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EXCELENTE!

UTRGV earns Seal of Excelencia



PHOTO COURTESY EXCELENCIA IN EDUCATION

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said it is an honor to accept the Seal of Excelencia during a livestream from Washington, D.C. "We are committed, along with [Excelencia in Education] to ensure that our students, 90% of whom identify as Hispanic or Latino ... [to be] able to graduate and serve their communities, go into their communities and make a difference," Bailey said. "And if you think about 90% of our students, that's 29,000 people who are going to graduate and be equipped to transform their communities."

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

UTRGV, along with nine other institutions, was awarded the Seal of Excelencia, a comprehensive certification awarded by Excelencia in Education, an organization that recognizes a university's commitment and ability to accelerate Latino student success, according to a campuswide email sent Oct. 14.

Adriana Rodriguez, vice president for programs in Excelencia in Education, said this year, 20 institutions applied and 10 earned the seal, making it a total of

24 institutions with the certification. These new 10 institutions will be certified for three years.

"We have had three cohorts, so the 2021 group is the third cohort," Rodriguez said by phone from Washington, D.C., where the organization has its headquarters. "There are 10 institutions. They are from across the country. They're all different, you know. You don't have to, for example, be a [Hispanic Serving Institution] to apply. You can be a community college or public, private. There's no requirement there."

Excelencia in Education calls the cohorts "trendsetter

institutions" that others can learn from.

"These 24 now have become a community of common cause that can listen and learn from each other and also inform other institutions of how to do this," Rodriguez said. "And they can say that they have met and have a standard or ability to say that they are student centered, that they are asset based in their approach to students and, in particular, Latino students."

She said the certification is based on a framework that looks at three core areas of leadership, data and practice and how that aligns an

See **SEAL**, Page 10

CEO-Edinburg attends global conference

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Five UTRGV students participated in the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization's 38th Annual Global Conference & Pitch Competition from Oct. 28-30 in Tampa, Florida.

During the conference, CEO members, partners, investors and business advisers/mentors assembled to discuss strategy while planning post-pandemic innovative growth, according to the c-e-o.org website.

The weekend events featured keynote presenters, interactive bootcamps, workshops, an engaging simulation, chapter leadership development, mentor room meetings, an exhibit hall, a pitch competition and roulette networking.

Ashley Wals, a biology senior and CEO-Edinburg president, said she wanted to attend because it is important to make connections with others around the world.

"We got to, like, make connections, get along, socialize and, of course, you get to meet great people and everything that they do in their own chapters," Wals said. "Overall, it was a great experience getting to know how to bring in more [members] because our organization is lacking in membership. So, being able to know those new opportunities that we can offer within UTRGV, I know CEO will eventually grow within the next two years."

She said UTRGV participated in the simulation challenge, where students

See **CEO**, Page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

SGA nixes athletics fee resolution



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Brandon Navarro, senator for the College of Fine Arts, states why he voted "no" on a resolution asking UTRGV students to vote in favor of the Athletics Fee Referendum. The Student Government Association voted against the resolution during its meeting last Tuesday night in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Valeria Henderson
THE RIDER

In a 10-4 vote last Tuesday night, the Student Government Association rejected a resolution that calls for UTRGV students to vote in favor of the Athletics Fee Referendum.

SGA Brownsville Vice President Yahia Al-Qudah presented the resolution at the senate meeting under the Unfinished Business portion of the agenda.

"This resolution will recognize the upcoming Fall 2021 student referendum

and establish the Student Government Association's official support for the proposal," Al-Qudah said during the meeting, which was held in the University Ballroom.

The resolution states "the Student Government Association (SGA) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) recognizes the proposed student referendum as an incredible opportunity for transforming student involvement, school spirit, and the RGV economy. SGA urges all current UTRGV

students to vote in favor of the proposed student referendum from November 8-10, 2021."

After reading the resolution aloud, Al-Qudah said, "This is our time, as an SGA, to participate and do something that will affect UTRGV students for the future."

SGA does have the right to show their opinion, he said.

School of Nursing Senator Mariana Estevan made a motion to voting with rights.

