



The final stretch

CAPS OFF

Virtual graduation set for Dec. 12

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

More than 3,500 students will receive their diplomas virtually during the Fall 2020 commencement ceremony, which will be streamed at 4 p.m. Dec. 12 on the UTRGV website and Facebook page.

Registrar Sofia Montes said students who will participate in the ceremony will have their photo and personalized message shown in the video.

“So all of the ceremonies are organized by college,” Montes said. “Students’ names are called out first in order of degrees. So, for example, doctoral students are recognized first, followed by master’s students and then bachelor students, and all students will be announced in alphabetical order. All majors in alphabetical order but not necessarily grouped by majors.”

She said to help graduating students transition from an in-person to virtual ceremony, the university provided them with graduation care packages.

“That graduation care package included the mortarboard, which is the traditional graduation cap with the standard black 2020 tassel; a congratulatory letter from [UTRGV President Guy] Bailey; an alumni sticker; and, the traditional UTRGV stole that’s in, like, a silver satin finish with orange embroidery,” Montes said.

See COMMENCEMENT, Page 2

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

As the end of the Fall 2020 semester approaches, students are faced with the stress of final exams amid the pandemic.

This week, Samantha Barrera, a rehabilitation services senior, and Alison Cano, a biomedical sciences senior, ask experts for study tips to prepare for this semester’s finals.

Both students have all on-line classes and will take their finals virtually as well.

Asked what her biggest struggle is when it comes to test taking, Barrera replied, “Sometimes, I don’t study enough because I procrastinate a lot. When I procrastinate, I forget all about studying and then I’ll study like right there, like, last minute.”

Despite her habit of procrastinating, Barrera said she has been able to put more effort into her studies this semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is confident in her abilities for finals.

“For me, I didn’t really like the whole COVID situation,” she said. “It didn’t really change anything because last semester, as well, it was all online for me. But I feel like since I had more time to stay home because of COVID, I was able

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Ask the Expert: Third in a Series

to fully do my work more than I did last year. Because last year, I wouldn’t really do anything as much.”

Asked what questions she had for experts, Barrera replied that she doesn’t truly have a study regiment but is open to trying different methods.

“I know a lot of people have different methods for studying, so they can give me their opinion about certain things, and I’ll try, and it just won’t work for me,” she said.

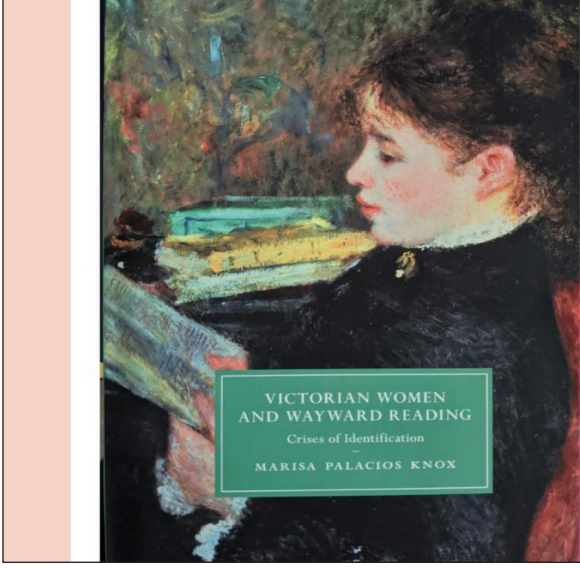
Asked what she anticipates this semester’s finals to be like, Cano replied, “If I’m being honest with you, I think they’re gonna be a little bit challenging, just because I feel like since we have moved to online classes, I don’t really have the same motivation to learn.”

She said she had to teach herself this semester using readings provided by her professors.

“I haven’t really been taught by a professor since they’ve all been asynchronous,” Cano said. “I haven’t really, like, there’s no lectures or anything. It’s just me doing a lot of reading. So, I feel that my finals are gonna be a little bit challenging just because it’s kind of based off of what I’ve taught myself.”

See ASK, Page 6

Confronting modern gender stereotypes



“THE FIGURE OF THE WOMAN READER BECAME AN INSPIRATION FOR ACTUAL WOMEN TO IMAGINE AND ADVOCATE FOR AND CREATE CHANGE.”

- Marisa Palacios Knox

Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

“My book is about the woman reader in the Victorian era, and how she was both a source of profound anxiety for the culture, but also how, in fact, in actuality the figure of the woman reader became an inspiration for actual women to imagine and advocate for and create change,” Knox said.

She said that her book confronts modern gender stereotypes in literature that

derive from the Victorian period.

“A lot of the stereotypes we have about the way people read, and modes of reading, are not essential or inherent,” Knox said. “They are very much based on these cultural attitudes that are from the Victorian era. So, I wanted to go back to the Victorian era, trace those attitudes, and also, even more importantly, illuminate the aspects of that time.”

The associate professor said that writing a book about a popular era led to difficulties.

“The archive is huge for the 19th century, and luckily, you know, we’re living in a time with a lot of access, especially for 19th century books,” Knox said. “So much is digitized. So much has already been written about it. Just in order to kind of carve out what I wanted to say and not go on forever, because it could have gone on forever, [was difficult]. Also, you know, try and say something new amidst all that has been said about this time period.”

She said her success in writing her book was not without much needed support.

“I have to first acknowledge my advisor from my doctoral program at UC Berkeley,” Knox said. “His name is Ian Duncan. ... He was just very encouraging, and ... I do need a lot of, sort of, positive reinforcement from someone whose opinion I trusted.”

The published author said fellow UTRGV colleagues also assisted her with the process of writing her book.

“In the later stages, I was very much helped by some of my colleagues and faculty members at UTRGV,” Knox said.

“Particularly, in my whole department of literature and cultural studies.”

She also gave insight for people who want to write a book one day.

“It’s probably not going to be great right away,” Knox said. “[It’s] going to take looking, and looking, and looking again at it, and working, and working, and making it better, as laborious as that is, but it’s also comforting, you know, not everything has to be perfect right away.”

“Victorian Women and Wayward Reading: Crises of Identification” is available for purchase on Amazon.com for \$99.99.

