff member reported that a former staff member, who no longer works for the university, lost two university keys.

9:24 a.m.: A staff member reported receiving a concerning email from a male faculty member and requested a welfare check on the male faculty member. Officers arrived at the said male's off-campus residence. After making contact, the faculty member said he was OK and did not need any assistance.

4:37 p.m.: A female student displayed a fictitious Zone 3 parking permit on her vehicle. The vehicle had been parked in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus. The student paid all fines associated with this incident. Student Rights & Responsibilities will further review this incident.

4:42 p.m.: A UTRGV shuttle bus struck the left side mirror of a South Texas Independent School District school bus. The UTRGV shuttle had been passing the vehicle while the school bus was parked at the Visitors Center bus stop. The only damage to the school bus was the mirror, and no injuries were reported.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia



University Police

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

A head start in college education

UTRGV will offer dual enrollment courses at Saint Joseph Academy

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

Starting in August, Saint Joseph Academy students can earn up to 24 college credit hours from UTRGV under a memorandum of understanding signed earlier this month by the schools.

Janna Arney, UTRGV deputy president, said Saint Joseph Academy reached out to her about partnerships with the university.

"We worked over the fall in preparation for the announcement that happened," Arney said. "I'm an alum of Saint Joseph Academy and, so, had the relationship, knew some of the folks, and ... they felt very comfortable reaching out to brainstorm opportunities for partnerships."

The courses will be free and UTRGV professors will teach the students in their school. The courses include ENGL-1301 and 1302, ENGL-2341, HIST-1301 and 1302, POLS-2305 and 2306, and ECON-2301.

"We think that it's going to give our students, kind of, a glimpse into the college experience," said Michael Motyl, president of Saint Joseph Academy.

Motyl said the school received a positive response from students.

"Once we unveiled the partnership, we had a lot of positive feedback [from] students, that they're looking forward to it," he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV and Saint Joseph Academy sign a memorandum of understanding Jan. 16 for a partnership that will allow the high school's students to earn 24 college credit hours. Shown (from left) are Melissa Valadez, SJA principal; Michael Motyl, SJA president; Janna Arney, UTRGV deputy president; and Michael Aldape, UTRGV director of Special Programs-Dual Credit.

UTRGV and Saint Joseph Academy officials signed the MOU on Jan. 16.

Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 85% and must have passed the TSI (Texas Success Initiative Assessment) exams to enroll in the courses.

Motyl expects 25 to 30 students per grade to enroll in the courses but that number could increase to 50 or 60 if requirements are met.

"I think it can give me a head start in the college process," Pablo de la Garza, a junior at

Saint Joseph Academy, said about the new dual enrollment credits that will be offered by UTRGV at his school.

De la Garza said the courses can give students an opportunity to interact with college professors and give a taste of what it is like to be taught by them.

He said others should take advantage of dual enrollment courses because they are free.

"I know that the UTRGV courses here won't cost us any extra, so we can do classes that we would have originally

paid for in college, here, at no extra cost for our parents," De la Garza said. "It can get us advanced and it will allow us to do more exciting things in college, like study abroad or [take] more electives."

Arney said that by taking these courses, students will have a "leg up" when they go to college.

"What we know is that students who participate in dual enrollment opportunities, and they earn prior college credits before coming to the university,

outperform those who don't have that opportunity," she said. "The benefit to UTRGV is that our role is to ... enhance educational opportunity in the region and this is just another way that we do that."

Motyl said the focus at Saint Joseph Academy is not just getting students to college but forming good citizens.

"The goal here is to give them some advantages moving into college," he said, "and then let them shine once they get there from all the other things we're forming them with here at Saint Joe."

Arney said the dual enrollment courses will also prepare students and parents for the college environment.

"For us in Brownsville, this is the only campus where our faculty will go to a campus, but it is certainly not uncommon throughout the region," she said. "Creating that college experience during that classroom is part of the responsibility of the faculty and of the high school administration that that student is experiencing a college experience while still in high school."

Arney and Motyl are excited about the collaboration between UTRGV and Saint Joseph Academy.

De la Garza is, too.

"I want to thank UTRGV and Saint [Joseph Academy] for making this possible," De la Garza said about the dual enrollment courses.

The importance of opinion journalism

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

The Trusted Opinion Project will host its first Free, Frank & Friendly Community Talk about Bias in the Media at 6 p.m. Thursday in the McAllen Public Library.

The goal of the project is to educate the public on the proper place for bias in journalism and try to regain their trust in news, said Chandra Bozelko, a syndicated columnist and founder of The Trusted Opinion Project, which aims to elevate "opinion journalism to improve the public's trust in the news," according to its website.

The website states McAllen; Tucson, Arizona; and Alpharetta, Georgia, "are in counties that the Columbia Journalism Review has identified, among others, as communities at risk of becoming news deserts--that is, they may lose local newspapers."

