

## Reflections on restrictions

**Brigitte Ortiz**

THE RIDER

It has been a year since the United States experienced the first lockdown since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. Students had to put a hold on their lives and were affected mentally, financially and educationwise.

Daniela Ramirez, a graduate student in educational leadership and Campus Activities Board employee, said they had planned a trip to Disney World in Florida last year and the day before they departed, COVID-19 was becoming more serious.

“Our trip, which was one of the events that a lot of students had purchased a ticket for, was on the line whether it was going to be canceled or not,” Ramirez said. “We weren’t certain, and they were like, ‘We can’t tell you until you guys leave.’ So, the time comes. We leave that evening, then as we’re coming back a week after, on March 12, I remember vividly, as part of the staff for the department that created the trip for students, we knew all the insights coming back and us not knowing what was happening. We didn’t know if the state of Texas was going to allow us to come in.”

She said all the students on the trip had to get screened for symptoms on the Edinburg campus.

“And when I arrived to campus, because I do live on campus at the Casa Bella facilities in Brownsville, and coming in here they’re, like, ‘No, you



### The Year of Coronavirus

Students discuss their experience during the pandemic

Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

can’t access the facility until you get tested,” Ramirez said. “And I’m, like, ‘I just got [screened] at the Edinburg campus. I don’t know what’s happening. Can I not come in?’ Eventually, I was [allowed in].”

She said the hardest thing was not being able to go to her home country of Mexico.

“I was a student that lives

**“I want to go to the zoo. I want to go to an aquarium. I want to go out with my friends. I feel like I’m stuck.”**

**-Damaris Guevara**  
Nursing junior

on campus with no reliable transportation and the city coming into chaos,” Ramirez said. “There was nothing in the stores, and I couldn’t order, you know, food through the dif-

ferent apps and online. It was very hard for me. I relied a lot on the food pantry and the overall service that UTRGV had to provide, specially since I lived on cam-

pus. I’m really glad and, you know, happy and thankful for UTRGV.”

She said at first, she did not

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Runners set personal records

## Women's History Month

# Impactful women in our lives

**Sol Garcia**

THE RIDER

When Marisa Palacios Knox was 10, she read “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë for the first time.

“It imprinted on me,” Knox said. “I was very inspired by the sort of moral strength and independence of Jane and the idea of being able to hold to principle in spite of passion and desire.”

She has looked at Jane’s characteristics as something to aspire to, and now Knox, an assistant professor in the Literatures and Cultural Studies department, teaches “Jane Eyre” in her courses.

Knox’s mother, Valentina, has also influenced the assistant professor.

“[She] immigrated here when she was 17 and raised me as a single mother, and was a nurse caring for premature babies and psychologically and mentally ill children,” she said. “She did the most challenging work of all and was just infinitely resourceful and caring.”

Like Jane, her mother showed Knox the importance of independence.

“[She] set a really good example for me, [in] terms of not feeling like I



Laura Izaiguirre, English senior

Marisa Palacios Knox, assistant professor of literatures and cultural studies, and her mother, Valentina Knox

Mariana Alessandri, philosophy associate professor

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

needed to depend on anyone, that it is very important that I’d be able to provide for myself in life,” Knox said.

Mariana Alessandri, a philosophy associate professor, is influenced by Gloria Anzaldúa, the late leading theorist

and philosopher from the Rio Grande Valley.

“She was a woman who paved the way for all people who feel like they’re in-between cultures,” Alessandri said. “She speaks for people who feel like a hybrid,

who feel half-and-half, who feel like they don’t belong in either culture.”

Anzaldúa has made Alessandri, a Chilean American, consider her identity more positively.

“She gave me, and I think she gives to many of our students, a way to think about ourselves that is more dignified and is more proud than shameful, because I think a lot of us experienced a lot of shame growing up about feeling like we didn’t belong,” she said.

In her work, Anzaldúa describes herself as a “little Chicanita from the sticks” who wasn’t encouraged to learn about philosophy but did, inspiring Alessandri.

“She inspires me to risk and to go for what I want, even if I don’t think I was born for that or if I don’t think people will want me to do that,” the assistant professor said.

Now, Alessandri is able to teach Anzaldúa’s work in her lectures.

“It’s just a delight to teach students about a Valley philosopher,” she said. “It’s just really fun to introduce them to something that they’ve never heard anything like it before so that they could be proud of who they are.”

See **WOMEN**, Page 2

# THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. 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



Today  
**Women's Day**  
**Celebration**

**International Admissions and Student Services**, with

assistance from the **Women's Faculty Network**, will celebrate **International Women's Day** at 3 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 858 1389 1576.

### Women's Day Luncheon

Join a **virtual luncheon** with UTRGV professors to celebrate **International Women's Day** hosted by the **Campus Activities Board** in collaboration with the **Student Union** from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Movie Mondays: 'Suffragette'

The **Cultural Council** will show "Suffragette" to celebrate **Women's History Month** from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Tuesday

### Express Yourself!

**Express Yourself! Art for College Success** is a **virtual expressive art**

**series** from students in the Expressive Arts Minor Program and is **free and open to the public**. It takes place from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Wednesday

### The Superheroes of Tomorrow

The **UTRGV Library** will host a **discussion** on library resources and show a short film featuring **Sana Amanat, Marvel's** vice president of content and character development from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### The People Series

Learn about the legacy of American poet and Civil Rights Activist **Maya Angelou** from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center**. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Thursday

### Immigration, Border Wall & DACA

The **Political Science Association** will host a panel on **immigration,**

**the border wall and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program** from 12:30 to 2 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Friday

### SGA Meeting

Students can voice their concerns as the **Student Government Association** discusses matters and issues of the UTRGV community from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Netflix Watch Party

Join the **Student Union** as it shows the first episode of "Love Alarm," season two, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

### Upcoming

### Out of the Canon

The **UTRGV Theatre Department** will livestream "Out of the Canon," a bilingual celebration of women, "Latinx," BIPOC and LGBTQ voices from March 27 to 29. RSVP is available at utrgv.edu/theatre.

--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 22 and 27.



### Feb. 22

**10:43 a.m.:** A staff member reported damage to the sign located at the front entrance of the Alumni Center on the Edinburg campus.

The staff member had first observed the damage on Feb. 16. It appears a vehicle left the roadway and struck the sign. The case is under investigation.

### Feb. 24

**10:53 a.m.:** A faculty member reported receiving unwelcoming emails to her university email account that were sent by a non-affiliated man. At the time, the elements for harassment were not met.

**5:21 p.m.:** An officer witnessed a non-affiliated woman fall forward from her wheelchair and land on her hands as her daughter had pushed her up the ramp at the Clinical Education Building in Harlingen. The woman declined emergency medical services, but she was evaluated by a doctor at the location.