Karina Rodriguez
THE RIDER

UTRGV Associate Professor Marisa Palacios Knox published a scholarly book in October titled, “Victorian Women and Wayward Reading: Crises of Identification” with Cambridge University Press.

Knox’s book is focused on female readers in the Victorian era.

“A lot of the stereotypes we have about the way people read, and modes of reading, are not essential or inherent.”

-Marisa Palacios Knox
UTRGV literature & cultural studies associate professor

THE RIDER

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Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

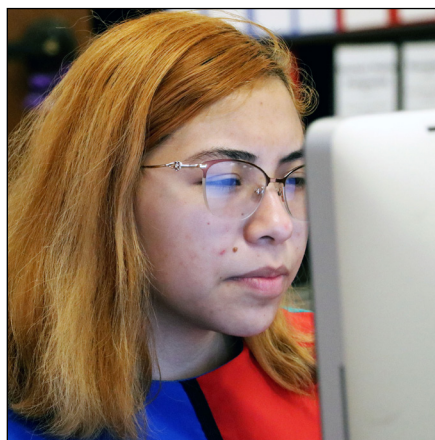
Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 9 and 17.



Nov. 9

1:14 p.m.: A student reported seeing two subjects hiding underneath a vehicle parked unattended in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. Officers and U.S. Border Patrol

agents responded and located five male individuals, two underneath one vehicle and three underneath another in Lot B-1. U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended all subjects without incident. Two were from Guatemala and three from Honduras.

1:38 p.m.: A male staff member reported the theft of a riding lawn mower and a generator from the fenced compound at the Community Engagement and Student Success Building in Edinburg. The items were for surplus action. It was revealed the chain-link fence had been cut. The case is under investigation.

9:12 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed via cameras three subjects climbing over the U.S. border fence and running toward the back of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. U.S. Border Patrol later apprehended one man from Honduras and one boy from Mexico without incident. The third man was not located.

Nov. 10

3:30 p.m.: A staff member reported that while driving a university vehicle he accidentally ran over a back flow water pipe located on the Texas Southmost College campus. There was no damage to the vehicle. TSC Facilities were notified of the incident.

Nov. 11

4:56 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed via cameras five individuals jumping the south U.S.

border fence by parking Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. Officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the area in search of the individuals. U.S. Border Patrol agents detained all five individuals without incident. Two men were from Honduras, and a woman and two boys were from Mexico.

8:20 p.m.: A staff member reported falling while working at the cooling plant on the Edinburg campus due to feeling dizzy an hour after taking his medication. The staff member reported he fell on his left side, but never lost consciousness. Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene and transported the staff member to the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for further evaluation.

Nov. 13

12:10 p.m.: A Public Safety Officer observed 10 individuals running across the roadway at the 2,000 block of University Boulevard. They were running toward the brush area on the Texas Southmost College campus adjacent to UTRGV. Officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the area. U.S. Border Patrol agents detained all 10 individuals without incident. At this time, the nationalities of the individuals are unknown. The group was made up of several men and women and one child.

Nov. 14

7:07 a.m.: An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. The fire panel indicated a smoke detector on the third floor of the building had been activated. The fire department checked the area and deemed it safe for reentry.

Nov. 16

9:30 a.m.: A staff member reported that a bike rack was stolen from the exterior west side of the Visual Arts

Building in Edinburg. The rack was bolted down and appeared to have been removed by force. The rack was last seen Nov. 10 at around 9 a.m. The case is under investigation.

11:39 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to a vehicle collision in Lot B-11 on the Brownsville campus. A staff member driving a utility terrain vehicle accidentally backed into a parked vehicle. Another staff member was riding as a passenger in the terrain utility vehicle. No injuries were reported and the vehicles sustained minor damage.

Nov. 17

10:35 a.m.: Officers were notified by U.S. Border Patrol agents of six undocumented subjects that had jumped over the U.S. border fence. The agents informed the officers that the individuals were last seen hiding in the brush area between Lincoln Park and Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. The agents were able to apprehend the individuals without incident. Three were from Mexico, one from Honduras and two from Guatemala. The group consisted of one female and five males.

10:45 a.m.: An officer responded to the Health & Physical Education II Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a possibly intoxicated male. The officer determined the male displayed no signs of intoxication. A background check revealed the male had an extensive criminal history. A criminal trespass warning was issued.

4:59 p.m.: Officers and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to Unity Hall in reference to an active fire alarm. The fire panel indicated a smoke detector on the third floor of the building had been activated. The fire department checked the area and deemed it safe for reentry. A work order was requested to have the smoke detector serviced.

--Compiled by Fernanda Figueroa

COMMENCEMENT

Continued from Page 1

She said the university encourages students to take advantage of the ceremony with their families and hold watch parties.

"If they are viewing the ceremony, they can easily share that screen and share with other people, maybe via Zoom or some other sharing or meeting platforms like that," Montes said. "Again, the ceremony will be available for up to a year after it actually airs."

Elein Mendoza, a criminal justice senior, said she is disappointed to be graduating during the coronavirus pandemic.

"You know, all my family, like, looked forward to seeing me walk the stage and some of my family lives out of state and we were all pretty excited," Mendoza said. "And then COVID hit, so they had to cancel graduation. So, you know, it's kind of not so sweet [a] moment."

She did not submit her picture for the virtual ceremony.

"I thought, like, 'What's the purpose if the whole point you're taught since elementary that your goal is to graduate with, like, a bachelor's or master's and walk that stage,'" Mendoza said. "So, to me, it was kind of pointless, 'cause most of my family, as you know, they're already old. So, how were they going to get access to it? I didn't bother doing that, so since I didn't submit my picture, they're just going to put my name and my major [and] my minor."

Kathia Rodriguez, an anthropology senior, said it's a lukewarm feeling to graduate virtually.

"I was, like, excited for, you know, the

CONGRATULATIONS

2020 GRADUATES

More than 3,500 students will receive their diplomas during Fall 2020 commencement.