Bozelko has won two Webby Awards for her blog, "Prison Diaries." She said she was

motivated to start the project last November due to confusion from her readers on when bias and opinion are appropriate in journalism.

"My experience was, writing opinion, that a lot of people, readers, would approach me and say, 'You're very biased on this issue,' and I would say, 'Yes, you're right because I'm supposed to,'" she said. "I write opinion, I don't do reported features ... I'm supposed to take a stand."

Opinion and bias in journalism is appropriate and essential in opinion pieces such as editorials and letters to the editor, Bozelko said.

Asked how the media can regain trust from the public she replied, "To properly label their opinion content so that people know what they're reading, as they're reading it. ... If we had more people producing opinion and properly labeled it, people would come to understand where the

The Trusted Opinion Project

Time: 6 p.m.

Date: Thursday

**Place: McAllen Public Library
4001 N. 23rd St.**

Cristian A. Cervantes/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

bias is supposed to be, where it's not supposed to be and then they'd all be able to call it out when they see it in the wrong place."

The event will be part lecture and part facilitated discussion

to encourage people to explain their experiences and complaints toward the media.

"If people want to understand better the news that they are consuming, they should come," Bozelko said.

"Also, we really value the opinions and comments that people make. So I think it's going to be a really positive event for everybody."

During the event, attendees will be entered in a drawing for an iPad.

The McAllen Public Library is located at 4001 N. 23rd St. The next community talk for The Trusted Opinion project will be held Feb. 27 in Tucson, Arizona, followed by Alpharetta, Georgia, on April 6.

VAQUERO VOICE



IMPEACHMENT TRIAL



"I haven't really been keeping up with the impeachment process. To me, it's a lot of legal jargon that I'm not going to understand in any case. ... I think it's kind of wasted our time. Trump is already at the end of his presidency. Getting rid of him now is not going to change anything he's done for the past couple of years. In my opinion, I just think it's an opportunity for the option to get rid of someone they've been trying to get rid of since 2016."

Delcio Mejia
History junior

"La verdad, a mi no me gusta ver mucho las noticias por que nada más me traen más problemas porque empiezo a pensar de todo lo que está pasando en el mundo. Pero, sí he escuchado que Trump ya fue [procesado de destitución], pero sí he escuchado también que el [vicepresidente] ... Mike Pence puede ser peor o igual que Trump. Entonces, no me gusta entrar tanto en detalles nada más porque no se tanto sobre ese tema, pero sí me gustaría saber más. Como quiera, no estoy de acuerdo con muchas cosas que hace Trump"



Paulina Martinez
Estudiante de segundo año en administración de hospitalidad y turismo



"I have not been keeping up on it. And, personally, I am not really concerned with the impeachment. I think there are a lot of other important things to focus on like the American imperialism in the Middle East, the Federal Reserve. And there's a bunch of other bigger issues [other] than the impeachment. I kind of see that as a distraction."

Shadrach Villafranca
Marine biology junior

"De hecho, no. Ni supe. Bueno, si supe verdad, pero la verdad es que no, porque he estado ocupada con tarea y el trabajo y todo. Entonces, no he dedicado tiempo a eso. ... Creo que no [lo destitucionarán] porque depende del Senado y son mayoría republicanos y tienen que votar, así que no creo"



Frida Flores
Estudiante de último año en psicología

--Compiled by Eduardo Galindo and Aaliyah Garza

Democratic Tension



A Catholic tarot card reader



Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

"Please stop using those. ... They'll send you to hell," my best friend told me after I consulted my tarot cards. I looked at him, confused and hurt. I was only 14 and I didn't understand how someone could think my beloved cards could ever condemn me to hell.

Four years later, I understand how a person may believe that. They simply don't understand what they are used for. Tarot cards have a stigma of being evil. For some people, they are associated with the devil. While I'm sure some devil worshippers do use tarot cards, most tarot card users do not worship Lucifer.

Tarot cards and witchcraft have surrounded me since I was born. My Catholic family strongly believes there are spiritual forces. Candles were always lit, green often for St. Jude or La Virgen. Sage was burned every other month. Crystals were given for protection.

I was around 10 or 11 when I was given my first tarot cards. They came with a book, and I devoured it in a single sitting before opening the pack. Anyone who reads tarot cards will tell you the exact same thing: Each card does symbolize specific meanings, but it is up to the reader what that meaning is. There is not one way to read cards, nor does each card have only one

meaning. That was the most important lesson I learned from the book.

After understanding that and learning common meanings, it was time to actually open the pack. I remember forcing myself to open it slowly, even though the cards were yelling my name. Out they came. Gently, I spread them onto my bed.

A fish. A road. A house. A scythe. Illustrations of ordinary items, each with their own special message. They were perfect for me.