**11:11 p.m.:** An officer stopped a vehicle in Edinburg for a violation. It was revealed the non-affiliated operator had an active warrant out of the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office for a probation

violation. The original charge was for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The sheriff's office confirmed the warrant but would not accept the operator due to COVID-19 restrictions. The operator received a written warning for the traffic violation and was released.

### Feb. 25

**9:37 a.m.:** A non-affiliated man fell and injured his right knee while walking back to his vehicle in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The man declined medical treatment and left the area without further incident.

### Feb. 26

**7:45 a.m.:** A staff member backed into a tree while driving a university-owned vehicle near the parking area of the library service drive on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle sustained minor damage, and there were no injuries reported.

**8:22 a.m.:** A non-affiliated elderly man fell and scraped his knee and right hand in Lot E-31 on the Edinburg campus. He declined Emergency Medical Services.

**10:08 a.m.:** A staff member reported an air-conditioning unit had been spray painted at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**1:08 p.m.:** A faculty member reported being impersonated online. The case is under investigation.

**2:43 p.m.:** An non-affiliated elderly woman fell and sustained visible lacerations on her arm and forehead in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. Edinburg Medical Services transported her to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further evaluation.

### Feb. 27

**7:11 a.m.:** UTRGV Police Communications observed on cameras two men jumping the U.S. border fence on the south side levee by UTRGV facilities in Brownsville. The U.S. Border Patrol detained the men, who were from Mexico.

**11:31 a.m.:** An officer responded to an access control alarm that indicated a door was held open in the Engineering Building. The officer made contact with a student who admitted he gained access to the building by using a friend's access card. The officer confiscated the access card and instructed the student to leave. The incident will be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia

### WOMEN

Continued from Page 1

When English senior Laura Izaguirre was exposed to Anzaldúa in a class, she was inspired to read more feminist literature. From there, she discovered Mary Wollstonecraft, a writer from the 18th century who promoted equality between men and women in particular areas in life, according to Wikipedia.

"She just wanted to say, like, 'Hey, you know what? We're women here, but we deserve to be treated equally as [men].'" Izaguirre said.

She believes Wollstonecraft's litera-

ture remains relevant today.

"[Women] have some more rights ... but still, I don't think it's the same as [men] in the level of politics," she said. "If you see [U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez], she states how she's a woman, she's a political figure, but she still gets harassed."

Since Izaguirre experienced a cultural expectation that requires women to take care of the household, Wollstonecraft's criticism of sexism in society resonated with her.

"I was raised in a Mexican household, where the women do everything in the house," Izaguirre said. "So, when I was

reading her literature, it surprised me that her mentality in the 18th century was ... 'We need to change the society. We need to see that women are much more than what you think they're capable of.'"

Recognizing women role models helps motivate other women to accomplish more, Izaguirre said.

"The more we read about what women [are] capable of, the more we can aspire to be," she said. "We have seen how so many inspiring women have done so many things, and I think it helps us to view ourselves. You can do much, much more."

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

# SAFETY TIPS TO AVOID COVID-19 DURING SPRING BREAK

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov)

- Wear a mask
- Stay 6 feet apart from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often
- Cover Coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health daily
- Get vaccinated to protect yourself against COVID-19



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## Not letting their guard down Students share their plans for Spring Break

**Jamejdra Holverstott**  
THE RIDER

With Spring Break starting March 15, two students plan to follow safety protocols during their week of rest.

Dance sophomore Analia Martinez said she plans to take classes at a dance studio.

"I'll probably try to find a studio I can visit; I'll probably take dance classes if they're offering any, and work," Martinez said.

She said that COVID has altered activities for dancers.

"Normally, during Spring Break, I'd probably be going on a trip somewhere, taking dance classes upstate in Houston, probably going to workshops," Martinez said. "But because of COVID, a lot of the stuff that dancers do has just been put on pause."

She said dance classes are now usually virtual or limited to 10 to 15 people to fit social-distance guidelines.

"It's still not the same," Martinez said. "It's quite difficult. It's been a really big change."

As she intends to continue working throughout Spring Break, she expressed concern for her safety at the restaurant where she works.

"There's a lot of people who show up to my job, and you can tell they just don't care," Martinez said. "They'll walk in without a mask, walk out without a mask, walk around the restaurant without a mask and we'll tell them, 'Hey, you need to be wearing a mask,' [and] they

obviously don't care."

Martinez suggests that students who plan to work or travel over the break use as many precautions as possible to ensure their own safety, as well the safety of others.

**"I'm a micro influencer, so I'm gonna try and create a lot of content throughout Spring Break when I am off of school."**

**-Claudia Lamas**  
Mass communication senior

Mass communication senior Claudia Lamas plans to create content over Spring Break.

"I'm a micro influencer, so I'm gonna try and create a lot of content throughout Spring Break when I am off of school," Lamas said. "So, I can try and focus on that while I know I don't have as much schoolwork at that time."

She will film videos on how to style clothes and give advice on how to grow engagement.

"I plan on making videos on tips on how to style different clothing items, or on doing different tips and advice on how to grow your account and engagement tips as well," Lamas said.

See **BREAK**, Page 10



Photo Courtesy Jose Pablo Rojas

The First Year Internship program helps engage first-year students in university policies and advocacy. This year the program has adapted to online teaching, where interns learn about governing documents while being mentored by the Student Government Association at UTRGV. Shown are intern (top row) biomedical sciences freshman Denisse Lopez and FYI Director Jose Pablo Rojas. Middle row: health freshman Ma Mikhaila Olivia Ocampo and English freshman Alejandro Rodriguez. Bottom row: mechanical engineering freshmen Eduardo Damián Gracia Robles and Mario Flores.

## Advocating for students through FYI program

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

The First Year Internship program has adapted to online teaching first-year university students about student advocacy and the Student Government Association at UTRGV.

The semester-long internship is for first-year students, regardless of major or classification.

"The First Year Internship program is, basically, to immerse first-year students in university policy and in university advocacy, advocacy towards the entirety of the student body to ensure that every single student's voice is heard," said Jose Pablo Rojas, FYI director.

The program's goal is to educate interns, but Rojas said he wants them to have a more active role. Under his management, interns not only learn about governing documents and receive mentoring from SGA members, but they are

also active in community involvement, said Rojas, a biology senior.

"In the past, the program was just to educate the interns," he said. "That's why I reformed it, and I gave it an actual structure where the students can be able to go out there and be active and be ambassadors for the community."

Rojas' restructuring of the program includes reaching out to university organizations and working together and individually in projects.

"The individual project can be anything that they want it to be," the director said. "I tell them, 'If you want to make an organization, I'm all for it. If you want to shape policy, I'm all for it. If you want to work on amendments, I'm all for it.' Just as long as they do something that they're passionate in."

Denisse Lopez, a biomedical sciences freshman and FYI intern, is working

See **FYI**, Page 9

# YAQUERO VOICE



## WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

On March 1, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which historical women's movement do you believe had the biggest impact on today's society?" The results are shown below.