The ceremony will stream virtually at 4 p.m. Dec. 12 on the UTRGV website and Facebook page

events they were going to do, like, on campus," Rodriguez said. "And then the pandemic happened, and everything is just virtual. And, you know, I have two older siblings, and so I've seen them walk, like, after they graduated college. And so, you know, it's been my expectation that, 'Oh, that's going to be me,' you know. I'm going to walk in front of, like, a bunch of people with my peers and, like, in front of the people I love and that care about me. And, you know, it's kind of lukewarm that it's, like, virtual now, you know, like, it's not the same."

She understands why the university made the ceremony virtual.

"It's like the best decision they could make, especially at this time, you know," Rodriguez said. "It's better than no ceremony at all. Like, I appreciate their attempts to at least have a ceremony. But,

Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER GRAPHIC you know, it still doesn't stop people [who are] graduating [from feeling] a little bummed out."

Asked what the university could have done differently, given the circumstances of COVID-19, she replied that they should implement the pass/no pass option as they did in the previous semester.

"We're still in the middle of a pandemic," Rodriguez said. "There's still people who are dealing with, you know, for example, like, losing their job. Mental-healthwise, you know, [people] are still not doing pretty good because they're still doing [self-isolation] and, you have, things like that. But, like, other than that, I feel like they tried to do their best with trying to keep the college experience, but also doing their best to keep people safe."

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Anderson Cooper shares his stories

Journalist speaks with UTRGV community

Jacqueline Peraza
THE RIDER

CNN anchor and world-renowned journalist Anderson Cooper was the second guest of the 17th season of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Nov. 14.

Director of Student Activities Cindy Mata-Vasquez introduced Cooper, who attended the event from his CNN office in New York City, to the Zoom attendees.

Communication Associate Professor, former journalist and Pulse Magazine adviser Aje-Ori Agbese moderated the event.

Richard Givens and Ernesto Peña interpreted the event.

Agbese began the event by thanking Cooper for agreeing to be the guest speaker.

“It’s a real honor to be here,” Cooper said. “Thank you so much. I’m so thankful that everyone who is joining us is, wow, spending your Saturday night with us, with me and Dr. Agbese. So, thank you.”

He said living in New York amid the COVID-19 pandemic has proved how “tough” the city is and changed his workplace routine.

“Even on a regular day, there’s really no one in the office anymore,” Cooper said. “It’s a very small number of people who have been coming in and ... we wear masks at the office, and when I broadcast my show I’m in a tiny closet-sized studio with no crew around with a robotic camera. ... I’m a little starved for human interaction, so it’s nice to actually talk to you.”

He jokingly compared work-



SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY JACQUELINE PERAZA DURING THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES EVENT HELD NOV. 14 VIA ZOOM

Anderson Cooper, CNN anchor and a world-renowned journalist, was the second guest of the 17th season of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Nov. 14. He spoke about covering the 2020 presidential election, his college years, what drew him to the world of journalism and what is next in his career.

ing at his office to waking up in a spacecraft seen in movies.

“I had a feeling of being on ... those sci-fi movies when somebody is on a spaceship and they wake up from hypersleep but the rest of the crew has continued to sleep or, you know, gotten killed in their sleep, and you’re just wandering around the spacecraft in your underwear,” Cooper said.

Agbese began a series of journalism-related questions by asking him what it was like to cover the 2020 presidential election.

“Any election is an incredibly exciting thing and is a remarkable thing to cover,” Cooper said. “Normally, I’m much more in the field covering these things, going to conventions and going to rallies, and things like that. Obviously, it’s very different this time around. But, look ... the Trump Administration’s time in office has been

unlike any other president in modern-day history... for better or worse ... depending on how one sees it, this was an election like none of us have ever seen.”

Asked how he ensures putting out the truth and reliable information as a journalist, he replied, “It’s been a really challenging four years. The President of the United States has said that I and my colleagues are the enemies of the state, which is alarming to have the president ... say that about you and your coworkers. I would argue that that is not the case, and it’s a very dangerous thing to say. For all the attacks that the president has done against CNN, our attitude is to keep our heads down and just do our jobs. Our job is reporting, and the answer to attacks from anybody is more reporting.”

“It’s a particularly challenging time when the American

See **DSS**, Page 5



PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN HUGHES

UTRGV Gallery magazine’s 2020 issue received four Gold Circle Awards in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s 37th annual contest.

Gallery magazine receives national recognition

Paulina Longoria
THE RIDER

UTRGV Gallery magazine’s 2020 issue has earned four Gold Circle Awards in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s 37th annual contest.

Gallery is an annual arts and literary magazine created by students enrolled in the English 3350 course taught by Britt Haraway, creative writing associate professor. The magazine is published every spring semester, showcasing students’ work.

The Spring 2020 issue received the following Gold Circle Awards:

--first place in Experimental Fiction for “Magical Realism” by Lourdes Garcia and Jacob Villanueva

--second place in Humor for “Magical Realism” by Lourdes Garcia and Jacob Villanueva

--third place in Photography for “Hatman in Taxco” by Rebekah Gomez

--Certificate of Merit in Photography for “Blue Dream” by Myriah Acosta.

The Gold Circle Awards recognize superior work by student journalists from high schools and colleges throughout the United States, according to its website.

This year, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association drew 5,757 yearbook and digi-

tal media entries submitted in 91 categories and 5,194 newspaper and magazine entries submitted in 86 categories, the website states.

“I think the students are proud that their work was selected among these many, many entries from the various colleges across the country,” Haraway said. “We, as a magazine, are proud, too, because we think we’re doing a really good job. ... But it is nice to have an outsider say the same thing.”

He said Gallery provides students an outlet to celebrate their creative projects.

“It gives them a forum to, really, put it out there,” Haraway said. “We want to get our work out there [for] the people around campus.”

Steven Hughes, a mass communication senior and Gallery’s editor-in-chief, said there are different criteria for art and literature to select the student’s pieces for the magazine.

“We had our art committee, who would oversee the selection of art pieces,” Hughes said, who also serves as editor-in-chief of Pulse magazine. “We also allowed them to decide what pieces we wanted to send out to [this competition].”

