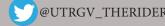
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE

MONDAY, SEPT. 7, 2020

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/ JUTRGVRIDER (@UTRGV_THERIDER



Write your own tune

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The UTRGV School of Music is offering music composition, music technology and mariachi majors this semester.

Kurt Martinez, director of the School of Music, said he and his faculty were thinking of what degree to offer to attract more students.

"Cause a lot of times, students, they want to study, like, this major, composition. They want to learn how to write and we didn't have anything like that," Martinez said. "So, a lot of times people would overlook UTRGV and they would go to

A lot of times people would overlook UTRGV and they would go to another school.

-Kurt Martinez **School of Music Director**

another school.'

He said the mariachi major is a unique degree because UTRGV is the only school in the U.S. that offers this degree.

"When they get out of this degree, they're certified to teach at a public school," Martinez said. "Mariachi is really getting big in public schools so that's one of the ... reasons that we thought it was [important] to incorporate this degree and because we also have a strong tradition of mariachis in this area."

The music technology degree will provide students the opportunity to learn methods for integrating music technology into the practices of composition, research, performance

See MUSIC, Page 2



SCREENSHOT BY ALEJANDA YAÑEZ/ THE RIDER

The Rider interviewed Master Sgt. Andres De Jesus, a senior military science instructor at UTRGV, via Zoom to discuss how the Sept. 11, 2001, attack affected his personal life and career in the military.

A military profession after 9/11 attacks

<u>Alejandra Yañez</u>

THE RIDER

The tragedy that transpired on Sept. 11, 2001, will forever be remembered by Americans throughout the nation. However, those personally affected by this attack are not limited to those who lost loved ones on that somber day. For many, the aftermath would change the trajectory of their lives.

The Rider interviewed Master Sgt. Andres De Jesus, a senior military science instructor at UTRGV, to learn the effects Sept. 11 had on his life.

De Jesus said he was 24 at the time and was at a recruiting station taking a military entry test when his recruiter interrupted to announce that the World Trade Center had been attacked.

Asked how he felt in that moment, he replied that he was scared, but knew he had a calling to serve.

"I was already thinking of

joining the Army before 9/11, but that put more motivation on me to join the service," De Jesus said.

Not even a month later, he was officially shipped out from Puerto Rico to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to begin boot camp and basic training.

Asked how the results of the attack affected his career, De Jesus replied, "Well, it was pretty different because before, in what we call peace time, we would stay put in the states and we'd pretty much be working until 5 p.m. like a normal job. But, as soon as we declared that we were going to fight, it was like we were gone for years then came back. And when you came back you had to leave your house for months to train and prepare vourself to leave again for another year."

De Jesus has been serving for 18 years and in that time has been deployed to combat five times in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as a result of the attack on

One of his tours was over 13 months and he said the separation from home took a toll on his personal life.

"Half of my career has been in those areas," De Jesus said. "So, I missed a lot of what a normal personal life could be. Between kids' birthdays, Father's Days, Mother's Days and all that stuff, but on the same token, I like what I did and how much it's given me the opportunity to become successful as a professional."

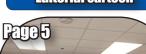
He said he spent a year in Iraq and came home only to spend the following 10 months training in preparation to leave again. For him, this was the most significant and tedious impact that he and his family endured from 9/11.

Asked how he commemorates those who lost their lives on 9/11, De Jesus replied that he remembers the sacrifices of the first responders and re-

See **SEPTEMBER**, Page 2









UTeach ahora en línea



Wear Your Mask Correctly



cannot keep a safe distance from others is recommended.





cdc.gov/coronavirus

Source: cdc.gov

Jose Campo Maldonado, an assistant professor of internal medicine and director of infection surveillance at the UTRGV School of Medicine, said using fabric masks in areas where people

School of Medicine professors talk about mask effectiveness

Brigitte Ortiz

As the pandemic progresses, masks in the Rio Grande Valley have become mandatory in public. Facial coverings made of certain materials can reduce the risk of infected particles from being transmitted, UTRGV School of Medicine professors say.

Jose Campo Maldonado, an assistant professor of internal medicine and director of infection surveillance at the UTRGV School of Medicine, said masks are a part of a comprehensive strategy that should include multiple public health measures, including social distancing and being aware that transmission is more likely in crowded places.

"If you take masks as an isolated intervention, I don't think it's going to be very effective," Maldonado said. "But,

when you put it together at a population level with those other interventions, then it can make a major difference."

He said the type of masks that have been recognized by the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are fabric

"In general, what we call cloth masks, so that type of mask is recommended to be used, especially if you're going to be in a COVID area where you cannot keep your distance from others," Maldonado

He suggests following hygiene guidelines, including cleaning your surroundings and washing your hands.

The other concern about mask use ... is that some people may think that using a mask will protect them from everything

See MASKS, Page 8

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

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual **Summer GX** Students can take a variety of

classes Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Classes include STRONG, Family Zoomba, Yoga, POUND, and Abs and Zoomba Toning. The classes will be available through the Zoom meeting ID: 211 760 632. For more information, email urec@utrgv.

Tuesday

DIY Homemade Cleaners

Students can learn how to make their own cleaning products starting at 3 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through Vlink.

Wednesday

Virtual Involvement Fair

The Leadership & Mentoring office will host a virtual involvement fair to help students connect with organizations at UTRGV. The event

will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Students can RSVP on VLink.

Thursday

'Call of Duty' Tournament

A 'Call of Duty' tournament will take place at 6 p.m. via Discord. Students can RSVP on Vlink.

Women in Medicine

The UTRGV School of Medicine will present a discussion with Diana Lautenberger, director for Faculty and Staff Research and Women In Medicine & Science, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Lautenberger will talk about the recent publication, "The State of Women in Academic Medicine-Exploring Pathways to Equity," call to action initiatives at the AAMC to address seven types of inequities and recommendations for leadership to address and eliminate gender inequities. The virtual event will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Students can register https://webapps.utrgv.edu/it/ training/index.cfm?event=login.

Coffee & Conversations

Civic Engagement Alliance (CEA) will host a conversation regarding local Rio Grande Valley and state representatives, census and the districts in Texas. Students can join the conversation and win prizes throughout the event. The event will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. For a chance to win CEA swag and free pizza delivery, RSVP on VLink.

