

Happy Valentine's Day

The Rider

Feliz día de San Valentín

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020

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WARNING: FRIENDZONE AHEAD

Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Paulina Longoria
A&E REPORTER

Every February, people begin to plan what they will do on Valentine's Day. Out of nowhere, they start seeing others entering into new relationships. But you? You're stuck in the friendzone.

You're not alone. The Rider surveyed 248 UTRGV students in a Facebook poll about being friendzoned. The results showed:

- 102 victims have been friendzoned;
- 101 have not, but friendzoned someone else;
- 36 have been victims, but also friendzoned somebody;
- And nine have never been in the friendzone.

"The friend zone is a figure of speech for what happens when one person wants to take things to the next level romantically but the other person just wants to be friends," according to Dictionary.com.

Personally, I can tell you that I friendzoned someone recently. Everyone knew that my best friend was in love with me and I never accepted it.

Suddenly, he stopped talking to me, which left me wondering if I had done something wrong. He wanted to ignore his feelings, but he eventually reached out to me and confessed them. I was already in a relationship by then.

A similar experience happened to computer engineering senior Julio Cantu.

"Some girl that I work with, I didn't have feelings for her, but she did for me, and it was just really awkward," Cantu said.

Like Cantu, English senior Alejandra Hernandez has not been a victim of the friendzone. She has, however, friendzoned many others.

"I have no experience with, like, romantic relationships, so I'm quite afraid of that," Hernandez said. "And so, whenever someone approaches me with that intention, I make it clear right away that I have no intention of having, like, any sort of boyfriend or anything right now."

For those who have been, or are in

ASK THE EXPERT: HOW TO DEAL WITH A HEARTBREAK

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See **FRIENDZONE**, Page 7



Viviana Puentes, freshman



Jorge Ascencio, mechanical engineering junior



Julio Cantu, computer engineering senior



Alejandra Hernandez, English senior



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Biology junior Leslie Juarez files her tax return last Tuesday in U Central on the Brownsville campus. MyFreeTaxes is a software powered by H&R block in partnership with United Way. The MyFreeTaxes stations are open to the public.

Free tax return filing services on campus

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UTRGV students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community can file their taxes for free using the MyFreeTaxes software sponsored by United Way and powered by H&R Block. MyFreeTaxes is an online software

that allows individuals to self-prepare their own tax returns and if help is needed, stations are accessible at U Central sites on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, according to Jael Perez, associate director of Financial Aid Operations and Community Liaison at UTRGV. Stations are open from 9 a.m. to

See **TAXES**, Page 10

Un HOCO loco

Annual Homecoming celebration kicks off today



FILE PHOTO

UTRGV students receive free tacos last year during the Tip-Off Party to Homecoming at the Music, Science & Learning Center courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Starting today, students can vote for the new Homecoming Royals while enjoying this week's celebration, which will feature the mascot for the first time and bring back an old tradition. "I really want students to come

out," Student Activities Director Cindy Mata-Vasquez said. "Whether you live in Los Fresnos, Brownsville, Rio Hondo, Mercedes, wherever you live, definitely come out, support the Vaqueros, be proud of the university that you're attending and just show your pride." See **HOMECOMING**, Page 10

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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ONLINE EDITOR

Leslie Medrano

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CARTOONIST

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Maleny Ortega

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Hania Rocio

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Alejandra Yañez

A&E REPORTER

Paulina Longoria

SPORTS REPORTERS

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Angel De La Cruz

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Aaliyah Garza

Fernando Ramirez

Amanda Vela

Eduardo Galindo

Roxanna Miranda

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Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER

Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez

Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

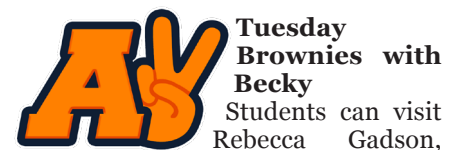
Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday Brownies with Becky

Students can visit Rebecca Gadson, dean of students, to talk about what matters to them from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

V-My Valentine

Students can enjoy a **murder mystery dinner and dance** starting at 6:30 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Wednesday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. To reserve a seat, pick up a

wristband from the information desk in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus or the Office of Student Involvement on the Brownsville campus.

Love Your Selfie

The **Counseling Center** will host a **self-love session** from 10 a.m. to noon on the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus.

Involvement Fair

Students can talk to **organizations and departments** from noon to 1 p.m. on the Chapel lawn on the

Edinburg campus.

Thursday Men's Basketball

The **UTRGV Men's Basketball Team** will face off against **Utah Valley University** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Faculty and staff will receive two free general admission tickets with a valid UTRGV ID.

Phil and Sophie's Coffee House

The **Philosophy Department** will host a **philosophical discussion** every Thursday from 5:15 to 7 p.m. on the Jazzman's patio on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 27 and Feb. 3.



Jan. 27

8:19 a.m.:

A student reported seeing a vehicle back into a parked, unattended vehicle and then drive away in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. The operator of the unattended vehicle was notified of the accident. The case is under investigation.

8:32 a.m.:

A student's vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. Her vehicle sustained visible damage to the left back quarter panel. The case is under investigation.

10:29 a.m.:

A contractor employee reported a student had been suspected of stealing food from the C Store in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus on prior occasions. When the student was identified by an officer, she admitted to taking food items in the past. She said she had been hungry but did not have the money to pay for the items. She said she also visited and utilizing the UTRGV Student Food Pantry. Student Rights and Responsibilities will review the incident.

1:06 p.m.:

A staff member reported the rear left window of his vehicle had been shattered by a Facilities employee using a grass trimmer in the area. Arrangements are being made to have the window repaired.

6:21 p.m.:

A student fainted and felt ill in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. The student was transported by emergency medical services to a local hospital for further evaluation.

6:36 p.m.:

An officer was waved down by a person reporting a major accident at Schunior and Fourth streets in Edinburg. One person involved in the accident said she felt chest pain. Emergency medical services transported her to a local hospital. The Edinburg Police Department is conducting the accident investigation.

Jan. 28

8:45 a.m.:

A contractor employee reported that a man stole four bags of chips from the Library Café on the Brownsville campus. The man left the area before an officer arrived. The case is under investigation.

12:20 p.m.:

Two students were involved in a minor traffic collision in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. No injuries were reported.

3:37 p.m.:

A student reported that the left rear window of her vehicle was damaged while it was parked in Lot E-25 on the Edinburg campus. It was undetermined how the window was damaged.

Jan. 29

8:40 a.m.: A staff member operating a university vehicle struck a metal trash can in the loading dock area of the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. No injuries were reported.

11:30 a.m.:

A student reported that his home in Edcouch was shot at. He also reported receiving threatening messages on his cell phone while off campus. The Edcouch Police Department is investigating the incident. He requested the incident be documented with University Police.

1:39 p.m.:

A staff member reported seeing a message on a private social media page using profane language. The message showed discontent with an employee from UTRGV Parking Services over a parking issue. It was unknown which UTRGV campus was being referenced.

5:57 p.m.:

Two non-affiliated individuals were issued criminal trespass warnings after doing stunts on their skateboards on the stairway of

1:40 p.m.:

A student lost her wallet on Jan. 15, in Lot E-25 on the Edinburg campus. The wallet had contained U.S. currency and personal documents.

3:51 p.m.:

A student's vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle's rear right corner sustained minor damage. The case is under investigation.

3:56 p.m.:

A student injured her hand with a nail protruding from a couch in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. She did not require medical assistance. Building staff removed the couch.

Jan. 31

1:26 p.m.:

A student noticed her earbuds had been stolen from her backpack after retrieving it from the University Police lost and found section. The case is under investigation.

4:11 p.m.:

Officers were dispatched to the Education Complex-Hidalgo County Head Start building, where a woman was upset at the staff. She aggressively asked if the staff had been talking about her and left before the officers arrived. A staff member requested the incident be documented.

5:20 p.m.:

Officers were dispatched to Lot E-39 on the Edinburg campus in regard to a student possibly urinating in public. After interviewing the student, officers placed

him under arrest on charges of public intoxication. He was transported to the Edinburg City Jail.