Senate Chair Jose Raul
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THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today

SGA Referendum
Vote

The **Student Government Association** will conduct an **election**

on the Athletics Fee Referendum from 8 a.m. today through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. The ballot will be sent to students' UTRGV email.

First-Generation Celebration

The **Office of Student Success** will host a **first-generation college celebration** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union East Patio on the Edinburg campus. Free food and shirts will be given during the event.

Fútbolito Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Fútbolito Tournament** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Brownsville campus. Finalists will be awarded VBucks.

Bible Study

Christians at RGV will host a **Bible study** from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and from noon to 1:45 p.m. in person in the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. RSVP is available on V Link.

Delight Ministries

Delight Ministries Brownsville, a **Christ-centered community for college women**, will host an event to learn more about Delight from 7:30 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

Tuesday

Holy Mass

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will conduct the **sacrament of the Eucharist** in Mass from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Newman Catholic Student Center, 1615 W. Kuhn St. in Edinburg. Engineers Fundraiser

The **Society of Automotive Engineers-RGV Baja Racing Team** will host a **fundraiser** from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday and from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday between the Science and Engineering buildings on the Edinburg campus. The team will sell corn dogs, chips and drinks to raise money for the annual Baja competition.

Wednesday

Rewind Bingo

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **rewind bingo** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus Wednesday

and at the same time Thursday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. RSVP is available on V Link.

Coffee and Careers

Students can ask the **Career Center** about **career exploration, internship opportunities** and **resume reviews** from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom. Register on Handshake or email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

German Club Meeting

The **RGV German Club** will meet from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Main Building 2.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Chess Night

The **Chess Club** will host **chess night** from 5 to 6 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building 2.207 on the Edinburg campus and from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Sabal Hall 2.102 on the Brownsville campus.

Thursday

ASL Club Meeting

The **ASL Club** will host an **online event to learn basic American Sign Language** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Students of all majors can expand their knowledge, play games and practice their skills at the event. RSVP is available on V Link.

K.I.S.S. Meeting

The **Korean International Student Society** will conduct a general meeting from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Education Complex 1.530 on the Edinburg campus. Students can interact with people who are passionate about **Korean culture, music and language**. RSVP is available on V Link.

Anime Trivia

The **Student Union** will host **anime trivia** at 5 p.m. via Zoom to test students' knowledge on some of the most iconic anime.

Friday

Library Game Day

The **UTRGV Library** will host a **library game day** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University Library on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses and from noon to 1 p.m. on Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

Box Competition

The **Student Volunteer Council** will host a **box decorating competition** from noon to 5 p.m. The winning organization will receive a social valued at \$150 for their student organization.

Rehabilitation Club Meeting

The **Rehabilitation Club** will conduct an informational session from

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the membership, club activities and much more.

Engaged Scholar Showcase

Engaged Scholarship and Learning will conduct a **scholar showcase** from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. to offer students a public space to showcase their skills as researchers, public servants and artists.

Saturday

Saxophone and Percussion Concert

Saxophonist Josiah Boornazian, a School of Music assistant professor, and **percussionist Mark Ramirez**, a School of Music professor, will perform original, improvised, electronic jazz music in concert at 7 p.m. in the **UTRGV Performing Arts Complex** on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Faculty Artist Series**.

Arts and Crafts Social

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will host a virtual **arts and crafts social** from 6 to 7 p.m. RSVP is available on V Link.

UTRGV Opera Theater

The **Patron of the Arts program** will host a **concert of scenes and solos** at 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. This performance showcases young artists in a variety of genres, from opera and musical theatre to jazz. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Student Performance Series**.

Sunday

Piano Concert

Pianist **Brenda Kinsella**, a School of Music assistant professor, will perform in **concert** at 4 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Faculty Artist Series**.

Fall Concert

The **Patron of the Arts program** will host a **fall concert** featuring the **UTRGV Clarinet Ensemble** at 2 p.m. in the UTRGV Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus and at 7 p.m. the same day at the Music, Science & Learning Center 1.217 on the Brownsville campus. Admission is free. The ensemble will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary works.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 29 and Nov. 3.



