

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY



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# National Hispanic Heritage Month

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# THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. A PDF copy of the newspaper can be accessed online at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com). Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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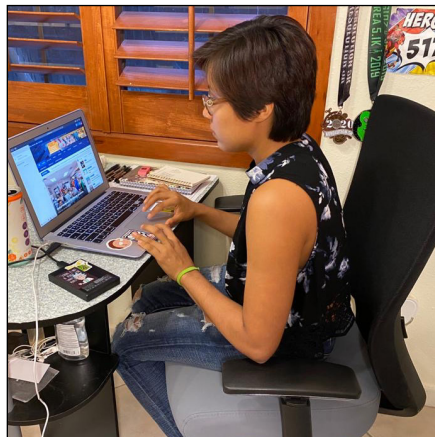
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# MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Today National Coloring Day**  
Students can save templates from UTRGV Student Union's

Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page [@utrgvunion](https://www.instagram.com/utrgvunion) to begin coloring. Entries may be sent to any of Student Union's social media platforms for a chance to be part of a UTRGV swag giveaway raffle.

## HACU Info Session

The UTRGV Career Center will host an information session with Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) Representatives Reynaldo Decerega and Ebony King from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. via Zoom to learn about internship programs and how to apply. Students can RSVP on Handshake. For more information, contact Jack Kaufold, internship coordinator, at [jack.kaufold@utrgv.edu](mailto:jack.kaufold@utrgv.edu).

## Mind Mapping

Students can bring clarity to their job search with a simple and free mind mapping exercise from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through Handshake.

## Tuesday

### P&G Info Session

The Procter & Gamble Information Session will provide a look into internships and careers in the field of engineering and computer science from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. via Zoom. Students can RSVP on Handshake.

### Business Internship Panel

The Career Center will host a Virtual Business Internship Panel

from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. via Zoom. This panel event invites students to meet with former interns and engage in conversation about their experiences. Students can learn about new opportunities and internship best practices from fellow peers. RSVP is available through Handshake.

### Marvel Jeopardy

Students can test their Marvel Cinematic Universe knowledge at 3 p.m. via Zoom. Students must RSVP on VLink to receive the link.

## Wednesday

### Engineering Internship Panel

This panel event invites students to meet with former interns and engage in conversation about their experiences from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through Handshake.

### Internship 101

Students can join the Career Center for an Internships 101 virtual presentation from 3 to 4 p.m. via Zoom at <https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/99253103500>.

### Showbiz Quiz Gameshow

The Campus Activities Board will host a trivia competition about movies, music and television from 3 to 5 p.m. Contestants will compete against each other to find out who knows the most about movie quotes, TV theme songs, boy bands, '80s music, cartoons, Netflix, TV quotes, Disney movies and other topics. Students must RSVP on VLink to acquire a Zoom link. The winner will receive a \$200 cash prize.

## Independence Day Concert

The UTRGV International Admissions & Student Services office and the Festival Internacional de Otoño present "The Influence of Mexican Music in the World," a presentation and virtual concert celebrating Mexico's Independence Day from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. The Tempus Quartet, a Mexican group, will perform some of the most popular songs accompanied by violins and cellos. Students can RSVP at [https://utrgv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_S\\_vqQpIFQisUiitrBpALg](https://utrgv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S_vqQpIFQisUiitrBpALg).

## Thursday

### Constitution Day

Students can learn about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights starting at 3 p.m. through engaging activities, Kahoot, trivia and discussion. Also, learn more about what Civic Engagement Alliance (CEA) is, upcoming virtual events, and how to become a CEA ambassador. Students must RSVP on VLink for a chance to win CEA swag.

### Virtual Internship Expo

Regional organizations looking to hire students for internships in small business, nonprofits, and government industries will provide information about their organization and opportunities available to students and alumni. This event is open to all majors from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on Handshake.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

**Have an announcement?**  
Email us at [TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu).

# POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 1 and 3.

## Sept. 1

**12:47 p.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Edinburg Student Services Building in reference to a forgery report. A female student reported that her student

assistance check had been cashed by her mother, who resides in McAllen, without her consent. This incident is being investigated by the McAllen Police Department.

**1:26 p.m.:** A male staff member reported that a wind gust swung the driver's side door open to a university vehicle he was operating, causing damage to the vehicle's front left quarter panel.

**2:51 p.m.:** A man reported that a wind gust tipped over a temporary sign that struck his vehicle, which was parked in Lot H-3 on the Harlingen campus. The vehicle's hood sustained minor damage. Arrangements are being made by the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department to repair the damage caused by one of its signs.

**3:08 p.m.:** An officer responded to the Harlingen campus Academic and Clinical Research Building in reference to an active fire alarm. The officer was informed by a UTRGV safety

coordinator that the alarm had been triggered by the recent re-activation of the sprinkler system in the building. The fire panel was reset, and the building was rendered safe for re-entry.

**3:11 p.m.:** A male student reported that he received an email from a UTRGV email address in early August announcing a job opening as a personal assistant, which he later accepted. He later received a check and learned the job posting was a scam.

## Sept. 2

**2:07 a.m.:** A male staff member reported losing a proximity card at his residence in Edinburg. The card has been deactivated.

**9:24 a.m.:** Edinburg Regional Hospital notified the UTRGV Police Department that a student was transported to its facility after he was bitten by many ants and had difficulty breathing. The student was participating in physical activities near Lot E-16 with the UTRGV Reserve Officer Training Corps when the incident occurred. The student was treated at the hospital and released.

**12:43 p.m.:** A female staff member reported losing her university-issued key at her off-campus residence.

**1:22 p.m.:** A male student reported that a female student employee, who would harass him while in high school, recently started working in the same department as him on the Edinburg campus. The

student reported no incidents have occurred at the university. He last had contact with the female over a year ago. He wanted to document the situation in case the harassment continued.

**11:46 p.m.:** Resident Life staff at the Casa Bella Apartments in Brownsville reported an odor of marijuana emanating from an apartment. No entry was made into the apartment because the resident was not there. Residence Life staff will report the incident to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

## Sept. 3

**1:04 p.m.:** An officer responded to the University Library in Edinburg in reference to a student not following the university's mask protocol. On arrival, officers identified the student and previously learned she had been warned on Aug. 25 for not wearing a mask. This incident will be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

**1:58 p.m.:** A female student reported that she received an email from a UTRGV email address in early August announcing a job opening as a personal assistant, which she later accepted. The student later received a check and learned the job posting was a scam.