### facebook

**SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT/ 19TH AMENDMENT** 13

### twitter

**4 SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

**1 SENECA FALLS CONVENTION**

**1 "ME TOO" MOVEMENT**

### Instagram

**SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT/ 19TH AMENDMENT** 14

**EQUAL PAY ACT OF 1964** 5

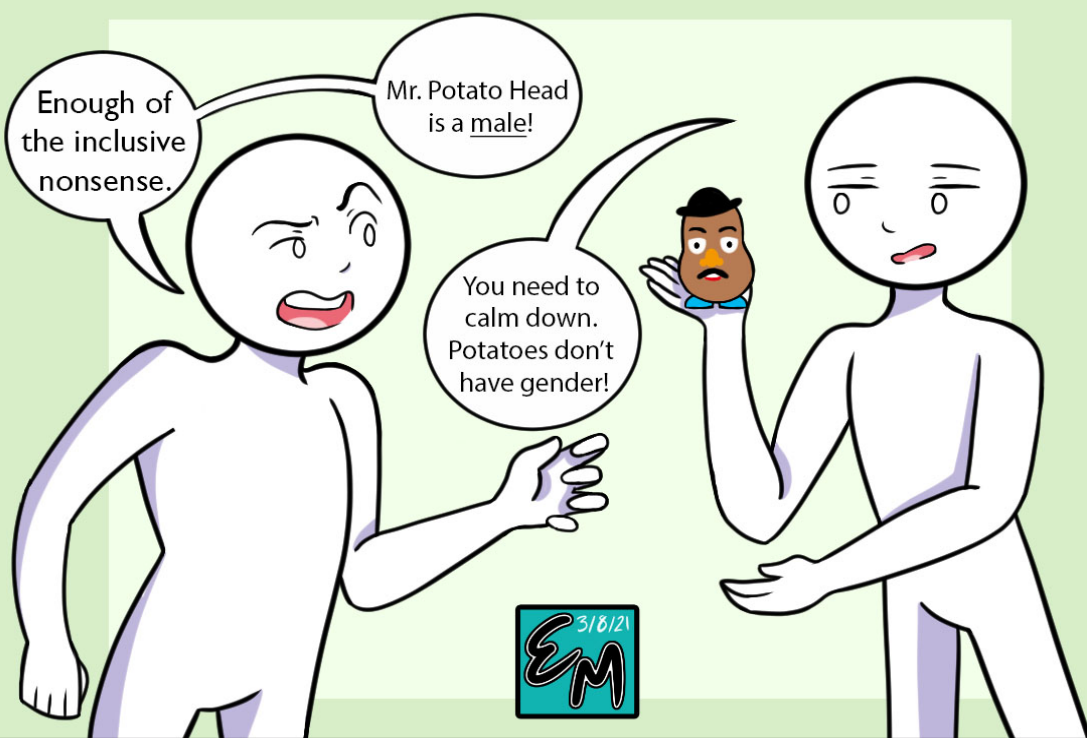
**SENECA FALLS CONVENTION** 3

**"ME TOO" MOVEMENT** 2

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER



# Hot Potato Toy Discourse



# Give it up for the ladies!



**Jacqueline Peraza**  
THE RIDER

There has never been a time in my life where I have questioned the resilience and strength of a woman. My biggest role models will always be my mom, Awey Maya and Nana Elvia. Growing up, I mimicked the way they dressed, did their makeup, walked, told stories and treated others.

I will be 21 years old this month, and I would be lying if I said I do not deeply depend on these women for guidance, stability and inspiration. I absolutely do.

As an adult, I am able to listen to stories I would not have understood as a child and learn about the hardships and difficult times they have gone through in their life. All these stories have made me want to be just like them: strong, charismatic and really, really cool.

I am lucky enough to say that I have a great support system composed of primarily women in my personal life. However, I am also extremely fortunate to say I am surrounded by a

powerful group of women in another prominent area of my life: the newsroom.

When I tell others about my job, I never fail to mention that the majority of The Rider staff are women journalists. In a field dominated by our male counterparts, having an almost all-female staff is a feature worth mentioning.

Not only do the ladies produce well-written stories and shoot amazing photographs every single week, but they also come up with creative cartoons and comics, read and edit content, update the public with new information via social media and publish on The Rider's website for the community to see, daily.

There is no limit to what topics our female journalists write about. We produce content about athletic events, governmental meetings, lifestyle pieces, presidential visits, breaking news, SpaceX, virtual gatherings, the coronavirus pandemic, among other topics.

Being a female journalist comes with struggles that not many could imagine unless put directly into our shoes. From being called nasty names at events to losing interviews to male journalists or having some sources mansplain their

answers, The Rider ladies have shown to shine above it all.

Along with their journalistic duties, they juggle other tasks such as pursuing an undergraduate degree, working two jobs, making time for their hobbies and caring for family and friends, all while staying healthy amid a global pandemic.

I must admit, the work ethic The Rider ladies carry with them at all times is a direct product of the encouragement, guidance and patience we have received under our mentors Michell Godinez and Azenett Cornejo.

And without the help of administrative assistants Maggie Castillo and Ana Sanchez keeping staff organized and grounded, our fast-paced and always-moving newsroom would be one chaotic workplace.

Alejandra, Arisbeth, Adalia, Brigitte, Danielle, Elizabeth, Estefania, Jacqueline W., Jamejdra, Karina, Monica, Paulina, Roxanna, Sol and Valeria: your hard work, talent and resilience deserves all the recognition in the world and not just on International Women's Day, but every day of the year.

Happy International Women's Day. Give it up for the ladies!

## 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.*

# Valley businesswomen Acting school, boutique owners describe road to entrepreneurship

**Adalia Garza**  
THE RIDER

An acting school in Edinburg and an online boutique shop in Brownsville are businesses run by women who pursued their ambitions.

Maria Dolores Alvarado, owner of MDA Acting, a DACA recipient and 2017 UTRGV graduate, is no stranger to business.

Alvarado said her inspiration to start a business began early in college.

"I studied theatre performance at the university, and while I was a student, sometimes, I would get involved in summer camps where I would teach acting," she said. "As I was going through certain organizations where I was teaching ... I realized I have the resources, and I can implement my own standards with nothing to hold me back."

Alvarado said she wanted to teach and prepare her students.

"I want to prepare them for a career in acting, if that's what they want," she said. "I want to prepare them for finding an agent, continuing a career, getting auditions, actually getting out there."

Alvarado decided, after seeing the potential of the students during other camps she was involved in, she wanted to start a business where she could help harness their ability, even if the decision to do so was risky.

