

SPORTS



The art of hitting a baseball. Where does a player begin perfecting the art of hitting?

Page 6

ON CAMPUS



UTRGV will host events on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses for Women's History Month.

Page 3

OPINION

VAQUERO VOICE:

“Well I haven’t [registered for summer courses]. I want to, but I think the benefits are that you finish faster.”



Page 4

MIDTERM MITIGATION



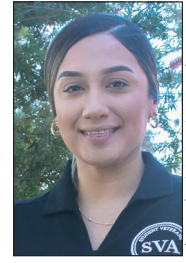
Arisbeth Rodriguez/THE RIDER

Special education senior Esmeralda Flores (left) and bilingual education sophomore Denise Zerda de-stress by painting pots March 4 during the Stress Buster event held on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

Student Veterans of America’s first female president

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER



Juliana Peña

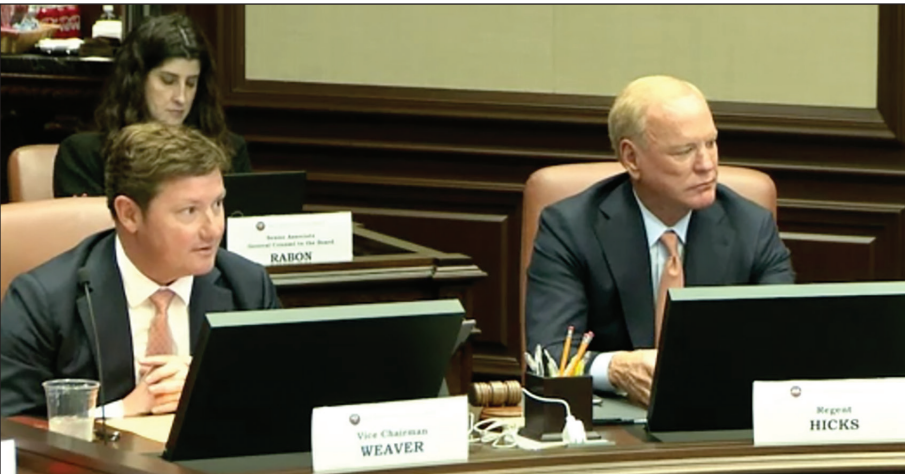
Juliana Peña, a 25-year-old veteran, was appointed the first female president for Student Veterans of America (SVA) at UTRGV.

According to studentveterans.org, Student Veterans of America is a nationwide organization, “with a network of more than 1,500 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and four countries representing more than 750,000 student veterans. SVA aims to inspire yesterday’s warriors by connecting student veterans with a community of like-minded chapter leaders.”

Peña, a biology freshman, served six years with the Marine Corps. She joined the Marines after graduating from Mission High School in 2013 and hopes that her appointment can

See **VETERAN**, Page 2

Texas’ first podiatry school at UTRGV



SCREENSHOT FROM THE UT SYSTEM WEBCAST

Vice Chairman James C. Weaver (left) and Board of Regent R. Steven Hicks propose three programs to be implemented at UTRGV on Feb. 26. The vote for approval was unanimous and the proposal awaits approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Three doctoral programs approved by UT System

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

Texas’ first school of podiatry, along with two other UTRGV postgraduate programs, could potentially open in

Fall 2021 after being approved by the University of Texas System board of regents Feb. 26.

The other proposed programs are a doctorate in nursing practice and doctorate of philosophy in

See **PODIATRY**, Page 5



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

An email regarding updates in the UTRGV Transforming Our World Strategic Plan was sent Feb. 28 to the campus community. The email included a copy of the comprehensive report, which shows extensive data on key performance measures.

Moving forward

University issues report on strategic plan

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

UTRGV has released a comprehensive report on progress of the Transforming Our World Strategic Plan, which for the first time includes data on performance measures identified in the plan as well as other metrics.

Mark Kaswan, a political science

associate professor and Academic Affairs Faculty Fellow for Strategic Initiatives, said the report details everything the university has undertaken since the launch of the strategic plan in Fall 2017.

“As part of that, the university undertook a number of significant initiatives, including the strategic

See **REPORT**, Page 5

THE RIDER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Victor G. Ramirez

ONLINE EDITOR

Leslie Medrano

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS

Jacqueline Peraza

Arisbeth Rodriguez

CARTOONIST

Elizabeth Mendoza

REPORTERS

Maleny Ortega

Sol Garcia

Omar E. Zapata

Hania Rocio

Brigitte Ortiz

Alejandra Yañez

A&E REPORTER

Paulina Longoria

SPORTS REPORTERS

Aldo Nava

Angel De La Cruz

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Aaliyah Garza

Amanda Vela

Eduardo Galindo

Roxanna Miranda

Susan Mireles

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS

Cristian A. Cervantes

Mariana Gomez

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godínez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

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

© 2020 The Rider

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
'La Malinche'
Lecture
Camilla D.

Townsend,
the Distinguished

Professor of History at Rutgers University, will present a lecture, titled "La Malinche, According to the Indians," at 4:30 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. La Malinche has long been cast as a traitor to her people in the Spanish conquest of Mexico. The presentation is part of the **UTRGV History Department's Rondel Davidson Endowed Lecture Series.**

The Lucky Vaquero

Students can test their **luck** with games at 4:30 p.m. in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday

Get Out the Count

Students can learn **census facts** by

playing the **prize wheel trivia game** starting at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus.

Coffee and Conversation

The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host a **Coffee and Conversation** in which students will be informed about BSM and have free coffee from 9 to 10 a.m. on the Quad on the Edinburg campus.

Game Release

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

Wednesday

Flower Day

The Student Union will celebrate **Flower Day** with **DIY flower headbands** at 11 a.m. in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus and at noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus.

Rhythm Night

Students can learn the **Lindy Hop** at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday

Slam Poetry Hour

The Student Union will host **Slam Poetry** at noon in La Sala on the Brownsville campus and at 3 p.m. in the Food Court on the Edinburg campus.

Friday

'Best Little Whorehouse' musical **UTRGV Productions** will present the musical, **"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,"** from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in Edinburg. The play will also take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$15, \$10 for senior citizens, military members and Winter Texans, and \$5 for students and children.