Oct. 29

5:06 p.m.: An officer responded to the International Trade & Technology building on the Edinburg campus in reference to two

suspicious men in the area. The officer contacted the non-affiliated men on the 400 block of North Nevarez Drive. An investigation revealed both men had active warrants for parole violations out of Austin. The men were detained, issued criminal trespass warnings and transported to the Hidalgo County Jail for the active warrants. Once at the jail, the officer was notified that due to current jail restrictions, the men were not going to be accepted. The officer then released them at an off-campus location in Edinburg. The agency holding the warrants was notified that the men had been released and the warrants were reentered into the system.

Oct. 30

11:39 p.m.: A woman reported that she dropped off her daughter, a non-affiliated juvenile, at Lot E-16 on the

Edinburg campus for an event at the Performing Arts Complex. The woman reported her daughter had not been answering her cell phone and was concerned because she could not get ahold of her. An investigation revealed the woman's daughter had left to an off-campus restaurant with a group after the event had ended. The officer escorted the mother to the off-campus location, where she picked up her daughter without incident.

Oct. 31

1:10 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity near the area of Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus that was observed on the border cameras. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area. The U.S. Border Patrol agent subsequently took custody of five Mexican nationals who had been hiding in the area.

2:37 a.m.: An officer observed four men jumping the west side gate of Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus into the courtyard area. The men then allowed access to two women through the emergency exit. The officer detained all six individuals and confirmed all were current students. An

investigation concluded the students living at Unity Hall allowed the two women into Unity Hall after visiting hours had ended. The resident assistant was notified, and the two non-residential women left the area without incident. The incident will be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

Nov. 3

2:49 p.m.: A UT Health employee reported a non-affiliated man at the UT Health RGV Surgical Specialty Clinic on the Harlingen campus refused to wear a mask while inside the clinic. The officer contacted the man, who was already outside the clinic before the officer's arrival. The man informed the officer that he would not go back inside the clinic.

4:16 p.m.: A student reported he was approached by two unidentified men about 1:30 p.m. in the area of Lot E-33 on the Edinburg campus. The suspects were in a blue, late-model Dodge Charger. An occupant in the vehicle brandished a handgun at the student and then left the area. A Timely Warning Notification was sent in regard to this incident. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

A step forward

MSA Chess Team wins Texas Grade Championships; collegiate women's team takes 2nd place at first national event



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

UTRGV Women's Chess Team members (from left) Ana Shamatava, Maili-Jade Ouellet and Maria Malicka.

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy Chess Team won the 2021 Texas Grade Championships in the classification for 12th-graders, which took place Oct. 30 and 31 in Houston.

The team, which consists of MSA students Carlos de Leon, Adolfo Balderas and William McNutt, won with 14 points out of a possible 18, according to Bartek Macieja, UTRGV's chess coach.

McNutt also went on to win the individual championship.

"Before the tournament, William McNutt was ranked [fourth]," Macieja said in an email sent to The Rider on Nov. 2.

In the same email, he wrote that McNutt's main opponent only needed to draw his last game to finish with the same number of points as McNutt.

"However, the main opponent

played the last round against our student, Carlos de Leon," Macieja said. "By winning, not only did Carlos advance to the fourth place, but he also opened the path for William to win the competition."

The next tournament is the National K-12 Grade Championship, and will take place Dec. 3-5, in Orlando, Florida.

UTRGV's new women's chess team also competed Oct. 31 in the first U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Cup, which took place online.

One UTRGV team finished second with a total of 7 out of 10 points, Macieja said.

Nine teams competed in the online event, which was officially endorsed by the U.S. Chess Federation.

"There were nine teams,

and five of them were from UTRGV," Macieja said. "This is a completely new initiative, and we knew we wouldn't have a huge turnout, actually."

He said his hope for the project is long-term success, and that every event starts small.

"We wanted, already, to add this event to the chess calendar so everybody knows about it," Macieja said. "And, hopefully, next year there will be feedback from other universities that couldn't

including Ana Shamatava, a graduate student from the country of Georgia and a FIDE Women's Master, a title she earned in 2018.