At first, I was shy, and I only used them for my own

own best friend was saying I was going to hell because of them. Initially, this stung. Deeply. It took some time, but I learned to shrug these opinions off because I, like my family, incorporated our religion into our practices.

La Virgen guided the readings. She understood there were times we needed a new spark of hope. She gave us—the asker and I—answers. With her love, how could the cards ever be evil?

In my later high school years, I began practicing beyond tarot cards. I adopted Wicca as a second religion after learning so much about it. The elements became incorporated into my daily life, and I started practicing spells. The Goddess came to me, and now I practice with Her and my Catholic saints.

Knowing I only have good intentions doesn't satisfy my inner conflict though. When I go to church, am I an impostor for my special practices? If he knew, would the priest kick me out for asking the angels to bless my spells? When people ask what religion I am, how do I properly explain both?

Although that little voice daunts me, at the end of the day, I am not fazed enough to stop practicing both religions. Every day, I carry my tarot cards with me. In times of need, reassurance, or even boredom, I shuffle and ask my questions. A tiny Wiccan altar with the Catholic archangels stays in my backpack permanently to give me faith. Every night, I sleep with a rosary under the pillow. I am a believer of both La Virgen and the Goddess.

"Tarot cards and witchcraft have surrounded me since I was born. My Catholic family strongly believes there are spiritual forces. Candles were always lit, green often for St. Jude or La Virgen. Sage was burned every other month. Crystals were given for protection."

personal questions. "Will I get to top 10 this year?" "Will I finally decide on a career?" Eventually, I admitted to my friends that I had begun reading tarot. Before I knew it, I was laying spreads down for many of them. All of them seemed to have the same question. "When will I find love?" (We were in middle school.)

Of course, some of my friends did not approve. My

Unidos por el día de servicio

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

Estudiantes de UTRGV de los campus de Edinburg y Brownsville se ofrecieron como voluntarios el 20 de enero en varios lugares del Valle del Río Grande para el día de servicio de Martin Luther King Jr.

El tercer lunes de enero es un día feriado nacionalmente en el que se alienta a todos los estadounidenses a ofrecerse como voluntarios para mejorar sus comunidades.

En el área baja del Valle, 82 estudiantes se ofrecieron como voluntarios en ocho ubicaciones diferentes, según la coordinadora del Programa de Liderazgo y Cambio Social, Vanessa Sandoval.

“Fue genial ver a todos salir y apoyar la causa”, dijo Sandoval. “Yo creo que es genial. Fue una gran participación la que tuvimos este año. Tuvimos una variedad de estudiantes, organizaciones y departamentos que salieron a ayudarnos”.

En el Centro Natural de McAllen, los estudiantes ayudaron a mejorar los hábitats de varias especies de plantas y animales al desherbar, regar y plantar.

“Estoy muy feliz de tener muchos voluntarios y todos parecen muy entusiasmados en ayudar”, dijo Glenda B. Vallejo, supervisora de el Centro Natural de McAllen. “Es realmente genial tener gente, ya sabes, ayudando. Es una excelente manera de pasar un poco de tiempo afuera. Es un muy buen calmante para el estrés. Es realmente increíble estar aquí”.

Jacquelyne Loredo, estudiante de segundo año en enfermería, se ofreció como voluntaria en el Centro Natural de McAllen para mejorar sus solicitudes de becas. Sin embargo, Loredo dijo que también le gusta ser voluntaria al aire libre y alienta a otros estudiantes a ser voluntarios en su comunidad.

“Simplemente estamos limpiando la hierba para que no se vea tan amontonada”, dijo ella. “Es realmente relajante. Simplemente te sientes más contento que estás ayudando al medio ambiente”.

En Brownsville, los estudiantes se ofrecieron como voluntarios en Spanish Meadows of Brownsville, un hogar para personas mayores. Los estudiantes



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Estudiante de tercer año en justicia penal Eva Mondragon (izquierda), y la estudiante de ciencias políticas Alexa Villanueva ayudan en la cocina el pasado 20 de enero en el centro de enfermería de rehabilitación, vida asistida y atención a largo plazo de Spanish Meadows en Brownsville. Los estudiantes fueron voluntarios como parte del día de servicio de MLK.

recogieron hojas, limpiaron ventanas y pintaron las uñas de los residentes.

Yaneli Gallegos, estudiante de último año en psicología de UTRGV, dijo que solía ser voluntaria en Spanish

Meadows of Brownsville en la preparatoria y decidió hacer lo mismo para el día de MLK. Ahora, Gallegos alienta a otros estudiantes a ser voluntarios más a menudo. “Ha sido bueno”, dijo ella.

“Es genial experimentarlo de nuevo. ... Te ayudará en el futuro con tu futura carrera”. --Roxanna Miranda contribuyó a este reportaje. Traducido por Mariana Gómez.