--Compiled by Fernanda Figueroa

Visit us online at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)



# The history behind Hispanic Heritage Month

**Alejandra Yañez**

THE RIDER

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 marks National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States. It is a time to recognize Hispanic Americans for their contributions to history, culture and influence on this nation.

Maritza De La Trinidad, an associate professor of Mexican American Studies at UTRGV, said it is important for students to learn about their history.

"I think students should know who they are," De La Trinidad said. "If you don't know who you are in terms of your culture, your history, your heritage, your language, then how do we know where we fit in the larger narrative of the U.S.?"

De La Trinidad traced the history of Hispanic Heritage Month to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, when the Chicano Movement was at its height.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Bilingual Education Act, which paved the way for Hispanic representation at the federal level.

The recognition began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, but would later be ex-



Robert Benavidez/THE RIDER

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The monthlong celebration honors the histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanic-Americans who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean as well as Central and South America.

tended to a monthlong celebration in 1988 under President Ronald Reagan.

"[President Johnson] signed the Bilingual Education Act because of Mexican American teacher activism that came out of Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and California as a way to use Spanish as a language of instruction," De La Trinidad said.

Johnson was a teacher in

“**... And so, if you ask me, America is great because of Latinos.**”  
-Maritza De La Trinidad  
Mexican American Studies associate professor

Mexican American schools during the 1920s and witnessed the educational segregation that Hispanic students faced.

1968 was also the height of the walkout, where students would walk out of school as a form of peaceful protest.

During this time more than 10,000 students in Los Angeles, California, walked out of their schools due to racism,

discrimination, educational inequities, lack of college preparation, poor quality education and no bilingual education, De La Trinidad said.

She said the walkouts made strong statements and sparked many more protests throughout the Southwest, some as close as Edcouch-Elsa High School, where students walked out for the same reasons.

De La Trinidad cites Johnson's compassion for and understanding of the Hispanic community to his teaching experience and his relationships with activists.

His friendship with Hector P. Garcia, a medical doctor who practiced in Corpus Christi and was raised in Mercedes "solidified the need to have Mexican Americans represented at the national level," said De La Trinidad.

The 1980s are known as the decade of the Hispanic in literature because it is the period in which the Latino population first came into national prominence, she said. During this decade, many politicians understood that appealing to the Spanish-speaking population was beneficial to them.

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Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## 'Mija, when are you going to get married?'

A look at Hispanic and Latina womens' experiences

**Sol Garcia**

THE RIDER

During her undergraduate career, Yaritza Marin, a public affairs graduate student, chose to critique the "show me your papers" law as part of an assignment for a class, but her professor rejected her idea.

"Before I could finish my sentence, in the middle of class, it was shut down," Marin said.

Two conversations later, a Hispanic male student brought up a similar policy and received the "OK" to critique it, according to Marin.

"After that instance, my view of the class, kind of, just shattered," she said. "I wasn't really there anymore."

Marin saw the incident as devaluing her work compared to her male classmates, and this was not her only experience with barriers based on her gender or even ethnicity. For Hispanic women, barriers can be found in schools and households, said Marin, who received her bachelor's degree in Mexican American Studies in 2019.

In addition to classes and homework, Hispanic female students are also expected to complete chores and take care of siblings, becoming a second mother

in a household, according to Marin.

"That's not always something that Hispanic males have to deal with," she said. "That's an added barrier to everything else that's [happening] on campus."

Marin is not alone in this experience. Mayra Avila, a UTRGV history lecturer, said Hispanic women are expected to take care of children, their homes and husbands. Avila's areas of expertise include women in Latin America, Mexican-American rights and immigration and labor, according to her UTRGV faculty profile.

Avila said she, like many other Hispanic women, was raised with these expectations.

"You're supposed to learn how to cook, how to clean," the history lecturer said. "You're supposed to get married, have children and some of us break that mold sometimes."

Many of these expectations most likely stem from patriarchal ideas of family and gender roles, according to Avila.

"You have the family member that's, like, 'Mija, when are you going to get married? Mija, when are you planning on having children?' versus asking your

See WOMEN, Page 7

## Meet the 2020 presidential candidates

**Fernanda Figueroa**

THE RIDER

With early voting beginning on Oct. 13, here is what you need to know about the 2020 presidential candidates, Donald J. Trump, Joe Biden, Jo Jorgensen and Howie Hawkins.

President Trump is the incumbent and candidate for the Republican Party. Trump won the presidency in November 2016, becoming the 45th president of the United States, and since then has worked to "Make America Great Again."



GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

President Donald Trump, a Republican, is seeking re-election in the Nov. 3 election.

Keeping up with the promises made in his 2016 campaign, "President Trump is working hard to implement his 'America First' platform, continuing his promise to the American people to lower taxes, repeal and replace Obamacare, end stifling regulations, protect our borders, keep jobs in our country, take care of our veterans, strengthen our military and law enforcement, and renegotiate bad trade deals, creating a government of, by and for the people," according to his official campaign website.

"Trump, his platform, per his website, really seems to emphasize the promises that his original campaign had made," said Natasha Altema-McNeely, a political science associate professor. "And in his view, in the view of his campaign

management team, the promises that they feel they've kept."

Former Vice President Biden is the presidential candidate for the Democratic Party and Trump's main opponent. Biden announced his run for president in April 2019 and won 2,693 delegates in the primaries, according to ballotpedia.org, to become the party's nominee on Aug. 18 at the Democratic National Convention.

Biden's platform, per his official campaign website, emphasizes economic recovery for working families, racial equity across the American economy, the reopening of schools safely, women's rights, the improvement of education, the making of American goods and equality for people with disabilities.

"What we see is [him] taking position on various issues that are quite the opposite than the positions emphasized by the incumbent president," McNeely said. "And that is to be expected because the incumbent president is a Republican and presidential candidate Joe Biden is running as a Democrat."



GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Democrat Joe Biden is challenging Donald Trump for the presidency in the Nov. 3 election.

Trump and Biden are the main candidates for the 2020 presidential elections and each has rather different platforms, the difference being that one

See BREAKDOWN, Page 6



# YAQUERO VOICE



## SPANISH GENRE

On Sept. 8, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which artist do you think best represents your favorite Spanish genre?" The results are shown below.