"I was part of the UTRGV Chess Team for a year and a half already," Shamatava said. "So, we actually had a women's chess team like a year ago, but there was no tournaments."

She said the female players at UTRGV would participate in the open section, and she is glad UTRGV has organized a women's section.

"It's pretty good that we were the ones [to do it]," Shamatava said. "It's kind of like history. Like, after several years, they would say that UTRGV was the one that actually organized it, because there was nothing for the collegiate women in the U.S. before."

Because the event is new, Shamatava said she was not expecting strong players.

"Honestly, I was expecting, I don't know, amateur players or something," she said. "But, like, it was like five rounds and in three of these, I faced ... higher-rated players than me."

Shamatava also said there were only about 20 participants, whereas men's competitions have hundreds of participants.

"I hope that this event will bring more women [into chess]," she said. "I hope this event will get, like, bigger and bigger later on, and it will for sure. ... There is not this, like, history of recruiting girls. ... But, yeah, I think because of this event, they will start recruiting more."

Macieja and Shamatava

See CHESS, Page 11

"It's kind of like history. Like, after several years, they would say that UTRGV was the one that actually organized it, because there was nothing for the collegiate women in the U.S. before."

*--Ana Shamatava
UTRGV graduate student and a FIDE Women's Master*

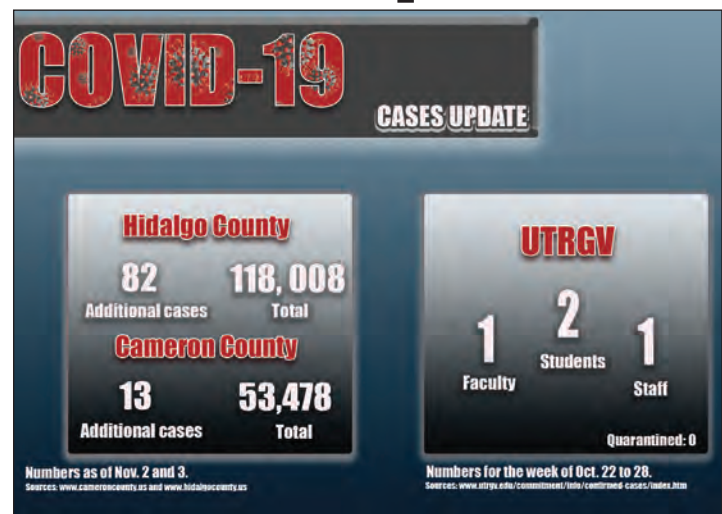
participate this year. ... They will be more organized and they will join the event."

In organizing women's teams and competitions, UTRGV hopes to help female students obtain scholarships and generate an interest in chess in the local community, he said.

"What we noticed is that there is a big disproportion between male and female students competing at chess at all levels, including the collegiate one," Macieja said. "At our main event, which was the Pan American Championship, it wasn't nearly half-half, it was maybe like 90%, or even more, men competing."

The UTRGV Women's Chess Team that placed second was made up of two students,

AT UTRGV 4 COVID-19 positives



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

UTRGV reported four COVID-19 cases between Oct. 22 and 28, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the four were two students, one faculty and one staff member.

UTRGV updates the number of cases reported for campus individuals weekly through the Confirmed Cases Dashboard. The numbers on the website are provided by the university COVID-19 Response Team.

Arney said no UTRGV students were

VISIT UTRGV.EDU/COMMITMENT TO VIEW THE COVID-19 DASHBOARD

quarantined on campus the week of Oct. 22 to 28.

UTRGV has provided 50 rooms in separate wings of the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus and in the Village Apartments in Edinburg for quarantining students.

As of last Wednesday, UT Health RGV had administered 45,882 tests and 86,340 vaccine doses, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

According to an Oct. 25 campuswide email sent from UT Health RGV, the university is encouraging the campus community to update their vaccine status through the UTRGV Vaccine Portal.

Students, faculty and staff have the option of updating their status through the portal to request a booster or let the university know that one has already been administered to them.

"According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's] latest recommendations, eligible

individuals may now 'mix and match' or choose which vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson) they receive as a booster dose," the email reads.

