



Transitions in learning

Some face-to-face classes changing to online

More seats on the bus



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

Daisy Araujo

THE RIDER

UTRGV Parking and Transportation has updated its resources for the Fall semester and has reinstated parking permits and made more seating available on the Vaquero Express.

Parking permits are being reinforced this semester due to some of the UTRGV community resuming classes on campus, according to Rodney Gomez, executive director of Parking and Transportation.

Parking permits were not enforced from September 2020 to August 2021 due to the majority of classes being moved online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They are going to be requiring permits this semester and the spring semester," Gomez said.

He said everything will remain the same as in past years regarding prices and zones for permits.

UTRGV Parking and Transportation had a delay regarding parking permits ordered online because of the third party used for delivery.

"Just a reminder: when you order your permit online, you can print the receipt or temporary permit and place it on your dash until your permit arrives," according to a post on Aug. 22 from the UTRGV Parking and Transportation Facebook page.

However, graduate student Crystal Ballin was told by See **BUS**, Page 8



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

Students walk to the Main Building on the Brownsville campus.

Valeria Henderson

THE RIDER

As Fall 2021 takes off, some classes scheduled as face to face are transitioning to hybrid or online to allow flexibility for faculty and students.

"A faculty member can choose, if they are teaching a face-to-face class, can choose to deliver a portion of that class in a hybrid environment to reduce density, if they feel that they need to do that for the health and safety of everyone," said Kimberly Selber, an associate professor and coordinator for the graduate program in the Communication Department.

[Faculty members] can make that choice, as long as they are making sure that the students

are informed and aren't confused, Selber said. So, they gave us a lot of leeway to do that. And [I] was told 'Really it's what you're comfortable with.'

Selber said faculty members can make that choice as long as they make sure students are informed. She said the university gave faculty a lot of leeway.

"And [I] was told, 'Really it's what you're comfortable with,'" she said. "I saw in my first two classes, 100% of the students were wearing masks. As you all know, we cannot mandate masks, but I think it was a great showing of how much the students care about one another, that they're willing to be uncomfortable and wear a mask. And I think

it's both for their own health and safety but also being considerate to others."

It is about keeping everyone safe, but not becoming paralyzed, Selber said.

"That's really what this is about," she said. "It's about giving the professors, giving the faculty, the leeway to figure out how to get it done in the best possible way for our students," she said.

"My three classes are all face to face," said Selber, adding that she will not be changing them.

Contacted last Thursday, Janna Arney, UTRGV deputy president and interim provost, said she did not have an estimate of how many courses have changed from in person to hybrid or online.

"Our course schedule was put together last spring," Arney said. "Students registered for particular courses that were offered in particular modalities and, so, we wanted very much to keep the schedule like what they registered for. We wanted to make sure to give students and faculty the ability to offer their courses in a way-- let's say a student becomes ill or unable to come to class--that the courses were still set up with hybrid teachers to allow that student to continue along their educational journey."

Selber said she is testing new education technology. She is working with Information Technology to test the Meeting Owl. The Owl has a small See **TRANSITIONS**, Page 2

UT Health RGV offers third dose to those who qualify

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

UT Health RGV continues to focus on ensuring the safety of the university community as it offers third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine against COVID-19 to those who qualify.

"We delivered the first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine to tens of thousands of people during the earlier parts of this year, starting in mid-December and continuing to today," said Dr. Michael Dobbs, chief medical officer for UT Health RGV. "So, these are our patients. We have an obligation to take care of our patients going forward."

If there are students, faculty or staff who qualify

for and want the third dose of the vaccine, Dobbs said UT Health RGV will supply it for them, even if they did not receive their first two doses on campus.

"Right now, the third dose is given to people who are immunocompromised," he said. "The way it works is that the CDC has listed some conditions for which people would qualify."

The immunocompromised include individuals who have:

- been receiving cancer treatment for tumors or cancer of the blood
- received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency

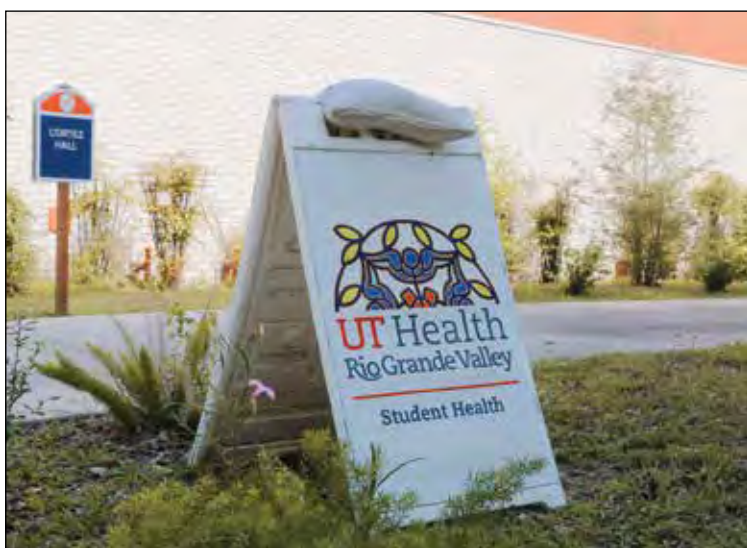
--advanced or untreated HIV infection

UT Health has been instructed to have individuals attest that they qualify for the third dose, Dobbs said, and then if they do, they will have the third dose administered to them.

"What I would do is I would suggest that people who are interested first look at the conditions that constitute being immunocompromised. See if that includes you," he said. "If it does and you want a third dose of vaccine, make an appointment and come and get your vaccine."

Dobbs said it is advisable for individuals to bring their record of having received the first two doses when they

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Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

The UT Health RGV Student Health center is located in Cortez Hall in Brownsville.

THE RIDER

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



MORE THAN A VAQUEROS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Bible Study
Christians at
RGV will hold a
Bible study from
12:15 to 1:30 p.m. via
Zoom. RSVP is avail-

able on V Link.

Tuesday

Arts & Crafts

The First Year Experience organization will host an **Arts & Crafts** event where students will be able to **create their own pencil toppers, make bookmarks and decorate school supplies** from 5 to 6 p.m. on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. RSVP is available on V Link.

Wednesday

Teacher Leadership Webinar

Learn general information about **UTRGV's Master of Education in Teacher Leadership** program, including **admission requirements, financial assistance and scholarships**. The event will be presented by a **UTRGV Graduate College** staff member and the **Teacher Leadership** program coordinator from 5 to 6 p.m. To register, visit register.gotowebinar.com/register.