### facebook

**SELENA QUINTANILLA** 41

**BAD BUNNY** 21

**CADETES DE LINARES** 12

**JUANES** 6



### twitter

**BAD BUNNY** 7

**SELENA QUINTANILLA** 6

**KAROL G** 1

**JUANES** 1



### Instagram

**SELENA QUINTANILLA** 24

**BAD BUNNY** 12

**JUANES** 10

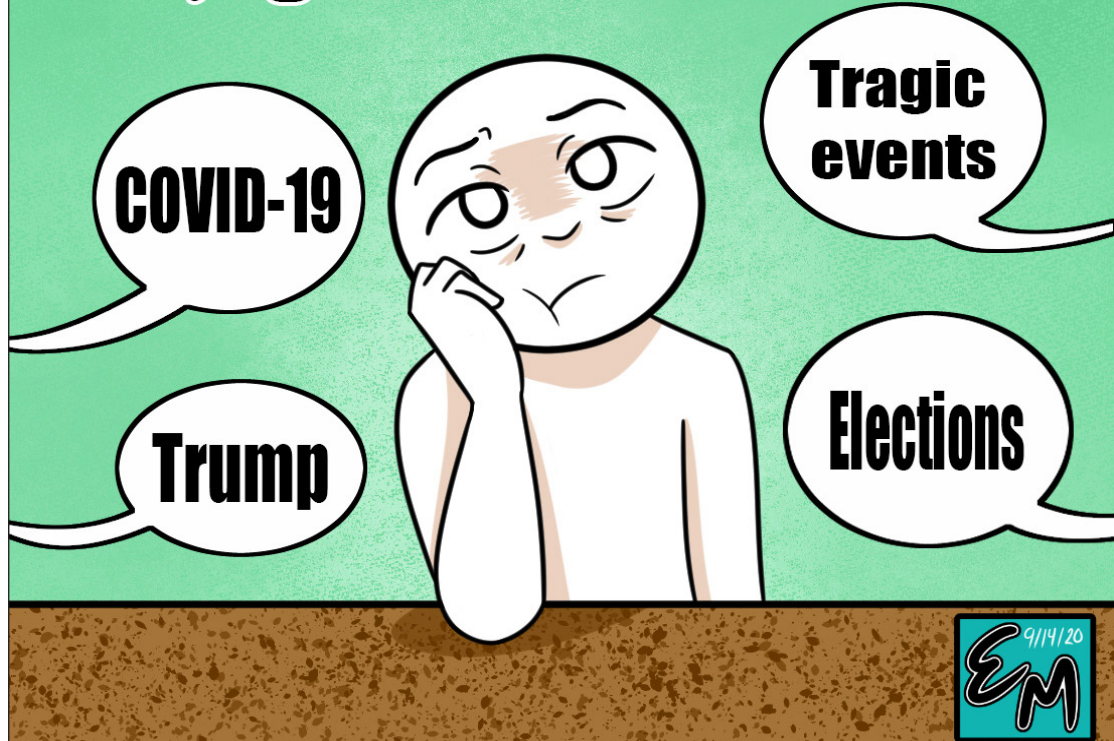
**KAROL G** 4



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## Any good news?



## I know the language



**Paulina Longoria**  
THE RIDER

Nothing annoys me more than whenever someone realizes that I am from Mexico and they start talking to me in Spanish. What does that say about me being Hispanic?

To be completely honest, I get offended. Some say to not take things personally because you will always be unhappy that way. But I just can't help it. I've had someone tell me before if I needed an explanation of what they were saying because "it must be hard for me to understand big words in English."

No, I do not need any explanations; I know the language.

How do people think I got accepted to a university in the United States to pursue an English major? How did I even get to be a reporter for

the university's newspaper? Do I really not know the language?

And, it isn't only about having good grammar. It is also about having an accent. It has taken me around three years to try to improve my pronunciation and get rid of my Mexican and norteño accent. I still haven't been able to do it.

But, why am I always seeking constant approval? Why do I try so hard to sound like an average American? What is wrong with having an accent?

Some people think that if you have an accent, you are not fully educated in the language.

I am strict with myself when it comes to grammar in classes and regular conversation. I listen closely to the way people speak, and my mistakes haunt me. Probably others don't notice it, but my insecurities come in when it happens.

My close friends say to embrace my accent and be proud of my roots. I am proud of being Hispanic, but

I also want to feel like I can communicate with others. I do not want to feel like others don't know what I'm saying just because it's hard to understand my pronunciation.

Please don't mistake my insecurities by thinking I am ashamed of being Hispanic because I am not. I love Spanish and enjoy being able to express myself and use its idioms and sociolects. Some words and phrases would never make sense if they were literally translated into English.

My native language is really important to me. It is the language that I use to talk to my grandparents, and I am happy that they can now read my stories after I translate them into Spanish as the Spanish reporter for the newspaper.

Hispanic Heritage Month starts Tuesday. It is also Día del Grito (Cry of Dolores, a call to action to Mexican Independence). And, it's my birthday; so one could say I am very "patriotic" and loud.

## Chicano and proud!

**Omar Zapata**  
THE RIDER

As a teenager, I always had this lingering question about who I am and, more specifically, how I identify myself. Am I Hispanic? Am I Latino? Am I Mexican? Am I American?

One random childhood memory that I have of my dad is him telling me, "Mijo, tienes piel morena porque tienes sangre Azteca en ti."

I would remember this moment later on in my teenage years and would always dwell on if I did have some indigenous blood flowing through me, what does that make me?

As I grew up, my consciousness opened up to the realities of my life and how my brown skin and socioeconomic status influenced me so much.

Attending school in the Sharyland Independent School District influenced how I thought about myself and my community, especially since



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

the Sharyland area is known for being rich and me growing up in a low socioeconomic area of the district.

Taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school, I was usually the only brown student and person from my neighborhood in those classes.

I would often find myself in situations where I would have to pick between being myself and assimilating to something I'm not. In a way, I would have to act like someone else in those classes, I would have to act white. I wish I could go back and tell my younger self to



# ‘Un momento agradable’ de música mexicana

**Paulina Longoria**

THE RIDER

La oficina de Admisiones Internacionales y Servicios Estudiantiles de UTRGV (IASS, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Festival Internacional de Otoño presentarán una charla y un concierto virtual de Tempus Quartet para celebrar el Día de la Independencia de México el miércoles a las 6 p.m. por Zoom.