Feb. 2

12:05 a.m.:

A University Police officer arrested a non-affiliated driver on charges of driving while intoxicated after stopping him for a traffic violation on the 2300 block of West Schunior Street. The officer observed signs of intoxication by alcoholic beverage. He conducted field sobriety tests, which the driver performed poorly.

Feb. 3

7:08 a.m.:

A UTRGV communications operator watching border cameras saw two people from Mexico jumping the U.S. border fence in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. The individuals then ran into the brush area between the lot and Levee Road. The U.S. Border Patrol was notified and agents apprehended them without incident.

11:26 a.m.:

A staff member lost four university keys off campus.

12:36 p.m.:

A staff member observed a scratch on the right rear quarter panel of his vehicle on Jan. 29. It is unknown where the damage occurred.

2:23 p.m.:

Two students did not return two university iPads they borrowed as per their signed contract. The report, made by a faculty member, will be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia



University Police

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

the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

6:08 p.m.:

An officer responded to an active fire alarm in the Performing Arts Complex B Building. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived on the scene, and it was later determined the alarm had been triggered by a faulty power generator. Firefighters cleared the building for re-entry.

Jan. 30:

4:34 a.m.:

A UTRGV public safety officer saw an out-of-control fire in an alley between East Jackson and East Van Buren streets in Brownsville. UTRGV police officers notified the Brownsville Fire Department. The officers saw a pile of trash on fire, and the fire had spread to a residential wooden fence and nearby shrubs. Officers contacted and advised the local residents of the fire. Officers put out most of the blaze using fire extinguishers and garden water hoses from the homes. Upon arrival, the fire department was able to fully extinguish the fire.

9:58 a.m.:

A faculty member lost her UTRGV ID/access card. The card has been deactivated.

10:33 a.m.:

A student received several disturbing images on his cellphone while off campus. It is unknown who sent the images. The student was referred to the Brownsville Police Department.

Travel to China suspended

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

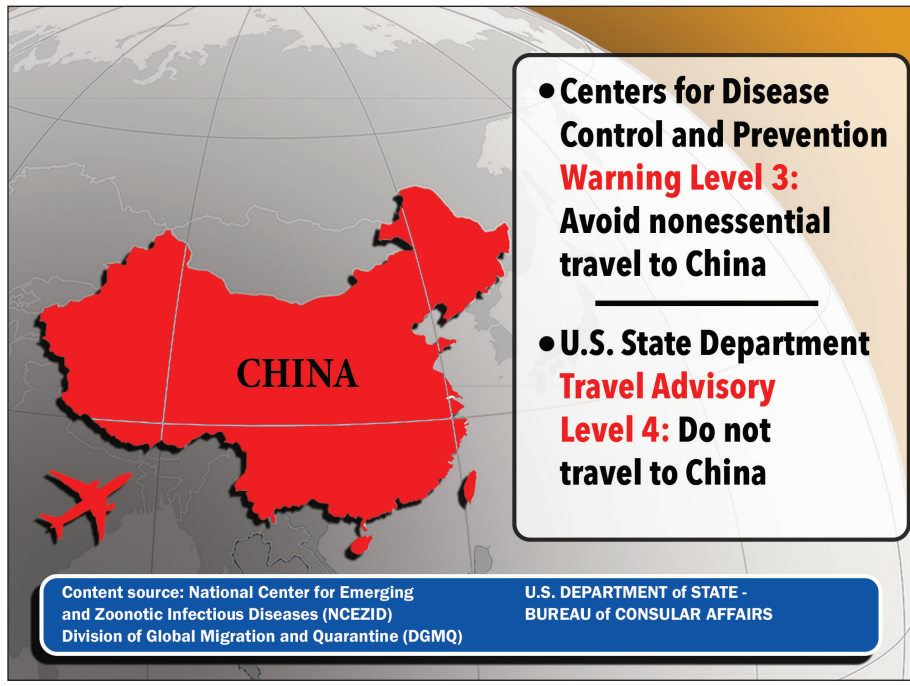
UTRGV has suspended all university related travels to China as of Jan. 31 due to the novel coronavirus outbreak being declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to an email sent to the university community.

As reported by The Rider newspaper on Feb. 3, Dr. Emilie Prot, regional medical director for the Texas Department of State Health Services, explained the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is part of a larger family that usually originates from animals.

The novel coronavirus was first detected Dec. 31, 2019, in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and there have been more than 28,000 confirmed cases as of last Thursday, according to WHO.

Alan Earhart, director of International Programs and Partnership at UTRGV, said visits to China were planned for two study abroad trips during the summer. Now, those trips will not include China. Instead they are going to South Korea and Taiwan.

"Taiwan has, I think, 10 reported



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

cases right now," Earhart said. "So, it really hasn't affected Taiwan. And you can get direct flights to Taiwan, so they don't need to fly through China. And then the other professor is going to go to South Korea and Japan. So, we've figured that out. So, really at this point,

it's not going to affect any study abroad students unless they really had their hearts set on going to China."

Earhart said there are about 15 to 20 students, as of now, who are planning to attend the study abroad trips. Students have not been billed yet, "so

there was no money to be refunded."

The U.S. State Department has a Level 4 do not travel advisory to China and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a Level 3 avoid nonessential travel, according to the email.

"Our main concern is the health, safety, and security of our UTRGV community," the email states. "We will continue to monitor the situation and are hopeful conditions will improve so we can resume travel to China."

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Pablo Mendez said as the situation improves, UTRGV will be able to reassess the travel suspension to China to make sure it is safe for the campus community to travel again.

"We don't want to send someone out there and then have someone stuck, you know. At first it was the province of Wuhan that was under a strict quarantine," Mendez said. "So, what do we do if we have, let's say, a UTRGV student that was out during the study abroad or a professor, you know, and they got stuck behind the quarantine. ... We don't want our campus community to fall to that kind of situation."

For more information on how travel restrictions work, visit www.utrgv.edu/oge/explore-the-world/i-o-c/index.htm.

Congressional candidate visits UTRGV



Mariana Gomez/THE RIDER

Jessica Cisneros, a Democrat running to represent Texas' 28th District in Congress, speaks to students during a meet and greet hosted by the Political Science Association last Tuesday in Edinburg.

Hania Rocio
THE RIDER

The Political Science Association hosted a meet and greet with Jessica Cisneros last Tuesday at the water fountain in front of the Student Academic

Center in Edinburg.

Cisneros, a 26-year-old Democrat, is running to represent Texas' 28th district in Congress. She is a human rights lawyer who is competing against the Democrat

Congressman Henry Cuellar.

She spoke about her early beginnings and how coming from an immigrant family affected her.

"I think that the most revolutionary part

about this campaign is that I'm able to bring in my personal experience of being born and raised in this district and use that for the betterment of our people," Cisneros said.

She is fighting to lower prescription drug prices and make health care a right through Medicare for All. She is also against the building of the border wall, and for a \$15 minimum wage and tuition-free public colleges and trade schools.

Asked what changes she would make if elected, she replied, "I think one of the biggest [changes] that I am fighting for is making sure that we're taking money out of politics ... because a lot of the issues ... whether it be health care, immigration, education, jobs, right, all of those come back to that one issue of money in politics."

Monica Garcia, Political Science Association vice president and political science senior, said she hopes that by bringing Cisneros to UTRGV, students will become more politically involved.

"We wanted her to come and speak to the students, to help them become engaged in politics," Garcia said. "We think that with her speaking directly to the students, she can empower them to ... have civic engagement and just empower them to be politically active within their community."

Cisneros comes from an immigrant Mexican family. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a law degree with a specialization in immigration law from the University of Texas School of Law. She has received multiple

awards such as the Texas Law Fellowship Excellence in Public Interest Award and the Pro Bono Award.

Her background has piqued the interest of UTRGV students.

Tyler Smith, a political science graduate student, said that he is interested in Cisneros' campaign and is encouraging university students to vote and get involved in politics.

"It's great to see a candidate that's very young and from the area," Smith said. "They are deciding and changing policies on the student loan process. Students here have a lot of opportunities to make an impact but if they are not heard or if they don't participate, their ideas may get lost."