Involvement Fair

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **recognized student organization virtual in-**

volvement fair from noon to 2 p.m. To register on V Link, visit utrgv.campuslabs.com/engage/event.

Thursday

Late Nite

University Recreation will host a variety of **fun and interactive activities** for the Fall 2021 semester. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the UREC in Edinburg and at the same time on the Student Union Lawn in Brownsville.

Business Analytics Online Program

The **Graduate College** will host **Information Systems Assistant Professor Murad Moqbel** and the **Recruitment Team** to discuss the **Master's in Business Analytics program** at UTRGV from noon to 1 p.m. The program will provide knowledge in **data selection, preparation and storage** and more through **hands-on experience**. To register, visit register.gotowebinar.com/register.

LibGuides

The **UTRGV Library** will host an **open workshop session** to brainstorm ideas on how to incorporate faculty-program **LibGuides** into courses from 12:30 to 1 p.m. To register, visit V Link.

Online Concert

The **Patron of the Arts** will present **pianist Eliza Folkert in concert** at 7 p.m. at www.utrgv.edu/patron/.

Fraternity & Sorority Life Virtual Fair

Student Involvement will host virtual involvement fairs for students to **connect with registered organizations** from 5 to 7 p.m. RSVP is available on V Link.

Self-Tape Audition Workshop

The **Pharr Community Theater** will host a **self-tape/audition workshop** to learn about self-taping with phone cameras for auditions. **Advice for realistic acting in film, commercials or theater** will also be provided. **No materials required.** The event is limited in capacity and will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the **Development Research Center**. To buy tickets to the event, visit tinyurl.com/pctauditioning. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Saturday

Self-Tape Audition Workshop

The **Pharr Community Theater** will host a **self-tape/audition workshop** to learn about self-taping with phone cameras for auditions. **Advice for realistic acting in film, commercials or theater** will also be provided. **No materials required.** The event is limited in capacity and will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at the **Development Research Center**. To buy tickets to the event, visit tinyurl.com/pctauditioning. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 18 and 24.



Aug. 18

11:17 a.m.: A student on the Brownsville campus reported making a deposit toward her student loan on July 27 at the Bursar's Office but her account has not been credited. An

officer contacted a staff member in the Bursar's Office who was already looking into the incident. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

1:07 p.m.: An officer responded to a shattered bus window on the shuttle in Lot E-34 on the Edinburg campus. Facilities staff were mowing the grass in the area during the time of the incident.

2:27 p.m.: A student on the Brownsville campus reported he had received harassing text messages from a non-affiliated acquaintance. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 19

3:47 a.m.: UTRGV Officers located several damaged pedestrian crossing traffic signs placed in the area of Van Week and Schunior streets next to the Edinburg campus. Upon further investigation, UTRGV detectives identified a suspect in the incident. He was booked into the Edinburg City Jail without incident on a class B misdemeanor charge.

Aug. 20

2:07 p.m.: An officer responded to an active fire alarm in the Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building on the Edinburg campus. An investigation revealed that an unknown woman pulled the fire alarm, mistaking it for an exit button to open the door. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

2:38 p.m.: A public safety officer responded to a fire alarm in the Student Services building on the Edinburg campus. The officer checked the fire

panel, which indicated smoke on the first floor of the building. An investigation revealed the construction crew was using grinding tools at the location and accidentally set off the alarm.

5:21 p.m.: A staff member reported a shattered office window located on the second floor in the University Center on the Brownsville campus. Facilities staff were cutting tree branches in the area during the time of the incident. A work order was placed to replace the broken window.

Aug. 21

9:23 a.m.: A student lost his wallet Aug. 20 in the Performing Arts Complex Building on the Edinburg campus. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

12:38 p.m.: The housing coordinator at the Village Apartments reported an individual had been occupying an empty room without authorization. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

Aug. 22

4:09 p.m.: An officer checked on the status of an ambulance that was parked in Lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. The ambulance responded to the location in reference to a non-affiliated man feeling dizzy. The man declined medical transport and was picked up by his father.

Aug. 23

7:12 a.m.: An officer driving a university-owned vehicle was struck by a non-affiliated driver at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 77 and West University Boulevard in Brownsville. No injuries were reported, only minor damage to both vehicles.

8:28 a.m.: A graduate student reported losing his university-issued keys on Aug. 11 in the UT Health Biomedical Research Facility on the Edinburg campus.

2:03 p.m.: A student received an email on Aug. 19 announcing an internship. The student later received a cashier's

check and learned the posting was a scam.

3:17 p.m.: A custodian reported finding a clear plastic bag containing a white powdery substance in the Science Complex Building on the Edinburg campus. An officer took custody of the bag and tested the substance for narcotics. An investigation revealed the substance was baking soda and was submitted for destruction.

8:34 p.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle sustained minor damage to the rear bumper. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 24

8:30 a.m.: An officer on the Brownsville campus responded to undocumented individuals in the brush area of Lot B-4. The officer observed a man walk out from the area. U.S. Border Patrol agents arrived and took custody of the individuals without incident.

11:57 a.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot B-2 on the Brownsville campus. The vehicle sustained minor damage to the rear right fender. The case is under investigation.

12:22 p.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle sustained minor damage to the rear fender. The case is under investigation.

4:05 p.m.: A student from the Brownsville Early College High School injured her ankle while exiting a transportation golf cart. The student sustained a swollen ankle and was transported to an off-campus medical facility by her mother.

7:46 p.m.: A student reported another student assaulted her by grabbing her arm in an attempt to get her attention. The incident occurred at the bus zone in the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Danielle Perez

TRANSITIONS

Continued from Page 1

speaker, a 360-degree camera and microphone. It offers a panoramic view of everyone in the room.

"It creates the experience of in-person participation for hybrid teams and integrates seamlessly with conferencing platforms," according to its website.

She said there are only so many smart classrooms and Zoom classrooms, but the Owl is portable. It picks up microphones and video.

"We're here for a reason and we want to educate you and make great alumni

and great citizens that are servant leaders and conscientious," Selber said. "And you do that by learning good habits and part of that is showing up on all definitions of that."

Ashley Cho, a graphic design senior, said her four face-to-face classes were online the first week.