Tempus Quartet es un grupo mexicano formado hace más de 15 años por músicos tamaulipecos. Tocan música pop, rock y mexicana con un estilo moderno usando instrumentos de cuerda.

El Festival Internacional de Otoño comenzó en 1993 en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México para promover el arte y la cultura. El festival se expandió para llevar eventos por todo el estado.

El evento comenzará con la presentación “La Influencia de la Música Mexicana en el Mundo” en español dirigida por Jupiter Bautista, un chelista de Tempus Quartet.

“Vamos a abrir el programa hablando un poquito de la música mexicana”, Bautista dijo. “Vamos a hablar de las tradiciones mexicanas, de los diferentes estilos que se tocan ... no de todos, pero sí de los más importantes”.

Él dijo que después de la presentación, van a tocar música tradicional mexicana y le añadirán un estilo moderno a las canciones finales del



Foto de Cortesía del Instagram de Tempus Quartet

Para celebrar el Día de la Independencia de México, la oficina de Admisiones Internacionales y Servicios Estudiantiles de UTRGV (IASS, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Festival internacional de Otoño presentarán una charla y concierto virtual el miércoles a las 6 p.m. por Zoom. El grupo Tempus Quartet, compuesto de músicos tamaulipecos, tocará en el evento. De izquierda, se encuentran los miembros del grupo Tabata Sabrina Samayo, Jessica Bautista, Isabelle Govea, Jesús Barragán, Edgar Contreras y Jupiter Bautista.

concierto.

IASS está colaborando con el Consejo de Actividades del Campus (Campus Activities Board) para una rifa de una bocina JBL al final del evento.

Samantha López, la directora de Admisiones Internacionales, dijo que todos los que se registren para el evento entrarán a la rifa.

Se le preguntó a López cómo surgió el evento.

“Estamos creando ideas so-

erlos involucrados y también sea divertido”, ella dijo.

Ella también dijo que IASS está activamente buscando maneras creativas para poder mantener a los estudiantes involucrados, educados y al tanto de otras culturas.

Francisco López, un estudiante mexicano de último año de ingeniería mecánica, piensa

que esta celebración es genial porque el Valle del Río Grande es casi como un segundo México, ya que muchos mexicanos viven aquí.

“Creo que es importante que se reconozcan y la gente siga conmemorando sus raíces”, Francisco López dijo.

Le contó a The Rider que su parte favorita de celebrar la Independencia de México es ir a la celebración del Grito en Reynosa, Tamaulipas, México.

“Lo que siempre me gustó fue dar un paseo por el centro, ir a la plaza y ver cómo se juntaba la gente y pasar por ahí con el carro y escuchar el Grito”, Francisco López dijo.

El Grito fue un llamado de acción para la Independencia de México en la madrugada del 16 de septiembre de 1810.

Se le preguntó a Bautista qué pueden esperar los estudiantes sobre este evento.

“Siempre está bien estar abiertos a todo tipo de espectáculos, de música, de nuevas experiencias”, dijo Bautista. “Creo que eso nos enriquece mucho como personas, como seres humanos, y este concierto no va a ser la excepción. [Pueden esperar a] conocer un poquito más de la cultura mexicana ... de los orígenes de la música y pasar un momento agradable.”

Para registrarse al evento, haga click aquí. Se le proporcionará un enlace de Zoom después de registrarse.



*An English version of this story is available at [utgrvrider.com](http://utgrvrider.com)*

bre lo que podemos ofrecerle a los estudiantes y que sean diferentes ... para poder manten-

## La historia detrás del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

**Alejandra Yañez**

THE RIDER

Del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre es el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana en los Estados Unidos. Es un momento para reconocer a los hispanoamericanos por sus contribuciones a la historia, cultura e influencia a la nación.

Maritza De La Trinidad, una profesora auxiliar de estudios mexicanoamericanos de UTRGV, dijo que es importante que los estudiantes aprendan de su historia.

“Pienso que los estudiantes deberían saber quienes son”,

De La Trinidad dijo. “Si no saben quienes son, en términos de cultura, historia, herencia, idioma, entonces, ¿cómo sabemos en qué grupos pertenecen en los Estados Unidos?”

De La Trinidad contó la historia del Mes de la Herencia Hispana hasta el Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles en los años 1960s, cuando el Movimiento Chicano estaba en su apogeo.

En 1968, el presidente Lyn-

don B. Johnson firmó la Ley de Educación Bilingüe, la cual abrió el camino para la representación hispana a nivel federal.

El reconocimiento comenzó como la Semana de la Herencia Hispana en 1968, pero después se extendió a una celebración de un mes en 1988 bajo la dirección del presidente Ronald Reagan.

“[El presidente Johnson] firmó la Ley de Educación Bilingüe por el activismo de los maestros mexicanoamericanos que surgió en Arizona, Texas, Nuevo México y California para poder usar el español como un idioma de instrucción”, De La Trinidad dijo.

Johnson fue maestro en escuelas de mexicanoamericanos durante los años 1920 y atestiguó la segregación en la educación que los estudiantes hispanos enfrentaron.

El año 1968 fue el apogeo de las huelgas donde los estudiantes escapaban de sus escuelas como una forma de protesta pacífica.

Durante ese tiempo, más de diez mil estudiantes en Los



Wikimedia/ Dominio Público

En el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana se reconocen las contribuciones de los hispanoamericanos a los Estados Unidos.

Ángeles, California se escaparon de sus escuelas por el racismo, discriminación, inequidad en la educación, falta de preparación para la universidad, educación de mala calidad y la falta de educación bilingüe, De La Trinidad dijo.

Ella dijo que las huelgas hicieron firmes declaraciones y provocaron muchas más protestas alrededor del suroeste, unas tan cerca como

en Edcouch-Elsa High School (preparatoria Edcouch-Elsa), donde los estudiantes se salieron por las mismas razones.

De La Trinidad cita la compasión y el entendimiento de Johnson hacia la comunidad hispana en su experiencia de enseñanza y sus relaciones con activistas.

Su amistad con Héctor P. Garcia, un doctor que ejerció en Corpus Christi y fue cria-

do en Mercedes “solidificó la necesidad de que hubiera mexicanoamericanos representados a nivel nacional”, dijo De La Trinidad.

La década de 1980 es conocida como la era de los hispanos en literatura porque es el periodo en el que la población latina tuvo prominencia nacional por primera vez.