To learn more about Jessica Cisneros and her campaign, visit <https://www.sicacisnerosforcongress.com>.

Chancellor, UT System officials visit UTRGV

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

During its Jan. 31 visit to the Brownsville campus, the UT System Chancellor's Council Executive Committee (CCEC) learned more about UTRGV, including its research on diabetes, border business, Gulf of Mexico and gravitational waves.

The CCEC convenes several times annually and engages in dialogue with the chancellor, UT System executive officers,

UT presidents and faculty regarding special initiatives and issues of importance to higher education in Texas, according to the University of Texas System website.

Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for Marketing & Communications, said the biggest takeaway from the meeting was that it was a great opportunity for the university to host the chancellor's executive council.

"We had the opportunity to

really show off our campus, our faculty, our staff and our students and really provide this council with a better understanding of what UTRGV is doing to transform higher education and to help improve the entire Rio Grande Valley community," Gonzales said.

While they checked in, members of the committee were treated to music by UTRGV's Mariachi Aztlán and later ate lunch featuring

Mexican cuisine.

The meeting included six simultaneous breakout sessions in which professors spoke about research or projects they are undertaking.

The sessions included Business on the Border, Confronting a Community Health Care Crisis, When Your Classroom Is in the Gulf of Mexico, The Potential of the UTRGV School of Medicine, The Rio Grande Valley's Role in the Civil War,

and Riding the Wave: UTRGV Scientists Collaborate on Groundbreaking Discovery.

During the Confronting a Community Health Care Crisis session, John Blangero, a School of Medicine professor, spoke about how UTRGV's South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute is working to advance the health of the region with research on diabetes, obesity and other

VAQUERO VOICE



THE FRIENDZONE



“Yes, actually, I have been friendzoned quite a bit but how I got out of that recently is I kind of ignored her for a little bit, instead of always text messaging her and stuff like that. I just kind of gave her some space and then after that she started texting me back and was like, ‘Oh, I miss you,’ as kind of playing hard to get but not really. I don’t know how to explain it. I’m just bad at dating.”

Angie Gonzalez
Mass communication freshman

“I’ve been friendzoned, though the tips I would give to get out of [it] is persistence. ... Keep pursuing it and, like, if she keeps, like, dodging you then, like, let it go but I mean being persistent. Doing little things that you know that can make a difference, but nothing crazy. Like I said, don’t keep pursuing if she is obviously not interested. But I actually have a girlfriend now, so just keep, you know, being persistent.”



Jay Turano
Kinesiology freshman



“I have not. ... Honestly, don’t think about it too much and I think what guys should do more is stop focusing on love and start focusing on yourself. ... I feel like guys always act like love is your only purpose in life and they are always like, you know, hitting up the girls in the DMs. And they are always ... being persistent like, ‘Oh, can we go out?’ and this and that and, you know, when girls reject them, they act like it’s the end of the world and get all sad and it makes me feel bad.

... What I suggest is if you’re going through that, going through the friendzone, start thinking about something else. Start focusing on yourself, get a hobby, play video games, focus on school or something like that.”

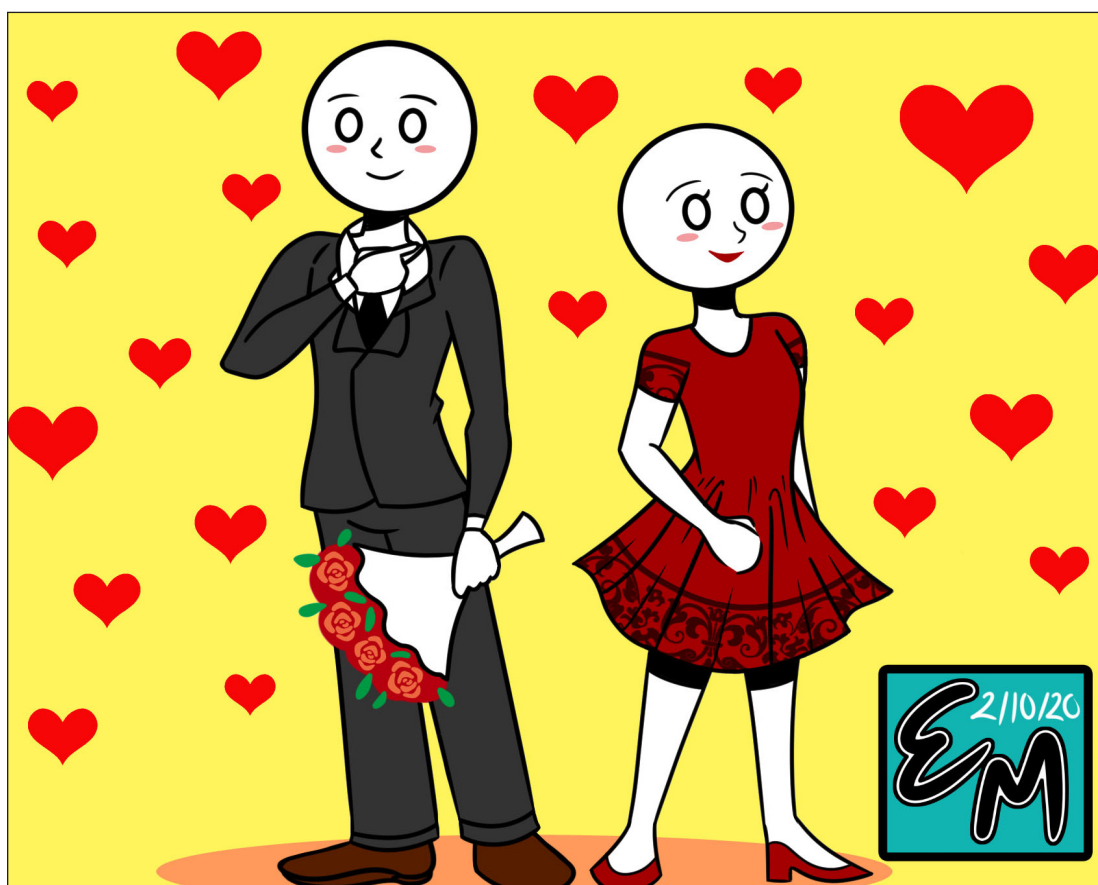
Angelica Gallegos
Computer science freshman

“Bueno, la verdad no he tenido ese problema yo personalmente, pero si he tenido varios amigos que han tenido [ese problema]. Pero casi todos [mis amigos] siempre se tardan un rato pero al último, salen con la chava. Entonces, yo digo que nadamas que todo a su tiempo y si es, es y si no, no. ... Nadamas tener paciencia ... porque al final si te desesperas mucho a lo mejor se te va la muchacha, ¿verdad?”



Andrés Mendoza
Estudiante de último año en biología

--Compiled by Eduardo Galindo and Aaliyah Garza



What you wear matters



Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

With Valentine’s Day coming up, people are excited to go on romantic

dates. However, we always have the dilemma on what to wear for such occasions.

Always keep in mind that the time and place of your date should affect the way you dress. You don’t want to wear a bright yellow dress for a dinner date at a fancy restaurant. Instead, go for something simple, a little black dress with d’Orsay black heels should do the trick. If you want to stand out, consider adding red accessories to your outfit. It can be your purse, earrings, bracelets, necklaces or even just your lipstick.

Research shows that women wearing red look more attractive to men, according to the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology. However, don’t overdo it. You want the attention to go to you, not the accessories.

Something easier to do is to wear a dress that shows off your shoulders. It’s simple but works the same way as wearing red.

Now, if you are not going anywhere fancy, you might want to go for something more casual. You can’t go wrong with a simple white blouse and black leather jacket with boyfriend jeans. If you want to add a little bit more class, just wear a simple sling-back or chunky heel.

Avoid using jewelry and if you definitely want to use something, then use a small

silver necklace or bracelet. If you are one of those who doesn’t like to wear jeans, like me, then you might want to look for a nice, light-colored skirt. Wear a pleated or round skirt with a plain halter neck blouse. Since your chest will be covered with the blouse, don’t use necklaces. Instead, use small earrings to enhance your facial features.