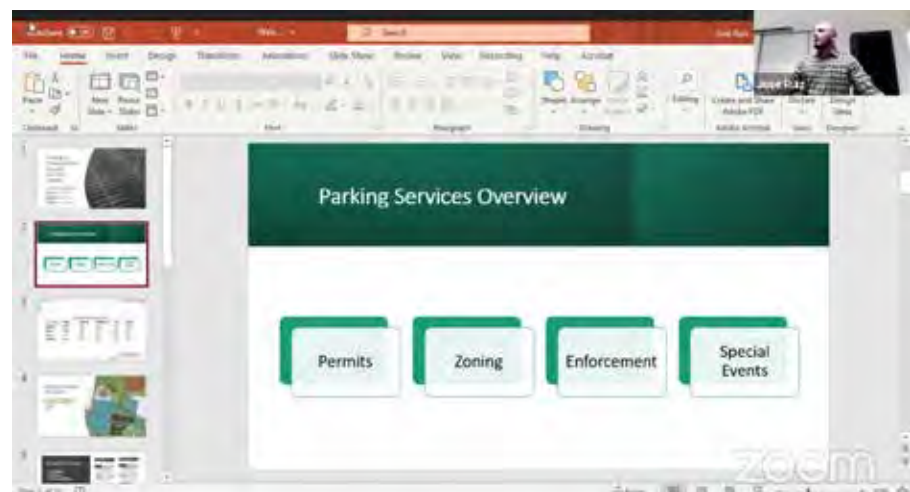
"They just said it was due to the pandemic and, like, the delta variant, that they're going to see how it goes the first two weeks and, if not, they're going to make us come just full traditionally," Cho said, referring to her professors.

Even with the changes in classes and learning environments, student

activities and other events are still being planned in person and have not been changed.

"We are offering different events throughout the week," said Karen Dorado, director of special programs and community relations for University Marketing and Communication. "We're offering them in a virtual capacity, in person and then hybrid as well. So, at the moment, our plans continue to be what they were as of a week ago. I'm not changing any of the plans at the moment. But, if anything changes, we'll update that on the Best Week Ever website."

SGA passes new legislation



Screenshot taken by Daisy Araujo during the Student Government Association meeting.

Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, gives an overview of the different areas of the department during the eighth Student Government Association meeting held last Tuesday via Zoom.

article nine to be simpler regarding the impeachment of a person in a leadership position and gives power to the judicial branch to take over the ruling.

The amendment was passed by a majority vote.

In other news, Director of Parking Services Pablo Aguilar gave a presentation about the parking and transportation resources available to the student body.

Aguilar discussed the variety of parking permits available for students, staff and faculty at UTRGV and showed the different pricing for each permit.

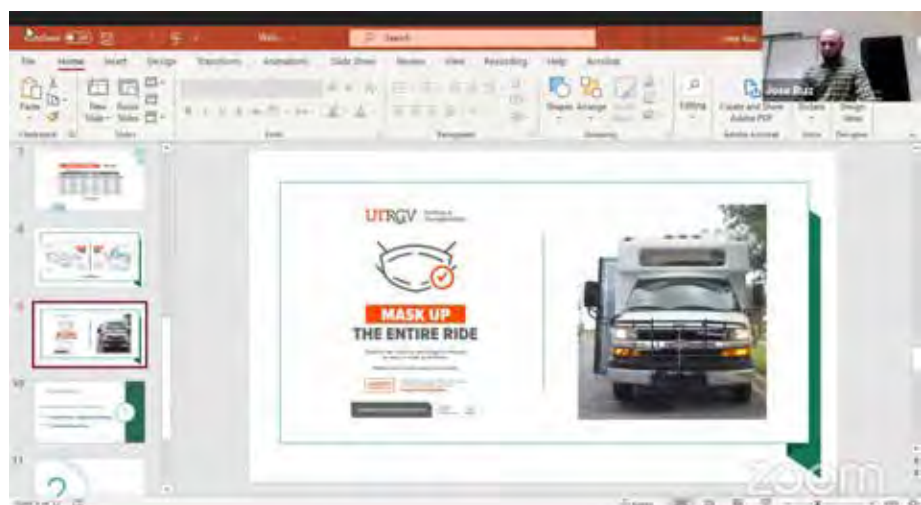
An update that UTRGV Parking and Transportation implemented was a parking space counter

to know the parking spot availability on both campuses, he said. One has been added to Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus and two were added to Lots E-32 and E-9 on the Edinburg campus.

“We want to make it easier for students, so they can have a better experience in their parking and transportation need,” Aguilar said.

The director of Parking Services also discussed the delay of parking permits, and further explained the delay was due to the third party that delivers them.

Aguilar also made it clear to the student body through the Facebook Live SGA meeting that students could place proof of parking permit purchase until their permit arrives.



Screenshot taken by Daisy Araujo during the Student Government Association meeting

Parking Services Director Pablo Aguilar informs the student body of the mask mandate when riding any transportation provided by UTRGV.

Daisy Araujo THE RIDER

The Student Government Association passed a new bill and a new amendment, and heard from the Parking Services director about resources provided at UTRGV during last Tuesday’s meeting.

One of the bills that was passed was the Student Activism and Advocacy Program (SAAP), which was created to allow the SGA to give its utmost attention to any initiative presented to them.

Currently, the SAAP legislation has four initiatives included. Two of the initiatives were the Collegiate Advancement Student Advisory Council (CASAC) and the Environmental and Agriculture

Awareness Program.

The CASAC “is to be housed under the Student Activism & Advocacy Program Initiative,” according to the SAAP bill.

The Environmental and Agriculture Awareness Program “will serve to establish the importance of living sustainably ... through sustainable practices that will be available for all SGA Members, students, and the community alike,” according to the SAAP Bill.

The bill passed by a majority vote. The second legislation that was discussed was the CASAC Impeachment Procedure Amendment, written by Carlos Mata, chair of the Academic Affairs Standing Committee.

According to Mata, the CASAC amendment was made to revise

UTRGV Day of Giving



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

As part of the celebration, La Pale Frozen Fruit Bar popsicles were served to the UTRGV community. Computer engineering senior Nestor Infante (right) hands a popsicle to political science junior Ashley Tovar.

Daisy Araujo THE RIDER

UTRGV Day of Giving, an annual event, was held for 24 hours starting Wednesday to help fundraise for the university’s colleges, programs and scholarships in benefit of the students.

The fundraising event was held online and people were able to donate funds through the website.

Donations could also be mailed to the Division of Institutional Advancement, according to Kelli Quin, the director of Annual Giving.

The overall fund goal for the UTRGV Day of Giving was to receive more than 350 supporters, according to Quin.

“The main purpose of the event was to raise the funds for the benefit of the

students,” she said.

As of press time, \$86,028 was raised from 471 supporters, according to the UTRGV Day of Giving website.

Areas of greatest need received the most gifts and led to \$17,295 raised.

The areas of greatest need cover the expenses of student programs, research, increased access to health-care services, according to the website.