**Así que, si me preguntas, América es grande por los Latinos**

**-Maritza De La Trinidad Profesora auxiliar de estudios mexicanoamericanos**



# McDougall joins UTRGV Men's Soccer staff

**Ivan Palacios**

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men's Soccer Team announced the addition of Ryan McDougall to the staff on Sept. 1. McDougall joins Head Coach Paul Leese and Assistant Coach Archie Massen as an assistant coach on the squad.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Ryan McDougall

Coach Leese is looking forward to Coach McDougall joining the team as they continue to build toward winning championships.

"I am pleased Ryan has chosen to join our family here at UTRGV," Leese said in a UTRGV Athletics news release. "Ryan has a great background in the college game and he possesses the right mentality to work with student-athletes in a highly competitive program. When Coach Massen and I sat down with Ryan for the first time, it was clear he was not only a great fit for our coaching staff, but also a great fit for the

Rio Grande Valley."

McDougall's main focus in his new role will be working with the goalkeepers at UTRGV. This comes as no surprise as he has a long history in that department.

Before coming to UTRGV, McDougall served eight years as the head goalkeeper coach at West Virginia Wesleyan College. While there, he helped lead the team to five playoff appearances, a Mountain East Conference Championship and an appearance in the 2017 NCAA Division II tournament.

McDougall also played on the West Virginia Wesleyan College Men's Soccer Team from 2008-2012 before becoming a coach on the team. He starred as a goalkeeper on the team and ended his playing career with 50 career matches, 30 wins, 22 shutouts, 177 saves and 0.85 goals against average. These numbers helped McDougall earn consecutive First Team All-Conference selections in 2010 and 2011 as well as an NCAA Division II Elite Eight appearance for his team.

He believes that his experience, both as a player and a coach, has prepared him to take on this new role at UTRGV.

"As a player, I just think you develop certain drills and certain styles that you like and you dislike and then you kind of try to take that and push it into how you coach," McDougall said. "Then, obviously becoming a coach you learn why certain coaches do certain things, and things you might not have liked as a player you do like as a coach just because you might understand it a bit more. Over the years, I've developed a style and a certain way that I teach and train the goalkeepers compared to

other goalkeeper coaches."

Although he has spent the last 12 years in West Virginia as a player and coach, he is no stranger to the Rio Grande Valley. McDougall has made trips to the Valley since 2017 as his fiancée is a native of the area. Now, he is looking forward to calling the place home for the near future.

**"Just learning the culture, learning how people are, the characters and everything, it's everything about coaching."**

**-Ryan McDougall**

"The part I'm looking forward to is being closer to family," McDougall said. "Obviously, family provides that outlet, that getaway from that moment where you get stressed. They sometimes add stress and sometimes they provide that opportunity to get away from it. And then, obviously I do love the food down here. Some of the first things I loved, honestly. [The food is] a hard thing to get away from but it's the thing that sometimes I do need to get away from. And the weather, I'll have to get used to. That is the one thing I'm going to have to get used to."

With COVID-19 still prevalent in the Rio Grande Valley, his transition to UTRGV has been different than expected.

"Getting introduced to the team, it was minimal," McDougall said. "It's not a proper introduction. You're staying away as much as you can. If we do get to do anything, it's still at a distance and so, for me, I think it's been tougher that way because I think just getting to know is one of the biggest parts of coaching. Just learning the culture, learning how people are, the characters and everything, it's everything about coaching."

He remains positive about his new position despite the new challenges and uncertainty brought forth by COVID-19.

"I ask Coach Leese and Coach Massen everyday questions about the team, about the program, what they look for and what they want," McDougall said. "That way, I can go in hitting the ground running. So, it's a bit different to maybe going into a non-COVID year where I would be hitting the ground running and maybe lost. So it's good and bad."

The coach is excited and ready to be a part of the team and believes the fans have something to look forward to.

"I think it's an exciting time to be a part of this team," McDougall said. "Just getting to know the players and the coaching staff and how hungry the whole program is to succeed and get that first conference championship and then move on and potentially compete for that national championship. This team, going forward, is going to be something special. I think it's more about that and being a part of that. I'm just here for the ride right now. For me, I'm just excited about that, and if I'm excited about that, I think that's what the fans should be excited about, too."

# Athlete of the Week: Mystique Brown

Sophomore kinesiology major Mystique Brown is a UTRGV Track and Field runner. She began her track and field career in 2020. During the 2020 season, Brown was a member of the 4x400-meter-relay team that placed second in the WAC Championship, which is the sixth-fastest in program history.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about your sport?

**A:** "My favorite thing about this sport is how it doesn't take a lot for us to just come together."

**Q:** How has your sport benefited you?

**A:** "Well, I'm in college. That's the big one. And it got me to stay fit like through summer and all the seasons."

**Q:** When did you start running competitively?

**A:** "I started running competitively my sophomore year

of high school."

**Q:** What is your favorite way to train?

**A:** "I like to have a planned workout and if there is, like, a group of smaller, groups are better."

**Q:** How do you like to prepare for a meet?

**A:** "So warm up before, drink a lot of water, [and] make sure our muscles are stretched out to prevent injury."

**Q:** What do you plan to do after graduation?

**A:** "I want to be a physical therapist."

**Q:** What is the biggest challenge of being a student athlete?

**A:** "Managing time [and] just trying to find time, in between practice, ways to do work, have class, [and] you know, studying, all that."

**Q:** What do you think makes you good at your sport?

**A:** "Just having that grit."

**Q:** What is your sports motto?

**A:** "V's Up!"



COURTESY PHOTO

Mystique Brown (center).

**Q:** What is your favorite animal?

**A:** "Oh, my favorite animal is a cat."

**Q:** What is your favorite pastime?

**A:** "I like to draw."

**Q:** Who is one celebrity or public figure you want to meet?

**A:** "Chance the Rapper."

**Q:** What is your favorite season and why?

**A:** "My favorite season is summer

because it's just a time for freedom, you know? We're still running but there is the free time to do a lot of stuff."

**Q:** If you played any other sport, what would it be and why?

**A:** "It would probably be ... in the cheer gymnastics area because I used to cheer. I used to dance. I used to do gymnastics."

**A:** "My favorite season is summer

*-- Compiled by Karina Rodriguez*



COURTESY PHOTO

## HISPANIC Continued from Page 3

Thus, came the extension of the recognition of Latinos from a week to a month.