"There wasn't too much expected from the students, and I knew they could do better," she said. "I wasn't getting paid as much as I felt like my time was worth. That's when I



Photo Courtesy Maria Dolores Alvarado

Maria Dolores Alvarado, owner of MDA Acting, teaches her students last year at Society 204 in Edinburg. Shown with Alvarado are (from left) Isabella Garza, Gabriela Garza and Milán Díaz.

**I want to prepare them for finding an agent, continuing a career, getting auditions, actually getting out there.**

**-Maria Dolores Alvarado  
MDA Acting owner**

thought, 'If either way I'm losing money, and I'm not doing it fully how I want to, I'm going to do it my own way and with my own efforts. I'll make whatever I make and lose whatever I lose, but it's mine.' So, that's when I built up the courage to [say], 'OK, I'm going to do it

myself.'"

Alvarado said she will always give her students the best quality service.

"A long-term goal is to grow it, of course, but to always keep giving the same quality," she said. "No matter how big we get, or how small we stay, al-

ways the best quality for our students because they deserve it."

Alvarado said she has been encouraged to continue pursuing her dream.

"I feel that I've received support," she said. "It's been very encouraging. I feel like, right

now, we are in an environment and time where it's very encouraging to pursue your business, your dream. I am grateful for that. I'm happy about it."

Alvarado advises women and future entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams without fear.

"Go for it, to not be afraid," she said. "Sometimes, we think about it too much, and we build all these challenges that, in the end, don't even exist. ... Doesn't matter your status, still pursue your dream and get as far as you can."

Yliana Guzman, a middle school teacher at IDEA Brownsville, owns Camelia Mexican Boutique, an online shop where she sells authentic apparel and accessories made by indigenous women in several parts of Mexico.

Guzman has the unique opportunity to help artisan women and communities in Mexico by selling their crafted products. According to the shop's website, she and her family travel to different states, such as Oaxaca, Puebla and Chiapas, to support them and ensure they get fair pay.

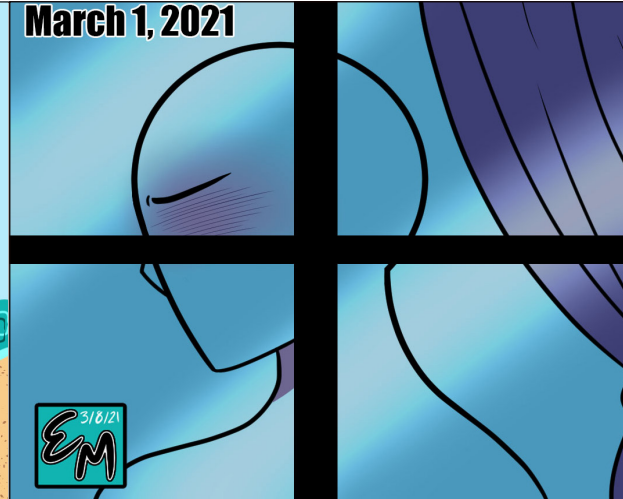
"With your purchase, you are supporting over 300 artisan women and their families," the boutique website states. We travel all over Mexico and visit indigenous communities who are struggling to keep their Mayan culture alive. We purchase directly from them to make sure they get a fair pay."

With a conversation and ambition to start the business in 2017, Guzman explained

See **BUSINESS**, Page 9

## The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



# Have a story idea?

Let us know at

# 882-5143 or 665-5085



# Call for Illustrators

## **Pulse magazine**

is looking for illustrators to create graphics for the print version of the magazine.

**Traditional and Digital  
Artists are welcomed  
to apply**

## **Deadline**

March 10

Submit at least three work samples to [pulse.magazine@utrgv.edu](mailto:pulse.magazine@utrgv.edu)





FOTO POR ISMAEL PÁRAMO EN UNSPLASH

Los estudiantes de universidad a través del país se han adaptado a nuevas medidas de seguridad y modalidades de aprendizaje durante la pandemia.

# Reflexiones sobre las restricciones

## Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

Ha pasado un año desde que Estados Unidos experimentó su primer confinamiento y el COVID-19 se declaró una pandemia. Los estudiantes tuvieron que pausar sus vidas y fueron afectados de manera financiera, educacional y mental.

Daniela Ramirez, una estudiante de posgrado en liderazgo educacional y empleada en la Mesa de Actividades del Campus, dijo que habían planeado un viaje a Disney World en Florida el año pasado y que el día antes de que salieran, el COVID-19 se estaba volviendo más severo.

“Nuestro viaje, el cual fue uno de los eventos al que muchos estudiantes habían comprado boletos para ir, pendía de un hilo sobre si iba a ser cancelado o no”, Ramirez dijo. “No estábamos seguros, entonces estaban como ‘No podemos decirles hasta que se vayan’. Entonces, llega la hora. Nos fuimos esa tarde, y cuando veníamos de regreso una semana después, el 12 de marzo, lo recuerdo vívidamente, como parte del personal del departamento que realizó el viaje para los estudiantes, sabíamos todo el plan de regreso y de repente nosotros no sabíamos qué estaba pasando. No sabíamos si el estado de Texas nos dejaría entrar”.

Ella dijo que todos los estudiantes en el viaje tuvieron que ser evaluados en el campus de Edinburg por sí presentaban los síntomas del COVID-19.

“Y cuando llegué al campus, porque yo sí vivo en el campus en los departamentos de Casa Bella en Brownsville, y llegando aquí ellos estaban, como, ‘No, no puedes entrar a los departamentos hasta que te hagas la evaluación’, Ramirez dijo. “Y yo estaba, como, ‘Acabo de hacermela en el campus de

Edinburg. No sé qué está pasando. ¿No puedo pasar? Eventualmente, me [dejan pasar]”.

Ella dijo que lo más difícil fue no poder ir a México, su país natal.

“Era una estudiante que vive en el campus sin transporte fiable y la ciudad convirtiéndose en un caos”, Ramirez dijo. “No había nada en las tiendas, y no podía ordenar, ya sabes, comida por las diferentes aplicaciones ni en línea. Fue muy difícil para mí. Estuve dependiendo mucho en la despensa de alimentos para estudiantes y todo el servicio que UTRGV tuvo que proporcionar, especialmente como yo vivía en el campus. Estoy muy contenta y, ya sabes, feliz y agradecida por UTRGV”.

Ella dijo que al principio, ella no quiso aceptar que se sintió diferente. “Creí que me estaba sintiendo bien”, Ramirez dijo. “La incertidumbre de lo que estaba pasando ... ¿Tendré comida al día siguiente? ¿Podré salir? Cosas diferentes. ... ¿Habrá electricidad al día siguiente para poder hacer tarea? Empecé a sentir ansiedad sobre cosas que

en realidad no eran problemas pero, en mi cabeza, yo los estaba creando, si eso tiene sentido”.

Se le preguntó qué cosas buenas le trajo el haber estado en una pandemia.