These donations will benefit the students and the UTRGV community by providing more resources in different areas of the community.

“The goal this year was to really show the power of collective action, and really going outside the walls of the university to get the community involved ... and show the power of giving back,” Quin said.

HEALTH Continued from Page 1

come in for the third dose.

The third dose is already being administered to immunocompromised individuals.

“We’ve been doing that for a couple of weeks since we received guidance from the FDA that we were clear to do so,” Dobbs said. “It is anticipated that everyone who received a first and second dose will qualify to receive a third dose.”

However, he said this information is from the White House, not the Food and Drug Administration or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; UT Health RGV

will wait for information from these agencies before it proceeds with making the third dose available to everyone, not just those who are immunocompromised.

Clarissa Ramos is a UTRGV rehabilitation services freshman.

“I don’t think it’s a bad thing at all,” Ramos replied when asked about her thoughts on the third dose being offered on campus. “I actually feel more comfortable that I am vaccinated, just because you are surrounded by a lot more people.”

Ramos said she prefers in-person class over online, and that being vaccinated and ensuring everyone’s safety has made it more comfortable to be back in class.

“If you look around, cases have gotten really bad,” says Ramos. “I think it’s just better that people got vaccinated.”

Ramos said she would consider a COVID-19 booster shot for herself if it were offered.

Kristen Tobias, a philosophy senior, is skeptical of the vaccine and personally against it.

“My thing is, if people want to get the vaccine, that’s entirely up to them,” Tobias replied when asked about the third doses offered to qualifying individuals. “I’m not going to hate on someone because they’re getting the vaccine. Given the same thing, I think those who do get vaccinated should not hate

on those who decide not to.”

Tobias said those who want their views accepted should be accepting of others’ in return.

In the meantime, Dobbs said UT Health RGV will continue to deliver the vaccine for COVID as long as COVID is a health care issue.

“We want to be here for our campus community and for the Rio Grande Valley community to deliver the vaccine as long as they need it,” he said. “The overall message is that if you need the vaccine, we have it for you.”

VAQUERO VOICE



VENDING MACHINE

On Aug. 23, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What is your favorite go-to beverage in a vending machine?" The results are shown below.

facebook



twitter



Instagram



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER



Sodavs vs. water



Danielle Perez
THE RIDER

When I was younger, I used to be a big fan of soda. I would always find myself drinking juices with tons of sugar, all kinds of carbonated beverages and hardly any water. As a kid, you do not know what is good for you and what is not. All you care about is what tastes good.

As I started getting older, I started to realize that I enjoyed drinks with less sugar in them. I started drinking iced tea with mostly water and a little sugar. It was not long after that, I started to drift away from sodas.

I realized that my stomach aches were actually coming from the beverages I would drink and not the food. Usually after having a meal, I would feel very bloated and unpleasant, leaving me not wanting to grab seconds.

Shortly after that, I started to experiment by drinking water with meals to see how it

would make me feel.

For a period of time, it was very difficult for me, so I decided to not have anything to drink instead. But, as time went on, the awkwardness started to fade and I felt comfortable having water instead.

After doing research, I learned that drinking water with meals helps digest food by breaking it down and allowing the body to absorb nutrients.

“For that reason, it is important to be aware and understand what you are consuming.”

It also helps you control weight gain by preventing overeating. This will help you feel lighter after a meal. Some people believe it is bad to drink water during meals, but it is a myth, according to USA TODAY.

On the other hand, around half an hour after drinking Coca-Cola, the body has absorbed all the caffeine. This causes the pupils to dilate and an increase of blood pressure, which blocks adenosine receptors in the brain. The

production of dopamine has increased, which is a transmitter that helps control the pleasure of the brain. According to Medical News Today, Coca-Cola has similar effects to heroin due to the way it fuels the centers. It leaves a person with the urge to drink more.

In 2018, other research showed that sugar-sweetened beverages also have effects on the brain. The study has shown that these drinks increase the levels of certain chemicals that relate to brain activity, increasing the risk of a stroke and dementia, according to Medical News Today.

After learning about this, it made me realize that there is more to beverages and food that we put into our system. For that reason, it is important to be aware and understand what you are consuming.

Now, do not get me wrong, once in a while I get cravings for a tasty bubbling Coca-Cola from the movie theater, or a Sprite from McDonald's. But, it is up to me to decide how I want to feel afterwards. It is a tough battle we will always face, but sometimes it is worth the sacrifice.

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.

El estar fuera de casa: ventajas y desventajas



Fatima Gamez Lopez/FOTO RIDER

Rebeca Santos, estudiante internacional de nuevo ingreso, estudia en la facultad de diseño gráfico en el campus de Edinburg. Cuenta su experiencia al emigrar de Cuernavaca, Morelos, México, a los Estados Unidos en busca de una mejor educación.

Fatima Gamez Lopez

THE RIDER

A veces es difícil poder salir adelante tenemos que dejar nuestra vida por detrás para comenzar desde cero.

“Lo hago por ellos en un futuro”. Esas fueron las palabras de la estudiante internacional de primer año Rebeca Santos.

Santos, estudiante de primer año de diseño gráfico, comenzó su primer semestre en las instalaciones de UTRGV. Santos emigró de Cuernavaca, Morelos, México, a los Estados Unidos con el propósito de tener una

mejor educación.

“Me siento nerviosa porque es un nuevo semestre en un nuevo lugar pero con muchas ganas de iniciar”, dijo. “Yo ya quería volver a la escuela presencial y ver a gente. Creo que me va a ayudar mucho saber que tengo clases presenciales y saber que estoy ahí y no estoy sola en mi dormitorio”.

Santos dijo que el ser más tímida y la dificultad de interactuar con otras personas fueron unas de las consecuencias que las clases virtuales le dejaron.

Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, terapeuta clínica en las instalaciones de UTRGV, habló sobre cómo

la pandemia afectó a todo el mundo. Ya sea emocional o mentalmente, todos han sentido algún tipo de ansiedad o estrés durante el año y medio que llevamos de pandemia, dijo Mazariegos.

“Hay muchos choques culturales, a pesar de que en esta región la cultura mexicana está como muy arraigada”, Santos dijo. “Hay muchas diferencias a las cuales me estoy acostumbrando y estoy aprendiendo y todavía me falta muchísimo por aprender. Entonces siento que el mudarme a un nuevo país me va a afectar pero no de manera negativa”.

“El emigrar a otro país en busca de una mejor vida es

comenzar básicamente desde cero, en un ambiente diferente con personas diferentes y un lenguaje diferente”, dijo Mazariegos. “Ahí es cuando llega la ansiedad, el sentir que el mundo está en contra de ti. Muchas veces las personas juzgan sin comprender el porqué las personas hacen lo que hacen”.