He also said the prose and poetry editors selected the stu-

See **GALLERY**, Page 5

Goodbye, 2020

Fernanda Figueroa
THE RIDER

“Insanely chaotic” is how economics junior Victor Borrego describes 2020 as the year comes to an end.

2020, for most, has been a wild year with surprise after surprise, and for mass communication senior Miranda Peña, this year was “very historic, one very big history textbook chapter.”

“It was crazy,” Peña said.

Borrego, an SGA senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, said, “2020 was a very weird year for me, and I believe for a lot of people. It was just very interesting. You didn’t expect it.”

With the year coming to a close and coronavirus still posing a major threat, mass communication senior Luis Rubio believes that “2020 is going to mesh into 2021, like it’s going to be a part two.”

Peña has a similar view.

“I feel there’s a very big misconception that once 2020 is over, 2020 is over,” she said. “But the events

of 2020 are going to pour over into 2021. I have hopes that 2021 will be a little bit better, but at the rate that we are going, I think 2020 is going to fall into 2021.”

For most people, 2020 has been quite difficult and UTRGV students are no exception. From COVID-19 delaying sports to increasing the number of online classes, the year has provided some challenges.

Borrego said the worst part was everything was online.

“I couldn’t interact with any organizations,” he said. “I did not meet any professors and it was a little harder to self-teach yourself materials that you did not know.”

For other UTRGV students, 2020 has been tragic.

“The worst part of 2020 is I lost my grandfather to COVID and, in that span of two weeks, my parents also got COVID,” Peña said. “That was very traumatic. Luckily, they pulled through.”

Despite the hardships of 2020, the year still had some good moments. For



Reflections
on 2020

STUDENTS'
OPINIONS

Top: economics junior Victor Borrego. Bottom: mass communication senior Miranda Peña and political science senior Franklin White.

Peña, graduating this semester makes the roller coaster that is 2020 easier to ride.

“Thankfully, I haven’t gotten coronavirus,” political science senior Franklin White said. “Being here in our home, being able to pay rent, that’s

always something to be grateful for.”

With hardships come learning experiences and for Borrego, he learned that he can be alone.

“I am good with isolation,” he said. “I don’t go crazy.”

VAQUERO VOICE



COVID-19 VACCINE

On Nov. 16, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will be released this year? Do you plan on taking it?" The results are shown below.

facebook

NO/YES 52

NO/NO 23

YES/NO 7

YES/YES 4



twitter

8 NO/YES

4 NO/NO



3 YES/YES

Instagram

17 NO/YES

8 YES/YES

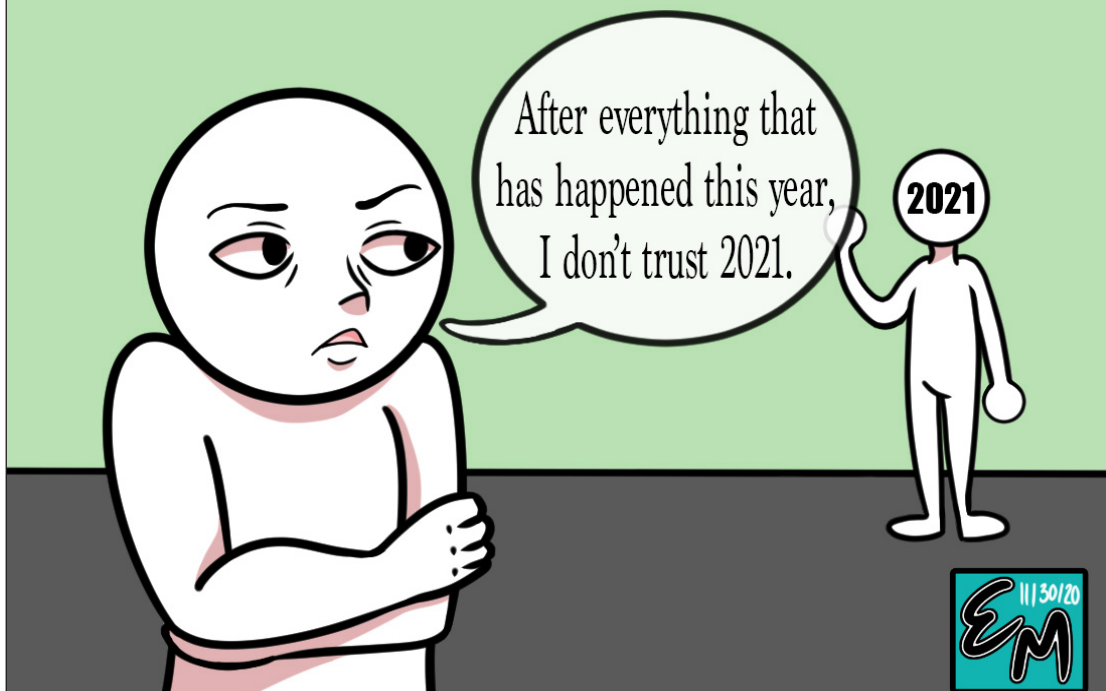
7 NO/NO

2 YES/NO

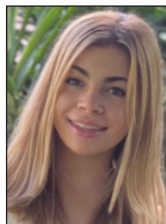


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Suspicious of Next Year



Time to move on



Jacqueline Wallace
THE RIDER

What a year it has been. I still remember going to a pool party during spring break shortly before coronavirus cases emerged in the Rio Grande Valley. I did not get to say goodbye to some of my friends who flew back home after the university moved to online instruction. That was back in March, and here we are in November. So many of us are grieving the losses of loved ones who we never expected would leave so soon.

Who knew what started out as a nationwide toilet paper crisis, mask mandates across the world and seniors not being able to walk at graduation, would take a morbid turn for

the worse. George Floyd dying at the hands of a police officer, cities and forests in flames, COVID-19 cases skyrocketing, it felt as though the country had reached a state of complete chaos. The U.S. was divided during a time that we needed to be united.