Ella contestó que fue el poder continuar estudiando, trabajando desde casa, poniéndose metas realistas a corto y largo plazo y estudiando para sus exámenes para graduarse.

Damaris Guevara, una estudiante de tercer año de enfermería, dijo que al principio de la pandemia, no le molestó porque tenía muchas clases que la mantenían ocupada.

“Teníamos un grupo pequeño de estudiantes y entonces, somos, como, muy cercanos”, Guevara dijo. “Y entonces, al principio de nuestro programa, hicimos este chat grupal y, yo creo que, al pasar los años nos hicimos muy cercanos. Así que, el principio de la cuarentena fue súper, súper fácil para mí, porque todos nos veíamos por Zoom todos los días. Todos hablábamos todas las noches, o sea, después de clases. Nos ayudábamos a estudiar. Fue relativamente fácil.

“Creo que la única cosa que fue algo difícil era que teníamos nuestra, como, una rutina diaria para reunirnos en

Starbucks después de clases. Ahí [era donde nosotros] estudiábamos hasta la medianoche, pero eso era algo difícil de hacer porque el Starbucks no estaba abierto”.

Ella dijo que empezó a extrañar su vida social, y, en los chats grupales, no todos son tan sociales como ella, y no todos quieren hacer amigos.

“Soy una persona súper, súper social y, supongo, ahora, ahorita, en este momento, me ha afectado mucho porque extraño salir”, Guevara dijo. “Estoy acostumbrada a estar fuera de mi casa hasta, como, la medianoche, dos de la madrugada. No regreso hasta las dos de la madrugada. Y extraño salir. Extraño socializar. Extraño a mis amigos, y ha sido muy difícil últimamente”.

Ella trabaja como enfermera de salud a domicilio, entonces ella va de estar encerrada en su casa a otra casa.

“Estoy bien harta de eso”, Guevara dijo. “Quiero ir al zoológico. Quiero ir al acuario. Quiero salir con mis amigos. Siento como que estoy atrapada. La única cosa que hago a veces, muy tarde en la noche ... voy a la playa para estar yo sola. No lo sé. Es algo diferente de estar encerrada en mi casa”.

Ella dijo que algo bueno que descubrió durante la cuarentena fue el K-pop.

“Terminé encontrando un grupo por mi propia cuenta; se llama Stray Kids”, Guevara dijo. “Ellos me han mantenido algo sana, y hay un miembro que se activa en vivo cada fin de semana, y él toca música para que todos escuchen y son conversaciones y alguien le pregunta por consejos o lo que sea, y él te da consejos. Entonces, es como una sesión terapéutica de fin de semana. Siempre anhelo eso cada fin de semana. Yo creo que eso es algo bueno”.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

**Quiero ir al zoológico.  
Quiero ir al acuario.  
Quiero salir con mis  
amigos. Siento como  
que estoy atrapada.**

-Damaris Guevara

estudiante de tercer año de enfermería



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# International Women's Day

## Recognition, celebration and mindfulness around the world

**Omar Zapata**

THE RIDER

Today is International Women's Day, a celebration of social, economic, cultural, political achievements.

In an interview with The Rider, a UTRGV professor who used to organize a women's march each year in San Antonio, spoke of the day's history, evolution and significance.

Cathryn Merla-Watson, co-director of Gender and Women's Studies and associate professor in Mexican American Studies, said the observance started early in the 20th century, which was a time of women organizing around the world for equality.

"The concept of an International Women's Day came out of the international socialist women's conference in 1910 in Europe and was also taken up by the Socialist Party of America with the United States," Merla-Watson said. "So, it has a socialist beginning."

A conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties and working women's clubs unanimously approved the creation of an International Women's Day, according to its [website](#).

Merla-Watson said throughout history, scholars think of feminism in overlapping waves. Many scholars consider the early 20th century as the first or second wave of feminism, she said.

"In the early 20th century, we have ... the women's suffrage movement," Merla-Watson said. "So, it's about really



Roxanna Miranda/ THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

sort of just demanding, you know, to vote and, to some extent, equal rights to men, and achieving gender parity."

Another wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s, a long with other civil

**So, it's up to [women] to figure out, like, what International Women's Day means to women in, you know, the Rio Grande Valley or in San Antonio, where I'm from**

**-Cathryn Merla-Watson**

**Gender and Women's Studies co-director and Mexican American Studies associate professor**

rights movements, such as the Black civil rights movement in the U.S., she said.

"Within the context of U.S., when we hit the late '60s, we see women still continuing to struggle

to achieve ... parity between the sexes [and] this time, sort of vocalizing struggles around not just, like, duties within the family [but] sort of questioning gender norms," Merla-Watson said. "Because, when you think about, like, the 1950s, you think of these, like, really sort of conservative television shows, like "Leave It to Beaver," or "The Donna Reed Show," that show these very sort of, like, what we call, heteronormative understandings of the family where, you know, the woman is the caregiver who stays home, has 2.5 kids, etc."

The wave in the late '60s is pushing back and questioning gender roles, still demanding equal rights and equal pay and also starting to make demands about birth control and control over their own bodies, she said.

"While there's still this, sort of, demand for equal rights, those demands becoming more radical," Merla-Watson said. "By which I mean, really sort of looking at how the construction of gender is oppressive and systemic, meaning that women are systemically denied certain opportunities and access to important institutions, like education, for example."

In 1975, International Women's Day was observed for the first time by the United Nations. In December 1977, the U.N. adopted a resolution proclaiming a U.N. Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by member states in accordance with their

See **HISTORY**, Page 10

# The sound of completion

**Valeria Henderson**

THE RIDER

UTRGV continues its tradition. Every semester two graduating students from each college are chosen to ring the bell after each commencement ceremony. This bell ringing stands for the ending to something special.

"The commencement bell ringers are a tradition that we've had at the university for, I believe, the last five years," said Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities. "It is to commemorate the end of the collegiate year for our students. And one of the things that makes it really different is that we invite all graduating students to apply for this honor."

Mata-Vasquez said depending on the year and how many commencement ceremonies the university has, the selection committee will select up to two students per ceremony to ring the bell at commencement.

"This past year, because of the pandemic and everything

that we've dealt with, we have had to adjust the process," she said. "And so, one student has been selected to represent each college, and they have been provided the opportunity to ring the bell in a virtual component."

The tradition is being planned to continue, even with the changes due to COVID-19.

"We're still waiting to hear what commencement ceremonies will look like," Mata-Vasquez said. "As of right now, we just opened up the application a week ago, and we are inviting our students to participate or to apply."

"Regardless of who gets selected, they will all receive a commemorative bell. And we still want to offer the opportunity down the road, when it's safe for us all together, to invite the bell ringers since 2020 till now to come and take a commemorative picture with your cohort and with the bell."

Applications were open from Feb. 22 to last Saturday.