Santos describió cómo se siente al estar fuera de su país de origen.

“Estar muy lejos de mi familia y que ahora yo tenga que hacerme cargo de todo lo que me pase, entonces yo creo que eso sería en lo que más me afectaría”, dijo Santos.

Durante la pandemia aprendimos que el distanciarnos por cuidar nuestra salud y la salud de las personas que nos rodean nos hizo darnos cuenta de lo necesario que es sentir que alguien está ahí para nosotros, pero para Solis el distanciarse de sus padres no solo será por cuidar de su salud si no para cumplir sus metas y deseos.

Cuando se le preguntó a la terapeuta Mazariegos sobre cómo el emigrar de un país en busca de una mejor educación puede afectar la salud de los estudiantes, ella comprendió el dolor de dejar un trozo de su vida atrás.

“Esa pregunta me llega al centro del corazón”, dijo. “Personalmente se muy bien la historia de un estudiante que deja su país, deja toda familia para venir a tener una mejor educación y como le puede afectar en general. Imagínate que te saquen de

tu mundo de tu habidad eso te va a afectar, vas a extrañar a muchas personas, a nuestra cultura, nuestra gente, nuestra comida, nuestra vida, de una forma es reinventarnos pero conservando nuestras raíces.

Mazariegos dijo que hay personas que eso se les acomoda bien porque se acoplan a una nueva cultura con un estilo de vida diferente y adaptan más cosas sin dejar ir su centro y sus raíces, pero a otros no.

“Hay personas que no, que no logran acoplarse y usualmente esas son las personas que cuando son estudiantes internacionales si los vemos en nuestro centro para trabajar temas como el ajustarse a este nuevo estudio de vida, nuevas amistades a estudiar esta materia de esta forma”, dijo. “Entonces queda claro que tiene que ver con cambios, cuando hay cambios positivos o negativos uno puede esperar que algún desbalance de nuestra salud mental pueda suceder”.

El tener que acoplarse a un nuevo estilo de vida puede ser difícil para muchas personas. Pueden llegar a un punto en el que se sienten culpables, culpables por dejar a sus padres, familia y amigos atrás. Comienzan a ver fotos en las redes sociales de sus amigos y familiares celebrando cumpleaños o festividades sin ellos.

Mazariegos recomienda a los estudiantes no dejar a un lado sus sentimientos y

Ve, CASA Página 8

Transiciones en el aprendizaje

Algunas clases presenciales cambian a en línea

Valeria Henderson

THE RIDER

A medida que despega el otoño del 2021, algunas clases programadas como presenciales están pasando a ser híbridas o en línea para permitir flexibilidad para profesores y estudiantes.

“Un miembro de la facultad puede elegir, si está impartiendo una clase presencial, puede optar por impartir una parte de esa clase en un entorno híbrido para reducir la densidad, si siente que debe hacerlo por la salud y la seguridad de todos”, dijo Kimberly Selber, profesora asociada y coordinadora del programa de posgrado en el Departamento de Comunicación.

“[Los miembros de la facultad] pueden tomar esa decisión, siempre y cuando se aseguren de que los estudiantes estén informados y no confundidos”, dijo Selber. “Entonces, nos dieron mucho margen para hacer eso. Y me dijeron: ‘Realmente es con lo que te sientes cómoda’”.

Selber dijo que los miembros de la facultad pueden tomar esa decisión siempre que se aseguren de que los estudiantes estén informados. Ella dijo que la universidad le dio a la facultad mucho margen de maniobra.

“Y me dijeron: ‘Realmente es con lo que te sientes

cómoda’”, dijo. “Vi en mis dos primeras clases, el 100% de los estudiantes usaban máscaras. Como todos saben, no podemos exigir máscaras, pero creo que fue una gran demostración de cuánto se preocupan los estudiantes por los demás, que están dispuestos a sentirse incómodos y usar una máscara. Y creo que es tanto por su propia salud y seguridad como por ser considerado con los demás”.

Se trata de mantener a todos a salvo, pero sin quedar paralizados, dijo Selber.

“De eso se trata realmente”, dijo. “Se trata de darles a los profesores, a los de facultad, el margen de maniobra para descubrir cómo hacerlo de la mejor manera posible para nuestros estudiantes”, dijo.

“Mis tres clases son todas cara a cara”, dijo Selber, y agregó que no las cambiará.

Contactada el jueves pasado, Janna Arney, vicepresidenta de UTRGV y rectora interina, dijo que no tenía una estimación de cuántos cursos han cambiado de presencial a híbrido u online.

“Nuestro programa de cursos fue elaborado la primavera pasada”, dijo Arney. “Los estudiantes se inscribieron en cursos particulares que se ofrecieron en modalidades particulares y por lo tanto, queríamos mantener el horario como

el que se inscribieron. Queríamos asegurarnos de brindarles a los estudiantes y al profesorado la capacidad de ofrecer sus cursos de una manera, digamos que un estudiante se enferma o no puede asistir a clase, que los cursos aún se establezcan con maestros híbridos para permitir que ese estudiante continúe con su viaje educativo”.

Selber dijo que está probando nueva tecnología educativa. Ella está trabajando con el departamento de Tecnología de la Información para probar el Meeting Owl. El búho tiene un pequeño altavoz, una cámara de 360 grados y un micrófono. Ofrece una vista panorámica de todos en la habitación.

“Crea la experiencia de participación en persona para equipos híbridos y se integra a la perfección con plataformas de conferencias”, según su sitio web.

Ella dijo que solo hay un número limitado de aulas inteligentes y aulas Zoom, pero el Owl es portátil. Recoge micrófonos y video.

“Estamos aquí por una razón y queremos educarlos y ser grandes alumnos y grandes ciudadanos que sean líderes serviciales y concienzudos”, dijo Selber. “Y lo haces aprendiendo buenos hábitos y parte de eso está apareciendo en todas las definiciones de



Luis Martinez Santillano/FOTO RIDER

Gina Gwen Palacios, una profesora de la Escuela de Artes, presenta materiales para su clase híbrida.

eso”.

Ashley Cho, estudiante de último año en diseño gráfico, dijo que sus cuatro clases presenciales fueron en línea la primera semana.

“Simplemente dijeron que se debía a la pandemia y, como, a la variante delta, que van a ver cómo va las primeras dos semanas y, si no, van a hacer que vengamos completamente llenos tradicionalmente”, Cho dijo, refiriéndose a sus profesores.