La importancia de la opinión periodística

Alejandra Yañez

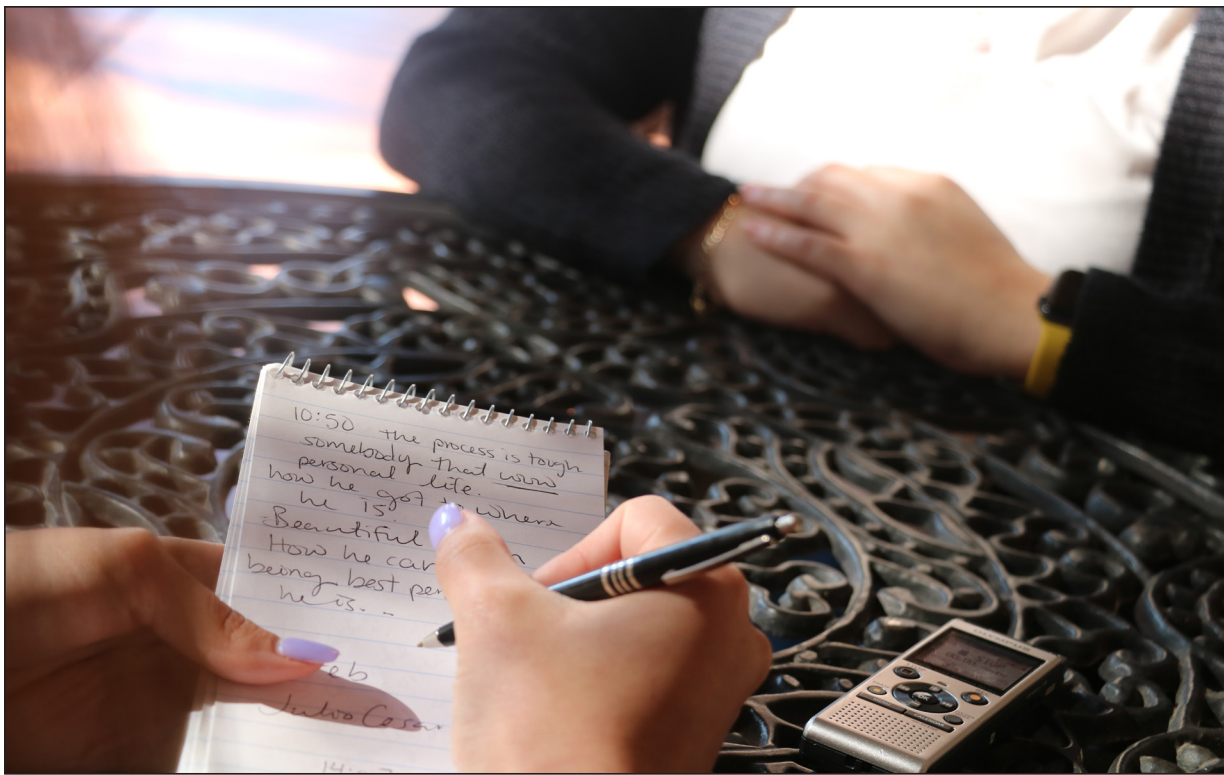
THE RIDER

El Trusted Opinion Project (por su nombre en inglés) organizará su primera Charla Comunitaria Gratuita, Franca y Amigable sobre la Parcialidad en los Medios el jueves a las 6 p.m. en la Biblioteca Pública de McAllen.

El objetivo del proyecto es educar al público sobre el lugar adecuado para la parcialidad en el periodismo y tratar de recuperar su confianza en las noticias, dijo Chandra Bozelko, columnista sindicado y fundadora de The Trusted Opinion Project, que tiene como objetivo elevar el “periodismo de opinión a mejorar la confianza del público en las noticias”, según su sitio web.

El sitio web dice McAllen; Tucson, Arizona; y Alpharetta, Georgia, “están en condados que Columbia Journalism Review ha identificado, entre otros, como comunidades en riesgo de convertirse en desiertos de noticias, es decir, pueden perder los periódicos locales”.

Bozelko ha ganado dos premios Webby



Cristian A. Cervantes/THE RIDER

La Charla Comunitaria Gratuita, Franca y Amigable sobre la Parcialidad en los Medios, organizada por The Trusted Opinion Project, tendrá lugar el jueves a las 6 p.m. en la Biblioteca Pública de McAllen, ubicada en 4001 N. 23rd St.

por su blog, “Diarios de prisión”. Ella dijo que estaba motivada para comenzar el proyecto el pasado noviembre debido a la confusión de sus lectores sobre cuándo la parcialidad y la opinión son apropiados en el periodismo.