Men also like to dress up, even more, when it’s a special occasion. If this is your first time going on a date and you don’t know what to wear, don’t worry! Here are some tips.

“First impressions matter. Clothes have a strong impact on people and they let you know a lot about a person. It helps you boost your confidence when you know you are dressing right.”

Let’s start with the basics. If this is a fancy dinner date, remember to put aside triadic colors (Ex. red, yellow, blue) and complementary colors if you don’t know how to match them. Stick with monochromatic colors. These are colors that are the same color but with different variants and shades.

You can’t go wrong with a solid dress shirt. If you want to add a little bit more detail, you can throw in a skinny silk or knit tie. Make sure it is not too long nor too short. You can match your shirt with

any dark denim pants and a belt. The dress shirt has to be tucked in to complement the physique of the body.

If the place you are going to is really fancy, then you might want to take a look at some fitted blazers or jackets. If you are new to fashion and don’t know much about matching textures and patterns, then go for something simple. A solid monochromatic dress shirt and tight blazer. It can be as simple as a white dress shirt and navy blue blazer. Restrain yourself from wearing a white blazer if you are going out at night. Use some nice derby or loafer shoes to complete the look.

Use denim if your date is casual. However, don’t overuse it. If you are wearing a denim jacket, don’t use denim pants. Use different colors and textures. If you are wearing denim jeans use a leather jacket.

If you want to add a little bit more thought, then a simple bomber jacket and a solid color shirt with black pants should be perfect. Don’t overuse patterns. If your bomber jacket has a pattern then don’t use a shirt that has one, too. One of them has to be a solid color or texture.

For pants, wear dark colors. No yellow, red, green or pink and absolutely no khaki pants! Besides, dark color pants lets you wear whatever sneakers you have in your closet.

First impressions matter. Clothes have a strong impact on people and they let you know a lot about a person. It helps you boost your confidence when you know you are dressing right. With these tips, I am sure you will be having a second date!

'Obten tu dinero más rápido'

Servicio de preparación de impuestos gratuitos en campus



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Las estaciones MyFreeTaxes están abiertas de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. de lunes a viernes hasta el 6 de marzo en U Central en ambos campus. Un asistente voluntario de impuestos, o VITA, asesor fiscal certificado de United Way estará presente para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad.

Victor G. Ramirez

EDITOR-EN-JEFE

Estudiantes de UTRGV, el profesorado, el personal y la comunidad pueden presentar sus impuestos de forma gratuita utilizando el software MyFreeTaxes patrocinado por United Way y alimentado por H&R Block.

MyFreeTaxes es un software en línea que le permite a las personas preparar sus propios impuestos y, si

necesitan ayuda, pueden acceder a las estaciones en los sitios de U Central en los campus de Edinburg y Brownsville, según Jael Pérez, director asociado de Operaciones de Ayuda Financiera y Enlace Comunitario en UTRGV.

Las estaciones están abiertas de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. de lunes a viernes hasta el 6 de marzo, según un correo electrónico enviado a la comunidad universitaria el 31 de enero.

MyFreeTaxes ha estado brindando

servicios en la universidad desde la apertura de UTRGV, según Pérez.

Pérez dijo que el proceso puede tardar entre 15 minutos y una hora en completarse, dependiendo de los diferentes tipos de formularios que las personas necesitan ingresar en el sistema.

“Por lo general, cuando se tarda una hora, es principalmente porque a veces las personas no tienen todo y, por lo tanto, están buscando cosas”, dijo Pérez. “A veces, algunos de nuestros estudiantes, no han descargado su 1098-T y, por lo tanto, inician sesión en ASSIST al mismo tiempo, descargan ese formulario, etc. Pero es relativamente rápido”.

Los documentos necesarios al completar la declaración de impuestos, según el correo electrónico, son:

- Identificación válida;
- Número de seguro social o identificación de contribuyente individual (ITIN) y una dirección de correo electrónico válida;
- W2s, 1099s y otras formas de ingresos;
- Forma 1098-T;
- Declaración de impuestos de 2018 o declaración de impuestos de 2018 de los padres, si se declara como dependiente;
- Enrutamiento bancario y números de cuenta;
- Si presenta una declaración de impuestos conjunta, ambas personas deben estar presentes.

“MyFreeTaxes se puede usar para presentar sus declaraciones de impuestos federales y de otros estados (si corresponde)”, indica el correo

electrónico. “Sin embargo, el software no es compatible con la declaración de impuestos 1040NR (generalmente se requiere para estudiantes internacionales F-1)”.

Después de completar el formulario, el reembolso demora entre tres y cuatro semanas, según Pérez.

La fecha límite para presentar los impuestos es el 15 de abril y Pérez recomienda presentar una declaración anticipada para recibir el reembolso antes.

“Entonces, sí, todavía hay un poco de tiempo, pero, ya sabes, es una de esas cosas que hay que hacer”, dijo Pérez. “Y si se requiere que usted lo presente, porque no es necesario que todos lo hagan, cuanto antes se haga, especialmente si va a recibir un reembolso ... obtendrá su dinero más rápido”.

La estudiante de segundo año en comunicación masiva, Leslie Resendez, dijo que no estaba al tanto del servicio.

“Acabo de usar TurboTax porque mi mejor amiga hace sus impuestos en TurboTax”, dijo Resendez. “Así que, simplemente imité eso, pero creo que es una gran oportunidad para que los estudiantes aprendan más sobre cómo hacer sus impuestos, especialmente porque, ya sabes, tenemos todas estas cosas por las que tenemos que pagar”.

MyFreeTaxes.com tiene una línea de ayuda para aquellos que tienen problemas al completar el formulario. Para obtener ayuda, llame al (855) 698-9435 o visite las estaciones MyFreeTaxes en la universidad.

La celebración anual de bienvenida comienza hoy

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

A partir de hoy, los estudiantes pueden votar por la nueva realeza de Homecoming mientras disfrutan de la celebración de esta semana, que presentará a la mascota y traerá de vuelta una vieja tradición.

“Realmente quiero que los estudiantes salgan”, dijo la directora de Actividades Estudiantiles, Cindy Mata-Vásquez. “Ya sea que vivan en Los Fresnos, Brownsville, Río Hondo, Mercedes, donde quiera que vivan, definitivamente vengan, apoyen a los Vaqueros, estén orgullosos de la universidad a la que asisten y simplemente demuestren su orgullo”.

Al preguntarle que novedades habrá este año, Mata-Vásquez respondió que la adición de la mascota en diferentes eventos es algo que los estudiantes pueden esperar.

Hoy, la fiesta de inicio tendrá lugar de 12:30 a 2:30 p.m. en el césped de la biblioteca de Brownsville y de 4:30 a 6:30 p.m. en el patio de Edinburg.

El martes y miércoles, Campus Activities Board junto con Student Union organizarán UTRGV Groove, donde los estudiantes pueden crear camisetas *tie-dye*. Al mediodía del martes, el evento tendrá lugar en el patio de la Unión de Estudiantes en el campus de Edinburg y al mismo tiempo el miércoles en el jardín de la biblioteca de Brownsville.

También el miércoles tomará lugar la envoltura de las letras de UTRGV, que se llevará a cabo de 8:30 a.m. a 7:30 p.m. detrás de la estación de policía en el campus de Edinburg.

“Todo el día, los estudiantes que forman parte de fraternidades y diferentes organizaciones, así como los residentes, y creo que los estudiantes de UREC, ayudarán a envolver las letras”, dijo Mata-Vásquez. “Así que, si alguien quiere ir y ofrecerse como voluntario o ayudar, definitivamente pueden llamar a nuestra oficina para informarnos que quieren ayudar y ser parte de esta tradición”.

Vivian López, estudiante de segundo año en biología del campus de Edinburg, dijo que está interesada en asistir y quiere participar más en las actividades del campus.

“Suena divertido”, dijo López. “Ni siquiera lo sabía, pero ahora que me dijiste estoy más interesada en asistir”.

Otros estudiantes, como Julissa Mejía, de tercer año en ingeniería civil del campus de Brownsville, dijo que no había escuchado sobre Homecoming, pero que cree que es bueno para la escuela.