"They are looking for student leaders who have made a contribution to a UTRGV com-

munity," said Daniela Ramirez, vice president of membership for the Campus Activities Board. "And have them assure academic excellence, whether it be through extracurricular activities or being a full-time student active on campus."

Ramirez said being a bell ringer gives students a sense of pride.

"I feel that it's a very good tradition that has stayed with us since [the University of Texas at Brownsville] days because students look forward to applying for bell ringer," she said. "At least, in my experience as an applicant, it gives hope for other graduating cohorts, seeing students that are doing that. It gives a sense of pride and completion of, whether it be either a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree. It helps them hold that part of their life."

Mass communication junior Daisy Calzada said she would consider applying.

"I think I would be interested in applying," Calzada said. "I mean, I know a lot of people

See **APPLICATION**, Page 10



Photo Courtesy Cindy Mata-Vasquez

Spring Commencement Bell Ringer Briana Cortez stands next to the bell during the ceremony on May 30, 2020.





Jacqueline Wallace/ THE RIDER PHOTO

People wait in line March 1 to receive the COVID-19 vaccine outside the UTRGV School of Medicine in Edinburg.

# Vaccinations, testing back on track

**Omar Zapata**

THE RIDER

As of early last Tuesday, UTRGV administered 32,000 doses of vaccines and posted a record two-week low of COVID-19 cases reported on campus.

Dr. Michael Dobbs, vice dean of Clinical Affairs and chief medical officer for UT Health RGV, told The Rider that although 32,000 doses were administered, it does not mean 32,000 people are fully vaccinated. He said 12,837 people have been fully vaccinated with the second dosage and 19,163 people have received only the first dose.

Dobbs said last month's winter storm impacted vaccine administration early in the week,

with the School of Medicine facilities in Edinburg having no power or running water. Dosing restarted Feb. 18 at a School of Medicine medical resource building in McAllen and continued through that weekend.

"That worked really well," he said. "I mean, you know, we were all up here, working in the dark moving supplies, moving our protected vaccine, because we protected it with proper storage with emergency

“  
**The more we can put the shots in the arms ... we'll go down in positive COVID-19 cases.**”

**-Doug Arney**

**Vice president for Administrative Support Services**

power and backup generator.”

Dobbs said 3,000 vaccines were administered during that time.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services, told The Rider that Feb. 12 through 25, only two undergraduate students who tested positive for COVID-19 were on campus. One student tested positive between Feb. 12 and 18, and another between Feb. 19 and 25.

No students were being quarantined on UTRGV campuses as of March 1, Arney said.

Asked what the low cases reported were a

sign of, he said it was too early to tell.

"The more vaccines that we put out there, and we're doing a lot of vaccines ... they don't become potential customers, right," he said. "So, the more we can put the shots in the arms ... we'll go down [in positive COVID-19 cases]."

Due to the winter storm, testing sites for UTRGV were shut down Feb. 15-19.

"That was a tough week since testing was shut down. ... So, we really couldn't do much testing," Arney said. Yeah, we had people calling, talking to [people with testing appointments], but we couldn't get them in to get tested. So there was a backlog to get tested, but we got caught up. So, we're good now."

**FYI**  
*Continued from Page 3*

with health freshman Ma Mikhaila Olivia Ocampo, another intern, to create a new university course at UTRGV for their individual project.

Lopez and Ocampo learned UTRGV offers a preparation course for the Medical College Admission Test, and they came up with the idea to offer that course as an elective.

"Our goal is to make this MCAT preparation as a course that will be open for any students ... to have it, like, an elective," Lopez said.

The two interns are planning to meet with college representatives to discuss the project.

"We're planning on meeting with the College of Sciences, the College of

Health Professions and seeing how this course can possibly benefit the university and the students as well," Lopez said.

However, some of the nine current interns have encountered a challenge when coming up with individual projects that will serve UTRGV.

Some of them have never stepped foot on campus.

"I did speak to one of my advisers because we were talking about how it's going to be difficult, the fact that they haven't been on campus, but we work with what we have," Rojas said. "I told them, 'Try not to focus on the situation that we are in right now. Work with what you have and come up something with what you've got.' And that's what they did."

The interns meet virtually with Rojas weekly to discuss their projects and other FYI business, as well as attend SGA

meetings via Zoom.

As a former FYI intern, Rojas learned the importance of being a student leader, preparing him for his previous position as an SGA senator, his present position as FYI director and running for SGA president, he said.

"[The FYI] shaped my leadership to act with compassion and determination to ensure every single student is heard," the SGA presidential candidate said. "It made me learn the inside and the outside of SGA."

Last semester, Samantha Lara, a political science junior, was a member of the FYI. Now, she's the chief justice for the SGA.

The FYI has prepared her for her newest role in the judicial branch, Lara said.

"Personally, for my role, I was mentored under the [previous] chief justice

last semester," she said. "I felt really prepared to take up that position myself, since I was mentored directly under him and I feel really confident that the FYI program has prepared me in all the ways that it possibly could have to become an official member of SGA."

Lara encourages future first-year students to join the program, not only to join an organization, but also to make friendships.

"I still talk to everyone from the FYI program last semester," she said. "Not only was it a great way to get involved with an organization as a first-year student, but it was a great way to make some new friends."

For more information on the FYI, visit VLink.

**BUSINESS**  
*Continued from Page 5*

that it was difficult, but was supported by her customers as she began to sell items.

"It's really hard to be a woman entrepreneur because people think you can't make it or you won't make it, but I think, because I sell women's clothing

and my customers are women, I have had success and my customers trust me," she said.

As a woman running her own company, however small or big, she explained that being the owner with all of its responsibilities makes her feel empowered.

"I feel successful, even if I don't make money because I accomplished some-

thing," Guzman said. "I was able to get a product to someone and to help the person that made it get money in their hands. It is very empowering to be able to do that."

Guzman offers advice to future women entrepreneurs.

"It's going to be hard," she said. "It's always going to be hard to start something, but every time, you just have to

get up and remember what your end goal is, where you want to be. Always have that vision. When I started, my husband was looking at me kind of strange because I only had, maybe, 10 products, and I was already starting my website. ... But you got to visualize it as if I'm going to end up being this big corporation."

**YEAR***Continued from Page 1*

want to acknowledge that it felt different.

"I thought I was doing OK," Ramirez said. "The uncertainty of what was happening. ... Will I have food the next day? Will I be able to go out? Different things. ... Is there going to be electricity the next day for me to do homework? Me starting to get anxious about things that weren't really issues but, in my mind, I was creating them, if that makes sense."

Asked what good she got out of being in a pandemic, she replied that it was to continue learning, working from home, setting realistic short- and long-term goals and studying to prepare for her exams to be a certified graduate.

**BREAK***Continued from Page 3*

"And also, I'm planning on shooting a couple of photos in different clothing items that I've been sent to promote on my Instagram."