--Compiled by *Brigitte Ortiz*

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 25 and 29.



Feb. 25

2:20 p.m.: An officer responded to a fire alarm at the Biomedical Research and Health Professions Building on the Brownsville campus. On arrival, faculty,

staff and students were evacuating the building. The officer made contact with Facilities staff, who informed him that a steam valve that was opened inside a mechanical room had triggered the alarm. UTRGV Health and Safety cleared the building for re-entry.

6:16 p.m.: A resident assistant from the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus reported discovering a strong odor of marijuana in an apartment while conducting a health and safety check. When she entered, she discovered drug paraphernalia on the counter. The student resident subsequently arrived at the scene and gave consent to search his room to the officer at the scene. A search of the room yielded a clear plastic baggie with marijuana, among other drug paraphernalia. The student was issued a court appearance citation for possession of drug paraphernalia due to the marijuana weighing less than one ounce. The director of Residential Life was notified and said he would inform Student Rights and Responsibilities of the incident. The marijuana and drug paraphernalia were confiscated and submitted as evidence.

Feb. 26

2:17 a.m.: An officer observed an abandoned vehicle improperly parked, creating a traffic hazard along West University Boulevard in Brownsville. While at the location, the vehicle's owner, a non-affiliated man, arrived and informed the officer he had run out of gas. The man advised the officer he did not have money for gas and he could not get anyone to assist him with his

vehicle. The officer decided to impound the vehicle due to its blocking traffic and representing a hazard. During the inventory of the vehicle, the officer located a tire deflation device inside the vehicle. The officer informed him that being in possession of the device was prohibited but that an arrest was not executed due to the discretion of the sergeant at the scene. The device was seized and submitted into evidence for destruction.

3:46 p.m.: A staff member reported she was concerned for the safety of two children who attend the Child Development Center on the Edinburg campus. She stated that the children did not attend the center, thus causing a concern for their welfare since she was aware of several issues the family was experiencing. Officers were eventually able to contact the children's mother, a university student who lives on campus. She and her children were fine, and she was advised of the services available at UTRGV.

4:23 p.m.: A faculty member stated that on Feb. 22, while operating a UTRGV vehicle, a white Ford Expedition with an unknown male driver, pointed a firearm toward him while driving south on U.S. Highway 77 in Brownsville. The faculty member was referred to the Brownsville Police Department to file a police report due to the incident occurring off campus.

Feb. 27

4:22 p.m.: An officer working a parade detail with the Brownsville Independent School District Police Department was waved down by a concerned citizen reporting an intoxicated non-affiliated man. The officer was able to locate and detain the man who was determined to be intoxicated. The man was arrested by Brownsville ISD Police on charges of public intoxication.

7:38 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the area of UTRGV Facilities due to four non-affiliated individuals seen on the border cameras jumping the U.S. border

fence. An officer made contact with one male juvenile and one adult male, both from Mexico. A second officer made contact with one adult female and one male adult who were unable to scale the fence. U.S. Border Patrol arrived and took custody of the four individuals.

Feb. 28

1:05 a.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation on International Boulevard at East Taylor Street in Brownsville. Upon making contact with the non-affiliated operator of the vehicle, the officer observed signs of intoxication by alcoholic beverage. The male refused to perform the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests at the scene. He was placed under arrest on charges of driving while intoxicated. After refusing a breath specimen, a search warrant was completed for a blood draw. A check on him revealed two prior convictions for driving while intoxicated. A local tow service impounded his vehicle.

Feb. 29

10:27 a.m.: An officer responded to the library on the Edinburg campus in reference to a non-affiliated male looking at females and making them uncomfortable. After making contact with him, the officer confirmed he had no affiliation with UTRGV. He was issued a criminal trespass warning for UTRGV properties.

10:47 a.m.: An officer responded to the Student Health Center in reference to a fire alarm. A smoke detector in the building had triggered the alarm. At the time, the building had been empty. The Edinburg Fire Department later deemed the building safe. A work order was placed for the smoke detector.

6:30 p.m.: An officer responded to the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to some flooding caused by an overflowing water drain in a custodial room. UTRGV Facilities cleaned the area.

--Compiled by *Sol Garcia*

VETERAN

Continued from Page 1

inspire other women to keep working in male-dominated areas.

"Honestly, it's very empowering," Peña said. "You know, being Latina, we are always told ... there are gender norms to what you should ... get into. I don't want to just be what society and, like, the culture in the [Rio Grande] Valley wants us to be."

UTRGV SVA advocates for student veterans on both campuses. Its goal is to ensure every student veteran successfully transitions into college life and remains successful all the way to graduation.

She joined the organization in Fall 2019 and served as secretary before being appointed president.

During her presidency, Peña would like to improve certain aspects of the organization.

"The organization was catered to just veterans, but a lot of our populations actually are military-affiliated members," she said. "One thing I do want to incorporate is to make sure that not only veterans are included in this organization, but also the family members."

Elda Arriaga, assistant director of the Military and Veterans Success Center, said Peña as president will show a different side to who a veteran is to the

UTRGV community.

"I think it shows that not only males should be involved in leadership," Arriaga said. "We've never had a female veteran in this leadership place. I think this is big not only for current but for future students ... to see how we have a female leader within the SVA."

She also encourages students to become familiar with the veteran community at the university.

"It's important to recognize their service," Arriaga said. "It's a constant communication amongst our veterans and military affiliate students but it's also getting to know what's available for them in the community as well."

Showcasing UTRGV women

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

To commemorate Women's History Month, UTRGV will host events on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

"As always, it's great to celebrate our past and our present, as well as the contributions, like, we've made as women from thus far," said Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change.

This marks the fifth year UTRGV celebrates Women's History Month, Sandoval said.

A screening of the movie "Room," featuring Brie Larson, will take place March 23. On the Brownsville campus, the movie will be shown from noon to 2 p.m. in La Sala. In Edinburg, it will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in Student Academic Center Building 1.112.

"Room" was chosen for its "strong female lead," Sandoval said.