Friday

Patriots Day

Students can create artwork to remember Sept. 11 and submit their artwork to cea@utrgv.edu or tag CEA in their Instagram page @utrgvcea. The artwork will be entered into a drawing for a prize. CEA will host an Instagram Live session at 1 p.m. to educate students about what Patriots Day is and how it has impacted the United States.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 24 and 31.



Aug. 24 p.m.: 8:30 Brownsville information

case will be referred to Student Rights Aug. 27 and Responsibilities for administrative

11:42 p.m.: An officer observed U.S. Border Patrol agents searching for subjects on the Brownsville campus. The agents subsequently apprehended the missing key. eight subjects. Six individuals were from Aug. 28 Mexico, one from Honduras and one from Guatemala.

Aug. 25

8:43 a.m.: A staff member reported discovering a rear window on a UTRGV van shattered while it was parked and unattended in the Physical Plant 11:38 a.m.: A male faculty member Compound on the Edinburg campus. An officer reviewed video cameras from the area which revealed the window shattered on its own, possibly due to heat.

Aug. 26

the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to an member trimming grass in the area.

unknown male using profane/vulgar Arrangements are being made with the The language with university staff. The male Police left the area before the officer's arrival. Department received The case is under investigation.

in **6:31 p.m.:** A male staff member at the reference to a student's Edinburg Bursar's Office reported his conduct on a social cash register was short \$200. The report media platform. The was filed for documentation purposes.

4:56 p.m.: A staff member reported losing a university-issued key about eight years ago at her residence in Pharr. The staff member is in the process of exiting the university and needed to document

9:02 a.m.: A staff member reported losing her university-issued key and FOB key at her off campus residence in Edinburg. On Aug. 31, the staff member reported she had located the lost items.

reported being harassed via email and social media by a known non-affiliated female. The case is under investigation

12:12 p.m.: An officer responded to Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus 2:18 p.m.: An officer responded to in reference to a report of a vehicle's window being shattered by a staff

owner of the vehicle to have the vehicle repaired. UPDATE

A man has been arraigned on charges of theft in connection with a gold chain and other items stolen from two apartments in The Village Apartments in Edinburg. On Aug. 23, a student reported a gold chain was stolen from his apartment after it was left unsecured due to ongoing construction. Upon further investigation, UTRGV Police Department detectives identified a male suspect, a contract employee. Detectives recovered some of the stolen items from the suspect and a local pawn shop. While investigating the case, they recovered property allegedly stolen by the suspect from another apartment at The Village Apartments. Detectives identified a staff member living in that apartment who was a victim of a theft The suspect was arrested Aug. 26 and charged with theft, a state jail felony. The suspect was arrested Aug. 29 on the second theft charge, a Class A misdemeanor, and arraigned the same day. He was transported back to the Hidalgo County Jail.

--Compiled by Fernanda Figueroa

might mean working at a media of some

kind. Roberto Perez, a music education junior, said this is a great major.

working making jingles, sometimes that

"We have so many students that maybe classroom teaching [or] being a performance major may not be their forte but they do enjoy writing music," Perez said. "So this new major, composition major, is definitely something that those types of people can sink their teeth into

form and fashion."

To apply to this major or any major in the School of Music, visit the UTRGV website, click on the major and set up an audition.

and make a name for themselves in that

Instagram live session at 1 p.m. Friday to educate the UTRGV student body about what Patriots Day is and how it has impacted the United States.

Student Activities and the Civic Engagement Alliance are also accepting submissions for its Patriots Day Art Submission contest. Students interested in participating can tag @utrgvcea to their design submissions on Instagram or email designs to cea@utrgv.edu by 5 p.m. Friday. The winner will be announced September 14.

Designs can be any medium of art such as a drawing, painting, dance, lip sync or portrait of how you honor the remembrance of our heroes, according to the event's description.

Continued from Page 1

and/or pedagogy, according to an Instagram post by the UTRGV School of Music.

"A lot of times you get a student that wants to study music but they really don't have the traditional background of studying," Martinez said. "So, what they've done is just made music via the computer. So, how can we serve those students? So, that's why we decided to open up that degree.

Justin Writer, a composition and theory associate professor, said in the past, they have been able to offer composition lessons.

SEPTEMBER Continued from Page 1

spects the honor they brought to the na-

'This year, [due to COVID-19] it will be difficult to present honors to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but at the same time they're always going to stay in our hearts and in our minds," he said. "So, we should take a moment on that day and remember what happened."

De Jesus said the ROTC also tries to show presence and respect on 9/11 by participating in memorial ceremonies.

Asked what message he has for the campus community, De Jesus replied, "It's always an honor to serve for the nation. The United States is a great nation.

"We've had students who wanted to get composition degrees but we did not have the major in place, [so] we weren't able to offer it," Writer said. "Now that we are, we are expecting it will be pretty popular and we'll start getting majors all throughout the Valley wanting to pursue composition as their degree

He said there are different careers that are possible with this major. The most common path is going to graduate school and teaching at a college or university.

"The other path is you could end up teaching private lessons or doing all types of multiple musical jobs where a composition degree will be helpful," Writer said. "Sometimes that may be

The United States Army offers so much to the community, to the nation and to you as a person. It's not for everybody, but it could give you the opportunity to open so many doors in the future. You will learn many skill sets from this ca-

After 18 years of service, De Jesus said

He encourages the campus community to look into the ROTC program at UTRGV, where his mission is to mentor the future generation of leaders.

Civic Engagement Alliance will host an

he is honored to have the opportunity to teach and mentor the young, courageous men and women who have decided to defend the colors of this nation.

Despite the pandemic, the university's

14 test positive for COVID-19 in first 2 weeks of semester

Omar Zapata

Fourteen UTRGV students and employees tested positive for COVID-19 at university testing sites between Aug. 20 and Sept. 2, officials say.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, told The Rider that between Aug. 20 and 26, seven UTRGV individuals tested positive. Of those seven, three were students and four were employees. Between Aug. 27 and Sept. 2, one employee and six students tested positive.

As of Aug. 31, 22,053 tests had been conducted by UT Health RGV testing sites, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

"Majority of these cases, they're not getting it while they're on campus," Arney said. "They're getting it from the family environment. ... We're a very social community and people just are not social distancing when they should be."