## BREAKDOWN Continued from Page 3

does have a platform and the other does not, according to political science Professor Nicholas Kiersey.

"Trump simply doesn't have a platform," Kiersey said. "If you look at his website, there is little evidence of having an actual set of policy positions."

While not considered major oppo-

De La Trinidad said Latino is a grass-roots term that is used to recognize many Spanish-speaking groups who have similar culture, language and tradition. The month celebrates all Latino cultures in the U.S. and recognizes

nents, Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins are also in the running for the 2020 presidency.

"One of the biggest challenges for third-party candidates is just getting on the ballot," said Robert W. Velez, a political science lecturer. "When it comes to presidential politics, until we make ballot access easier, we are just not going to see a lot of competition from a

the contributions they have made to the nation.

Asked why Hispanic Heritage Month should be celebrated, she replied, "To highlight and to recognize the vast contribution that Mexican Ameri-

third-party candidate."

Jorgensen's platform focuses on classical libertarian views, such as decreasing government spending, having affordable health care, bettering the environment by replacing coal and oil plants, reducing taxes, ending civil asset forfeiture and bettering education, according to her official campaign website, <https://jo20.com/>.

Per his official campaign website,

reconocer a varios grupos hispano-hablantes que tienen similitudes en sus culturas, idiomas y tradiciones. El mes celebra todas las culturas latinas en EE.UU y reconoce las contribuciones que han hecho a la nación.

Se le preguntó por qué debe ser celebrado el Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

"Para visibilizar y reconocer la gran contribución que la gente mexicanoamericana, latina, puertorriqueña, cubana y otros, han contribuido para que crezca EE.UU; así que, si me preguntas, América es grande por los Latinos", De La Trinidad respondió.

*--Traducido por Paulina Longoria*

can people and other Latino people, Puertorriqueños, Cubans and other people have had to the making of the U.S.; and so if you ask me, America is great because of Latinos."

Hawkins' platform focuses on COVID-19 emergency measures, an ecosocialist green new deal, peace policies, an economic bill of rights, a socialist economy, political democracy, social justice, criminal and civil justice, media democracy and tax justice.

Early voting begins Oct. 13 and ends Oct. 30. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is Oct. 23. Election Day is Nov. 3.

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# A culture rich in folktales

**Karina Rodriguez**  
THE RIDER

Folktales are stories that can help preserve Hispanic culture. They originate from oral pieces that have been passed down from generation to generation. The transcending nature of the stories means they can teach us about the time and place in which they were originally told. The Rider asked three UTRGV students to read a folktale and respond to it.

Three of the most beloved Hispanic folktales are "Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story" by Tomie dePaola, "Doña Flor" by Pat Mora and "The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote" by Tony Johnston.

The story of "Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story" follows a young girl named Adelita, who has to endure the horrendous treatment under her stepmother Señora Micaela de la Fortuna, and her two daughters. The story is a Mexican retelling of

the classic fairytale, Cinderella. "I liked that it was a different take on 'Cinderella' and how even though 'Cinderella' is a fairytale, this story made it seem more real," said mass communication senior Cielo Cruz.

One of the major appeals of folktales is that readers can relate to the characters. As Hispanics, sometimes it is hard to find representation in the media, but these folktales allow them to do just that.

"I do believe that they are important because it is part of having Mexican roots," Cruz said. "Sometimes I feel disconnected to my roots because I feel that now, as an adult, I have lost the sense of my culture. Folktales allow me to lean more into those roots." The story "Doña Flor"

is about a giant woman who is beloved by her neighbors in her pueblo. A giant puma begins to taunt the villagers, and Flor is

the first to jump in and investigate what is going on.

"I loved this story; it was not what I was expecting! I love how the images followed the story, and I also love how they depicted Doña Flor," biomedical sciences senior Ingrid Aleman said.

Growing up, Aleman got a very different taste of Hispanic folktales.

"I actually did grow up reading folktales, but they were mainly the scary ones! My family always used to scare us with 'La Llorona' or 'El Coco.'"

Many Hispanic households tell folktales because they are not only for entertainment, but also teach children important morals.

"In my opinion, the moral of the folktale was to remind us to always help our community and those around us," Aleman said. "There are things that we might be able to fix and others that we cannot. We should help one another while living in a safe place and in harmony."

Folktales also help people preserve happy memories of good times and loved ones.

"This story reminded me of my grandma, who I love!" Aleman said. "My grandma literally takes care of the whole fami-

ly, just like Doña Flor."

She also gave an insightful opinion on how folktales could hurt the Hispanic culture.

"I think Hispanic folktales



COURTESY PHOTO  
Ingrid Aleman, a biomedical sciences senior, says the Hispanic folktale "Doña Flor" reminded her of her grandmother, who, like the story's character, served the community and those around her.

could and could not preserve our culture," Aleman said. "It really depends on the intentions of the author and if they actually have a background on the culture. Some could be very stereotypical and could add to the negative associations within Hispanic culture."

In "The Tale of Rabbit and

Coyote," Coyote is tired of being taunted by Rabbit. By the end of it, Rabbit escapes, and Coyote is left stranded in a canyon.

"What I enjoyed most about the story was no matter the situation Rabbit was in, he was able to convince Coyote of doing something he would not normally do," biology junior Allison Cabrera said.

For Cabrera, folktales are a powerful way that she can connect to her culture while understanding the times of the past.

"I do believe that folktales preserve the culture because society is changing quite rapidly, and folktales retell the stories of our ancestors and bring us back to the simplest times before there was technology but when there was only the word of mouth," she said.

Overall, folktales are good and entertaining ways that children can learn important values and morals to follow throughout their lives.

"I do think Hispanic folktales are important to continue telling," Cabrera said. "Many of these folktales have underlying messages, which are the morals of the story of what one should do and avoid."

# Latin cuisine

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

Hispanic Heritage Month is intended to pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who brought their culture and way of life to America, including flavorful dishes.

Maritza De La Trinidad, associate professor of Mexican American studies grew up in Tucson, Arizona, near the Arizona/Sonora, Mexico, border. She said she enjoys cooking family recipes.

"One of my favorites is *enchiladas suizas* and other recipes that are unique to the region I grew up in," De La Trinidad said. "In September there is white corn that is very popular in Arizona, so we make tamales out of white corn that is very sweet. So, that's a little bit different than other parts of the Southwest."