"The movie was also written by a female," she said. "So, that's why we chose this movie this year."

On March 24, Leadership and Mentoring will host a cultural chat from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Sabal Hall 1.104 on the Brownsville campus. The chat will include a panel of female guest speakers. The tentatively scheduled speakers are --Saraswathy Nair, associate professor and chair of the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences;

--and Juliet V. Garcia, a communication professor and former president of legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville.

In an interview with The Rider on March 3, Sandoval said some speakers were still in the confirmation process.

The panel will consist of UTRGV faculty and staff. All panelists will be women with doctorates.

"There is a small percentage of women who have Ph.D.'s already and then even



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

The reception celebrating International Women's Day honored Sylvia Robles (center) for receiving the 2020 Outstanding International Female Faculty recognition. Robles is a lecturer in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship. The event took place March 5 in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

smaller ... that are women of color," Sandoval said.

The chat will provide refreshments, and attendees will have the chance to meet the panelists.

A movie screening of "Anita Hall" was the first event of the month. The movie was shown March 3 on both campuses.

International Admissions and Student Services, in partnership with the Women's Faculty Network, celebrated International Women's Day March 5 in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

"We [celebrated International Women's Day] big," said Blanca Nellie Leyva, an international student adviser. "We ... want to showcase the talent and the outstanding work of the females that we have here on campus."

The annual event honored Sylvia Robles as the UTRGV 2020 Outstanding International Female Faculty recipient. Robles, a lecturer in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, was selected by a

team composed of faculty and staff from International Admissions and Student Services and the Women's Faculty Network.

The award recognizes a female international faculty member who has shown commitment to working with international students, Leyva said.

Biomedical science senior Paola Vidal and disaster studies graduate student Deepa Acharya were also honored at the event. They each received this year's Outstanding International Female Student award and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Vidal was born and raised in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Acharya is from Nepal.

Typically, the two scholarships are for one undergraduate female international student and one graduate female international student. For undergraduates, there were 11 applicants this year and 15 for graduate students.

Applicants needed to have a good immigration standing and be actively involved in student organizations or community service. Undergraduate applicants needed a minimum of a 2.75 grade-point average while graduate students a 3.0 GPA, Leyva said.

"We want to recognize the remarkable academic work, community and school involvement of these exceptional female international students during their studies," she said.

The event offered a light lunch and performances from students in the School of Music.

Leyva described the event as "empowering."

"We want to recognize those who are making positive differences for women here in the U.S. or in their home country," she said.

During the month, Leadership and Mentoring student assistants Kelly Segovia and Abraham Espinoza took pictures of students holding a whiteboard with the names of the women who have inspired them. The photos are posted throughout the month on the Leadership and Mentoring's Instagram page.

"It was very sweet," Segovia said. "There was one student who put the first female ... member in the Senate, and I thought that was very inspirational."

Special Collections and Archives is scheduled to have an exhibit titled, "Trail Blazers of American Women's History" on display all month on the third floor of the library on the Brownsville campus. The exhibit showcases several books that relate to the exhibit's title.

"We wanted to do something more focused on, like, history of women," said Milagro "Millie" Resendez, a Special Collections manager. "We encourage students to go look at our display. This is to be able to just learn about the women that have done great things in our history and a great example to ... follow."

Students bring home 53 ADDY awards



UTRGV STUDENT MEDIA

Members of Pulse magazine are shown during the American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards Gala, held Feb. 20 in McAllen. The magazine and its staff won 11 awards. Shown (from left) are Michel Flores Tavizon, graphics editor; Manuel Gamez, photographer; Karla Cavazos, section editor; Lovette Sañez, social media/online editor; Erik Webster, former editor-in-chief; Patricia Ramon, editor-in-chief; Steven Hughes, photo editor; Maria Ruiz, section editor; Gabriela Gonzalez, writer; and, Yazmin Sanchez Cortez, writer. Webster is holding a Bronze ADDY award for Pulse 004. Ramon is holding a Bronze ADDY award for "El Munstro Sol."

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

Fifty-three UTRGV students were honored last month during the American Advertising Federation-RGV

ADDY Awards Gala at the Grand Banquet Center in McAllen.

Eight students earned gold ADDYs at the 1920s-themed gala held Feb. 20.

The AAF is one of the

oldest national advertising organizations, dating to 1905. There are over 200 chapters, said Kimberly Selber, vice president of the AAF-RGV and chair of the competition and gala. Selber is also a

communication associate professor and graduate program coordinator at UTRGV.

For student awards, there are gold, bronze, silver and honorable mentions. Students who receive a gold award at the district level advance to nationals.

One of the winners was mass communication senior Sierra Spinler. She called the gala exciting and unique.

"It's definitely super cool to see a lot of professionals within the field and in the [Rio Grande] Valley just kind of all come together to celebrate each other," Spinler said.

Spinler received a bronze Student ADDY for her submission "Off the Grid," which was originally a class project for Selber's copywriting class. For the class, students had to come up with "campaigns with the creative concepts and execute it in terms of, all the way from, what it's supposed to say to the art direction," Spinler said.

She chose the inReach GPS service of the Garmin company as her four-piece campaign. The inReach GPS service assists people who do not have signal in their cellphones, she said.

Spinler said her campaign is about connecting yourself to

nature in the wild and staying safe.

"You want to be safe when you do that, so you don't just, you know, get hurt or something, and ... no one knows where you're at," she said.

Spinler said Selber encouraged her to submit the project to the competition.

"She's, like, 'Just turn it in, see what happens,' so I did," the communication major said.

Other winners include the Pulse magazine staff and several individual members.

Aje-Ori Agbese, an associate professor in the Communication department and Pulse faculty adviser, said it was a good feeling to win 11 ADDY awards this year.

"Last year, I think we won six or seven ... and winning a lot more this year was a very good feeling," she said.

Agbese described the 2019 Pulse staff as "very hard-working."

"They worked really hard to create a really good magazine," she said.

Agbese believes earning more gold ADDY awards would be great.