In more recent months, this division tainted friendships, families, schools, churches, businesses, media, you name it. Since Joe Biden and Kamala Harris began their campaign against Donald Trump, Democrats and Republicans have protracted their claws mercilessly. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were battlegrounds for the two parties. I could not scroll through my feed without seeing political squabbles.

Now, I say, "Thank God it is over."

I could not take much more hatred being spewed from both sides. 2020 was bad enough. There was no need to lose our humanity over politics. Now that Joe Biden has been announced the president-elect, I feel it is time to move on.

I hope we can come back to a place of love and compassion, despite which candidate our neighbor voted for. I want to see people building their communities, not burning them down. I pray that peace will be restored to the nation, and we can learn to respect opposing opinions and show grace to those who do not deserve it. It is time to move forward and break the barriers of 2020 together.

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.



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Confrontando estereotipos de género modernos

Profesora publica libro sobre mujeres lectoras de la época victoriana

Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER

Marisa Palacios Knox, una profesora de UTRGV, publicó un libro explorando cómo los estereotipos de género modernos en la literatura se derivaron de actitudes culturales del siglo XIX.

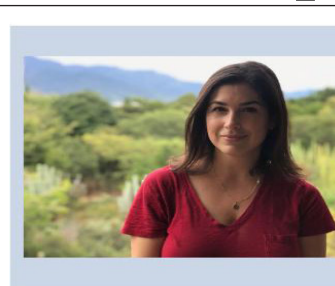
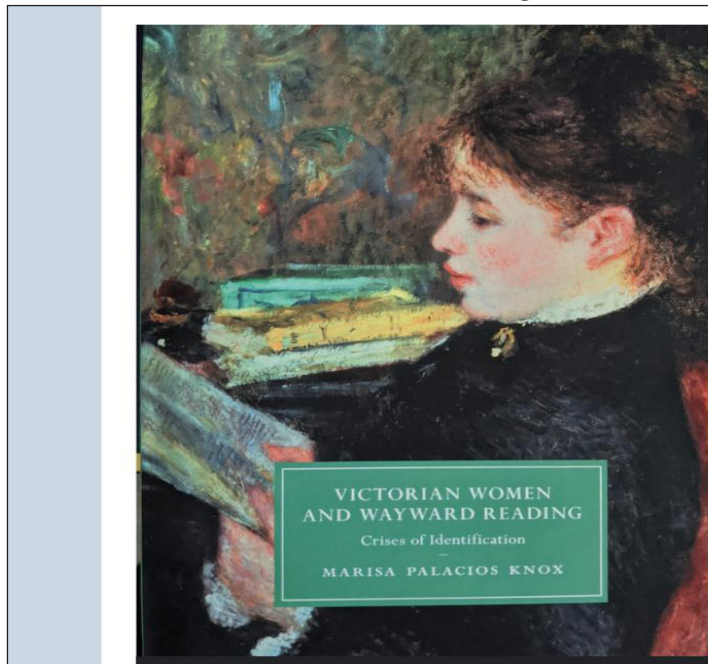
“Mujeres victorianas y lectura rebelde: Crisis de identificación”, el cual fue publicado el pasado mes por Cambridge University Press, se enfoca en mujeres lectoras de la época victoriana.

El libro de Knox se enfoca en mujeres lectoras de la época victoriana.

“Mi libro es acerca de la mujer lectora en la época victoriana, y cómo fue una fuente de ansiedad profunda para la cultura, pero también como, de hecho, en la actualidad la imagen de la mujer lectora se convirtió en una inspiración para las mujeres modernas para imaginar y abocar por un cambio y para crearlo”, Knox dijo.

Ella dijo que su libro confronta los estereotipos modernos del género en la literatura que se derivan del periodo victoriano.

“Muchos de los estereotipos que tenemos acerca de la manera en la que la gente lee, y los modos de leer, y cómo está conectado con el género,



“LA IMAGEN DE LA MUJER LECTORA SE CONVIRTIÓ EN UNA INSPIRACIÓN PARA LAS MUJERES ACTUALES PARA IMAGINAR Y ABOCAR POR UN CAMBIO Y CREAMLO.”

- Marisa Palacios Knox

GRÁFICA DE THE RIDER

no son inherentes ni esenciales”, Knox dijo. “Están muy basados en las actitudes culturales que vienen de la época victoriana. Así que, quise regresar a la época victoriana, trazar esas actitudes, y también, aún más importante, iluminar los aspectos de ese tiempo”.

La profesora dijo que el escribir un libro sobre una época popular la llevó a dificultades,

“Todo el archivo del siglo XIX es enorme, y por

“**Muchos de los estereotipos que tenemos acerca de la manera en la que la gente lee, y los modos de leer, y cómo está conectado con el género, no son inherentes ni esenciales.**”

-Stephanie Álvarez
Directora de CMAS

suerte, ya sabes, vivimos en una época donde tenemos muchos accesos, especialmente para libros del siglo XIX”, Knox dijo. “Muchas cosas están digitalizadas. Ya muchas cosas han sido escritas sobre eso. [Fue difícil] forjar lo que quería decir y no tardarme mucho, porque me pude haber tardado años. También, ya sabes, tratar y decir algo nuevo entre todo lo que ya se ha dicho sobre esta época”.

Ella dijo que su éxito al

escribir el libro no pudo ser posible sin el apoyo de otros.

“Primero tengo que agradecer a mi asesor de mi programa doctoral en la Universidad de California en Berkeley”, Knox dijo. “Se llama Ian Duncan. ... Él fue muy alentador, y ... yo sí necesito mucho, como, refuerzo positivo de alguien cuya opinión pueda confiar”.

La autora dijo que varios colegas de UTRGV la ayudaron en el proceso de escribir su libro.

“En las etapas finales, algunos colegas y miembros del profesorado de UTRGV me ayudaron mucho”, Knox dijo. “Particularmente, en todo el departamento de Literatura y Estudios Culturales”.

Ella también dio ideas para las personas que quieren escribir un libro algún día.

“Probablemente no será genial enseguida”, Knox dijo. “[Va a] tomar tiempo editarlo, y editarlo, y editarlo otra vez, y trabajar en él, y trabajar, y hacerlo mejor, por más laborioso que sea eso, también es reconfortante, ya sabes, no todo tiene que ser perfecto enseguida”.