However, UT Health RGV does not distribute the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As previously reported by The Rider, those who qualify for the booster dose include: --anyone age 65 and older who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago

--people age 12 and older who are moderate to severely immunocompromised and received their second dose of either Pfizer or Moderna at least 28 days or four weeks

ago --18-to-64-year-olds

with any underlying medical condition who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago

--anyone age 18 and older with occupations that elevate their risk of exposure and who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago

In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 cases continue to be reported.

Hidalgo County reported 82 confirmed cases last Wednesday, raising the county's total to 118,008, according to its website.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported two deaths, raising its death toll to 3,460. Neither of the two dead were vaccinated.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health reported 13 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 53,478.

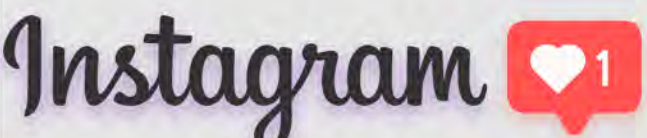
Cameron County also reported two COVID-19-related deaths last Tuesday, raising its death toll to 1,977. Neither of the two dead were vaccinated.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
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REOPENING BORDERS

On Nov. 4, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What are your thoughts on the reopening of the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders?" The results are shown below.



Crossing the bridge is never fun



1½ years later, the borders reopen for the COVID-19 vaccinated



Fatima Gamez Lopez
THE RIDER

Who would have thought that a 30-day border closure for COVID-19 would drag on for more than a year and a half, separating families and creating a barrier for those who used to cross the U.S.-Mexico border daily?

The closing of the borders not only affected the economy of the country, but also many families and students.

Before the pandemic, relatives of people living in the United States used to come to visit them, but with the closing of the borders everything changed.

The closing of the borders also affected students who crossed every day to go to school in the United States.

Today, the borders will reopen to vaccinated travelers.

At first, I believed that the borders would open again because Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year are coming soon.

I was happy because for the first time in a long time, those who, for some reason, cannot leave the United States, now

can have their family cross the border to come see them.

However, if we think about it, there is a date that benefits the U.S. economy, which is Black Friday.

People from Mexico come to the United States to buy cheaper and better quality items, such as clothing and electronics and, right now, there is a lot of postponed demand because people had to wait to make their purchases.

COVID-19, according to how many children they have. They received the money "thanks to the government."

However, many people did not think about why they received that money. It was for the benefit of the U.S. economy.

Since the borders were closed, the economy was going down because many tourists could not cross to the United States.

Now that the borders will open, the United States will benefit from that, as the economy will improve.

What a coincidence that the borders will reopen in November, weeks before Black Friday.

The restrictions changed much earlier for people who traveled by plane since they could enter the U.S. without being a resident or a citizen.

But, if we think about it, not everyone feels comfortable traveling by plane and many people could not afford airline tickets that cost \$150 or more.

Today, the border will reopen for visitors from Mexico with proof of their COVID-19 vaccination.

If we take the necessary precautions, including getting vaccinated, what happened in March 2020 will not happen again.

"If we take the necessary precautions, including getting vaccinated, what happened in March 2020 will not happen again."

Mexicans who live on the border with the United States can cross the border and have a greater selection of goods to buy than those from the country's interior.

Before the pandemic, people used to cross the border walking or by car to make purchases of all kinds.

With Black Friday and Christmas approaching, the reopening of the borders is part of the economic recovery of the United States.

A few months ago, a lot of people received checks for

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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.

Use your vote

Editorial

Today, the UTRGV student body will receive an email with the ballot to vote on the Athletics Fee Referendum between now and 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

If approved, the Intercollegiate Athletics Fee will increase by \$11.25 per credit hour, capped at 12 hours, and will affect only incoming freshmen and graduate students who return for another degree in Fall 2022 or afterward.

This increase would fund the establishment of a football program, women's swimming and diving teams, two marching bands and the expansion of the spirit program.

Students, both current and former, expressed their opinions for and against the increase during the SGA town halls where the referendum sponsors presented information and answered questions on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

The Rider also spoke with two university faculty members who gave their thoughts on the referendum.