"I would like to see the students compete at the national level for the ADDYs,"

VAQUERO VOICE



SUMMER COURSES



"I have taken summer classes since I'm majoring in biology. I have taken a lot of science classes, so I think the benefits is that it goes by quicker. It helps a lot of students learn the stuff way faster than during the school year. The non-benefits of it is that since it's so fast-paced it's about more studying. I think it's a lot more independent work versus it being during the school year where you have more help with tutors and stuff."

Melanie Oetjens
Biology senior

"I actually just registered for summer classes. So, this is going to be my first semester doing it, or first year. I think it's beneficial because you are going to finish quicker. Maybe [turn] a four-year degree into, maybe, two and a half, you know."



James Cua
Engineering technology sophomore



"Personalmente no he tomado clases en el verano pero tengo muchos amigos que sí lo han tomado y yo siempre lo recomiendo ... dependiendo de lo que quieras estudiar. Por ejemplo, yo ... cambié de carrera tres veces y en ese tiempo a lo mejor lo puedes tomar para poder explorar cuáles clases quieres tomar. Por ejemplo, si no te gusta lo que estás haciendo puedes tomar ese tiempo para ver qué quieres hacer".

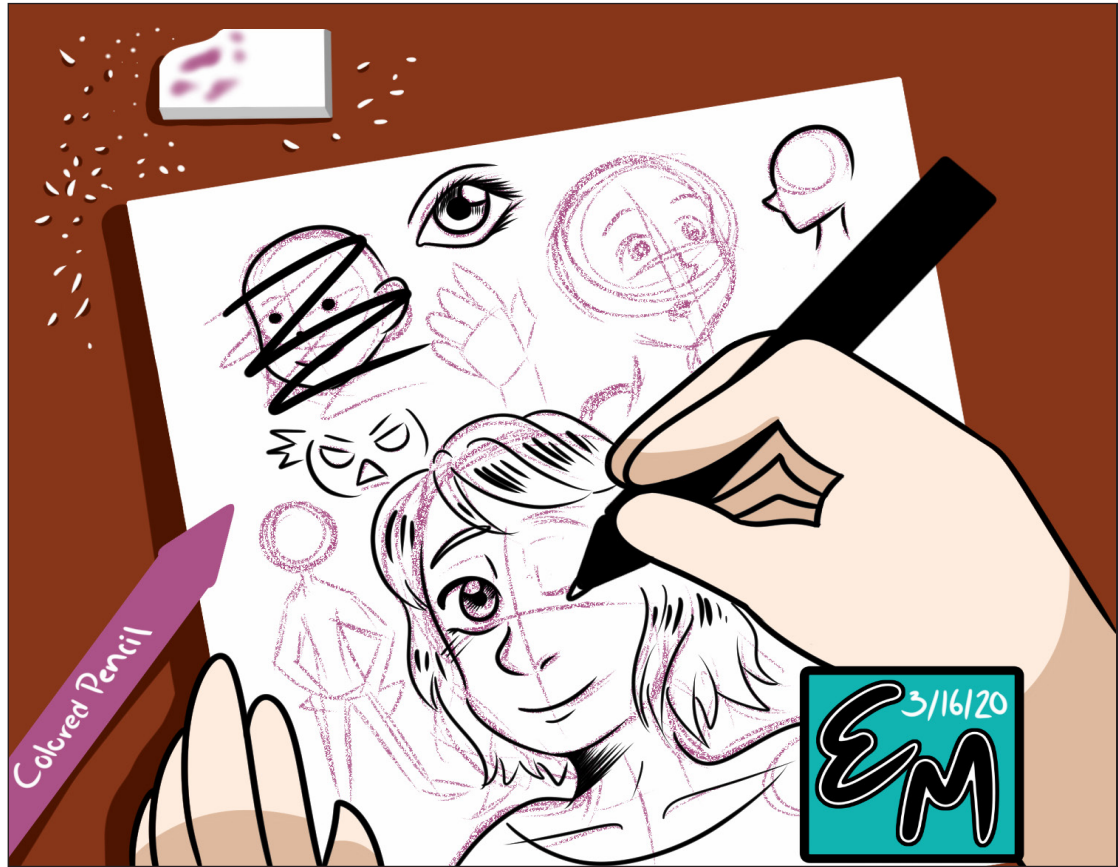
Miguel Saenz
Estudiante de tercer año en comunicación

"Well I haven't [registered for summer courses]. I want to, but I think the benefits are that you finish faster. ... You get to meet more people. ... I recommend [students] should do it. I think it would be really beneficial in my opinion."



Ianelly Garza
Sophomore

--Compiled by Eduardo Galindo and Aaliyah Garza



Getting better with time



Arisbeth Rodriguez
THE RIDER

Over the years, I have been told many times by peers and friends that the reason they never draw or paint or attempt to try art is because they are "not good at it."

This statement is used by many people to reason why they don't attempt new things or take risks in their life. They don't try, and if they do and don't automatically excel at the start of their attempt, they quit, due to a fear of failure that many people have when they try new things. People set themselves up for failure by holding themselves to high expectations and unreachable goals, and when they aren't able to reach those prospects, they decide to quit after only one try, instead of allowing themselves the time to experience and get better.

My parents have always encouraged me to try anything I want. They even make the time and put in the effort to

help me or discuss how I can improve. When I was 8 years old, I took up learning to draw and they began to buy me budget-friendly sketchbooks and supplies because they wanted me to be able to put in the effort to advance my art skills, even if we did not have a lot of money. I took up sewing and embroidery at 13 and they helped me buy the supplies or gave me ways to access them, such as borrowing a sewing machine from my grandmother.

My father worked hard at a job where my family could only see him during very limited hours, and my mother worked as a housewife, and while both had limited time to spend with our family, they were still set on allowing me the chance to be supported in my efforts to develop my hobbies and interests. Regardless of every obstacle they faced, my parents have always been supportive of anything new my siblings and I have wanted to try, and even now, they tell us to try and pursue any hobbies, opportunities or experiences that may come our way.

I wasn't very good when

I first started to draw, embroider or sew, and I don't think I am that much better to this day, but these hobbies are something I truly enjoy doing and have invested myself into for relaxation and pure enjoyment. I am lucky to have had parents that push my family and I to try and succeed in everything we set our minds to. They have influenced my love for music and art the most out of everyone I have known and they are, really, the only reason I am so sure about what I like to do and enjoy.