Incluso con los cambios en las clases y los entornos de aprendizaje, las actividades de los estudiantes y otros eventos aún se están planificando en persona y no se han modificado.

“Estamos ofreciendo diferentes eventos a lo largo de la semana”, dijo Karen Dorado, directora de programas especiales y relaciones comunitarias de Marketing y Comunicación Universitarios. “Los estamos ofreciendo en una capacidad virtual, en persona y luego también de forma híbrida. Entonces, por el momento, nuestros planes continúan siendo los que eran hace una semana. No voy a cambiar ninguno de los planes por el momento. Pero, si algo cambia, lo actualizaremos en el sitio web de Best Week Ever”.

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

B W E



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

A poster of engineering management graduate student Priscila de Azevedo Drummond is displayed Aug. 23 on the Main Building lawn during the International Flag Poster Parade. The event was held on both campuses and celebrated the return and diversity of the university community.



Kaitlyn Polvado/THE RIDER

Cars fill the Baseball Field parking lot on the Edinburg campus Tuesday night for the screening of the musical "Grease" at the '50s Movie Drive-In Night on the Edinburg campus.



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Jonathan Marks, a kinesiology junior, watches the Sele-na cover band BidiBidiBanda last Thursday during The Stomp Watch Party in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Business juniors Jovanna Chavez and Alan Torres grab a cupcake last Wednesday during UTRGV Day at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences freshman Juan Gracia looks at the T-shirt he received at the Spirit Rally, held last Wednesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

2021



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Members of the UTRGV leadership team served food to hundreds of students on both campuses last August 23 and last Tuesday. Shown are (from left) Rick Anderson, executive vice president for Finance and Administration; Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics; Janna Arney, deputy president and interim provost; Guy Bailey, UTRGV president; Veronica Gonzales, senior vice president for Governmental and Community Relations; and Parwinder Grewal, executive vice president for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Biology freshman Cassidy Mello receives a free T-shirt during UTRGV Day Wednesday at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

UTRGV celebrated its sixth anniversary during UTRGV Day last Wednesday on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses. Students, faculty and staff connected with Staff Senate members, received a free T-shirt, reusable face covering, a cupcake and a beverage. Shown are health science sophomore Alan Chavez (left) and nutrition sophomore Estephania Aviles.



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Janna Arney, deputy president and interim provost, helps at the Picnic with the President in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Rick Anderson, executive vice president for Finance and Administration, hands food to students at Picnic with the President.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Aries-You have a tendency to bite off more than you can chew. Remember that you cannot do everything at once. This week, take your time with tasks and you just might find that you like taking it slow.

Taurus-Instead of worrying about what others think of you, use this week to impress yourself by accomplishing something you have been putting off. You do not need anyone's approval to do the things you want. You are independent.

Gemini-Although your hardworking nature is a notable trait, you are in desperate need of a break. Do not be afraid of going for what you want; take the first step toward that goal you think is just a pipe dream.

Cancer-Change is not easy for you. So, you might find that you are still working through the growing pains of this new chapter in your life. You could get to where you want to be if you took the advice of those around you.

Leo-While it may feel like you always have to be on, those closest to you can see through your class clown persona. Take time to nourish your relationships with those who see you for who you truly are.

Virgo-Planning is your forte, but do not get so caught up in the future that you forget to be present in the now. Your loved ones are always there to listen to your ambitions. Make sure you are returning the attention when the conversation is no longer about you.

Libra-If there was ever a mother/father role, you embody it to a tee. Know that it is not your job to fix everyone's problems. You'll find out who your friends are this week when the roles are reversed. Try to act surprised.

Scorpio-The soul is not meant to hold so much in. One slight nudge and you might get set off this week. Instead of creating "what-if" scenarios in your mind, talk it out with someone you trust and you'll find the answers you're seeking.

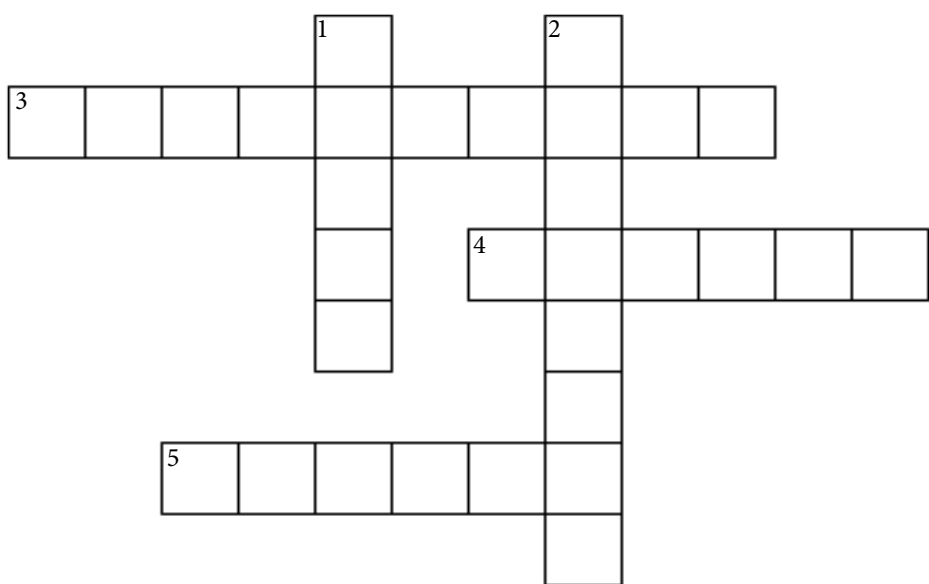
Sagittarius-Confidence. Find it within yourself to identify the traits you love most about you. As much as you would like to run away from your problems and isolate, remember that you have support in those you love.

Capricorn-You know what it feels like to be confident and insecure at the same time. More often than not you convince yourself that you are happy until even you believe it. This week drop the fake smiles and let yourself express what you truly feel.

Aquarius-You may feel unmotivated this week, so shake off that funk by changing up your routine. You may not know how you feel about a specific topic. Listen to your intuition, your gut won't steer you wrong.

Pisces-Be wary of who you let into your space. You have a tendency to be over trusting of those who do not deserve it. This week, know that it is OK to say no to people. You may have to use it.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across**
- According to this issue's sports story, what sport is about to have its first home game Sept. 9?
 - Finish the statement based on the photos shown in the paper: _____ with the President.
 - What is the first name of The Rider newspaper's cartoonist?
- Down**
- What is the brand now serving as UTRGV's exclusive beverage provider?
 - Who wrote the column for this week's issue?