Steven Block, the dean of the College of Fine Arts, clarified that the college is not "hanging on by a thread," as quoted by graphic and web design senior Juan Almaguer during the Brownsville town hall. Block said he believes the referendum is much more than a question of supporting student fees, and is really a question of supporting growth, culture, campus life and carving out an identity for UTRGV that goes beyond now.

Kip Austin Hinton, Faculty Senate president-elect, told The Rider he has mixed feelings about the referendum and expressed his and other faculty members' concerns on the issues of safety and finances that come with the addition of a



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

"Now is the time to let your voice be heard before someone speaks up for you."

football program.

While these are factors that should be considered when voting for or against the referendum, at the end of the day, it is the student body's decision.

Not faculty, not staff, not alumni, but the students who are currently enrolled at UTRGV will be the ones to make a decision that will impact

the future of the university.

It is important for you, the student body, to be informed about your decision on this matter.

It is also crucial to remember why you chose to

attend UTRGV in the first place, as it is an institution that prides itself on affordability and student involvement both on and off campus.

Being part of this university means that there will be various opportunities in which you have a say in what goes on in the community and on campus. This is one of them.

Even if the result is not exactly what you may have voted for, keep in mind that your vote on this "monumental announcement" truly does matter and you should exercise your right.

Voting gives you a chance to make your voice heard and may even give you the courage to speak out about future decisions.

By choosing to vote on the referendum now, and other issues whenever possible, you will continue to influence decisions made by the university.

Voting is your right, and one vote, even if it may seem like a small impact, can make a big difference. If you do not take action, the decision may be made for you without your say.

Now is the time to let your voice be heard before someone speaks up for you.

Supporters of athletics fee increase appeal to greed in pitch to student body

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As students vote on increasing athletics fees for all incoming freshmen enrolled for and after Fall 2022, UTRGV officials, faculty and students recruited to spread university propaganda in favor of the increase, appeal to greed. They ask, "What do you have to lose? Someone else will pay for it, anyway. Just vote yes."

UTRGV Senior Vice President Maggie Hinojosa, who oversees student affairs and strategic enrollment, and Vice President and Director of Athletics Chasse Conque, made this appeal, delivered presentations in Edinburg and Brownsville on the proposed fee increase, which primarily funds college football but also women's swim and dive teams, marching bands, and expands the cheer squad.

In a recent article in The Rider, two faculty members weighed in. Kip Austin Hinton, Faculty Senate president-elect, expressed misgivings about the proposal and responded to a question raised by our colleague Jonathan Salinas in Brownsville. Is burdening future generations who have no vote in the matter ethical? Hinton reportedly said, "As long as the student body is thinking in the best interest of those future students," then he does not think it is unethical. This only begs and rephrases the question

to: Is financially burdening future generations in their best interest?

College of Fine Arts Dean Steven Block, who also acknowledged shortcomings in the proposal, falsely dismissed football as "a very small portion of Athletics." For a detailed article on the actual costs of college football and why college football might eventually proceed with or without student approval, visit unete956.org and see "UTRGV College Football."

A recent ad campaign posted to YouTube, featuring students Liz Ortiz, Dariel Arostegui and Zack Borjas, strongly emphasizes "only future students will pay" as repeated in each segment. This gimmick was also used by Cameron County officials, who recently and unsuccessfully asked voters to allow "tourist taxes" to be used in order to build a sports stadium. County officials stressed that "only outsiders would pay for it."

Working-class students, including Juan Antonio Almaguer and Bruno Rosales, spoke up in Brownsville and Edinburg in disagreement with this proposal, citing cost of living and academic inequality.

Semi and professional sports are money-makers for stadium owners, contractors, bankers, restaurant owners, merchandise vendors, etc. College football alone was rated a \$4 billion industry by Fortune in 2020. Rather than put the up-front investment for such ventures, capitalist investors across the country, and now the Rio Grande Valley, have found it more profitable and less risky for taxpayers to do

that for them.