“Mi experiencia fue, al escribir una opinión,

ya que mucha gente, lectores, se acercaban a mí y me decían: ‘Estás muy parcial en este tema’, y yo decía: ‘Sí, tienes razón porque se supone que así debe ser’”, dijo ella. “Escribo una opinión, no hago reportes de características. ... Se supone que debo tomar

una posición”. La opinión y la parcialidad en el periodismo son apropiados y esenciales en artículos de opinión como editoriales y cartas al editor, dijo Bozelko.

Cuando se le preguntó cómo los medios pueden recuperar la confianza del público, ella

respondió: “Etiquetar adecuadamente el contenido de su opinión para que las personas sepan lo que están leyendo, mientras lo leen. ... Si tuviéramos más personas produciendo opinión y etiquetándola adecuadamente, la gente llegaría a comprender

dónde se supone que está la parcialidad, dónde no se supone que debe estar y entonces todos podrían notarlos cuando lo vean en el lugar equivocado”.

El evento será parte de una conferencia y parte de una discusión facilitada para alentar a las personas a explicar sus experiencias y quejas hacia los medios de comunicación.

“Si las personas quieren entender mejor las noticias que están consumiendo, deberían venir”, dijo Bozelko.

“Además, realmente valoramos las opiniones y comentarios que la gente hace. Así que creo que será un evento realmente positivo para todos”.

Durante el evento, los asistentes participarán en un sorteo para un iPad.

La Biblioteca Pública de McAllen está ubicada en 4001 N. 23rd St. La próxima charla comunitaria para el proyecto The Trusted Opinion se llevará a cabo el 27 de febrero en Tucson, Arizona, y posteriormente en Alpharetta, Georgia, el 6 de abril.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez

Challenge at a higher level

UTRGV Men's and Women's Track teams compete vs. Power Five schools



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Sophomore Samariae Bonds practices the hammer throw last Tuesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.

Angel De La Cruz SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's and Women's Track & Field teams were hoping to place at the 2020 Texas A&M University Aggie Invitational to get ready for championship time.

They competed at the Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium last Saturday against A&M, Baylor University, University of Missouri and Texas Southern University. Results were unavailable at press time.

"This is a big meet for us," Head Coach Darren Flowers said in an interview with The Rider last Tuesday. "It's our first time to get invited to this meet. It's gonna be really good competition and I think our kids are ready. The main thing that we're really focused on is just continuing to get better every week and walk out of there healthy."

Competition will be tough. On Jan. 18, Baylor's KC Lightfoot

cleared a national best and school record mark of 18-8.25 (5.70) to win the men's pole vault and earn Field Athlete of the Meet.

On May, 13 the U.S Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association ranked A&M as one of the top five NCAA Division I - Men's Outdoor Track & Field teams.

"We're obviously bringing kids that we think can compete at this level with these Power Five schools," Flowers said. "So it's really our hope that we can get one or two kids in each final and go compete and go show that this program is elevating and that we can compete with the best in the nation. That's our hope."

Despite the challenge, his ultimate goal remains the same.

"Well, only having [five] teams, the competition is a lot more concentrated and you're gonna have high-level performers in every event," Flowers

said. "So, I think it's just a great opportunity for us to see where we're at this time of year, this early and also for the kids to see some really big competition and, hopefully, sharpen their mental game and get them ready for when we hit championship time."

Track and Field sophomore Samariae Bonds, who set a new program record with a shot put throw of 15.95 meters to finish in the top 20 at the National Collegiate Athletic Association West Preliminary round last year, is back and ready to demonstrate how she has prepared for the Texas A&M Invitational.

"It's just to get better, throw further, do the techniques Coach gives me and just put it out in the field," Bonds said.

She explained how she prepares herself.

"Just going to the workouts, doing what Coach says, let's put my music in and just keep going," Bonds said.

Bonds competed

in the weight throw, hammer throw and shot put, and she feels most confident with her weight throw.

The Rider asked Bonds the main difference between practice and participating in an actual meet.

"Practice is just more of like doing it multiple times until you get it right, until Coach says it's good to his standings," she said. "And then competition, you only get that three times doing it. So, out of those three turns you got it right, unless you can get that number to put it out there in the field."

Sprints sophomore Max Carmona, who graduated from Veterans Memorial High School in Brownsville, has also broken program records by winning the 800-meter run last year with a time of 1:53.60 at the University of the Incarnate Word Cardinals Invitational

See TRACK, Page 8

Kyle Edwards going pro

Aldo Nava

SPORTS REPORTER

On Jan. 7, Kyle Edwards signed a contract with the Rio Grande Valley FC Toros, a professional team of the United Soccer League.

Edwards said he could not wrap his head around getting signed and what was to come next.

"That's a feeling that I can't even explain myself," he said. "Because, think about it, imagine playing or doing something, anything, your entire life and then you're finally doing it as a job. It's a two in one for you. You're doing what you love and then you're doing it as a job. It was very exciting, overwhelming for me."