Even if family members come into town, you do not know where they have been,

Arney gave an example of how he practices social distancing within his family. He has three sons that go to Texas Tech University and when he is around them, he acts like they have COVID-19 to practice social distancing.

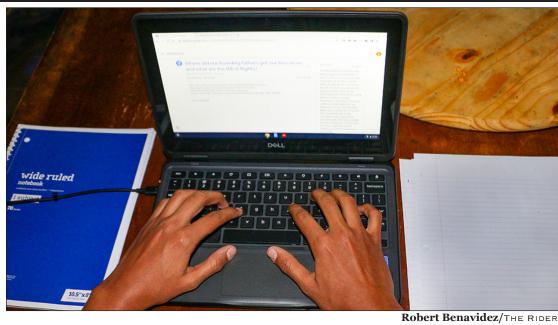
"It may seem cruel, but they're out and about and I don't know where they've been," Arney said. "So I treat pretty much everybody like if they have COVID just so I don't get COVID. ... But, that's a good way to think about it because you don't really know where that person has been.'

Arney said students and staff have been doing a good job complying with the COVID-19 protocols on campuses.

"We've not heard of any case of anybody not complying with our protocol, which is great news," he said.

For more information about university updates and resources related to COVID-19, visit https://www.utrgv.edu/ coronavirus/.

For information about how and where to get tested, read The Rider's story on UTRGV COVID-19 testing sites at https://www.utrgvrider.com/ utrgv-covid-19-testing-sitescontinue-services/.



The Rider spoke to students about their first week of class to see how they are adjusting to the Fall 2020 semester.

earning at home but not alone

<u>Alejandra Yañez</u>

THE RIDER

With the start of Fall 2020, The Rider checked in on UTRGV students after the first week of school to see how they are adjusting to classes during this unparalleled semester.

"It was pretty smooth," said Daniela Cruz, a health science sophomore, about her first week. "I had work and quizzes, but nothing I couldn't handle. I wasn't stressed or anything like that, so it went pretty good."

Cruz said she has all online classes, except for one this semester, and is having a hard time transitioning to online learning.

"I'm more of an I go to campus, I listen to the professor, I take notes and I'm there faceto-face [type of student]," Cruz said. "So here, it's like, I'm at home and I get distracted very easily. Like, I'm doing homework and then I get on my phone, or I start doing other things that when I'm on campus, I don't do."

Kathia Rodriguez, an anthropology senior, said she is also struggling to stay focused on her classes at home.

"It's the first week, so it's

been kind of calm," Rodriguez said. "But I have seen that all four classes are requesting something different from me. One is requesting that I film myself doing videos, another is requesting that I do a presentation and I'm doing a bunch of reading for all of them. So, I really have to push myself to be more organized than I've ever been before, which is kind of hard considering that I'm usually a disorganized person."

So, I really have to push myself to be more organized than I've ever been before.

-Kathia Rodriguez **Anthropology senior**

The senior said she finds herself getting easily distracted at home with her daily responsibilities, which take her away from her schoolwork.

"I feel like I have to shift gears to be more focused," she

Asked how she would compare this semester to previous ones, Rodriguez replied, "I definitely feel like I have to be more productive since I'm more of an I-have-to-be-in-aschool-environment [type of student]. I tend to get more distracted at home than if I was on campus. So, I feel like I have to really push myself to be more productive than I've ever been in previous semes-

Cruz said she has noticed a change in the workload her professors have assigned since she switched to online learning.

"I feel like they give us more work," she said. "I feel like the professors think we have a lot of time on our hands so they give more work, and last semester I felt like ... I don't know, like, everything was easier. Before, I could finish my work for a class in one day and right now, it feels like I have more work and no time."

Asked what she anticipates will be the greatest struggle for her this semester, Cruz replied that teaching

See CLASSES, Page 6

AUG 20-26 STUDENTS 14 positive cases from AUG 20 -**EMPLOYEES** SEPT 2 Aaliyah Garza/The Rider Graphic

Domestic violence during COVID-19

Omar Zapata

THE RIDER

Due to COVID-19 and shelter-at-home orders, domestic violence issues have been on the rise nationally as people are having to stay at home during the pandemic.

In the U.S., there was a 9% increase in total contacts between March 16 and May 16, according to a COVID-19 special report by the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7 all year to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.

"We know any external factors that add stress, isolation and financial strain can create circumstances where a survivor's safety is further compromised--this pandemic has elements of all three," the special report said.

A total of 62,413 contacts were answered by the national hotline, with 6,210 contacts citing COVID-19 as the problem. Ninety percent of all contacts during that period reported

experiencing emotional/verbal abuse and 61% experiencing some kind of physical abuse.

Hidalgo County District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. told The Rider his office has seen an increase in domestic violence calls, incidents and protective orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asked how much of an increase there was, Rodriguez replied he did not have the exact figure at hand.

"Our phone is ringing off the wall," he said. "I mean, a whole lot, which in a way is good and in a way it's not."

Rodriguez explained the increase is a good sign that people are reaching out and asking for help for themselves or someone experiencing domestic violence, whether it is to his office or a local agency. The bad part is having a call about domestic violence, he said. No one wants a call about that.

In Cameron County, District Attorney Luis V. Saenz told The Rider the county has not seen an increase in domestic violence cases but he is concerned that it is not getting reported.

"We're very concerned that the cases are out there but

mestic Violence Hotlines **National Domestic** 1+300-799-7288 **Violence Hotline** 071-800-787-8224 Women 1+800+530-4379 **Together** Friendship of Q550544-7412 07(959)54117676 Women, Inc. **UTRGV Office for Victim** (956) 665-8287 Advocacy & 07(950)832-3232 **Violence Prevention**

Roxanna Miranda/The Rider GRAPHIC

they're not being reported because the victim cannot report it," Saenz said.

He said, typically, when victims report domestic violence, they leave their home and while out, they report the abuse. With shelter-at-home orders in place, the victims cannot report it due to risking being caught by the perpetrator

and giving rise to another domestic conflict.

"It's created a worse situation for domestic violence victims," Saenz said. "It's like the perfect storm against them."

Priscilla Palacios, the associate director of programs for the Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) at UTRGV, said it has been

more difficult for students to reach out to them since the victims are at home with their abuser.