“Realmente no le presto atención ... pero, como que, estoy feliz por todos los demás al respecto”, dijo Mejía.

La directora de Actividades Estudiantiles dijo que Housing and Residence Life organizará un desfile de carritos de golf por primera vez desde 2015



FOTO DE ARCHIVO

Estudiantes participan en una clase de Zumba al aire libre el año pasado durante la fiesta de Homecoming en el jardín de la capilla en el campus de Edinburg. Esta semana se celebra la quinta semana anual de Homecoming en UTRGV, que proporcionará diversas actividades para los estudiantes.

a las 6 p.m. el jueves. El desfile comenzará en el Unity Residence Hall y finalizará en el Fieldhouse, donde la Batalla de los Colegios tendrá lugar durante el partido de baloncesto de los Vaqueros a las 7 p.m.

Después del juego, será el tradicional Burning of the Letters en el estacionamiento de Health and Physical Education 1 de Edinburg. Se proporcionará comida y música gratis.

“Este año, creo que será agradable ver a todos los residentes y a cualquiera que quiera participar en este desfile

a las 6 p.m., caminar hacia Fieldhouse y recorrer todo el campus, asistir al juego, animar a nuestra decana de estudiantes o su propio decano y luego terminar con la iluminación de las letras justo después”, dijo Mata-Vásquez.

En el juego de béisbol del viernes por la noche, los miembros de la comunidad del campus pueden asistir a un Homecoming Alumni Mixer a las 7 p.m. en el estadio de béisbol de UTRGV.

El sábado concluye las festividades de esta semana con un *tailgate* and *cook-off* de 5 a 7 p.m. en el estacionamiento

del Fieldhouse. Música en vivo, juegos y pintura de caras estarán disponibles para los asistentes.

“Realmente queremos que sea un lugar donde puedas venir con tus amigos, familiares, tus amigos que se han graduado”, dijo Mata-Vásquez. “Queremos que los antiguos alumnos regresen y luego, desde allí, vamos al juego, celebramos a la realeza de UTRGV y podemos ver quién ha sido seleccionado por el alumnado”.

La celebración concluirá con los Vaqueros enfrentando a la Universidad de Seattle en su juego de bienvenida.

HOW TO SHAKE A HEARTBREAK

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

While Valentine's Day is traditionally a time to celebrate love and friendship, not everyone is seeing red. Some are down with a case of the blues.

This week's Ask the Expert questions come from Lilian Sanchez, a nursing freshman, and Nicholas Hernandez, a sociology junior, who asked how to cope with a heartbreak.

Sanchez said her last relationship ended because she and her partner were unable to maintain a long-distance relationship.

"We couldn't see each other often and, like, one person was getting, like, annoyed and, yeah, it just ended," Sanchez said.

Asked what helped her get through the breakup, she replied that her ex blocking her on social media helped her forget about him.

"Definitely, not go through my phone, like, pictures and stuff," Sanchez said. "Delete pictures if you have [any] with the person and if it helped, I mean, I didn't really wanna block him. ... That was not in

go outside, I don't know, exercise."

She said she would like advice from experts on how to handle a long-distance relationship and tips on better date ideas since she is in a new relationship.

"I would want more advice on, like, how to cope on a relationship, just in case this one doesn't work out," Sanchez said. "Because, like, I don't know, for me it's kind of hard to forget somebody."

Hernandez said the reason for his last breakup was that the timing was not right.

"We were both busy people and I guess time didn't really, like, work out for the both of us," Hernandez said.

He said although his relationship ended on good terms, it was difficult to get over it.

Asked how he managed, Hernandez replied, "Lots and lots of crying. ... I mean, we talked about things but, like, it was just my first heartbreak, so it was hard on me. But things are good now."

Hernandez said some advice he wished he would have listened to in the past was to let it be and trust that things



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

advice."

Asked what advice he would want from experts, Hernandez replied he would like advice on how to cope with heartbreak while not stopping his daily life.

Expert

Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, a clinical therapist for the Counseling Center, shared some of her expert love and dating advice with students to help them get over their heartbreaks.

She said the best way to get over a breakup is to indulge in self-love.

"When we break up, we are focused so much on our former partner, our ex and so, really, we're not letting the breakup happen," Mazariegos said. "So, one way is to really focus on

yourself."

The clinical therapist said students need to acknowledge their feelings and understand that it is OK to be upset, sad and even cry.

"You can sit with your emotions, but you don't have to act on them," Mazariegos said. "A lot of times people think, 'Oh, no, I miss, like, my ex. I'm gonna go, like, call them or, like, stalk them on social media,' and we're just really prolonging our heartbreak by doing that."

She said if it is really an ex, then students need to make sure to cut contact with that person to begin healing.

Asked what advice she has for students who are undergoing a breakup during Valentine's Day, Mazariegos replied, "So,

Valentine's Day it's really been about Ok, Cupid and finding, like, your other half, but if we don't have a good relationship with ourselves, we're bound to not have healthy and long-lasting relationships with others. So, know, 'Hey, if I'm single on Valentine's Day or I just went through a breakup, that's really an opportunity, too.' My message here is self-love and to focus on self-love and reflect on, well, what do I want from a relationship."

For students in long-distance relationships, Mazariegos advises couples to invest some time in face-to-face or video-call conversations that are meaningful.

"You know, a really, really

See HEARTBREAK, Page 7



**Ask the Expert:
Seventh in a series**



my intention, but if the person blocks you that kind of does help to forget about him. And, yeah, just, like, start getting yourself involved in stuff so you forget about the topic. I don't know, listen to music,

would get better if he just focused on himself.

"People would tell me just to move on but you can't really move on if you're not ready to move on," Hernandez said. "So, I guess that's the bad

Chess team sweeps tournament

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

Several UTRGV Chess Team members competed in the Texas Individual Collegiate Chess Championship Feb. 1 in Richardson, a Dallas suburb, and brought home first-second-and third-place medals.

Grandmasters Andrey Stukopin, a mathematics graduate student, placed first, and Vladimir Belous and Kamil Dragun, both accounting juniors, placed second and third, respectively.

Chess Coach Bartek Macieja said this championship is the most prestigious individual event in Texas.

"We [opponents and Chess Team] knew each other very well because we competed throughout the year with them," Macieja said. "But typically, we compete with them in team events and that was [an] individual event."

He said he was glad to see three of his students take the top-three places.

"That's an amazing result," Macieja said. "Really unexpected because other colleges also have very good players and grandmasters."

He said his students were high in standings throughout the tournament.

"They kept that very high position," Macieja said. "It's a fully deserved success."

Stukopin said it was a strong



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

UTRGV graduate student Andrey Stukopin won first place at the Texas Individual Collegiate Chess Championship Feb. 1 in Richardson.

tournament for him.

"I scored five out of six [points]," he said. "So, I didn't get clear first [place] but, nonetheless, I showed decent play and I managed to come out on top."

Stukopin said he tied with chess teammate Belous and competed for

the first-place spot.

Asked what his thoughts were when he found out he won the tournament, he replied, "My thoughts were, 'Finally, I beat this guy,' because he typically is much better than me in blitz."

In December 2019, the Chess

Team fell short of qualifying for the Final Four in the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Tournament.

Macieja said the Pan American Championship last year was the strongest ever.

"There [were] new colleges with very, very strong teams and out of top six programs, there is no place for two of them," he said. "[Last] year, unfortunately, we were the unlucky ones. I would say the level of, among, top six colleges is comparable. So look at it rather as an amazing result for us last year and two years ago when, not only we qualified to the Final Four, but also won the tournament."

Asked what the main takeaway from this tournament was Macieja replied, "We were winning so many events that somehow everybody thought we'd keep winning forever, which of course is not true. So, probably that one event which didn't go well for us was a good sign that everybody can be defeated and we need to take it really seriously and prepare well and do our best in every event in order to be able to keep being successful in further events."

The Chess Team's next tournament is the Southwest Collegiate Team Championship Feb. 29 in Lubbock on the Texas Tech University campus campus.