The following week on Jan. 13, the UTRGV forward was drafted by Houston Dynamo in the 2020 Major League Soccer SuperDraft in the fourth round (86th overall).

Paul Leese, UTRGV Men's Soccer head coach, said he is excited about Edwards' recent achievements.

"It wasn't a surprise," Leese said. "We have a very good relationship with the Houston Dynamo, the affiliate RGV FC [Toros]. And as coaches, I've spoken to those guys over the course of the last two years. So, we knew they had a strong interest in Kyle. They monitored him closely over the last 12 to 18 months, so we

knew they were after him."

He also said what separated Edwards on and off the field was his personality and ability with the ball.

"The ability to just bring the ball back through his legs, turn and curl the ball into the top corner, that's Kyle," Leese said. "He can do that out of nowhere. ... But the funny things I'll probably remember more are during warmups. Listening to him sing and dance and how the other guys around him are warming up with more energy, more

he and Edwards have great chemistry.

"Actually, one of our very first games together against, I'm not sure if it was Purdue, but we were down ... and I came on my first game here as a preseason game and ran down the line, crossed it, Kyle scored," Akio said. "Did it again five minutes later. Ran down the line, crossed it, scored, won that game. That's when I knew, he's very dangerous and I can work very well with him."

The now former UTRGV forward said playing for



Kyle Edwards

"That's a feeling that I can't even explain myself. Because, think about it, imagine playing or doing something, anything, your entire life and then you're finally doing it as a job. It's a two in one for you. You're doing what you love and then you're doing it as a job. It was very exciting, overwhelming for me."

enthusiasm because of him being there."

Edwards ended his university career with the second most career goals (21) and points (49) in program history, all while also taking the record for career shots (114), according to GoUTRGV.com.

Fellow teammate and roommate William Akio said

the Vaqueros was a great experience for him.

"I learned a lot and I hope that everything that I've learned, I can put them into practice with my new club, professionally now," he said. "Hopefully, I can learn more."

Edwards will join RGV FC Toros against the Los Angeles Galaxy II on March 8 at H-E-B Park in Edinburg.



FILE PHOTO

Senior forward Kyle Edwards signed a contract with the Rio Grande Valley FC Toros of the United Soccer League and the Houston Dynamo. The RGV FC Toros open their 2020 season at 6:30 p.m. on March 8 against Los Angeles Galaxy II at the H-E-B Park in Edinburg.

'An All-Women Art Exhibition'

Paulina Longoria
A&E REPORTER

For the first time ever, local artist Marcelina Gonzales inaugurated her curatorial endeavor, "Girl Will Be Girls," last Tuesday at the Rusteberg Art Gallery on the Brownsville campus.

While being a full-time home health worker, Gonzales continues to work in the artistic field as a curator. She graduated from legacy institution UT Brownsville in 2013 with a degree in art.

After she determined the concept for her exhibition, she started searching for artists whose art could make an impact on her project.

Gonzales emailed the artists to see if they were interested in participating and willing to ship their artwork to the Rio Grande Valley. This process took over a year.

"I really wanted to create a dialogue of female voices from outside of the Valley, because I think it's important that people here have access to different ideas and emotions and opinions of people who

they may not have come in contact with, especially living in the Valley," Gonzales said.

The exhibit features the artwork of 13 artists from across the United States and one from England:

- Sarah Dolan, Alexandria, Virginia
- Emily Elhoffer, St. Louis
- Marcelina Gonzales, Brownsville
- Jennifer Hartzler, Lewistown, Pennsylvania
- Katie Hovencamp, Carbondale, Pennsylvania
- Ashley A. Jones, Indiana, Pennsylvania
- Kelly Mathews, Chicago
- Rosemary Meza-DesPlas, Farmington, New Mexico
- Melissa K. Mursch, Milwaukee
- Tracy Nunez, New York City
- Grace Payne, Bristol, England
- Lili Von Shtubb, Los Angeles
- Skyler Simpson, Salt Lake City
- and Lucy R. Valena, Boston

Gonzales decided to include her artwork, titled "Let's See What That Mouth Can Do!" as she realized she had extra space in the exhibition. She



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Graphic design freshman Sonia C. Garza critiques "Inside the Mind of Someone in a Toxic Relationship" (mixed media), by artist Lili Von Shtubb, last Tuesday at the "Girls Will Be Girls: An All-Women Art Exhibition" in the Rusteberg Art Gallery at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville.

wanted to emphasize the vulgarity that men use toward women, such as catcalling them on the streets.

"It's almost like women are pieces of meat, so it's just a female's head, kind of like an animal hanging on the wall, and she has tags on her like she's for sale. She's a piece of meat and she's discounted also," she said. "Her tongue is sticking out like a dead cow, she has no voice either. So, it's about empowerment through sarcasm."