You should always give yourself time to be good at things. "Talent is one thing but practice makes perfect," one of my band directors would tell me.

"You can't just expect to be good at things. You need to invest time and effort and just keep getting better with time."

If you want to do something, give yourself reachable goals and try to do your best. If you feel like you aren't doing as well as you should, you are most likely putting too much pressure on something that shouldn't be rushed.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

FOLLOW US!



@UTRGV_TheRider



Snapchat



Twitter

UTRGV abrirá la primera escuela de podología en Texas

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

UTRGV planea abrir la primera escuela de podología de Texas en el otoño de 2021, según el presidente de UTRGV, Guy Bailey. La escuela de medicina podiátrica, el doctorado de práctica de enfermería y el doctorado de matemáticas y estadísticas con aplicaciones interdisciplinarias fueron aprobados por la junta de regentes del Sistema de la Universidad de Texas el 26 de febrero. El siguiente paso es que los programas sean aprobados por la Junta Coordinadora de Educación Superior de Texas.

el Valle, para todos los lugares donde tiene problemas de diabetes”, dijo Bailey.

La escuela también colaborará con otros programas de UTRGV existentes, como la Escuela de Medicina, el Instituto de Diabetes y Obesidad del Sur de Texas, la Escuela de Enfermería, el programa de Estudios de Asistente Médico y el programa de Terapia Ocupacional.

Se estima que el empleo a nivel nacional de podólogos aumentará más del 10% para 2026, según la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales de Estados Unidos citada en el comunicado de prensa. La oficina también afirma que los profesionistas están envejeciendo, y que el miembro promedio de la Asociación Médica de Podología de Estados Unidos tiene 53 años.

Doctorado en Práctica de Enfermería

Según el programa, habrá dos pistas

que conducen al doctorado: un post-bachillerato de cuatro años que consta de 75 horas de créditos y una pista de post-master de dos años y medio que consta de 45 horas de créditos. Los estudiantes en el programa pueden convertirse en enfermeras practicantes.

“Cada vez más, las enfermeras proporcionan una parte importante de la atención médica”, dijo Bailey. “Son cruciales para la atención médica y podremos capacitar a las enfermeras para que lo hagan”.

Los estudiantes que hayan obtenido un título de enfermería y sean enfermeras registradas podrán postularse al programa, de acuerdo con los documentos de la agenda de la junta de regentes del Sistema UT.

El trabajo del curso para el programa será en línea, lo que permite a los estudiantes continuar trabajando en un

entorno clínico. Los talleres de fin de semestre también estarán disponibles. Los talleres serán presenciales.

Las enfermeras practicantes son la segunda ocupación de más rápido crecimiento en el estado, con una tasa de crecimiento prevista para 10 años del 47.7% para 2026, según las estadísticas de la Comisión de la Fuerza Laboral de Texas citadas en la agenda.

Doctorado en Matemáticas y Estadística

Los estudiantes con una licenciatura admitidos en el programa deberán completar 78 horas de créditos semestrales. Aquellos que ingresen con una maestría solo deben completar 60 horas de créditos semestrales.

Los cursos en el programa serán en áreas interdisciplinarias amplias diseñadas para preparar a los estudiantes para resolver problemas complejos en matemáticas, física, ingeniería, biología, medicina y ciencias de la computación, de acuerdo con documentos en la agenda de la junta de regentes del Sistema UT.

“Hay tantos campos donde ahora se necesita gente que pueda hacer análisis y el doctorado en matemáticas y estadísticas prepara a las personas para eso, por lo que es genial para nuestros estudiantes”, dijo Bailey.

Para 2024, la Oficina de Trabajo y Estadísticas de los Estados Unidos predice un promedio de más de 2,000 empleos de educadores matemáticos postsecundarios, un aumento del 16.4%, según las estadísticas citadas en la agenda.

Bailey dijo que el siguiente paso es recibir la aprobación de la Junta Coordinadora de Educación Superior de Texas.

“Es un gran día para UTRGV y para todos nuestros estudiantes en el Valle”, dijo él. “Estamos realmente satisfechos por ellos y por nosotros mismos. Es un gran día”.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez

PODIATRY Continued from Page 1

mathematics and statistics with interdisciplinary applications.

“Podiatry is very important in the [Rio Grande] Valley where we have a lot of diabetes and what we want to do is save feet and not amputate them, and so, podiatrists can really help there,” UTRGV President Guy Bailey said in an interview with The Rider Feb. 28. “It’s a great opportunity for our students, same thing with the Ph.D. in math and statistics. These will be in applied fields where you need people to do analytics and statistics, and we think it’s a great opportunity for our students, so we’re very pleased about those.”

All three programs would open in Fall 2021, Bailey said.

Podiatry School

The school of podiatry will be housed within the Division of Health Affairs, according

to a UTRGV news release, and will prepare students for licensure, an entry into the profession of podiatric medicine. The campus that will house the programs is yet to be determined, according to Bailey.

It will be a four-year, full-time program that consists of various subjects including neuroanatomy, pharmacology and physiology, according to documents in the UT System board of regents’ agenda.

“The podiatry program enables you to function as a podiatrist, as a doctor of podiatry, and again, it’s huge for the Valley, for everywhere really, where you have issues of diabetes,” Bailey said.

The school will also collaborate with other existing UTRGV programs, such as the School of Medicine, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute, School of Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies program and Occupational Therapy program.

Nationwide employment of podiatrists is estimated to increase more than 10% by 2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cited in the news release. The bureau also states the profession is aging, with the average member of the American Podiatric Medical Association being 53 years old.

Nursing Practice Doctorate

Under the program, there will be two tracks leading to the doctorate: a four-year post-baccalaureate consisting of 75 credit hours and a 2½-year post-master’s track consisting of 45 credit hours. Students in the program can become nurse practitioners.

“Increasingly now, nurses provide a significant part of health care,” Bailey said. “They’re crucial to health care and we’ll be able to train nurses to do that.”