FRIENDZONE
Continued from Page 1



Jeffrey Doyle, Writing & Language Studies lecturer

the friendzone, it is a different story. Freshman Viviana Puentes was not lucky when shooting her shot. "I liked a guy and then he was just like, 'Well, I don't like anybody at the moment,' and then he ended [up] in a relationship 10 days after," Puentes said.

The bright side? She eventually moved on and has friendzoned others herself. Puentes said she works at a gym and always ignores the guys that throw out their masculinity everywhere.

Mechanical engineering junior Jorge Ascencio told The Rider he has his own definition of the term.

"Someone who you see as a friend," Ascencio said. "Someone who you don't see attractive to go out with. I mean, they may be attractive, but you ... don't have that chemistry."

Unlike other testimonies, he assured that he has never been friendzoned and he has never friendzoned anyone either.

"Whenever I ask a girl out or something, I've never actually had, like, [her] tell me like, 'Oh, I see you as a friend,'" Ascencio said.

He believes that getting out of the friendzone is possible. Ascencio said that fictional character Ronald Weasley from the "Harry Potter" series is the best role model of someone who escaped from it and actually ended up dating the girl.

"It helps if your last name is Ronald Weasley," Ascencio said. "I mean, I'm pretty sure that's part of the ...

secret answer to actually get out of the friendzone."

UTRGV faculty had different opinions about the friendzone.

Writing and Language Studies Lecturer I Jeffrey Doyle said he does not believe in the idea of friendzone. To the best of his knowledge, he has never been friendzoned and has not friendzoned someone.

"I don't like the idea of the friendzone, like, if someone doesn't like you, then, like, that's OK," Doyle said. "I feel like you should, like, be open and honest and communicate with people from the beginning."

The lecturer said he advises people who are stuck in the friendzone to move on.

"Get over yourself 'cause you don't have any rights to another person, so learn to appreciate them for who they are and not what you want them to be," Doyle said.

Anthropology Assistant Professor Sarah Rowe did not share any related stories because she rejects the idea of the friendzone.

She believes that the friendzone is problematic and enforces false romantic expectations in society.

"For Valentine's Day, make sure you are appreciating and enjoying the company of all of the people around you, whether they're significant others, friends, family; it doesn't just have to be about romantic love," Rowe said.

The experts have spoken. If you do not have a date this Valentine's Day, do not be discouraged. You are not the only one. If you shot your shot and got shot down, do not feel sad. Numerous people have been victims of the friendzone and are still standing.



Sarah Rowe, anthropology assistant professor

HEARTBREAK
Continued from Page 6

good healthy couple, whether it's long-distance or in person, is when two people have their own interests and have their own lives and, then, they have a life together as a couple," the clinical therapist said.

Students who want more date ideas should consider Mazariegos' tips, which describe a good date as one in which people can connect with all their senses. She suggests a walk or a nice dinner that involves conversation and interaction.

Mazariegos said everyone, at some point, will go through a breakup and it is important to know that you don't have to go through it by yourself.

"I think after every breakup, it's important to know, 'What did I learn from this relationship? What did I lose in this relationship? What did I gain in

this relationship? What did I give? How did I evolve? Or did I not evolve in this relationship?' and that way you learn," Mazariegos said.

This week on both campuses, the Counseling Center will host Love Your Selfie from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday in the Bookstore and Main Courtyard in Brownsville, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Commons in Edinburg.

Love Your Selfie is a celebration of the greatest love story of all, and that is self-love, Mazariegos said. The Counseling Center will provide tips and tricks on how to start a self-love relationship and how to date yourself.

"Know that there's always hope for love, but it's going to be challenging to find that real, real amazing love if you don't love yourself," she said. "So, it really does all start with the love that you have for yourself."

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



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Study abroad funding opportunities

Omar E. Zapata
THE RIDER

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is available for students who are looking to study abroad.

The Gilman Scholarship is a program of the U.S. State Department. To apply for the scholarship, undergraduate students must be U.S. citizens in good academic standing, Federal Pell Grant recipients and participating in a program that is at least three weeks in length.

“It was created to diversify the student body that studies abroad,” said Lizette Leal, an international programs specialist for International Programs & Partnerships at UTRGV. “So, it’s really targeting our student population. So, first-generation college students, Hispanic students, STEM students, veterans are highly preferred and have priority.”

The Gilman Scholarship awards up to \$5,000, while the Gilman Critical Need Language Award is a maximum \$8,000 if the program is language-based.

Isidro Zapata, a computer engineering junior, president of the Study Abroad Club and a student assistant for International Programs & Partnerships, is the first UTRGV student to be awarded the Gilman Critical Need Language Award.

Zapata, who has taken Chinese and Korean language classes, was planning to study abroad in China, but due to the travel advisories regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak, is hoping to study in South Korea now. The Gilman Scholarship requires two essays, a transcript and an optional third essay if it is a language course such as the one Zapata hopes to take.



PHOTO COURTESY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIP

UTRGV students travel abroad to the French Riviera in Nice, France, last summer. Shown are (front row, from left) Jaquelin Duenez, Amairany Solis and Erik Torres. Back row: Armando Ibarra, Karolyn Valdez, Felipe Karr, Writing & Language Studies Lecturer Margarita Isbell, Ingrid Aleman, Jessica Santana and Fedra Hinojosa.

“I shared my experience that I had with a Chinese woman, and I kind of wrote it and formalized [it] in a way that made me want to fight the xenophobic culture, especially in our community,” Zapata said.

Leal said she noticed an upsurge in student interest for the South Korean study abroad programs.

“I don’t know if it has to do with the K-pop movement, or just the general Asian studies minor kicking off for the last three years, but the South Korea programs, short term and long term, are very popular right now,” she said.

Eighteen UTRGV students received The Gilman Scholarship last year, the highest number of recipients in

UTRGV’s history, according to a June 13 news release from The Newsroom at UTRGV.

The application deadline is March 3, and Leal suggests students not wait until the last minute to turn in the application.

“The main thing is that you do have to invest time in essays and revise them,” she said.

Leal said International Programs & Partnerships is available as a resource to give feedback on the application essays.

“Most of our work-studies have received Gilman, so they’re available as well to give feedback,” she said.

Zapata also believes giving time to your application essay would be the

best thing to improve your chances at the scholarship.

“It was good for me to see someone else tell me, like, ‘Oh, this is good. ... This is something that will set you apart,’” he said.

Zapata said Leal can inform students about what they are looking for in the application essays.

“[Scholarship officials] tell her pretty much what we’re looking for this year,” he said. “And, you know, things may change. They may see trends, like, in the ... national culture.”

Another resource that is available for students is the Writing Center on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

Magdalena Flores, a student support and tutoring specialist for the Writing Center in Edinburg, said they have helped students before with this type of writing.

“We can help with organization,” Flores said. “We can even help with development. They don’t even have to have anything written when they come in. If they just want to go through the brainstorming stage with us, we can also help them sort of outline their ideas, you know, and so on.”

Students do not need appointments for the Writing Center, and can spend 30 minutes getting feedback on their paper. Flores said they even have online services if students cannot physically go to the center.

“We have a send-your-assignment service,” Flores said. “[Students] basically will upload their essay, and a tutor will look at their essay and give them feedback.”

The Writing Center also offers tutoring through Skype or Zoom.

See STUDY, Page 11

SFAC holds first meeting for FY21 requests

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

The Student Fee Advisory Committee met Jan. 31 to discuss its Fiscal Year 2021 timeline and review budget requests.

The total funding requested for FY2021 is \$14,796,393.64 and consists of the Fiscal Year 2021 requests totaling \$14,287,017.02, FY2021 one-time requests totaling \$158,065 and FY2020 one-time requests totaling \$351,311.62.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee, or SFAC, exists to “advise the university president on the allocation of the student services fee,” according to its website

Student services refers to activities “separate and apart from the regularly scheduled academic functions of the institution and directly involve or benefit students,” according to Section 54.503 of the Texas Education Code.

Members of the committee include Chair Emilia Treviño; Student Representatives Raul Ordoñez, Roy Cantu, Alejandro Mendivil Alcalde, Maria Ramirez Montoya and Alexandra Smith-Macias; and University Representatives Claudia Dole, Marcela De León and Art Brownlow.