Asked about the traditional dishes in her family, she replied that her dad likes to make zucchini with turkey meat.

"Another dish is, there is a pozole that is very unique, I think it's unique to Sonora," De La Trinidad said. "It's *pozole*,

but it's made with pinto beans and hominy and certain beef cuts, which is a little different than here [in the Rio Grande Valley]."

Carolina Garza, a mass communication junior, said pork with squash and corn is a traditional dish in her family.

"My grandma would always cook it," Garza said. "[My dad] learned and now I learned it from my dad because I cook with him, but it's from [Mexico]. It's accompanied with beans and rice, and we make the sauce, too. It's like a tomato sauce."

She said she has always wanted to try Venezuelan *arepas*, a corn patty often stuffed with fillings such as Venezuelan shredded beef, black beans and/or fresh cheese.

Griselda Salgado, a bilingual education junior, said her favorite Mexican dish are *tostadas* because they are easy to prepare.

"I also think that we have the ingredients at home or if not, they are very easy to get," Salgado said. "That is why I feel that *tostadas* are my favorite dish."



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC say that it was what she ate the most and the most famous thing in her city."

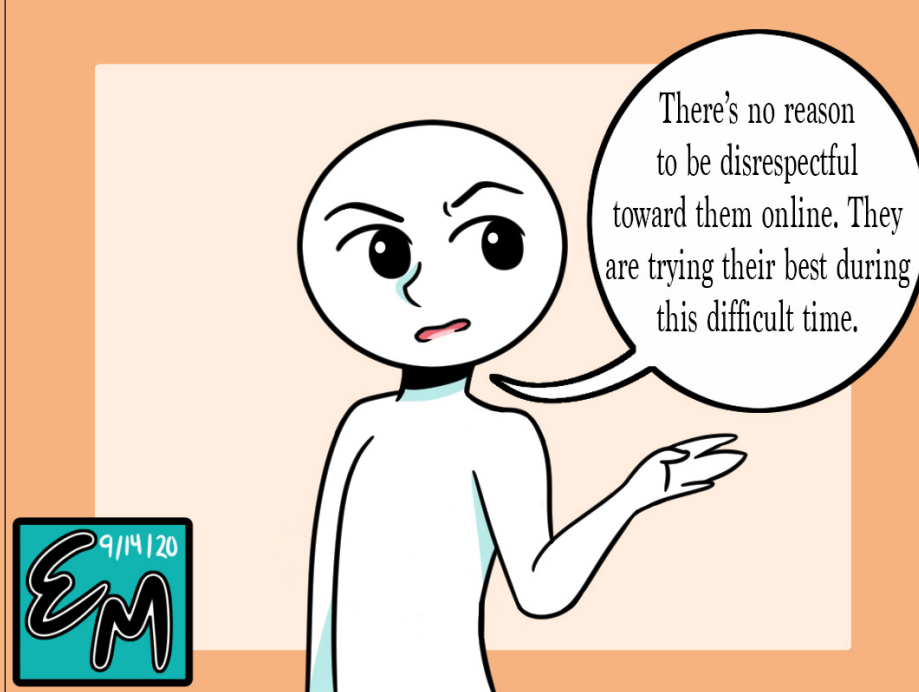
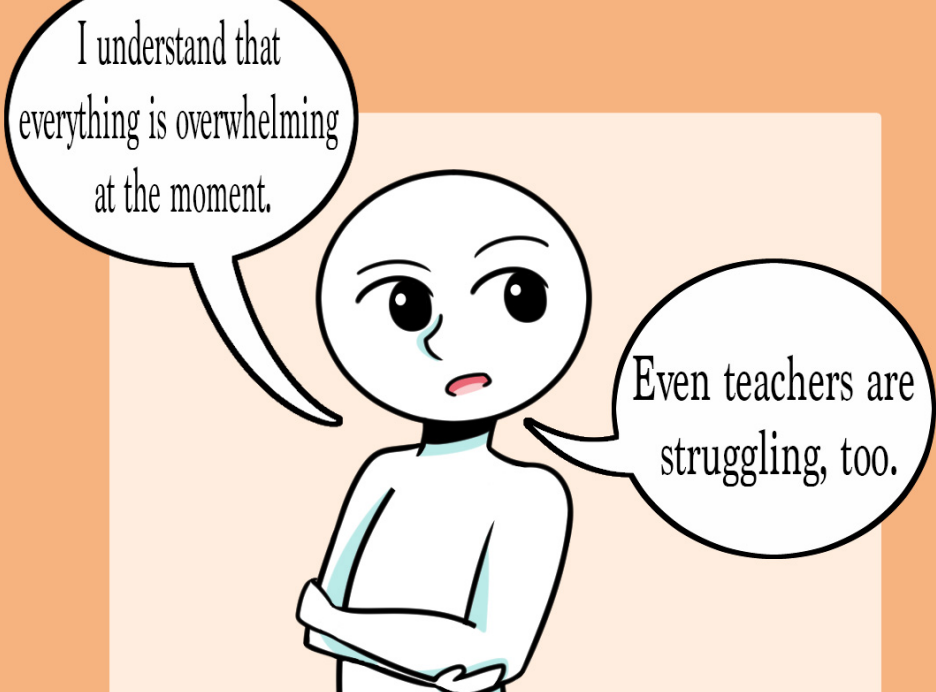
**Enchiladas Suizas** (Recipe provided by Maritza De La Trinidad)

**Ingredients:** Green Chili Enchiladas: corn tortillas (24-36), chicken broth (1 can), *crema Mexicana* (16 oz.), 1 or 2 jars Herdez Green Chile salsa, Jack cheese (1 pound), chicken breasts

See DISHES, Page 8

# The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza





## CHICANO Continued from Page 4

forget about what those other students thought of me and of where I come from.

Another thing in my life that contributed to me questioning who I am is how I will never truly be accepted as Mexican to people who live and are from Mexico. I will always be American or gringo to them.

Both of my parents are from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and immigrated to the Rio Grande Valley for a better future for my family. Even with that, there are major cultural differences between people like me in the Valley and people from Mexico. The Spanish we speak here, the traditions we celebrate and various other

things set us apart.

An example of what I mean is best said by Edward James Olmos as the father in the movie "Selena": "We have to be more American than the Americans and more Mexican than the Mexicans. It's twice as exhausting!"