Students who have earned a nursing degree and are registered nurses will be

able to apply to the program, according to documents in the UT System board of regents’ agenda.

The coursework for the program will be online, which allows students to continue work in a clinical setting. End-of-semester workshops will also be available. The workshops will be face-to-face.

Nurse practitioners are the second-fastest growing occupation in the state, with a predicted 10-year growth rate of 47.7% by 2026, according to Texas Workforce Commission statistics cited in the agenda.

Math and Statistics Doctorate

Students with a bachelor’s degree admitted to the program will be required to complete 78 semester credit hours. Those entering with a master’s degree are only required to complete 60 semester credit hours.

Courses in the program will be in broad interdisciplinary areas designed to prepare

students to solve complex problems in math, physics, engineering, biology, medicine and computer science, according to documents in the UT System board of regents’ agenda.

“There’s so many fields where now you need people who can do analytics and the doctorate in math and statistics prepares people for that, so it’s great for our students,” Bailey said.

By 2024, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts an average of more than 2,000 postsecondary math educator jobs, a 16.4% increase, according to statistics cited in the agenda.

Bailey said the next step is to receive approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“It’s a real big day for UTRGV and for all of our students in the Valley,” he said. “We’re really pleased for them and for ourselves. It’s a great day.”

REPORT Continued from Page 1

enrollment initiative,” Kaswan said. “We had a grant program, where we funded various research and other activities that were related to the strategic plan, and in each of the core priorities and other areas of focus identified in the strategic plan, there were various initiatives and activities that were undertaken to implement and move us forward on our mission and help us realize our goals.”

Core priorities in the report, which was released Feb. 28, are

level Student Success Steering Committee will work with college-level Student Success Teams (SSTs). Each college SST will develop Promise Programs that offer students a guaranteed four-year path to degree completion.

Research and Creative Works: New professional opportunities have been added to help existing faculty strengthen their research.

Health and Medical Education: The division of Health Affairs has initiated new master-level degree programs with the University of Houston in public health and bioinformatics.

Expanding Educational

Opportunity: A new initiative has been launched to expand the use of open educational resources in the classroom to address the high cost of textbooks.

Community Engagement: The Office of Community Engagement and Economic Development helped document strengths and identify gaps in UTRGV’s institutional infrastructure related to Community Engagement as a core priority, giving the committee a better understanding of areas in need of improvement to help build a culture of community engagement at UTRGV.

Campus Climate and Professional Development: A new

number of professional development opportunities have been added for both faculty and staff as well as increased the number of awards given to faculty and staff. These opportunities include the Association of College and University Educators Professional Development, Texas Academic Leadership Academy and Penn State Academic Leadership Academy.

Becoming a Bilingual, Biliterate and Bicultural Institution: The institution pursued three broad key initiatives during the 2018-2019

The art of hitting a baseball

Aldo Nava

SPORTS REPORTER

When a batter steps up to the plate, there is much riding on their performance and the outcome relies on how well the player hits the ball.

The batter's goal is to not strike out, but aim for a single, double or triple, and if possible, a homerun.

Now the question at hand is, where does a player begin perfecting the art of hitting or making sure they swing for the fences?

What a player wants to pay attention to is the pitcher and anticipate what their plan is.

"First thing is, you want to try to see is, if the pitcher is giving off anything," UTRGV junior first baseman EJ Taylor replied when asked what he looks for when preparing to hit the ball.

Taylor explained the cues the team uses in the dugout.

"If a guy is doing this certain thing, then we might know he's doing this or expect a certain pitch coming," he said.

The first baseman said to expect anything.

"Be ready for anything that comes your way, and be aggressive," Taylor said.

A batter doesn't just step to the plate swinging carelessly. They practice form and technique repetitively.

When batting, a player must



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Sophomore outfielder/pitcher Aaron Galvan (left) and redshirt sophomore infielder Brandon Holdren practice their swings March 3 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. Galvan's hit average this season is .222 as of March 6, according to GoUTRGV.com.

focus on technique first to make sure their swing is effective.

First thing to consider when stepping in the batter's box is having a strong base. Bend your knees and stay loose. A hitter does not want to become a statue because they will lose

momentum as they swing.

The second aspect is making sure the batter has a proper grip on the bat to avoid tensing up. Having a tight grip on the bat will affect how hard of a hit will result.

Finally comes the loading

up process, as the player awaits the pitch, which is when the player will have to shift their weight back to help create momentum and, most important, switches their focus to the ball.

"One thing you got to

have [is] unbelievable hand-eye coordination," UTRGV Baseball Head Coach Derek Matlock said. "It's a round bat and a round ball and you got to square it up. So it's the hardest thing to do in sports."

Hand-eye coordination is important because it allows the hitter to know what kind of ball the pitcher will throw and improve the performance of the overall swing.

This technique is something all baseball players must have because without it, they will not improve. At the same time, it is a technique that most players work on in practice.

"Obviously, every swing is not perfect," UTRGV senior centerfielder Coleman Grubbs said. "You can always work in the cage, off the tee, stuff like that. I feel like it's more of a mindset thing than a swing. Just going up there believing that you're gonna get a hit, believing that you're going to destroy this ball is probably the most important thing."

Batters want to have confidence because although they might be a good hitter, if a pitcher can read you, then you have no chance of making contact with the ball successfully.

Hitting is more than just swinging. It is an art because of all things that need to be learned and practiced.

Golf, tennis, track & field, baseball in matchups this week

UTRGV Women's Golf
Today and Tuesday: Houston Baptist University Husky Invitational Sugar Land All-Day Event
Saturday and Sunday: Northern Arizona University Red Rocks Invitational Sedona, Arizona All-Day Event

UTRGV Baseball
Tuesday: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi South Texas Showdown @ 6 p.m. Corpus Christi
vs. Seattle University Bellevue, Washington @ 6 p.m. Friday @ 4 p.m. Saturday @ 2 p.m. Sunday

UTRGV Women's Tennis
vs. Grand Canyon University @ 10 a.m. Saturday
vs. New Mexico State University @ 10 a.m. Sunday

UTRGV Men's & Women's Track
Roadrunner Invitational San Antonio @ Noon Thursday @ 10 a.m. Friday @ 11 a.m. Saturday

Sports of the Week

Amanda Vela/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Angel De La Garza

SPORTS REPORTER

The women's golf team, women's tennis team, both men's and women's track and field athletes and the men's baseball team will compete on the road, starting with the UTRGV Women's Golf Team, which is preparing for the Houston Baptist University Husky Invitational today and Tuesday.