Mursch attended the opening reception. Her daily job is working at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design as an admissions counselor. In her spare time, she creates art, teaches workshops and curates shows.

Mursch received a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts. Through studying and by her self-taught practices, her strength involves working with fibers.

"A Womanifesto of Sorts" is a piece of writing that she embroidered on a cloth and is portrayed in a wooden frame.

"It's kind of talking about how, 'I am so small, and like, what can I do?'" she said. "But

I'm doing what I love and I'm hoping, by putting messages in it, that I can help spread it to other people and get them talking ... and thinking about it."

"Can I Guess Your Nationality?" is a quilt created by dyed fabric and embroidery floss as a research project in which she asked people to guess her nationality, according to Mursch's website.

"It's about my nationality and what I come off as to other people, so that one is kind of trying to break down barriers between different nationalities," she said.

Valena also attended the opening reception. She began creating art when she was 3 years old.

"My artwork explores my identity. ... I tend to make a lot of really angry self-portraits and I tend to combine sculpture and drawing and painting to ... trick the eye, basically," she said.

Two of her embroidery fabric self-portraits are displayed in the exhibition.

"Surfacing" is a thread on wood using polyester fiberfill. "Dogwhistle" is a thread on canvas using the same polyester material.

"I'd like to invite the viewer to think about ... their own experience of themselves," Valena said. "I find that we're all just trying to search for our own selves all the time; it's a daily process and I hope that the viewer takes away that as well, that invitation to continue to search."

Other types of artwork displayed are soft sculptures, oil paintings, installation work and 3D in the round sculpture.

More than 50 people attended the reception.

"It's important ... especially with how things are nowadays, like how people oppose the ideas of women empowerment and feminism because they ... see drastic and very radical extreme ideas that maybe don't represent it the best way possible," UTRGV art education junior Isamar Ibarra said. "I think it's always good to try to understand, and, like, art is a good way to try to understand. ... It's very visual, so it makes you think. ... You have to kind of reflect on your own."

The exhibit is open until Feb. 14 at the Rusteberg Art Gallery on the Brownsville campus. Admission is free.



"Girls Will Be Girls" features the work of 13 artists from across the United States and one from England. Shown is "Wash Day Blues" (oil on canvas), by Jennifer Hartzler of Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

A free event with free food?! Let's see the information.

Free Event
FREE FOOD
INCLUDED

When:
Tuesday 21

Time: 12-1p.m.

Where:
Main Lawn
Brownsville Campus

Has class at that time.

EM 1/27/20

CHEER

Continued from Page 1

Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading & Dance Team National Championship, held Jan. 17 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

They had been preparing for this day since last November. For three days a week, 5:30 to 8 a.m. were dedicated solely to practicing. While other students caught up on overdue sleep, the team was practicing its high kicks and chants during the winter break.

Emilee Ramos, a junior cheerleader, said she and her teammates encouraged each other to persist. "We're almost there," they would say practice after practice. Some days, Ramos would feel enthusiastic about competing, and other days, she would have doubt.

"Towards the end of it, when we got closer, and we were already there, I was like, 'OK, it's time. It's time to show out and show everybody what UTRGV is made of.'"

Coach Lora Solis was also nervous

the months before competition. She said in her seven years of coaching at the university level, this was the most prepared team for nationals she ever had. She knew her team of 26 cheerleaders, six drumline members and mascot were ready to give it their best.

"It was nerve-racking but it was good nerves," Solis said.

Then came Jan. 17, the day of competition. At 6 a.m., the 33 team members woke up early to practice, just as they had for months straight. At 12:20 p.m., it was time.

"They were motivated, ready to do it, for not only themselves, but for the people that were on the mat with them," Solis said.

The team performed the routine they had practiced over and over. A mix of high kicks, jumps, flags, the Vaquero mascot dancing and more creative stunts. With this performance, they advanced to finals. They competed again at 7:35 p.m., when they gave another winning show. Later that night, it was announced that their hard work, their dedication, their

love for cheering had been worth it. The UTRGV Cheer Team had placed second in the National Championship.

"They were hungry for the win this year," Spirit Adviser Janet Peña said. "They are a younger team, combined with some veterans ... but they were hungry for the win and hungry to go perform in front of a national audience."

This year was also the first time the Vaquero mascot and drumline performed with the cheerleaders. After seeing another team with a drumline place higher last year, Solis was inspired to bring one for the team. The other teams that took drumlines with them this year also advanced to finals.

"Mascot and drumline are added to enhance the routine, not to take away from the routine and not to make it about themselves," Solis said. "It did bring a new energy, so it was great."

In the last four years, the UTRGV Cheer Team has advanced to Nationals. Last year, they placed fifth. This is the first time they made it to the top three.

As for what's next for the team, the

season is not over. It will continue to cheer for volleyball, basketball and soon, baseball games.