Treviño said it is important to have a Student Fee Advisory Committee in order to hear the point of view of students.

“The students get to have an opinion on how their fees are being utilized,” Treviño said.

She said the faculty and staff can give insight that students don’t have and vice versa.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the timeline for future meetings and overall request amounts, and discussed the one-time requests for FY2020 and FY2021 and questions they had for the departments requesting money.

Treviño wrote down the questions.

Among the requests for the next fiscal year, the Athletics department is asking for \$8,713,193, Leadership & Mentoring is asking for \$705,607.38 and the Chess program is asking for \$527,452.

Asked what she thought of the first meeting, Treviño replied it was great.

“I like the mix of students, I like the mix of faculty and staff,” she said. “I think it’s going to go very well. I love to have opinions and that’s what came out of it, so I think it’s



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

The Student Fee Advisory Committee discusses funding requests and timelines during a meeting Jan. 31 in the Life and Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus. Shown (from left) are Student Representative Maria Ramirez Montoya, University Representative Claudia Dole, Committee Chair Emilia Treviño, University Representative Art Brownlow, Student Representative Roy Cantu, Support Staff Debbie Abrego-Medina and Student Representative Raul Ordoñez.

going to be great.”

For future meetings, Treviño expects to remain on track and keep up with the schedule.

“My goal for now is to get through with the FY20 one-time requests. That way ... if the request is, you know, coming up, that way we can

make sure we meet deadlines for them,” she said. “Overall, to just accomplish a fair committee and make sure that everybody feels comfortable with how the requests were approved or denied.”

The next meeting is scheduled from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Friday in Life and Health

Sciences Building 2.604 on the Brownsville campus and according to the timeline, the committee will deliberate all one-time funding requests and select departmental presentations. It is open to the public; however, if the committee starts deliberating then attendees must step out.

Preparing for success

Men's soccer club recruiting players



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Business freshman Antonio Alanis (right) leads his teammates during the speed agility hurdle training during their Jan. 30 practice.



Biology junior Erick Rodriguez receives the ball on the field behind the UREC Jan. 30 as part of the recruitment practice for the UTRGV soccer club.

Angel De La Cruz

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's Soccer Club is reaching out to students who are interested in continuing to play soccer at a competitive level by inviting them to practices.

Anyone is welcome to join the team, the only requirement is to be either a UTRGV graduate or undergraduate student.

"As long as they are a UTRGV student, the club is open to every student

who wants to join," soccer club President Alejandro Garcia said. "Once you've joined the team, you need to show the coaches that you do have the skills to compete because there are other students who also want to compete and also want to play, but that happens in every team. You go there to compete."

There are currently five conferences in the Texas Collegiate Soccer League and the men's soccer club plays under the Premier League Conference, which is

at the highest level. They now play against top schools such as the University of Texas at Austin, whose soccer club qualified for The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association men's soccer championships in 2015, according to The Daily Texan, the newspaper at the University of Texas at Austin.

Also competing in the Premier League Conference is Baylor University's Men's Soccer Club, which defeated UTRGV 3-2 last season.

Ever since the club began in 2017, the team has only kept advancing in conference, ascending to the second division in 2018 and reaching the Premier League Conference Fall 2019.

Maxwell Hill, a graduate medical student and defender, hopes that this step up in the league encourages more students to join the team.

"We know that UTRGV is full of good soccer players who've grown up playing soccer their whole lives but maybe just haven't

heard about the club soccer team and a chance to continue playing competitive soccer," Hill said. "So, we're hoping to make people aware of our team so that we can have [a] competitive team and do well in the league this year."

Head Coach Hugo Zuñiga invites everyone to keep growing as people and players.

"We hope to keep getting more and more players," Zuñiga said. "This is a new tournament, and, therefore, we expect to have new members on

the team to have a more complete group."

Practice is from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the field behind the UREC.

"The team is currently getting back to work," Garcia said. "We just started practicing last week and we are focusing on getting the team ready for our first game."

The UTRGV Men's Soccer Club's first game against the University of the Incarnate Word will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at the field behind the UREC.

Avenge the loss

Aldo Nava

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team will have a chance at redemption when it faces the Utah Valley University Wolverines at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Fieldhouse for a rematch from last month.

Utah Valley attained the 72-70 victory on Jan. 18 with a layup in the last two seconds of the second half, ending UTRGV's chances of picking up the win.

"Well, we played hard," Head Coach Lew Hill said. "They made some runs, we made runs, it was a game of runs. They won because they got the ball last. Whoever got the ball last, we weren't stopping each other."

The close game against the Wolverines put things into perspective for the rematch.

"I think we fouled it too much that game," Hill said. "So, we gotta not foul them as much and keep them in front and just give them one shot and really

push in transition."

Junior guard Chris Freeman said the previous game against Utah Valley was still ingrained in the team's mind.

"Definitely, that's the one we're looking to get back 'cause we lost on a buzzer beater and it was a pretty good game up [until] then, but we felt like we [should have] came out with that win," Freeman said.

Senior forward Lesley Varner II talked strategy about close games such as the one against Utah Valley.

"Just stay composed and continue, just not to get out of character and everybody play their role and it all comes together," Varner said.

UTRGV will come into this game having played two games the previous week, which could either prepare or weaken the men's team going into the game against UVU.

During halftime, Battle of the Colleges will take place in which the deans of different colleges and students are competing in a free throw shooting competition as a part of Homecoming week.



FILE PHOTO

Utah Valley shooting guard Ben Nakwaasah keeps the ball away from UTRGV guard Greg Bowie II during last year's Homecoming game. The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team will play against the Wolverines after losing by two points during their last match Jan. 18 at Orem, Utah. The match will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

TAXES*Continued from Page 1*

4 p.m. Monday through Friday until March 6, according to an email sent to the university community on Jan. 31.

MyFreeTaxes has been providing services at the university since the opening of UTRGV, according to Perez.

Perez said the process can take about 15 minutes to an hour to complete, depending on the different types of forms people need to enter in the system.

"Usually when it takes an hour, it's mostly because sometimes people, they don't have everything and so they're looking for things, you know," Perez said. "Sometimes some of our

students, they haven't downloaded their 1098-T and so, they're logging in at the ASSIST at the same time, downloading that form and so on. But it is relatively fast."

Documents needed when completing the tax return, according to the email, are

- Valid identification;
- Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and a valid e-mail address;
- W2s, 1099s, and other income forms;
- 1098-T forms;
- 2018 tax return or parent's 2018 tax return, if claimed as a dependent;
- Bank routing and account numbers and;
- If filing a joint tax return, both

individuals must be present.

"My Free Taxes can be used to file your federal and out of state tax returns (if applicable)," the email states. "However, the software does not support the 1040NR Tax return (usually required for F-1 international students)."

After completing the form, it takes about three to four weeks for the refund, according to Perez.

The deadline to file taxes is April 15 and Perez recommends filing early to receive the refund early.

"So, yes, there's still a little bit of time, but, you know, pretty much it's one of those things that, it has to be done," Perez said. "And if you are required to file it, right, not everybody's required

to file, and the earlier that is done, especially if you are going to receive a refund ... you get your money faster."

Mass communication sophomore Leslie Resendez said she was not aware of the service.

"I just used TurboTax 'cause my best friend would do her taxes on TurboTax," Resendez said. "So, I just kind of imitated that but I think that's a great opportunity for students to learn more about doing their taxes, especially because, you know, we have all these things we have to pay for."

MyFreeTaxes.com has a helpline for those who have trouble while completing the form. For help, call (855) 698-9435 or visit the MyFreeTaxes stations in the university.

HOME COMING*Continued from Page 1*

Asked what is new this year, Mata-Vasquez replied the addition of the mascot at different events is something students can expect.

Today, the Tip-off Party will take place from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the Brownsville library lawn and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the Edinburg Quad.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Campus Activities Board along with the Student Union will host UTRGV Groove where student can create tie-dye shirts. At noon Tuesday, the event will take place on the Student Union Patio on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday on the

Brownsville library lawn.