Lamas, who does not plan on traveling to the beach or elsewhere during the break, also voiced her concerns for her community with the recent lifting of the mask mandate in Texas.

"I believe that lifting the mask man-

Nursing junior Damaris Guevara said, at the beginning of the pandemic, she did not mind because she had a full load of classes that kept her busy.

"We had a small cohort of students and so, we're, like, pretty close," Guevara said. "And so, in the beginning of our program, we made this group chat and, I guess, over the years we became really close. So, the beginning of quarantine was super, super easy for me, 'cause we all saw each other every day on Zoom. We all talked to each other every night, like, after class. We helped each other study. It was fairly easy."

"I guess the only thing that was kind of difficult was we had our, like, daily routine meeting at Starbucks after class. That [was where we would] study up until midnight, but that was kind of hard

to do because Starbucks wasn't open."

She said she started missing her social life, and, in group chats, not everybody is as social as she is, and not everybody wants to make friends.

"I'm a super, super social person and, I guess, now, right now, in this moment, it's affected me a lot because I miss going out," Guevara said. "I'm used to staying out of my house until, like, midnight, two in the morning. I don't come back until two in the morning. And I miss going out. I miss socializing. I miss my friends, and it's been pretty hard recently."

She works as a home health nurse, so she goes from being stuck at her house to another house.

"I'm so sick of that," Guevara said. "I want to go to the zoo. I want to go to

an aquarium. I want to go out with my friends. I feel like I'm stuck. The only thing that I do sometimes, it will be late at night ... I'll just go to the beach and be by myself. I don't know. It's something different than just being stuck at home."

She said something good she discovered during quarantine was K-pop.

"I ended up finding a group on my own; they're called Stray Kids," Guevara said. "They have kept me sort of sane, and there's one member that goes live every weekend, and he'll play music for everyone to listen to and it's just conversations and somebody would ask a question about advice or whatever, and he'll give you advice. So, it's like a weekend therapy session. I always look forward to that every weekend. I think that's a good thing."

**HISTORY***Continued from Page 8*

historical and national traditions.

In the late 20th century, Merla-Watson said that feminists started to think more multiculturally, globally and intersectionally about women's struggles in order to connect and mobilize against it.

"So, what I mean by intersectionality is understanding that, you know, women are not a homogenous group," she said. "That we have differences along the access of race, class, gender and sexuality and that, while these, sort of, experiences and struggles are different, there are still ways to, sort of, still connect in meaningful ways in order to mobilize, you know, for change."

The concept of intersectional feminism comes from African American feminist legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw in the early '90s, Merla-Watson said.

One of the complaints during the '60s and '70s waves was of white feminism, she said.

"Some groups of white feminism said that ... feminism comes before anything ... even before fighting racism," Merla-Watson said. "And Black women and Latinas, for example, were saying, 'No, like, those two things go hand in hand for us. Those struggles ... go hand in hand for us.'"

She said intersectionality helps recognize how feminism is not homogenous and that it is overlapping categories of identity of race, ethnicity, class and sexuality.

"It's a really important concept, be-

cause it helps us identify, sort of, our baggage, like our privileges within the movement in order to, you know, recognize those privileges and still find ways of ... connecting and mobilizing for particular issues," Merla-Watson said.

She said some feminists that come to mind when talking about intersectional feminism are Angela Davis, Audrey Lorde and, from the Rio Grande Valley, Gloria Anzaldúa.

In 1996, the U.N. gave International Women's Day its first annual theme, "Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future," which was followed in 1997 with "Women at the Peace Table." In 2021, the day's theme is [#ChooseToChallenge](#), stating, "A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions--all day, every day."

"What I appreciate about the day is that it's, sort of, up to women in whatever community to figure out or to, like, interpret what the day and the themes [mean, because the themes] are always really broad, right," Merla-Watson said. "So, it's up to [women] to figure out, like, what International Women's Day means to women in, you know, the Rio Grande Valley or in San Antonio, where I'm from."

"So, for many years, actually, before coming to UTRGV, I used to organize the International Women's Day March. And ... each year in San Antonio, we would organize the march around issues that were, you know, affecting women in San Antonio."

With the first International Women's Day event held in 1911 in Denmark,

tunity. You just never know--that day I was to apply and get picked out of all the students, that would feel surreal. And to know that that could happen, simply for having gone for the application, it would feel like such, such a dream to happen."

Mata-Vasquez said Student Activities is trying its best to host events.

"For this semester, we've actually just

of biomedical sciences, said students should continue following guidelines.

"We were talking this month, this week, about all the dangers that we have, especially our students," Rodriguez said. "I expect [students] to continue doing what they're expected [to be] doing. So, social distancing, wearing a mask, and following all the hygiene measurements, and all the indications provided by the government."

He said students who plan to go to the beach during Spring Break should limit

Austria, Germany and Switzerland, 2021 marks the 110th anniversary of the celebration.

It is important to take a formal moment to pause, recognize and celebrate women's various achievements and progress, Merla-Watson said.

"It's also a really important day to ... educate and educate ourselves around the very real oppressions and struggles that still affect women and not just recognize them, but really try and understand how these issues are systemic, meaning that they can't be solved or thought about for just one day, but that we have to, sort of, meaningfully engage with the issues and systems that have oppressed women," she said.

Various UTRGV departments are [celebrating](#) International Women's Day and Women's History Month with online events.

International Admissions & Student Services, with assistance of the Women's Faculty Network, will celebrate International Women's Day at 3 p.m. today via [Zoom](#). The celebration will also recognize and award Associate Professor of Psychological Science Ruby Charak for UTRGV 2021 Outstanding International Female Faculty and two international students.

"I'm very proud to celebrate International Women's Day at UTRGV so we can recognize our outstanding international, female faculty, and ... our outstanding international female students for their remarkable academic work, community and school involvement," said Samantha Lopez, director of International Admissions & Student Services.

wrapped up our Charreada and Homecoming events," she said. "Unfortunately, our homecoming had to take a little bit of a hit because of weather and games not being played, since Homecoming does revolve a lot around athletics. We tried to do the best that we could with some of these activities. Charreada as well, we couldn't do the in-per-

their interactions with others.

"With the vaccine, you know, people may think, 'Oh, I'm vaccinated. Let's go back to normal,' Rodriguez said. "And no, the new normal, even after vaccination, is we need to maintain the protocols. We need to continue with social distancing, hygiene and wearing masks."

Rodriguez said students should relax during Spring Break and come back with new energy to finish the semester.

The People Series, hosted by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion and Dream Resource Center, will showcase various influential women who have used their voice to make change throughout March. Author and poet Maya Angelou, women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony, and civil rights activist and journalist Ida B. Wells are the women to be featured in The People Series this [month](#).