“Mujeres victorianas y lectura rebelde: Crisis de identificación” está disponible para su compra en Amazon.com por \$99.99.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

DSS

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people are so polarized that people see events with completely different perspectives and believe what they want to believe. ... At a certain point you have to stand up for what is true and what is false. For me, that is the sole purpose of my job.”

Cooper studied political science in college and explained what drew him to journalism.

“As a kid I was really interested in military history and I was interested in joining the military,” he said. “At the time, you couldn’t join the military if you were gay and I realized that wasn’t going to be a profession I could do. I was interested in ... government service. I interned at the CIA for two summers in college. I thought about joining the state department. Then, I realized all the stuff that I really loved, which was going to some far away place and immersing myself in a different culture and learning about people and talking to people, I realized I could do that as a reporter.”

Cooper spoke about the struggles of not knowing how he would make a living, his brother’s death and taking a gap year after college.

“There’s a traditional route, which is trying to get a [reporting] job at a local station somewhere and work your way up through different markets, or getting a job at a broadcast network as an entry level person, and that’s what I tried to do, and I couldn’t get entry-level jobs,” he said. “So, I decided if no one was going to give me a chance, I would have to take a chance. And if no one was going to give me an opportunity, I’d have to create my own.”

Cooper said he had a friend create a fake press pass, borrowed a camera and with the money he had saved up, started covering wars across the world by himself for the next three years.

“I thought to myself, if I went to places that were really dangerous, that other people weren’t going to, I could

probably find some incredible stories and ... personally, I was really interested [to see] how people survive,” he said.

Asked what it was about survival that interested Cooper so much, he responded growing up with loss and realizing at an early age that anything can happen.

“My dad died when I was 10, and my brother, as I said, died by suicide when he was

“**If you lose a parent early on, you realize terrible things can happen and no amount of hugs or lullabies can make it right.**”

-Anderson Cooper

23 and I was 21. ... So loss is something that I had grown up with,” he said. “If you lose a parent early on, you realize terrible things can happen and no amount of hugs or lullabies can make it right. And, also, for me, a fear about: ‘Would I survive?’ I didn’t know how I would survive in the world. ... But I decided, at age 10, after my dad died, that I want to prepare myself for whatever disaster is gonna come next.”

Cooper also spoke about

covering natural disasters, showing compassion as a reporter and offered aspiring journalists some tips.

“I think it’s important, as a reporter, to be fair and try to be objective, and I don’t always succeed in that and when I don’t, I try to point it out and ... apologize,” he said. “But I do think it’s important to be a human being when reporting. Television is an incredible instrument. This camera is so small, a thin piece of glass, and it transmits so much. It’s not just an image that it’s transmitting. It’s transmitting, you know, ‘Are you real? Are you honest?’ It tells who you are.”

Asked what was next for him, Cooper replied, “I really don’t know. I’ve never been good at thinking long term and ... in this business, it’s changing so fast. ... I mean, I love what I do but ... I have a son now, and my son is the focus of my life, and he gives me joy that I never even knew was imaginable.”

He jokingly added that he

may enroll at UTRGV in the future.

Before the Q&A session, Cooper ended his talk by offering a few words of encouragement to the UTRGV Fall Class of 2020.

“We all have to do things that we don’t want to do at times,” he said. “We all take jobs that we’re not really that excited about. It’s not what gets our hearts racing, or what we really want to do, and I’ve certainly done that a bunch of times throughout my life. But sometimes, it’s as important to learn what you don’t want to do as it is to learn what you do want to do. ... Wherever you end up, you have to make yourself indispensable. You have to be the person in the office, or wherever you’re working, that people cannot imagine you not being there.”

Terry Crews will be the next Distinguished Speaker Series guest on Feb. 8. For more information, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentactivities/distinguished-speaker-series/index.htm>.

GALLERY

Continued from Page 3

artists’ pieces to submit for the competition.

Yazmin Sanchez, a UTRGV graduate and Gallery’s art director and Spanish editor, said she believes the magazine is meant to highlight the students’ work.

“We were there to make oth-

er people’s work shine, not our work,” Sanchez said. “We were just the medium, not the artist.”

She said it is hard for English students to find a place to showcase their work, and Gallery magazine is an amazing opportunity they can take to do so.

Haraway, Hughes and Sanchez encourage students to submit their work for Gallery’s

Spring 2021 issue.

To view the different categories and submit pieces, visit gallery.submittable.com.

“It means a lot to the students, it means a lot to the university to see the campus community working together, not only with the classroom staff, but within the student body as a whole ... to produce something of pure art,” Hughes said.



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UTRGV Men's Soccer Team participates in Movember

Ivan Palacios
THE RIDER



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

word. Just to get the cause out there and let people know why we're doing it."

Junior defender Elyad Shojaei said he hopes he can help erase the stigma that comes with men's health issues.

"I think for a lot of us who play sports, especially at a high level, we've all been through tough times, at one point or another," Shojaei said. "I think there's, especially for men, a little bit of a stigma when it comes to mental health. So, as somebody who, at one point in my life, I was affected by this, I think [Movember] was definitely something for me to get behind."

He hopes the team's participation in the movement can help shed light on men's issues to the Rio Grande Valley community.

"The most important thing, I think, is awareness," Shojaei said. "I think mental health is just like your overall health. It's like getting a sprained ankle or hurting your knee. You need to go speak to somebody. I think, again, for men there's a little of a stigma around that. So, if we can break that stigma and get people to feel it's ok and go get help, I think it'll be very important for what we're trying to reach this November."

For more information on how to participate in the Movember movement, or to learn more about its history and men's mental health issues, visit <https://us.movember.com>.

In 2003, two friends by the names of Travis Garone and Luke Slattery had an idea to make the moustache fashionable again. Fast forward 17 years, and the moustache has become associated with raising awareness for men's health issues.

This year, the UTRGV Men's Soccer Team made the decision to do their part by participating in Movember.