Also taking place Wednesday is the Wrapping of the Letters, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. behind the police station on the Edinburg campus.

"All day, students from fraternity and sorority life and different organizations, as well as housing and I believe students from the University Recreation, will be helping wrap the letters," Mata-Vasquez said. "And so, if anyone wants to go and volunteer or help out, they can definitely call our office to let us know that they want to help out and be part of this tradition."

Vivian Lopez, a biology sophomore from the Edinburg campus said she is interested in attending and

wants to be more involved in campus activities.

"It sounds fun," Lopez said. "I didn't even know about it but now that you told us I am more interested in attending."

Other students such as Julissa Mejia, a civil engineering junior from the Brownsville campus, said she hadn't heard about Homecoming but thinks it's good for the school.

"I don't really pay attention to it ... but, like, I'm happy for everybody else about it," Mejia said.

The Student Activities director said Housing and Residence Life will host a golf cart parade for the first time since 2015 at 6 p.m. Thursday. The parade will start at the Unity Residence Hall and end at the Fieldhouse, where the

Battle of the Colleges will take place during the Vaqueros basketball game at 7 p.m.

After the game, the traditional Burning of the Letters will take place at the Edinburg Health and Physical Education 1 Complex parking lot. Free food and music will be provided.

"This year, I think it'll be nice to see all the residents and anyone who wants to jump in that parade at 6 p.m. walk over to the Fieldhouse and go all across campus, watch the game, cheer on our dean of students or your college dean and then end it with the lighting of the letters right after," Mata-Vasquez said.

At Friday night's baseball game, campus community members can attend a

Homecoming Alumni Mixer at 7 p.m. at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

Saturday wraps up this week's festivities with a tailgate and cook-off from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fieldhouse parking lot. Live music, games and face painting will be available for attendees.

"We really want it to be a place where you can come with your friends, family, your friends that have graduated," Mata-Vasquez said. "We want alumni to come back and then from there we go to the game, we celebrate the UTRGV royals and we get to see who's been selected by the student body."

The celebration will conclude with the Vaqueros taking on Seattle University in their homecoming game.

VISIT*Continued from Page 3*

related disorders.

"About 60% of the variation is due to genetics in terms of diabetes," Blangero said. "But that leaves 40% due to the environment, so what we've been doing is trying to turn the whole problem on its head and focus on the environment instead of genetics."

Chancellor James B. Milliken said every time he visits the Rio Grande Valley he is reminded that UTRGV is a model of what higher education could be about.

"In an era where many universities don't do nearly enough, as [Robert W. Shepard, Chancellor's Council chairman] mentioned, to drive social and economic mobility, RGV ranks near the top nationally when it comes to turning low-income students into high-income adults," Milliken said. "And in just four years, [UTRGV President] Guy [Bailey] and his team are getting started and it's really exciting."

Bailey said the UT System, since 2014, has invested almost \$400 million in the institution.

"That's why we have our medical school," he said. "That's why things, in part, are going so well and we appreciate that."

Bailey said the institution also wanted to create additional educational opportunities for students.

"In the Rio Grande Valley you could always get a good undergraduate education," Bailey said. "What you couldn't do is get that professional degree. Our goal was to provide opportunities to keep students here. You build your workforce by keeping students here. That's what we aim to do."

He said they made conscious efforts to ensure that students graduate with minimum debt.

"We're one of the poorest areas in

the state," Bailey said. "And being able to do that helps our students achieve dramatic social mobility. Our \$75,000-tuition guarantee was a big part of that and again, we don't have these resources these other schools have so we have to manage and work very carefully."

Last September, Bailey announced the UTRGV Tuition Advantage program, which offers free tuition to students with a household income of \$75,000 or less. Additionally, about half the students with adjusted gross incomes between \$75,000 and

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Guy Bailey
UTRGV President

\$100,000 will have reduced tuition and fees as well. The program will take effect in Fall 2020.

Gonzales said the UT System approved a pharmacy program in May 2018 and a podiatry program February 2019 for the university.

The programs have received preliminary planning authority by the University System board of regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"There are a whole range of things that have been approved for us that would really create opportunities for our students here," Bailey said.





PHOTOS COURTESY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

UTRGV students attend the Study in Edinburgh, Scotland, program with UTRGV Rehabilitation Services & Counseling Professor Bruce Reed in summer 2018.

STUDY
Continued from Page 8

“They’re [students] pretty much trying to persuade their audience that they are the candidates ... to win the scholarships,” Flores said.

She said it is important to look at what the scholarship is asking for specifically.

“Make sure that ... you are addressing everything that the

scholarship prompts are asking you to address,” Flores said.

The office of International Programs & Partnerships will host Gilman workshops on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. The workshops will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday and Feb. 20 in the Student Academic Center 2.130 on the Edinburg campus and from noon to 1 p.m. on Feb. 18 in Library 3.206 on the Brownsville campus.



UTRGV students are shown during the Study Abroad in Asia program with art Assistant Professor Ping Xu. Shown are (from left) Cal Ramos, Ann Jacobo, Ashley Garcia, Jorge Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and UTRGV Study Abroad Asia Faculty Leader Ping Xu and Bernadette Briedenbach.

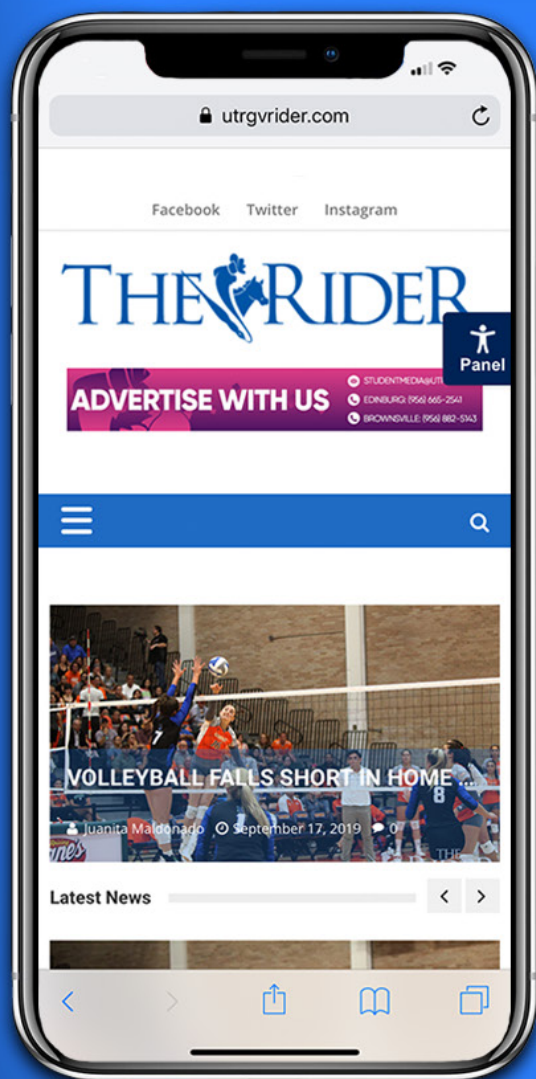
Leal said that studying abroad is not cheap but that there is funding for it and that many UTRGV students are capable of obtaining these funds through scholarships.

“The beauty of The Gilman Scholarship is that they can apply for Gilman ... without any type of financial commitment, and then if they get the funding, then they can apply for the program and commit to the program,” Leal said.

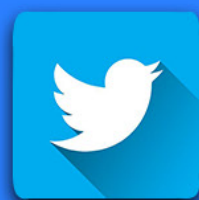
International Programs & Partnerships has a scholarship that awards \$500 to \$1,000, depending on funding. The deadline for the application is April 1.

Zapata said he wants to counter the stigma that only rich people can study abroad and encourages UTRGV students to visit the International Programs & Partnerships office to learn about the opportunities.

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LUNCH SPECIALS

11AM-3PM

SUNDAY BRUNCH

11AM-3PM



2405 W. University Drive, Suite F - Edinburg, TX (956)380-4444

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
Division of Academic Affairs

The Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success, and P-16 Integration would like to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. Hope you are having a sweet semester!