"We are a department on campus that provides resources and information to ... students, staff and faculty," Palacios said. "We are confi-

See **DOMESTIC**, Page



PROMOTING CHANGE

On Sept. 1, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What method do you believe is the best way to promote change in today's society?" The results are shown below.

facebook

SOCIAL MEDIA

28

VOTING

11

PROTESTS 0



SIGNING PETITIONS 1

U

twitter

25

7 PROTESTS



3 SOCIAL MEDIA

O SIGNING

Instagram

VOTING

19

PROTESTS

<u> 15</u>

SIGNING PETITIONS 11



SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE

@UTRGVRIDER

College, a journey of self-actualization and change



Estefania Hernandez THE RIDER

Who do you see yourself becoming? What are your capabilities

in life? Whenever I was asked "Who are you?" all I could think was: I am a student, a daughter, a sister, a friend, but who was I really?

Growing up in a Latino community, I was taught that family always came first. I had my mind set to think that I needed to be perfect at everything and anything I did in order to make my parents proud.

When I was a kid, my family had low expectations of me going to college and being something in life, and that forever stayed engraved in my mind. I then made it a challenge to prove to not just my parents, but to myself that I can accomplish anything I

set my mind on.

I spent my four years of high school focused on trying to be the best student and exceptional athlete to show my parents that I can be something. I spent every second of my time trying to be the best at everything that I never really stopped to look at all I've accomplished. Top 10 of my senior class, full ride scholarship to college, but still something was missing.

High school graduation, the ending of a chapter of our lives and the start of a new journey. What now? I bet many of us asked that question every day after high school. Who am I? College was around the corner and I felt like I lost a huge part of what made me who I am. However, I wasn't actually losing myself, I was on the journey of figuring out who I am.

It is now 2020, and I am nowhere near the person I was 4 years ago, and 17-year-old me would be astonished to see the person we've grown to be. Before college, I was one to

stop my life to help my family and friends, but now, I have learned that I should care more about my own future than those around me. Putting others before me made me lose my identity.

Living in the Rio Grande Valley has taught me to fight the status quo. You don't have to stop your life because of family. We were put in this world to grow as individuals, to find our place and meaning in this life. Life is about taking leaps forward. You might fall at some point, but that's the way it is. We learn as we live. College has taught me that experience is something we're supposed to learn and grow

I love the person I have grown to be. Finding the courage to speak my mind was my biggest leap to figuring out who I was. Fighting the status quo not only shows what you believe is right, but it can expand and become a revolution for many others who are fighting the same battle as you.

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.

7 de septiembre de 2020 THE RIDER NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL 5 Un Virtual Workroom para los estudiantes de UTeach

Paulina Longoria

THE RIDER

El programa de UTeach RGV y el club están listos para mantener a sus estudiantes y comunidad involucrados con el Virtual Workroom (cuarto de trabajo virtual) durante estos tiempos de pandemia y en

Tradicionalmente, el programa proporcionó un workroom en cada campus para que sus estudiantes estudien, planeen lecciones, practiquen la enseñanza, trabajen en proyectos, tengan acceso a recursos pedagógicos, conecten con estudiantes y compañeros de UTeach, tengan tutorías, se junten con sus maestros máster y estudien para sus exámenes de certificación, según su sitio web.

Las juntas del Virtual Workroom se llevarán a cabo por Zoom de 9 a.m. a 2 p.m. los lunes y miércoles, de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. los martes y jueves, y de 9 a.m. a mediodía los viernes. Serán organizadas por los asistentes de los workrooms que son estudiantes de último año del programa UTeach.

"No queremos perder ese sentido de entorno familiar que tenemos y es muy fuerte en nuestro programa UTeach, así que, estamos pensando más ideas", dijo Liliana Treviño, una profesora auxiliar en práctica y una maestra máster de matemáticas de UTeach.

Treviño dijo que el Virtual Workroom sería de ayuda para los estudiantes de primer año que quieren estar involucrados con una organización de la universidad. El



Foto de Cortesía del programa de UTeach RGV

Los miembros del programa UTeach RGV se reúnen durante HESTEC 2020, que tuvo lugar en la primavera en el campus de Brownsville. Desde la izquierda están Pamela Groves, una maestra máster de ciencias y profesora auxiliar en práctica de UTeach; los estudiantes Cesar Lozano, Rosa Salinas, Naian Hernández, Samantha Delgado, Hector Charles, Patricio Gallegos, Geovanelly Torres, Karina Garza; y, Liliana Treviño, una maestra máster de matemáticas, como representado funciones exponenciales con chocolates M&M's y aprendiendo de los estados de la materia con hielo seco.

programa alienta a los estudiantes de primer y segundo año a que se unan a las juntas para lecciones de práctica o asesoría para la escuela.

"Creemos que esto es clave para mantener a nuestros estudiantes involucrados y para conocerse", ella dijo.

UTeach RGV "es un programa de preparación y certificación de maestros de matemáticas y ciencias de escuela secundaria y preparatoria que promueve el aprendizaje y la instrucción basados en la investigación", según su misión. Prepara "educadores inspiradores y altamente calificados con una profunda experiencia

en la comunidad".

Geovanelly Torres, una estudiante de último año aspirando por un certificado UTeach

An English version of this story is available at utrgvrider.com

en la materia a través de cursos integrados y cohesivos con experiencias de enseñanza tempranas y consistentes basadas

del séptimo al doceavo grado, dijo que están tratando de tener un sentido de comunidad mediante el Virtual Workroom.

"Esperamos que los estudiantes puedan unirse y les podremos aconsejar en sus clases o solamente ponernos al día con ellos", Torres dijo. "Planeamos practicar las lecciones de enseñanza con el-

Manuel Rebolledo, un estudiante de último año aspirando por un certificado UTeach del séptimo al doceavo grado, dijo que quieren hacer el workroom para mantenerse en comunicación y ayudar a los estudiantes que están tomando las primeras clases UTeach del programa. Quieren seguir practicando las lecciones así como lo hacían regularmente en los workrooms en el campus.

También hay un club UTeach. Los asesores son Gustavo Valencia, un maestro máster de matemáticas y profesor auxiliar en práctica en el campus de Brownsville, y, Anna González, una maestra máster de matemáticas y profesora auxiliar en práctica en el campus de Edinburg.