As a qualification for Nationals, the team must attend training camp during summers.

"We don't have an off-season," Solis said.

Later in the semester, there will be tryouts for new team members. Two years of varsity, experience with tumbling at an advanced or elite level and a minimum of a 2.5 GPA is required to become a cheerleader, dance member or to be part of the mascot program, Solis said.

Ramos encourages students who are interested in the spirit program to sign up. She said the benefits are not only learning responsibility and time management, but also finding a family.

"Go for it," Ramos said. "It is one of the best things in the world. You meet people you could totally consider your best friends and your family. ... It's the best thing ever."

For more information, contact Solis at lora.solis@utrgv.edu.

HESTEC

Continued from Page 1

students, we are able to work with them," Qubbaj said. "They're able to interact with the professors. Before we used to bring 2,000 students in one week, so, really, they didn't have the chance to get that deep experience."

Qubbaj said the College of Engineering and Computer Science will focus on inspiring the next generation of engineers.

HESTEC's mission is to introduce grade school students to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields,

according to Gonzales.

"Whether it's through a competition or visiting campus and having a day with each of our colleges, I mean that [is] exactly what we're doing," he said. "They're learning not only how they can apply what they're learning to college or to their careers and they're learning first hand from students and professors who were in the same situation they were when they were going to school."

HESTEC began its new structure of events with the SeaPerch Challenge Jan. 17 in Brownsville. The event is an underwater robotics competition in partnership

with the U.S. Navy.

On Tuesday they will host GEAR UP, a three-day hands-on experience with ninth grade students.

"March 4 through the 6 we will be having another Region One GEAR UP event, this time we'll be with eighth-grade students," Gonzales said. "Three hundred sixty eighth-grade students will go through the same type of event that we plan to have on January 28."

He said students will be in Brownsville for two days and one day in Edinburg.

"I don't know when each will be at each location but it's a rotation," Gonzales said.

On Feb. 8 they will host the

Regional Science Bolt on the Edinburg campus. The event is a Jeopardy-style competition that will test 20 South Texas high school teams in the science and mathematics fields. The first-place winning team will advance to the National Science Bowl in Washington, DC.

The Electric Car Competition will take place April 3-4 on the Brownsville campus, with teams from middle and high schools. Students will build an electric car in which they will race to compete the longest distance in a predetermined amount of time.

The final event will be Robotics Day April 24 on the Edinburg campus. High school

students will design a robot to complete different tasks.

Gonzales said they are going to have a college or department volunteer in events that complement the activities.

"The GEAR UP event, we're going to have College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Sciences and College of Health Professions and School of Medicine," he said. "The Regional Science Bolt, we'll have our College of Sciences out there. Electric Car Competition [and] Robotics Day, College of Engineering. And then, again, we're staying true to the HESTEC mission of introducing students to the STEM field."

SYMPOSIUM

Continued from Page 1

Presentations or abstract submissions can be done in English, Spanish or both and students will also be required to write a short 50-word summary of their work. Participants need to submit their abstracts using the Engaged Scholar Symposium online portal.

The last day to submit abstracts is midnight Feb. 5. UTRGV undergraduate student presenters don't have to pay to participate.

However, external undergraduate students have a fee of \$20. Graduate and Ph.D. students need to pay \$35 and faculty speakers, \$50.

Guest speaker Laura Rendon, University of Texas-San Antonio professor emerita, will open the event at 9:30 a.m. April 21 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time April 22 in the University Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus.

For more information, email engaged@utrgv.edu.

TRACK

Continued from Page 6

and setting a new best personal record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.61 at the Bobcat Classic, according to goutrgv.edu.

Before the Texas A&M Invitational, Carmona earned WAC Track & Field Athlete of the Week honors and his expectations are higher than ever.

"This upcoming weekend [I'm going to] run the 400 and a 4 x 400 meters

relay," he said. "For the 400, expect the [personal record] from last year, and well, hopefully run some 49 for our [400-meter] indoors."

Carmona's time for the 400-meter indoors was 49:09 and 48:05 outdoor, but he only ran it twice last year.

"I'm more of an 800-meter runner," he said.

The UTRGV Men's and Women's Track & Field Teams will be back in action Friday and Saturday at the University of Houston Invitational.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) advises the university president on the allocation of the student services fee in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 54.5043. SFAC will begin review of Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposals

**Friday, January 31, 2020
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

**BLHSB 2.604 Brownsville/
ESTAC 3.101 Edinburg**

Meetings are open to the campus community

Upcoming Meetings:

**• Friday, February 14, 2020 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: BLHSB 2.604/ESTAC 3.101**

**• Friday, February 21, 2020 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: BLHSB 2.604/ESTAC 3.101**

If you require special accommodations, please call (956) 665-2147.

For more information, visit www.utrgv.edu/sfac