Last year, the women placed eighth out 12 teams at this same invitational, and Women's Golf Head Coach Bryan Novoa has a plan to obtain better results this time around.

"The main thing is getting the girls mentally prepared ... putting the right plan in place for the next seven weeks," Novoa said. "We're developing strong relationships and strong trusts in each other, so I'm more pleased about that

because I know that's gonna produce the best results possible."

On Saturday and Sunday, the women's team will also compete in the Northern Arizona University Red Rocks Invitational in Sedona, Arizona.

"The main goal here is to get the momentum swing in the right direction, where we can hit the ground running and basically play great for six rounds in seven days,"

Novoa said.

The UTRGV Women's Tennis Team looks forward to upcoming matches against Grand Canyon University at 10 a.m. Saturday and at the same time Sunday against New Mexico State University, the first two games in the WAC tournament in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Last year at the same tournament, the players won their first game, against Chicago State University, and then fell to New Mexico State University the next day.

This year the women get a chance to redeem themselves against New Mexico State once again.

This will be Head Coach West Nott's first-ever WAC Cluster.

"It's my first experience," Nott said. "I'm really looking forward to it to see what the level looks like within the conference. But I know Grand Canyon and New Mexico State, who we're gonna be competing against right off the bat, are pretty tough teams in the conference, historically. So, we'll have our hands full. But I think we'll be well prepared for this situation."

He explained how the change in altitude might affect the team.

"We're on the road, so it's out of our comfort zone a little bit," Nott said. "They play in altitude, so the ball flies through the air a little bit. And then we're gonna play a cluster here at home, so that would

be right in our wheelhouse, in our comfort zone, and it's gonna be hot just like how we like it and humid and then once we go to the WAC Championships in Kansas City, I think the playing field will be leveled for everyone. We all got the same [number] of matches ... so we'll just see who comes out on top."

The UTRGV Men's and Women's Track & Field Teams will also hit the road to compete at the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational.

Last year, UTRGV finished fifth out of six teams at the same invitational.

"It's usually a pretty competitive meet," said Darren Flowers, head coach for the Men's and Women's Track & Field teams.

Starting with the decathlon (100-meter run, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400-meter run) at noon Thursday, followed by the heptathlon (100 hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200-meter run) at 12:30 p.m., both the men and women will use this meet as an opportunity to get outdoors and meet some of their future WAC competitors.

"We really wanna have a strong outdoor campaign, and this will be the start of it," Flowers said. "So, we're gonna start working on some of the [4x1] relays. ... We gotta make sure we get four kids

Women's stories in the brothel

Paulina Longoria
A&E REPORTER

Those curious about the story of the "Chicken Ranch" in La Grange, Texas, can learn more with country music, singing and dancing, sexuality, and a heartfelt message in a UTRGV comedy musical.

The UTRGV Department of Theatre brings the university a new production directed by Lecturer Richard Edmonson.

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

Asked about the theme of the musical, Edmonson replied, "There are lots of themes. In particular, the stage version of the show really highlights the women's stories. So there's strength and determination. We see, throughout the play, their dreams that they have, their need of belonging somewhere. ... And then, of course, this whole idea of what is true and what isn't true."

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," by playwright Larry L. King and actor and writer Peter Masterson, was first performed July 19, 1978, on Broadway, according to broadwaymusicalhome.com. The



COURTESY PHOTO

Theater/Television/Film sophomore Elijah Hernandez (from left), South Texas College student Andy Garcia, former UTRGV student Jonathan Tamez and theatre performance freshman Yajahira Jaimez discuss the outcome of the Chicken Ranch during a performance.

music and lyrics were written by composer and lyricist Carol Hall.

The "Chicken Ranch" was perhaps the oldest continuously running brothel in the nation until mid-1973, when Houston KTRK-TV reporter Marvin Zindler exposed it. The ranch closed after the exposé on Aug. 1, 1973,

and the women left, according to the Handbook of Texas Online.

The cast is made up of 30 members. Emily Villarreal, South Texas College communications sophomore, plays the role of Miss Mona Stangley, the woman who runs the brothel on the "Chicken Ranch."

"She's a very independent woman who doesn't take 'no' for an answer and she's very loving," Villarreal said. "She's hard on the outside, she has a very hard shell. ... Overall, she's very passionate about her girls, and she is just a very, very strong woman."

A live band of UTRGV students will play and sing along during the show. UTRGV alumna Gina Rodríguez is the play's music director and theatre senior Iliana Cantu is the choreographer for the production.

The UTRGV production had three performances the weekend of Feb. 28. The performances drew 645 attendees.

Sebastian Bartolomeo, a communication studies junior, said he went to see the musical to support his friends who perform in it.

"I thought it was very fun and very enjoyable," Bartolomeo said. "I really liked the songs. Andy Garcia did a great job as 'the Sheriff.'"

He said he encourages everyone to see the musical and acknowledge the Theatre Department's effort on this production.

General admission is \$15, \$10 for senior citizens and military, and \$5 for UTRGV students and faculty with a valid ID.

Tickets may be purchased online at utrgv.edu/theatre-tickets.

Adult themes and language are included in the musical. Children 10 years and younger will not be admitted.

WEEK Continued from Page 6

that are clicking and meshing, and making sure we're getting handoff secured."

Other outdoor events include the hammer throw, discus and longer hurdles.

"We got some really good 400-meter hurdlers, so it should be fun," Flowers said.

Last but not least, the UTRGV Baseball Team will get back on the road to take part in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi South Texas Showdown at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

UTRGV won both showdowns and this year the team intends to do the same.