By Kaitlyn Polvado

Down: 1. Pepsi 2. Danielle
Across: 3. Volleyball 4. Picnic 5. Ariael



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

A student boards the Vaquero Express Aug. 24 on the Edinburg campus in front of the Visitors Center. The Vaquero Express is available to students and employees of UTRGV. Riders must show a student or employee ID.

BUS
Continued from Page 1

a parking enforcement assistant Aug. 23 that she was not allowed to place a receipt as a temporary

parking permit.

On Aug. 23, UTRGV Parking and Transportation posted on its Facebook page, "Waiting for your permit to arrive? Don't sweat it; print out your permit receipt and display it on your dash."

Students can purchase parking permits online through the Parking and Transportation Services website at utrgv.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal.

Parking permits are available for purchase at the Police and Parking & Transportation Offices building on the Edinburg campus and in the Vaquero Plaza, building A on the Brownsville campus.

The department has also implemented technology in three parking lots, allowing students to view how many parking spaces are available. Counters have been added to Lot B-1 on the

Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



Brownsville campus, and two were added to Lots E-32 and E-9 on the Edinburg campus. Updates on the availability of parking spaces are posted on its website for students to be able to find parking faster.

The Parking and Transportation Services updated riding rules for Vaquero Express vehicles.

According to Gomez, the Vaquero Express vehicles no longer have limited seating to maximize the number of passengers.

However, safety riding rules on all transportation are still being implemented inside the vehicles. When riding any Vaquero Express transportation, passengers must wear masks, and sanitation and social distancing while waiting to board will be required.

"Vaquero Express, it operates as

a federally-funded public transit provider," Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services said during a Facebook live Student Government Association meeting Tuesday. "It will only operate under the safety conditions or those controls that are in place by the [Federal Transit Administration]."

Vaquero Express vehicles are being sanitized regularly.

"We have a break scheduled at the end of the shift, at the beginning of the shift, and during the end of trip times," Gomez said.

For Vaquero Express Transportation schedules, visit the Parking and Transportation website.

Getting the culture right



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Volleyball Team practices last Wednesday at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Their first game of the season was against Alcorn State University in New Orleans as part of the New Orleans Invitational last Friday. Results were not available as of press time.

Omar Zapata

THE RIDER

After going 2-15 last season, UTRGV Volleyball Head Coach Todd Lowery told The Rider the team's goals this year are to establish a team culture and focus on strength and conditioning.

"The big thing for us was we were going to get the culture right this year," Lowery said. "And I think that's what we've focused on so far, is doing things the right way and doing those things the right way all the time. And I feel like after that, the wins and losses, all that kind of stuff, will fall into place. But, getting the culture right, playing for each other and playing hard every day, and valuing every point that we go out and play has been our focus."

He said some of the ways the team is trying to get the culture right is by talking about their priorities and making choices on and off the court that align with the vision and allowing student athletes to be the best versions of themselves.

"I think that was one of the hardest things to manage, was team dynamics during the COVID year," Lowery said. "The girls were kind of separated away from everybody, separated from each other, even a little bit into their own apartments, no fans."

Asked what his thoughts were about last season, Lowery replied, "Last year was definitely a rough go for us, you know, for whatever reason, things just didn't fall into place."

The team had a Western Athletic Conference (WAC)

record of 2-13 last season. The team had a 1-5 home record and 1-8 away record.

With eight newcomers on the team, Lowery said it is a lot of new faces that he expects to play big roles this season.

"We expect to see Ioanna [Charitonidi] in the libero spot," he said. "She was with us last year [but] couldn't play. Luanna [Emiliano] and Julia [Abramo Rocha], both two new setters on the court. ... New middle in the gym [with] Perris [Key], Maria [Eduarda Rodrigues]. A whole bunch of

there and hit it hard and go as aggressive. And knowing that your teammates are going to be there for covering you, or your teammates are going to be there if you're having a bad serving day, that your teammates on the bench are going to be screaming as loud as [they] can, and are going to be ready for you to, like, pick you up when you're having those bad days."

Strength and conditioning

Another focus of Lowery's this season is "pushing the athletic side of things forward."

"We've really focused in on strength and conditioning over the summer and early on during the fall," Lowery said. "And, I think we're in far better shape than we were last year, and we're a little bit more physical than we were."

Veronika Jandova, senior middle blocker returning for her fifth season with the program, told The Rider she is emotional about it being her last year.

"So, I wasn't really thinking about it as my last year, but now that I know it's really, like, actually, my last year, I'm kind of emotional, but I'm really excited for the season," Jandova said. "My team is looking really good, so I just want to leave without any regrets."

Asked what the team has been working on, she said strength and conditioning due to the injury riddled season they had.

"We had a lot of injuries last season, and I think it was because we weren't as strong," Jandova said. "So, like, our body couldn't handle,

people that we expect to play, you know, big parts for us this year."

Newly hired Assistant Coach Paulina Ramirez, who played volleyball for UTRGV from 2016 to 2019, told The Rider she is excited for this upcoming season.

Asked how the experience of being a student athlete in the program will benefit her as a coach, she replied it acts like a bridge between the coaches and players.

Ramirez said, since she knows what it feels like to be a player on the court, she gives her opinion on certain things done in practice or gear that is used based on her experience and what the players tell her.

A goal she has for the team is to be confident and trust each other.

"It's very important," Ramirez said. "Hitters have to trust that they can go out

See CULTURE, Page 10

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS:

WOMEN'S SOCCER



7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN @UTHERS UTAH HOME

7 P.M. SUNDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS CHRISTI AWAY

MEN'S SOCCER



7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM AWAY

11:30 A.M. SUNDAY VS. ELON UNIVERSITY AWAY



VOLLEYBALL

COWTOWN CLASSIC 3 P.M. THURSDAY VS UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY AWAY

7 P.M. THURSDAY VS TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY AWAY

3 P.M. FRIDAY VS NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY AWAY

CULTURE
Continued from Page 9

you know, all the pressure of playing, but I think for all of us, like, getting stronger physically, but also mentally is probably the biggest thing now.”

Ramirez said a goal she wants for the team this season is to be mentally strong.

“To be able to, like, handle the tough times in practice, the tough times in the end of a match, the tough times when it gets to that middle of the season or middle of school and they’re handling, like, school stuff, family stuff, like, social stuff, volleyball stuff,” she said.

Ada Bulgur, freshman outside hitter who earned WAC All-Freshman Team honors, told *The Rider* she is excited to start her second season with the program and that the team has a lot of energy on the court.

Originally from Istanbul, Turkey, she said she spent the summer back home practicing with her former team and conditioning.