"This Movember, we have decided to take part and raise awareness for men and the issues related to mental health," said junior forward Alex Frank in a Nov. 11 news release. "Speaking and taking part in this cause is a great way to address the importance of men's health. The importance of Movember is to make men's health a top priority. We want to help raise awareness of the underlying issues and encourage anyone to participate in the Move for Movember movement."

According to the Movember website, the mission of the organization is to raise awareness on men's health issues, such as prostate and testicular cancer, suicide and overall mental health.

The Movember charity, which has become the leading charity for men's health issues, aims to reduce the amount of men dying prematurely by 25%.

The idea to participate in

Sophomore defensive midfielder Isaac Ochoa kicks a ball during practice. The UTRGV Men's Soccer Team is participating in the Move for Movember movement by running 60 miles in the month of November to help bring awareness to men's health.

Movember came to Frank as not only a way to get the team involved, but also as a way to do their part.

"I just felt it would be a cool way to get my teammates involved," he said. "We talked about it, and the coaches thought it'd be a good idea to get the whole team involved in everything and see what we can do. We reached out to Daniel [Elizondo, assistant athletic director for communications,]

and we got something done."

While some choose to grow out their moustaches, the men's soccer team made the decision to participate in the Move for Movember movement.

In order to raise awareness about suicide in men, the Movember Foundation challenged participants to walk or run 60 miles in the month of November. According to the Movember website, the number 60 was chosen to represent

the 60 men who are lost to suicide each hour around the world.

"Personally, the goal for me was just to challenge myself to see if I could run the 60 miles and spread awareness about the cause," Frank said. "That's the most important thing that I wanted to get through. It's cool to see if all our teammates participate in this, and they let their friends know, and their friends and family know, spreading the

Athlete of the Week: Kryssie Rivera

Psychology junior Kryssie Rivera is a member of the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team. She began her collegiate athletic career in 2018 with her debut at the UTRGV vs. Texas Southern University game on Aug. 17, 2018. She played a career high of 83 minutes at the UTRGV vs. Texas Lutheran University game on Sept. 26, 2019. Throughout her sophomore year, Rivera played in 18 matches during the season.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of soccer?

A: "It's helped my mental [state], only because, you know, there's not really much I turn to when I'm feeling, like, emotional or, like, upset or sad. So usually, my go to is playing soccer and it's helped me out a lot."

Q: What do you think makes

you good at your sport?

A: "My competitiveness [because] I just feel like it plays a huge part in playing. If you're not really competitive, then you're not really going to try. So, I've always been competitive, and I didn't really find any, like, passion for any other sport other than soccer. So, I think, you know, my competitiveness has really stood out there and not anywhere else."

Q: How has soccer helped you?

A: "It's a stress reliever for me. It helps me keep, like, calm and, like, [have] peace with myself."

Q: How do you think your life would be different without soccer?

A: "I would have a lot more time to do other things. I'd be home most of the time. I think I would also be involved in, like, other stuff like clubs and other

organizations, because soccer, you know, takes up most of my time. So, I think that would also change and just working, [too]. I don't think I've really had a full-time job and, you know, [since] I started college, but because I don't really have time."

Q: Do you see yourself playing soccer in the long run?

A: "I have thought about it a lot and I am still unsure about that. I am still thinking about it because it's tough. You know, there's a lot of time and effort and commitment, you know, involved in being a professional soccer or semi-pro player. So, I'm still thinking about it."

Q: What do you plan to do after graduation?

A: "Hopefully, get into the master's program here [at] the university. I haven't decided which master's program I am



UTRGV Women's Soccer defender Kryssie Rivera dribbles the ball.
PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

going into yet but, hopefully, I do get into one. Then, once I'm done with that, I am going to try to become a licensed counselor."

Q: What is your favorite movie and TV show?

A: "My favorite movie is 'Coraline,' the animated film. I love that movie. And, my favorite show is 'Criminal Minds.'"

--Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

ASK
Continued from Page 1

She said when it comes to test taking, her biggest struggle is asking questions to get clarification during tests, something she will not be able to do when taking tests online.

"Sometimes, I like to ask multiple questions on the exam if I don't understand it and, you know, with this stuff going on, it's not like I can raise my hand and have the professor come over to my desk and, you know, answer

one of my questions that I have from the exam," Cano said.

She anticipates her greatest challenge during this semester's finals to be getting an A in her classes.

"Sometimes, I feel like I will get the A, sometimes I feel like I won't," Cano said. "I just feel like, maybe if it was done in person, I'd feel a little bit more confident 'cause I'd have the professor there."

UTRGV Expert

UTRGV Clinical Therapist Maria Alejandra Mazariegos offered UTRGV

students some tips on how to minimize stress during finals week.

Asked what advice she has for students who feel stressed about finals, Mazariegos replied, "Definitely, they should keep in mind that just because it's crunch time doesn't mean that they have to let go of their self-care habits, such as adequate sleep, making sure you rest, making sure you're eating, you're hydrated and you're taking time to do things that are fun for you."

She emphasized that during these times, while students are learning from

home, that it is important to distance yourself from your school-related stress once you have finished the task.

"A lot of times, what students do is they're like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm gonna pull an all nighter studying or cramming for this exam,' and they end up really stressed out because they're no longer sleeping well, they're not eating or they're overeating, they're not exercising, they're not doing stuff that they like," Mazariegos said. "And so it's im-

Think twice before shopping on Cyber Monday

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

UTRGV economics and finance professors are encouraging students to shop smart and not fall for the gimmicks of Cyber Monday sales.

"I think this is going to be the new Black Friday," said Siamak Javadi, an associate economics and finance professor.

Javadi said many brick-and-mortar stores are already going out of business and don't even know it yet due to the large influx of online shopping.

"To think that this is just something related to the pandemic, I would say that is not the case," he said.

Javadi advises shoppers to look at reviews and at the distribution of the reviews before purchasing items online.

"I go with the one that has more steady reviews," he said.

Another important online shopping tip for students to keep in mind is to not buy from random sites no matter how tempting the prices may be, Javadi said.