This confusion would continue into college, but it all changed when I took my first Mexican American history class at UTRGV. Before that class, I had never taken or learned about history through a Mexican American viewpoint. Yeah, I knew about Cesar Chavez, but the AP history classes that I took in high school were taught through an Anglo perspective and no Mexican American courses were ever

offered during the four years I was there. I was blinded from a whole area of my own history.

Learning about the Chicano Movement, labor strikes and local history opened my eyes to a whole world that I had not

**“As I grew up, my consciousness opened up to the realities of my life and how my brown skin and socioeconomic status influenced me so much.”**

known. Reading and researching all these topics and issues under this new perspective really inspired me.

A Chicano/a is someone who is of Mexican descent and born in or lives in the United States. The term Chicano first was used to insult Mexican Americans in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s, however, brown people all across the country reclaimed the term, rejected assimilation into Anglo culture and turned it into a political movement.

All of this would shape my ideas and morals about various issues that we face today in our society.

With all this new knowledge and experience, I started thinking to myself how I don't have to try to be more American or more Mexican to prove myself to anyone. That is when I started proudly and confidently identifying

myself as Chicano.

By saying I am Chicano, I acknowledge the history and sacrifices that people had to make for me to even be in this position. That is why I take a lot of pride in identifying as Chicano and being from the Valley.

So, when people talk down on the Valley or its people, I'm always quick to defend it. This region is full of talented, smart and innovative people and has a ton of history that we could learn from. It also has many issues, but that is why I encourage people to get educated on these issues, so we can continue making the Valley a better home for future generations. ¡La Lucha Sigue!

## WOMEN Continued from Page 3

daughter, 'Mija, when are you going to finish your degree?' or, 'What is your plan for college?'" she said.

Avila has met many women of different ethnicities who have encountered barriers in the workforce.

After receiving her master's in history and going into the job market, Avila said she received tips for interviews from colleagues, such as, "Take off your wedding ring," "Don't bring up your husband," and "Don't bring up your children."

When Avila told her colleagues she did not have children, they told her to not speak of anything of that nature during the interview.

Her colleagues' advice came from their past experiences where, according to them, the interviewers believed, "If her husband doesn't want her to move there, they're not going to move then."

Avila said many female professors she has met keep the fact that they have children a secret to prevent their management skills from being questioned.

"I just rather not say that I have chil-

dren to my colleagues, so it's never a question whether I can juggle different things or if I have time," one of these women said to Avila.

To help foster a more accepting and positive environment for Hispanic women, institutions should have opportunities, such as internship programs and Q&A workshops, where students can ask professors how they balance work and family, as well as their overall experience in their field, Avila said.

"We need those programs, even if it's just, like, a mixer or a panel," she said.

Women and men also need to communicate about balancing their work and home lives, whether it's between spouses or colleagues.

"The only way that we can actually do it [is by] having an open conversation instead of making it seem like there's something wrong with women who are balancing children, a family and work, because there's nothing wrong with that," she said. "They're super women. There's nothing wrong with that."

Additionally, those who are in leadership positions need to help guide and mentor new generations of Latinas, said

Trini Yunes, director of Human Resources at UTRGV.

"Those of us who ... are in the leadership of [an] organization, [need to] encourage, mentor and help our new generations, our newer Latinas [who] are learning and coming into the professional field, by providing professional development," Yunes said.

She said organizations and industries, specifically those dominated by men, need to foster better communication while also giving women opportunities.

"Sometimes, opportunities are not given to women or Latinas because ... there's a lot of misconceptions about how we are, who we are and how we work," the HR director said.

In order to shine in a leadership role, Latina women have to put the effort that men are putting in and continue to get informed, Yunes said.

"Come prepared to the table so you can have a very informed discussion on what you're going to propose, so you can go ahead and defend your proposal with how things need to be done and how things have to change," she said.

Yunes added Latino men need to re-

spect women and view them as equals and that teaching starts from home.

"We need to continue to educate our children, our Latino men at home, so that they know that ... our generations are no longer the 'macho man' at home," she said.

In an email sent to The Rider, Yunes said in this fiscal year, 58% of UTRGV staff members are women, and 87% of them are Latinas.

"We are more than half out there, and men have to give us the same level of respect," she said.

During the start of her career, Yunes said she experienced her own barriers within her family.

"It was very difficult to have my dad, for example, understand that I could be someone in a role of a leadership level where I would have men as my equals," she said.

These are issues that have been happening for centuries, Yunes said.

"Things are getting better for all of us, for all Latinas, but we're not there yet," she said. "The challenges are still there."

## DISHES Continued from Page 7

(2 pounds), 2 to 3 Roma tomatoes, 1/2 cup (hot or mild) roasted green Anaheim chili, 1/2 cup chopped onions, and 1 to 2 tbsps. garlic powder (season to taste).

**Instructions:** Boil chicken breasts in water for 1 hour, drain and let cool. Shred chicken by hand. Chop Roma tomatoes, onions and garlic and saute in olive or canola oil. Add green chili, shredded

chicken, some chicken broth, salt, pepper, garlic powder and cook for about 10 to 15 minutes. Spoon chicken on warm corn tortillas and roll them and arrange in a 9 x 13 pan. Blend 1 jar of Herdez Green Chile salsa and *crema Mexicana* in a blender and pour over the rolled tortillas. Sprinkle Jack or Mexican cheese on top and cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit until the cheese melts (30 to 45 minutes).

**Tostadas** (Recipe provided

by Griselda Salgado)

**Ingredients:** *tostadas*, re-fried beans, shredded chicken, lettuce, tomato, *queso fresco*, *crema Mexicana* and avocado. For salsa: 10 *fresadilla* tomatoes, 5 *chiles serranos*, 2 garlic cloves and salt.

**Instructions:** Boil chiles serranos and fresadilla tomatoes for 15 minutes and blend ingredients together. Spread the beans on the tostada and top with shredded chicken, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, shredded queso fresco,

avocado and crema Mexicana.

**Arroz con leche** (Recipe provided by Carolina Garza)

**Ingredients:** 1/2 cup of milk, 1 can of sweetened condensed milk, 1 can of evaporated milk, 1 stick of cinnamon, 1 1/2 cups of washed and rinsed rice, 2 or 3 cups of water.

**Instructions:** In a pot, boil rice in water and a stick of cinnamon for 15 minutes. Add sweetened condensed, evaporated and regular milk. Stir so it won't stick to the bottom.

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