"That's a big game," Head Coach Derek Matlock said. "They got a lot of great players. ... I have a lot of respect for their coach. It's a tough fight. They got good offensive players who are always

real physical and really offensive, but we need to beat 'em if we're gonna take over South Texas recruiting. We gotta get into Corpus and get players and we gotta beat 'em."

During the weekend, the team will play its first game of the conference season against

Seattle University in Bellevue, Washington.

"It's not really what we do to prepare for another team, it's, 'We gotta play good,'" Matlock said. "We're playing against ourselves more than we're playing against other teams. If we play good, we're gonna beat you."

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



ADVERTISE
WITH US

CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

ADDY
Continued from Page 3

she said. Agbese thanked Selber, Student Media Director Azenett Cornejo, Program Adviser Jesus Sanchez and all the people at Student Media.

"A big thank you to all of them for their support and their help," she said.

Patricia Ramon, Pulse editor-in-chief, said the current members have been motivated by the previous staff earning the 11 ADDY awards.

"It impacted us by wanting us to strive to be just as great as we were this year, if not better, to win the same amount of awards," Ramon said. "And, it just made us take a lot more pride in the work that we're doing to make sure that it meets the standard of quality that the last issue did."

Erik Webster, former Pulse editor-in-chief, said attending

the gala showed all his dedication had been worth it.

"It is nice for something like Pulse magazine, where you put in two semesters' worth of work, and you pour your heart and soul into it," he said. "And so, at the end of the year or the following year when you go to these awards, it's really nice to see that people enjoyed it, that they think there's a value in it, that they appreciate it."

Webster who graduated last year from UTRGV with a bachelor's degree in mass communication, is now a video production manager for RGVision Media, which he believes has been impacted by his work for Pulse.

"When I'm editing photos and videos, going out and shooting video, taking pictures, it's all come full circle," he said. "Those are incredibly important skills that you need to develop if you're going to be in this kind of industry."

Steven Hughes, a mass

communication senior and Pulse photography editor, received a bronze Student ADDY award for his photo essay titled "Butterfly."

"Butterfly" was a random thought Hughes had one day.

"I was just bored one day, and I was, like, 'You know what, let's write about butterflies,'" he said.

With Agbese's advice on challenging himself to think of different perspectives, Hughes decided to write about butterfly migration and conservation.

"Local efforts are being done here to preserve monarch butterflies, which is what specifically the story's about," Hughes said.

The photo essay required Hughes to interview environmental science majors, students who had an opinion regarding monarch butterflies and outside sources who work on conservation efforts in the Valley and beyond.

As for the photo, Hughes

traveled to the Brownsville campus to visit its butterfly garden. Before taking a picture, he observed the butterflies' patterns. Eventually, he saw one butterfly that he decided to photograph.

The photograph consisted of a butterfly in focus, standing on milkweed, while the background is blurred out. Taking the photo and editing it was difficult, Hughes said.

"I wanted to capture as much vibrancy, a lot of color coming off of these insects and I managed to do that," he said.

Hughes and Michel Flores Tavizon, Pulse graphics editor, received an honorable mention for "Q&A Josie Del Castillo."

Flores Tavizon, a graphic design senior, also received a bronze Student ADDY for a poster she created titled "Inner Nature Call for Art."

The poster encourages students to submit art pieces and had been previously made as an illustration for a class project. She said she would ask

Celeste de Luna, her professor at the time, to give her advice on what to fix.

For the Pulse poster, she felt "it was better to make it digital."

The poster had been submitted to the competition by Hughes and Ramon. After they told her, she said it was great because she hadn't thought of submitting it herself.

"I didn't think that specific project would get something," Flores Tavizon said. "I thought maybe an honorable mention, but it did get, like, bronze."

She advises students to not underestimate their work.

Selber said she is proud of the students' accomplishments.

"I'm always so impressed with the work and it makes me feel really proud when we're displaying it," she said. "The professionals are walking around looking at the work and they're like, 'Wow, this is a work that's coming out of UTRGV.'"

For a complete list of winners, visit www.utrgvrider.com.

REPORT
Continued from Page 5

academic year: Support development of coursework, incentive research and engage community.

Globalization: The Office of Global Engagement has organized events with international themes on campus, providing funding for research and programming on international themes and establishing partnership with universities around the world.

Sustainability: The Office for Sustainability will collaborate with

partners both within and outside of the university to institutionalize sustainable development across the campus.

Rebecca Gadson, dean of students and associate vice president for Student Life, said a strategic plan for an organization or institution helps identify core priorities.

" Oftentimes strategic plans are, 'What are other big things we're going to do for the next five years or 10 years?'" Gadson said. "Sometimes, it's longer than that, but that's in essence, it's to be able to bring people together to identify as a community what the key priorities are that's being shared across the community."

She said the report is an opportunity for the campus community to feel connected to what is a living process, not just a document that outlines the areas of focus, vision and mission.

"It really is talking about how the campus community is engaged in bringing or advancing our institution's goals and objectives," Gadson said. "I think that's really the meaning for the value of the report, is that people are informed, people are involved and it's a way to engage and continue discussion."

Patricia McHatton, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, Student

Success and P-16 Integration, said the report is a concrete example of how the institution embraces the strategic plan and demonstrates beliefs in holding accountable to ensure that the committee follows through on what they identify as important for the university.

"We will be working on the next comprehensive report for this academic year, which will be out in fall of this year," McHatton said. "So, again, this will be a continuous monitoring of our work and our efforts. We will, at some point, think about what's the next step for the strategic plan."

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

COLLEGE REGISTRATION DAY

Come by on one of the following dates for questions and assistance with Summer 2020 registration. Snacks will be provided!

BROWNSVILLE

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
BINAB Lobby

EDINBURG

Thursday, March 19, 2020
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
EUCTR
BRONC Room

Departments that will be available for assistance:

- College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- College of Education and P-16 Integration
- College of Engineering and Computer Science
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Sciences
- College of Fine Arts
- University College
- Financial Aid Office
- Office of the Registrar
- Academic Advising
- Student Accounting

*There may be some Academic Advising specific holds that we will not be able to assist with onsite. Please contact academicadvising@utrgv.edu regarding advising holds.

For accommodations, email academicaffairs@utrgv.edu