"I think when people show up, they're like, 'Oh, we're just learning about them together.' And that's really the basic concept," said Aaron Hinojosa, program coordinator. "We encourage people to communicate how someone's work impacts them, influences them, informs them and, I think, there's a lot of beauty and power in that. So, it's not a lecture. I think some people thinking it's going to be [that]. It's not that. It's not a presentation, either. It's really a community learning space."

The University Library will host a discussion at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday via Zoom about resources related to women's issues. It will also screen "The Superheroes of Tomorrow," a film featuring Sana Amanat, Marvel's vice president of content and character development. After the film, a discussion will take place.

"We open up that discussion, pretty much, to the attendees," said Joel Chirinos, head of Research & Instructional Services. "We don't have, really, a specific agenda that we follow other than we go over the library resources first."

son events, but we definitely did some things virtually. But as we start wrapping up the semester events for the spring, know that our student activity team is working with campus partners already to start thinking of ideas for the fall semester."

# Cross country women set personal records

**Karina Rodriguez**

THE RIDER

UTRGV Women's Cross-Country runners Samantha Gonzalez, Estrella Medellin, Ana Hernandez and Janie Delgado set personal records at the 2021 Western Athletic Conference Championships.

The UTRGV Men's and Women's Cross-Country teams finished their 2020-2021 season Feb. 27 at the Jefferson Park Golf Course in Seattle. The men placed fourth of eight teams and the women's team placed fifth of six.

Civil engineering freshman Ana Hernandez placed 36th of 50 with a time of 24:33.60.

Hernandez said being disciplined has been difficult as she continues running.

"I think my biggest challenge has been trying to stay disciplined, like, getting to sleep early [and eating] well and [doing] all the runs," she said.

Hernandez said what reaching her personal record means to her.

"I just wanted to make my parents proud," she said. "I believe I achieved it with everything that was going on. Like, all that has happened to all of us, like COVID, really challenged everyone to keep running, because you had to do many runs on your own, and you get discouraged a little bit."

Accounting freshman Janie Delgado placed 46th of 50 with a time of 25:41.80.

Delgado said she had a different start to her cross-country career compared to other members of the team.

"I kind of started late," she said. "So, it's kind of hard for me to keep up with



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

Freshman distance runner Samantha Gonzalez competes in the University of the Incarnate Word Invitational at Live Oak Main City Park on Jan. 29. Gonzalez set a personal record Feb. 27 at the 2021 Western Athletic Conference Championships in Seattle.



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

Freshman mid-distance runner Estrella Medellin (left) and freshman distance runner Ana Hernandez compete in the University of the Incarnate Word Invitational at Live Oak Main City Park on Jan. 29.

the girls. They almost [had] a month of a head start, and I didn't. So, you know, I had to push myself a lot. [I] try to run by myself more often."

Mechanical engineering freshman Estrella Medellin finished 34th of 50 with a time of 24:24.70.

Medellin said she runs cross-country because she ran in high school.

"I'm pretty sure, just like many of us, we ran throughout high school," she said. "I just didn't want to just end in my senior year of high school. I wanted to continue and see how much I can do in college."

Biology freshman Samantha Gonzalez finished 17th of 50 with a time of 22:30.60.

**For a full list of athletic events, visit [GoUTRGV.edu](http://GoUTRGV.edu)**

Gonzalez said that reaching her personal record at the meet meant a lot to her amid the bizarre season they had.

"It was just, like, reassuring because throughout the whole season we [worked] really hard," she said. "Not having a season during the fall, you know, was hard. [The] hard work and [the getting] to show everything we accomplished ... just really proved to us that the hard work paid off."

Gonzalez said that she was grateful to have the opportunity to run this season.

"You know, with everything going on, it's just a blessing to be able to compete and show all the hard work we did throughout the season," she said

# Women's soccer resumes competition

**Ruben Mohme**

THE RIDER

Midfielder Gina Steiner and the rest of the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team will be on the road throughout Spring Break, facing off against New Mexico State University, Grand Canyon University and California Baptist University.

Everything changed for thousands of college athletes when the NCAA announced in Fall 2020 that it would conduct the fall championships in the Spring of 2021. Women's soccer was one of the many teams that were moved from a fall to spring schedule.

"Usually, women's soccer season is in fall, so we are usually off the whole week," Steiner said regarding Spring Break.

Asked what student athletes normally do on Spring Break, she replied, "Usually, we go on vacations for the week."

Steiner, a graphic design senior from Nuremberg, Germany, said before the pandemic hit Texas, she, her brother and friends drove through Texas.

Asked where she was when UTRGV transitioned to online classes, she replied, "I was at an NBA game watching the Spurs and the next day, that is when they canceled everything



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

Senior midfielder Gina Steiner chases the ball during practice Feb. 20 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.

because of COVID."

The midfielder said the team will focus on games, recovery and practice during Spring Break.

"So, there is, like, no time off really," Steiner said.

She was asked if competing during Spring Break would affect the team's performance.

"No, not really," Steiner said. "I think with us being able to

practice last semester, because of more restrictions, it was a little bit harder for us to get to know the team because we also have a lot of newcomers."

Steiner said her team had competed for about a year.

"It's always more difficult to come back but since we have had seven games [this semester], everything is kinda back to normal," she said.

# This Week in Sports

### Volleyball

- 8 p.m. today and 4 p.m. Tuesday vs. Seattle University in Seattle

### Women's Soccer

- TBA Thursday vs. New Mexico State University in Las Cruces  
- TBA Saturday vs. New Mexico State University in Las Cruces

### Men's Soccer

- Noon Saturday vs. University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in Edinburg

### Women's Tennis

- Noon and 4 p.m. today vs. St. Mary's University in San Antonio

### Men's Tennis

- 11 a.m. Wednesday vs. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi

### Baseball

- 7 p.m. Friday vs. Grand Canyon University in Phoenix  
- 3 and 6 p.m. Saturday vs. Grand Canyon University in Phoenix

### Women's Golf

- 8 a.m. today in the UTRGV Invitational tournament at the South Texas Showdown in McAllen

### Men's Golf

- 8 a.m. today in the Colin Montgomerie Invitational tournament in Spring

### Women's Basketball

- 3, 6 and 10 p.m. Wednesday at the Western Athletic Conference Quarterfinals tournament in Las Vegas

- 1 and 4 p.m. Friday at the Western Athletic Conference Semifinals tournament in Las Vegas

- 4 p.m. Saturday at the Western Athletic Conference Championship in Las Vegas

### Men's Basketball

- 6:30 and 10 p.m. Thursday at the Western Athletic Conference Quarterfinals tournament in Las Vegas

- 7 and 10 p.m. Friday at the Western Athletic Conference Semifinals in Las Vegas

- 9 p.m. Saturday at the Western Athletic Conference Championship in Las Vegas

--Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

There is no greater  
agony,  
  
Than bearing an  
untold story inside  
you

MAYA ANGELOU

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