Elena Quercioli, an associate professor of economics and finance, said there are many reasons why Cyber Monday happens, the first being the "theory of sales."

"Firms make more money if they charge different people different prices for the same item," Quercioli said, explaining that firms "price discriminate" in order to maximize profits.

She said firms do this to entice people who would never buy an item at full price to buy from them, and that is why, periodically, firms have big sales.

While this is the primary reason that firms host such large sales, Quercioli also explained why Cyber Monday is held the Monday after Thanksgiving.

"The answer to that has to do with the fact that in the United States, Thanks-



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

giving marks the beginning of Christmas shopping," she said. "So, once Thanksgiving happens, any day after that is the shopping season for Christmas."

Quercioli said the history behind this dates back to 1939, prior to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's declaration making Thanksgiving the last Thursday of November.

"The problem is some Novembers have five Thursdays and some Novembers have four Thursdays," she said. "So, for the Novembers with the five Thursdays, Thanksgiving would be, like, Nov. 30, which would leave a very small window of time for people to shop for Christmas."

"So, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1939, changed the rule and said, 'No matter whether it's a five Thursday or a four Thursday month, we're always going to have Thanksgiving on the second to last Thursday.'"

Quercioli said that many Americans

were unhappy with this change, but the merchants were in favor of the new rule because now they had more time to sell Christmas goods to people since they had a longer shopping period.

"Eventually, in 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to make it official and now the fourth Thursday of November is Thanksgiving no matter how many Thursdays the month has," she said. "The only reason for that is to prolong the shopping season for Christmas."

Asked what the difference is between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Quercioli replied that Black Friday is primarily for brick-and-mortar shops while Cyber Monday is all about the online experience, so consumers can shop wherever they want.

"This is a very big deal and, of course, the United States is consumers' paradise, so whatever the consumer wants, the consumer gets," she said. "This is like massive, billion-dollar businesses."

Asked what her advice is for students who plan to shop during Cyber Monday, Quercioli replied, "In general, I would say, don't. Don't shop because these are things that if you're buying them because they're cheap, then that means you don't need them. And so you're not really doing yourself any favors by buying things just because they're cheap. Buy the things you need; don't buy the things that are inexpensive."

She said the key to shopping is to "buy the things for which your consumer surplus is maximized."

Consumer surplus in economics is defined as what you're willing to pay for an item and the actual price of the item.

"So, suppose the price of the item is \$10; you're willing to pay \$20 for it," Quercioli said. "There is a \$10 difference, and that's basically a gain that you make as a consumer because, really, you were willing to spend twice as much in order to get that good. That good must mean a lot to you, but you only paid \$10. So essentially, in economics, we say that you gained, you made 10 extra dollars."

Her biggest piece of advice for students looking to shop during Cyber Monday sales is to buy the things that will give you the highest consumer surplus to get your money's worth for the items that interest you.

"My point is, when you shop, you should try to maximize your consumer surplus," Quercioli said. "You should try to go for the things that give you the highest consumer surplus, not the things that are cheap."

For students who are looking to save money, Quercioli advises to stay away from Cyber Monday and other price discriminating sales that are used to entice consumers.

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

Hey Vaqueros,
it's almost the end of
the semester!



I know staying at home and
online this semester has been
stressful for everyone.



I want everyone to know
that you've been doing
a fantastic job. Congratulations
for those who are graduating
this semester!



ASK
Continued from Page 6

portant to know that yes, finals can be stressful, it's normal to feel stressed, but the stress is not going to last forever. Once the final is done, the stress should be lifted."

Asked what study tips she had for students, she replied that taking frequent breaks can help to retain information.

"I would recommend taking frequent breaks, even though that sounds counterproductive, but a lot of studies have shown that when we take breaks, we actually are able to retain more information and perform better," Mazariegos said. "So, one thing that I like to personally recommend is, study for 50 minutes, get up, do something else for 10 minutes and then start again on the hour."

Asked if it is OK that some students have no study regiments, she replied that every learner is different and that if you are having trouble finding out what works best for you, then visit the Counseling Center.

"I think everyone learns differently," Mazariegos said. "However, what we know is that, typically, we should have some kind of method, and I know that there are a lot of resources at the

Counseling Center that can help out with finding that method. Probably finals week is not the week to try to figure out a method, but I think it's something to keep on your radar for maybe the upcoming semester."

For students who have trouble with procrastination, Mazariegos recommends not being intimidated by larger tasks and finding ways to break them down.

"My advice would be to break it down into doable chunks because a lot of times, we procrastinate because we see the task as so huge or so, like, time consuming, but if we break it down into manageable chunks, you know start off with 30 minutes and then go all the way to 50 and take a break, it doesn't feel like it's gonna consume your entire day," she said.

Mazariegos said the breaks work great for procrastination because it gives you something to look forward to.

"Remember to celebrate yourself and celebrate your big achievements and your small achievements," she said. "So, after you took that test, celebrate the fact that you took your final. Don't even wait for the grade, just, the moment you're done with your final, celebrate the fact that you showed up, you took it, you were able to get through it and now it is time to celebrate you."



UTRGV Student Media is accepting applications for the Spring 2021 semester for the following positions:

The Rider newspaper

Sports Reporter (Edinburg)
Reporter (Edinburg, Brownsville)
Photographer (Brownsville)



Vaquero Radio

Station Manager
Program Director
Reporter



Pulse magazine

Photo Editor



Students must apply via Handshake

All applicants must:

--Provide UTRGV email address

--Be enrolled at UTRGV during the Spring 2020 semester.

--Have a semester grade-point average of 2.5 or higher.

For more information, call 882-5143 or 665-5085.



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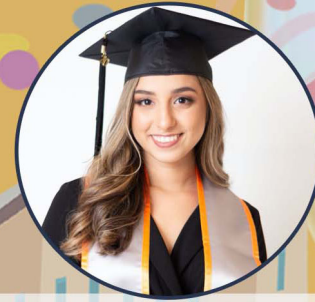
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Arturo Flores
Vaquero Radio
Program Director



Samantha Garza
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Station Manager