Cesar Lozano, un estudiante de último año aspirando por un certificado UTeach del séptimo al doceavo grado y presidente de la sede Brownsville del club UTeach, dijo que todos están conscientes que no se pueden hacer reuniones sociales pero el club quiere tener más juntas en Zoom para que los miembros tengan tiempo libre para hablar y ayudarse mutuamente.

"Queremos ayudar a cada uno de ellos a llevarse bien ...

Vea UTEACH, Página 8

Aprendiendo en casa a pesar de las distracciones

<u>Alejandra Yañez</u>

THE RIDER

Con el comienzo del otoño 2020, The Rider consultó a los estudiantes de UTRGV después de la primera semana de clases para ver cómo se están ajustando a la escuela durante este semestre incom-

"Estuvo muy tranquila", dijo Daniela Cruz, una estudiante de ciencias de la salud de segundo año, acerca de su primera semana. "Tuve tarea y pruebas, pero nada que no pudiera hacer. No estaba estresada ni nada de eso,

así que, me fue muy bien".

Cruz dijo que ella tiene sus clases completamente en línea, **más organizada de lo**erando que excepto por una semestre que he sido antes... este y, está teniendo dificultades con la transición al **Estudiante de último año** aprendizaje línea.

"Soy más [del tipo de estudi-

ante] que prefiere ir al campus, escuchar a su profesor, tomar notas y estar presente", dijo Cruz. "Y aquí, es como que, estoy en mi casa y me distraigo muy rápido. O sea, estoy haciendo tarea y luego me pongo a usar el celular o empiezo a hacer otras cosas que no hago

cuando estoy en el campus".

Kathia Rodriguez, una estudiante de antropología de último año, dijo que ella está batallando para mantenerse enfocada en sus clases estando en su casa.

"Es la primera semana, entonces ha estado algo calmada", Rodriguez dijo. "Pero he visto que todas las cuatro clases están pidiendome cosas diferentes. Una me pide que me grabe haciendo videos, otra que haga una presentación y estoy leyendo mucho para todas. Entonces, de verdad necesito

esforzarme en ser

Kathia Rodriguez

en antropología

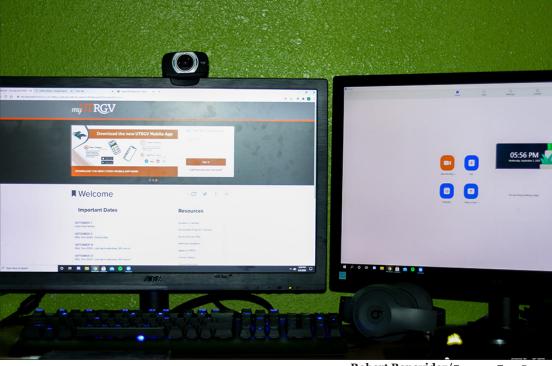
esforzarme en ser mas organızada de lo que **De verdad necesito** he sido antes, lo cual es algo difícil considsoy una persona desorganizada".

estudi-La ante de último año dijo que 'se da cuenta que se distrae

muy fácil en su casa con sus responsabilidades diarias, las cuales la alejan de su tarea.

"Siento como que necesito cambiar de marcha para estar más concentrada", ella dijo.

Se le preguntó cómo compararía este semestre con los anteriores.



Robert Benavidez/FOTO DE THE RIDER

The Rider conversó con estudiantes de UTRGV acerca de su primera semana de clases para ver cómo se están ajustando al semestre de otoño 2020. "Definitivamente siento que

podía terminar mi tarea para

tengo que ser más productiva al ser [el tipo de estudiante] que necesita estar en un entorno en línea. escolar", Rodriguez contestó. "Tiendo a distraerme más en mi casa que como si estuviera en el campus. Entonces, siento que de verdad necesito esforzarme para ser más productiva de lo que he sido en los semesque todo era más fácil. Antes,

tres anteriores". Cruz dijo que ha notado un cambio en las tareas que le han una clase en un día y, ahora, se siente como que tengo mucha asignado sus profesores desde que se cambió al aprendizaje tarea y nada de tiempo".

Se le preguntó qué anticipa "Siento que nos dan más traque será su mayor dificultad este semestre. Cruz respondió bajo", ella dijo. "Siento que los profesores piensan que teneque enseñarse en su casa será mos mucho tiempo en nuestras la parte más desafiante para manos, así que, nos dan más ella, ya que, ella aprende de trabajo y, el semestre pasamanera visual y auditiva. do sentía que ... no se, como

"Siento que si fuera a la clase

Vea CLASES, Página 6

oin basketball staff

Ivan Palacios

THE RIDER

UTRGV men's and women's basketball programs announced the addition of three new staff members on Aug. 20. The men's program brings on Chris Lowe as special assistant to the head coach. Joining the women's



program is Kevin Hackerott as associate head coach and Keanna Keys as an assistant coach.

Lowe comes to UTRGV after spending the last two years at Saint Louis University as a graduate student manager. Prior to that, Coach Lowe spent four seasons as a point guard at the University of Massachusetts where he finished as the schoolrecord holder in career assists before spending eight seasons playing professionally.

Lowe's role, according to a news release by UTRGV creating includes

and plays of opposing teams, creating recruiting materials, setting up official and unofficial visits, assisting with social media facilitating community engagement. Coach Lowe believes his experience as a player will help

him excel in his new position.

"I think, with me having a knowledge of the game and being surrounded by the game and being around great coaching staff, has helped me make the transition," he said. "I've always been a student of the game as well. I think that has helped me make the transition and helps me with my role and understanding the importance of my role and working hard and doing everything that is asked of and doing it to the best of my ability."

Outside of basketball, Lowe looks forward to being a part of the Rio Grande Valley community.

"I feel like I just want to embrace the culture, embrace the community," he said. "I just want them to embrace me and let's make it a big old family and love each other and support each other and take the whole, not just the program, but let's take the program and the university to new heights.'

On the women's side, Coach Hackerott joins the program after

video edits of player personnel the head girls basketball coach at



Kevin Hackerott

Goddard High School in Kansas. While at Goddard, Hackerott racked up two state tournament appearances, two league titles and three Coach of the Year awards.

He brings a long list of experience having spent the last 18 years around the game of basketball. This includes head coaching positions at Wellington High School, Cameron University, Pratt Community College and Highland Community College.