“I was doing conditioning, I was doing weights, everything and it helped me a lot,” Bulgur said. “I didn’t just lay down.”

She said her focus is on the team and that she just wants to win games after a frustrating season plagued with injuries.

“The team [was] all injured,” Bulgur said. “That’s why, like, we were frustrated, and I don’t want to do it again.”

Schedule and return of fans

Lowery said the team could fare well in the preseason schedule.

“That was kind of our goal, get on track here during preseason, but we definitely have some challenging matches in there,” he said. “[University of Texas at El Paso] is a very very good team this year. [Texas Christian University], obviously, a Big 12 team. And then, the two games against [Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi] out of conference will be big for us as well.”



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women’s Volleyball Team huddle together after practice last Wednesday at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Head Coach Todd Lowery told *The Rider* there are eight new players this season.

The season kicked off last Friday at the New Orleans Invitational where the Vaqueras faced Tennessee State University, University of New Orleans and Alcorn State University. Results were not available as of press time.

The first home game will be at the UTRGV Tournament at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse where they will face off against University of Louisiana Lafayette. The team will also play against the University of the Incarnate Word, Texas Southern University and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi during the tournament.

WAC play will be different this season as Abilene Christian University, Lamar University, Sam Houston University and Stephen F. Austin University were added to the Southwestern Division alongside UTRGV and Tarleton State University.

With the addition of the new teams, Lowery welcomes the challenge

“We’ll have to see where the chips fall,” he said.

Lowery said he wants to see the Fieldhouse packed and “rockin” again like in 2018, 2019.

“We’ve had one of the best crowds

in the WAC over the last four or five years,” he said. “All that got taken away from us last year, not having students on campus and limited capacity.”

Lowery said the team has worked hard during the preseason and are excited to be in front of fans and play volleyball.

“I think if students do come out, they’re going to enjoy what they see,” he said. “We have just an amazingly fun group ... that are going to put on a show. They’re going to play for the crowd.”

WATCH

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7 P.M. MONDAYS

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KVAQTV



WITH ANCHOR

Ruben Loza

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Name: Student Nurse Organization

Club Mission: According to the V Link website, the mission of the Student Nurse Organization is to promote student involvement in the community through enrichment of client-centered health promotion, education on wellness and disease prevention.

President: Victoria L. Barrios

Vice President: Samantha Torres

Sergeant-at-Arms: Kimberly Soto

Secretary: Vaannya Ortega

Historian: Paola Perez

Treasurer: Josie Martinez

Resource Chair: Elizabeth Mendez

Public Relations: Abigail Arredondo

Fundraising Chair: Kimberly N. Luna

Brownsville Representative: Gabriel Mascorro

Adviser: Esmeralda Garza, clinical assistant professor.

Activities: Clinicals and events in hospitals, as well as assisting the UTRGV School of Medicine. Throughout the semester, the organization also conducts fundraisers.

Membership requirements: Membership costs \$25 and is open to all UTRGV students. To register, visit V Link. Abigail Arredondo, public relations officer, said the club encourages nursing students to become members so they can see what nursing is all about. Students who register will receive an email with more information about the organization.

For more information, email: sno.utrgv@gmail.com or victoria.barrios01@utrgv.edu

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Members of the Student Nurse Organization include (front row, from left) Treasurer Josie Martinez, President Victoria Barrios and Vice President Samantha Torres. Middle row: Historian Paola Perez, Resource Chair Elizabeth Mendez, Secretary Vaannya Ortega and Sergeant-at-Arms Kimberly Soto. Back row: Public Relations Abigail Arredondo and Fundraiser Chair Kimberly Luna.

Want your club featured? Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Victoria Barrios (far left), president of the Student Nurse Organization, discusses the club's plans and meeting schedule for the Fall 2021 semester during its first in-person meeting this academic year. Shown (from left) are Secretary Vaannya Ortega, Treasurer Josie Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms Kimberly Soto and Historian Paola Perez.

CASA Continuación de Página 5

emociones. "Muchas veces solemos decir que solamente nos sentimos estresados por las clases y que terminando el semestre el estrés se irá, pero la universidad está compuesta por muchos semestres".

Lo que ella más recomienda es que los estudiantes no dejen sus sentimientos guardados. Es mejor hablar y soltar todo lo que los tiene atados sin poder vivir en paz.

Cuando se le preguntó a Santos las razones por las cuales ella había tomado la decisión de emigrar a los Estados Unidos en

busca de una mejor educación, ella no pensó ni un segundo y contestó que por la violencia en su país.

"Me pareció algo muy bueno el salir de mi país a venir a estudiar acá y pues además por la situación que se vive en México pues ya no podemos vivir en paz, nos roban nuestra juventud al siempre estar preocupados por la delincuencia", dijo. "Esa fue una de las razones principales por las cuales decidí venir aquí a estudiar saber qué pues por lo menos iba a estar en un ambiente más seguro y que iba a poder disfrutar tranquilamente de mi experiencia de la universidad".

Los planes de Santos a

futuro son quedarse en Estados Unidos y conseguir un buen trabajo para ayudar a sus padres en sus gastos personales.

El emigrar a otro país no es nada fácil, así que Mazariegos recomienda a los estudiantes internacionales tener varias técnicas de afrontamiento.

"Tener un grupo de apoyo ya sea aquí o en tu país o donde sea pero tener ese punto de apoyo porque si no podemos dejar de ser uno mismo, el decir que antes me levantaba con gusto con sonrisas y ahora me cuesta levantarme o empiezo a notar que como diferente, tal vez ya no como o como mucho o

tal vez duermo muy tarde o ya no duermo", dijo. "Ese tipo de cositas es importante que todo el mundo tenga el ojo abierto y ver si tienen algún cambio drástico en esas cosas."

UTRGV cuenta con un Centro de Asesoramiento que brinda recursos a los estudiantes para abordar inquietudes de salud mental y buscar promover el crecimiento personal. Estos recursos son 100% gratuitos para los estudiantes.

"Tenemos un recurso que no muchas universidades lo tienen", dijo Mazariegos. "Es una línea de crisis que está disponible 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana navidades o lo

que sea. Todo el tiempo está disponible. Se llama Vaqueros Crisis Line y tiene un nombre muy dramático pero no tienes que estar en crisis para llamarlo. En cualquier momento que no te sientas bien, puedes llamar. Es 100% gratis y en menos de tres minutos puedes hablar con un terapeuta por teléfono".

Estudiantes pueden llamar al Vaquero Crisis Line a 665-5555. Para más información sobre los servicios del Centro de Asesoramiento, visite su sitio web.



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