"To have that time in high school and see that perspective, I think gives me, especially recruiting wise, gives me a really good advantage as far as what parents and kids are thinking," he said. "Experiencewise, obviously the gameday stuff, D-1 will be a little different. It's the highest level and that's what we all want to strive for. But it's still basketball."

Hackerott's duties as associate spending the last eight years as head coach include being involved in recruiting as well as day-to-day activities during practice and on game day. Aside from his duties, he hopes to provide a fresh spark to the team.

"Hopefully, I can just bring enthusiasm, some excitement, and a little bit of zest of experience to bring to this program," Coach Hackerott said. "I'm so excited. This thing is ready to take off. I'm really really blessed to get this opportunity."

Joining Hackerott on the women's basketball program is Keanna Keys, who comes in as an assistant coach. She spent the last two years as athletic director at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Prior to that, Coach Keys was a member of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Women's Basketball Team from 2013-2018. Here, Keys excelled as a player, helping her team to three Sun Belt Conference titles and finishing her career with the sixth most offensive rebounds in program

Despite the unprecedented circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Keys remains optimistic about her new position and is looking forward to starting this new journey.

"Even though we're through this pandemic now, with me being new

transitioning an athlete not too long ago and now being one of the leaders here on the staff at UTRGV, Coach Keys said. "I don't think this has broke the team at all. If anything it's bringing us closer."

She is excited to start working



Keanna Keys

with the team in preparing for the upcoming season.

"We have some girls that are energetic, that are working together," Keys said. "We're going to get a lot of fire out of them. You're going to have a big diverse [group] of tall and small guards. You're going to have some strong healthy post players trying to give you everything. It's going to be exciting. I ask that everyone show up and be just as energetic as we are because that's what we're going to bring to the table and V's up!'

Athlete of the Week: Max Carmona

Sophomore Max Carmona is a UTRGV Men's Cross-Country runner. He began his collegiate track and crosscountry career in 2018. In 2020, he won the 800-meter run WAC Championship with a time of 1:52:30, making him the second-best in program

Q: What inspired you to do cross-country?

A: "Well, my sophomore year of high school, my friend Jesus Gracia and my other friend named Jesus Gonzalez just asked me to join, join there. That's why I started.'

Q: What are your favorite ways A: "In the track, I like to do

speed endurance a lot. I like to do a lot of speed stuff because I do the 800 and the 400 but I am more into the speed training than long-distance training. I do both."

Q: What do you do to relax? A: "I take a lot of naps after practice because I practice

Continued from Page 3

auditory and visual learner.

three times a day. I run twice and then I lift weights. So, between those times, I take a nap and I do homework. Oh, and I go fishing, too."

Q: What would you say makes you good at your sport?

A: "I mean, not that I hate losing, but I don't like to lose, you know. So, that is what motivates me to do my best."

Q: How do you think crosscountry has changed your life? "Well, it just makes me a

stronger person overall. Both in running and mentally, too, because it's a lot of mentally-you have to be mentally strong to get there, you know?"

Q: What is your favorite way of preparing for a meet?

A: "For a meet, I get plenty of rest the night before. I roll out with the roller. I go with my training team and we usually do little runs to get some blood into our legs and just feel fresh. Eat good. I have to eat good



PHOTO COURTESY VASHAUN NEWMAN



PHOTO COURTESY VASHAUN NEWMAN

Max Carmona (right).

before a meet."

Q: What is your favorite movie or show?

A: "It's either "How to Get Away with Murder" or "La Casa de Papel."

Q: What is your favorite type of

A: "Trap Reggaeton. You know, Bad Bunny, things like that."

graduation?

A: "Well, I either want to be a game warden or [if] not, a Border Patrol [agent]. I want to be in Border Patrol. If not, later on in my career I want to be in the DEA."

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: "My dog. Hercules."

Q: What do you plan to do after --Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

and making themselves available. Rodriguez acknowledges that the best er," she said. "I need to physically be in a Rodriguez anticipates her biggest thing for her and her peers is to stay school environment to focus and really struggle this semester will be staying on home and safe during the pandemic, but get my stuff done."

Asked if she is satisfied with the way

her classes are being taught, Rodriguez

replied that she feels her professors

have done a good job at transitioning

to teaching online and is pleased to see

that they have been uploading lectures

top of her due dates for her assignments and readings.

"I really have to utilize my planner this time," she said.

Both students said they are excited

about the flexibility that comes with on-

CLASES

CLASSES

Continúa de Página 5

y escuchara al profesor, y fuera capaz de ver al profesor, aprendería más la lección que estando en casa", ella dijo.

herself at home will be the most chal-

lenging part for her, since she is an

"I feel like if I would go to class and

listen to the professor, and be able to see

the professor, I would learn the material

more than just being at home," she said.

Rodriguez reconoce que lo mejor para ella y sus compañeros es quedarse en casa seguros durante la pandemia pero, dijo que tendrá más consideración de su

said it will take more concentration on

maintain our safety, but I guess for me

the cons kind of outweigh the pros be-

cause I'm more of, like, a physical learn-

'Obviously, it's more important to

her part to be successful this semester.

parte para ser exitosa este semestre. "Obviamente es más importante mantener nuestra seguridad, pero creo que para mi los contras sobrepasan los pros porque, como que, aprendo de manera física", ella dijo. "Necesito estar físicamente en el entorno escolar para enfocarme y poder tener mis cosas listas".

Se le preguntó si estaba satisfecha con la forma de que sus clases estaban

siendo impartidas. Rodriguez contestó que siente que sus profesores han hecho un buen trabajo con la transición de enseñar en línea y está satisfecha al ver que han estado subiendo sus lecciones a Blackboard y manteniéndose dis-

Rodriguez anticipa que su mayor reto este semestre será estar al tanto de todas sus fechas de plazo de entrega para

sus tareas y lecturas.

"Ahora sí necesito usar mi agenda", ella dijo.

Las dos estudiantes dijeron que están emocionadas por la flexibilidad que conlleva el aprendizaje en línea y están aspirando por un semestre exitoso a pesar de los retos.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

RTS & ENTERTAINMEN

safe space in journali

<u>Karina Rodriguez</u>

THE RIDER

UTRGV Professor Lyon Rathbun took the initiative of starting a Journal Writing Group in hopes of allowing students and staff to confront their emotions more freely. The group meets on the first and second Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Rathbun spoke at length about the benefits of allowing people to have a safe space in which they can talk and work out the emotions in their life.

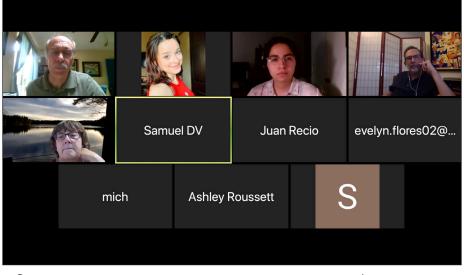
"I've noticed that over the years, more and more students struggle with anxiety and depression, and it's quite stunning. And, the literature bears that out,'

The professor has been journaling for 30 years and has found his own emotional release. He discovered that a psychologist named Progaff had created a journaling method that merged mental healing with improving creative meth-

"It was designed to promote creativity and also promote self-awareness and mental and spiritual health and healing," Rathbun said. "This is what he came to call intensive journal writing

Many of his journaling skills can be attributed to his rough growing up.

"I think the importance of pursuing my education here was instilled in me as a child because I was an orphan," Rathbun said. "I lost both of my parents



SCREENSHOTS TAKEN BY KARINA RODRIGUEZ DURING LAST WEDNESDAY'S JOURNAL WRITING GROUP MEETING VIA ZOOM

when I was young. I had to find mentors I've noticed that over the and find people who years, more and more could guide me. So learning was always students struggle with very important to me. Journal writing was **anxiety and depression, and** Not only can students attend these just a natural exten- it's quite stunning. And, the literature bears that out. The benefits of

-Lyon Rathbun

Writing & Language Studies Professor

group allows for virtual socializing amid

the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

"It's a way of providing community," he said.

sessions, but other members of the community are also allowed to attend.

"I enjoy the fact that it's going to be a mix of people who are students from the university and also interested members in the community," Rathbun said.

The professor has provided a powerful source of togetherness with his Journal Writing Group that does not discriminate against anyone.

Rathbun emphasizes that while participants are allowed to share at the meetings, they are not required to.

"It's one important principle for any in journal writing to have privacy, and nobody is going to [be] expected to share what they write," he said. "It is only an opportunity. It's not an obligation.

At the second session last Wednesday, Rathbun walked the members through exploring dialogue journal writing. During the session, they were allotted 15 minutes of writing time in which they wrote a dialogue between one person of their choosing and themselves. A few people shared what they wrote about, and soon after, they were all dismissed with the advice of continuing journaling in their day-to-day lives until their next session.

When attending the sessions, students should have a device to connect to the meeting via Zoom, a medium of writing and an open mind. Students can expect to leave the session feeling like they have attained a new piece of information that they can carry with them long after the session is over. The methods taught through the sessions transcend time and current situation and act as a mental release method whenever someone may need it.

DOMESTIC

Continued from Page 3

dential, and we provide them with the information on what is available for them, as far as campus resources when it comes to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, and then we can also do referrals to community services."

She said OVAVP provides services remotely via phone call or Zoom and if necessary, can meet a person on campus following the appropriate precau-

On OVAVP's website, students and staff can find links to services, hotlines and local agencies that help domestic violence victims.

Mujeres Unidas helps victims in Hidalgo and Starr counties, while Friendship of Women Inc. and Family Crisis Center of the Rio Grande Valley help in Cameron and Willacy counties.

Palacios said the agencies provide free, confidential services to the community regarding domestic violence and sexual assault and have confidential shelters for victims.

Palacios suggests people experiencing domestic violence should document as much as possible, whether it be keeping a personal journal on occurrences of the abuse or letting someone know what is happening.

sion of learning."

the Journal Writing

Group are not limit-

ed to the benefits of

creative or even men-

tal healing, but the

Both Hidalgo and Cameron district attorney offices work with local agencies to provide help and resources to domestic violence victims. Both also assist in helping victims get protective orders against their abusers.

Rodriguez said many people confuse a restraining order with a protective or-

He said a "restraining order is more of a civil action that doesn't have any teeth on it," but a protective order can lead to an arrest and charges if it is violated.

Saenz said it is protocol at his office every morning to review arraignments from the day prior and when they see that a defendant is in jail for domestic violence, they contact the victim. They provide the victim with advice on how to proceed, offering them a protective order and numbers of local agencies that can help.

Saenz said a problem he sees is a cycle of violence, where at first the victim makes a call about the abuse and the perpetrator gets arrested. But, the perpetrator starts working on getting the victim to drop the charges by different methods.

One example is that the perpetrator tells the victim if they continue with the charges, the abuser will get fired and will not be able to pay the mortgage, the car and other bills, he said. So, the victim starts to process that and will request the charges be dropped and will convince herself or himself that the perpetrator will not hurt them again and that it was a mistake.

"That's not going to be the end of it because once a perpetrator strikes one time, there is going to be a second time and the second is going to be easier than the first and there is going to be a third time," Saenz said. "The third time is going to be easier than the second and one of these days, they're going to end up killed."

Both Hidalgo and Cameron county district attorney's offices, OVAVP and local agencies provide their services for free, even if an individual is undocumented. The individual will not be reported to any federal agency.

Saenz said this is an issue in which the perpetrator threatens an undocumented person with the fear of reporting them and getting them deported if they contact the police. "Whether the person is undocument-

ed, or a citizen, is not a relevant factor

to us," he said. "That person is a victim,

Rodriguez said the community needs to join together and stop domestic violence, that it has just as much power to make a difference in someone's life.

"I know for a fact that there's uncles, brothers, fathers, mothers who know that the relative is in a domestic vio-lence relationship," he said. "We can't just stand by the sidelines and see it happen. ... We have to do something."

For more information on services or how to get help, visit the locations or call the numbers below

 Hidalgo County Office of the Criminal District Attorney.

100 E. Cano St., Edinburg 292-7600

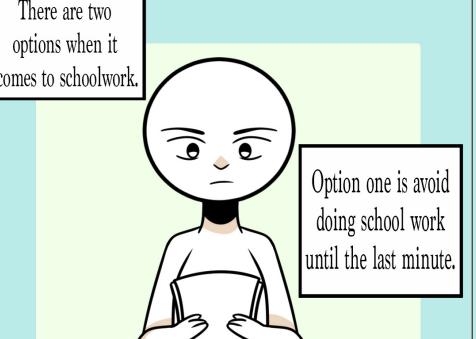
https://www.hidalgocounty.us/1690/ Crime-Victim-Assistance

-- Cameron County District Attorney 964 E. Harrison St., Brownsville 544-0869

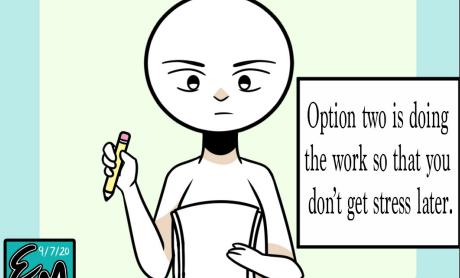
https://www.cameroncountyda. com/contact-us/

For the full COVID-19 special report by the National Domestic Violence Hotline, visit https://www. thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/ sites/3/2020/06/2005-TheHotline-COVID19-report_final.pdf.

The Doodler



By Elizabeth Mendoza



ZOOM GROUP CHAT

There was a 38% increase in

preliminary enrollment numbers for the UTRGV

From Me to Everyone:

Graduate College

Type message here...

*Preliminary numbers as of

Sept. 3.

CC

since Fall 2020.

Enrollment rises amid pandemic

Jacqueline Peraza

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

enrollment Preliminary numbers show more than 32,000 students are attending UTRGV this semester, universitv officials sav.

As of last Thursday, the total number of students attending UTRGV was 32,681, not including those enrolled in the School of Medicine, said Magdalena "Maggie" Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs.

Parwinder Grewal, dean of the Graduate College and executive vice president for Research, Graduate Studies & New Program Development, said the graduate enrollment for Fall 2020 was at 5,166 students as of last Thursday, a 38% increase from last fall.

He said there are 4,720 students pursuing their master's and 381 pursuing a doctorate.

The rest of the students are in various certificate programs, Grewal said in an email last

As of last Thursday, the number of undergraduate students totaled 27,515, Hinojosa said.

Official enrollment numbers will be available after Wednesday, which is Census Day.

The increase in enrollment in the Graduate College comes as a pleasant surprise, Grewal said. He said he believes there are many factors for the growth in graduate enrollment during the pandemic.

"One big reason is that a lot of people who were working do not have jobs right now," Grewal said. "So, maybe that's one reason they decided to go to graduate school instead.'

Other reasons he cited for the increase in graduate students include lack of job opportunities for recent graduates, waiving the GRE/GMAT requirement, UTRGV offering its Fall Relief Package and the development of new graduate programs.

These new graduate programs include applied statistics

GRADUATE

TOTAL

UNDERGRADUATE

5,166

32,681

celerated online courses in kinesiology and criminal justice. "[Kinesiology and criminal justice] did exist before but now we have offered another option that students can take as fully online that is accelerated,"

and data science, biochemistry

and molecular biology, busi-

ness analytics, and two new ac-

UTRGV anticipates the addition of new programs for

Grewal said.

Spring 2020 and Fall 2021, pending approval from the UT System board of regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The UTRGV Graduate College plans on adding a master's in global commerce in the spring. For Fall 2021, the university hopes to offer a master's in art education and UXUY design, as well as two new doctorates--human genetics and

Roxanna Miranda/The Rider GRAPHIC mathematics and statistics.

> Grewal said the college is excited about the number of students choosing to study at UTRGV.

"We are committed to providing a very good experience to students as we have trained many of our faculty in online teaching," he said. "So, our professors are far more prepared than many other univer-

MASKS

UTEACH

Lozano dijo.

Continúa de Página 5

Continued from Page 1

and that may be, to some people, taking high risks like being in a place where they shouldn't, in a crowded space where they shouldn't be," Maldonado said. "So, that's why I always emphasize that it's not just only the mask, it's everything together." Cristel Escalona, division

a los nuevos estudiantes, los

nuevos miembros de la familia

a que se conozcan y encuen-

tren más amigos porque al fi-

nal, nosotros seremos los que

les ayudaremos ... a conver-

tirse ... en buenos maestros",

Treviño dijo que el programa

también planea organizar una

Coffee Hour (hora de café) con

los maestros máster de UTeach

los martes a las 3:30 p.m.

chief and a professor in the Pediatrics Department, said the thinner the fabric on the mask the easier the infective droplets can get out. Instead of using, for example, bandannas, she recommends masks with three pleats or more."

"There's other masks that have valves and so ... it's supposed to be easier for people to breathe out of, but then the problem is that whatever I'm exhaling through the valves has no filter on it," Escalona said. "So, basically, I'm exhaling unfiltered air and the idea whenever you wear a mask [is] to protect yourself as well as others. And, if you have one of these valves, you're breathing out unfiltered air, you're not doing a very good job protecting your neighbor."

Asked what the recommended fabric for a homemade mask is, she replied, "Cotton is the best because cotton does well on most people's skin and it breathes well as a fabric.'

Other types of masks include an N95. Escalona said this type of facial covering stops 95% of what's coming out or in, so it filters out up to .5 microns.

"So, with those that are test-

ed in a lab you know exactly what's being exhaled and how much of it," she said. "So, N95s are obviously really, really good."

Escalona said if a good set of hard rules are followed, then the chances of contracting the virus are low. If you disregard them, then you become a target for the virus.

"Somos como los coaches del programa porque estamos con nuestros estudiantes desde el comienzo", ella dijo. "Somos su apoyo ... los que les decimos de sus fortalezas y de mejorar sus

González dijo que el programa de UTeach es como un sistema de apoyo para los estudiantes, quienes son la siguiente generación de líderes.

"El programa, por sí mismo, sobresale donde ellos se convierten en maestros realmente capacitados", González dijo. "Les damos muchas estrategias, les damos mucho apoyo. ... Estamos viendo buenos maestros. ... El programa es fuerte. ... Estamos presentando a los buenos candidatos al campo de trabajo".

Accede al Virtual Workroom en este enlace de Zoom. Los estudiantes de UTeach también pueden agendar una lección de prácticas mandando un correo electrónico a uteachworkroombr@utrgv.edu.

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