At the same time, the student debt crisis across the country has hit all-time high costs at UTRGV. Since its founding, tuition and fees have more than doubled as a consequence of "locking in" tuition for current students and raising costs for future students (sound familiar?), resembling even more a "high-end university" than the affordable Hispanic-serving institution it was supposed to be and which both legacy institutions once were. This, despite limited scholarships such as the Tuition Advantage, falsely advertised as universal by recent media coverage.

This "locked-in" tuition scheme has created "two-tiered" tuition and fees, similar to that which bosses at John Deere, Exxon and elsewhere try imposing on striking workers who have refused to sell out and burden future generations with less pay and fewer benefits in "two-tiered" contracts. Will UTRGV students stand up for the next generation and community and say enough is enough?

Jonathan Salinas, former UTPA SGA Senator (2013-2015)

Mauricio Lomeli Martinez, former UTPA SGA Senator at Large (2014-15)

Denisse Molina-Castro, former UTRGV SGA President (2016-2017) and Brownsville Vice President (2015-2016)

UTRGV gana el Sello de Excelencia

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

UTRGV, junto con otras nueve instituciones, recibió el Sello de Excelencia, una certificación integral otorgada por *Excelencia in Education*, una organización que reconoce el compromiso y la capacidad de una universidad para acelerar el éxito de los estudiantes latinos, según el correo electrónico enviado a todo el campus el 14 de octubre.

Adriana Rodríguez, vicepresidenta del programas de *Excelencia in Education*, dijo que este año 20 instituciones postularon y 10 obtuvieron el sello, lo que hace un total de 24 instituciones con la certificación. Estas nuevas 10 instituciones estarán certificadas durante tres años.

“Hemos tenido tres conjuntos, así que el grupo de 2021 es el tercer conjunto”, dijo Rodríguez. “Hay 10 instituciones. Son de todo el país. Todos son diferentes, ya sabes. No tienes que ser, por ejemplo, una [Institución de Servicio a los Hispanos] para postularte. Puedes ser un colegio comunitario, público o privado. No hay ningún requisito”.

Excelencia in Education llama a los conjuntos “instituciones que marcan tendencias” de las que otros pueden aprender.

“Estas 24 ahora se han convertido en una comunidad de causa común que pueden escucharse y aprender unos de otros y también informar a otras instituciones sobre cómo hacer esto”, dijo Rodríguez. “Y pueden decir que han cumplido y tienen un estándar o capacidad para decir que están centrados en el estudiante, que son activos basados en su enfoque hacia los estudiantes y, en particular, hacia los estudiantes latinos”.

Dijo que la certificación se basa en un marco que analiza tres áreas centrales de liderazgo, datos y práctica y cómo eso alinea a una institución para mostrar impacto.

“La certificación proviene de una aplicación bastante extensa”, dijo Rodríguez. “Pedimos algunas cosas a la institución y dentro de ella pedimos cinco años de datos en seis áreas. Solicitamos tres prácticas basadas en evidencia en esas seis áreas, y en esas seis áreas, hicieron la pregunta: ‘¿Son instituciones que se inscriben, retienen, transfieren y apoyan financieramente y modelan a la facultad y el personal y a los estudiantes latinos que se



FOTOS CORTESÍA DE EXCELENCIA IN EDUCATION

El presidente de UTRGV, Guy Bailey, dijo que era un honor aceptar el sello durante una transmisión en vivo desde Washington, D.C. Dijo: “Estamos comprometidos, junto con usted [*Excelencia in Education*] a asegurar que nuestros estudiantes, el 90% de los cuales se identifican como hispanos o Latinos ... [para] poder graduarse y servir a sus comunidades, ir a sus comunidades y hacer una diferencia. Y si piensas en el 90% de nuestros estudiantes, son 29,000 personas que se graduarán y estarán equipadas para transformar sus comunidades”. Dijo que UTRGV quiere brindar oportunidades a los estudiantes de dos maneras. Primero, asegurarse de que las finanzas nunca sean una barrera y segundo, tener las mejores oportunidades profesionales que existen.

gradúan? Esas son las seis áreas para las que proporcionan datos y prácticas. Y luego, la aplicación también analiza la estrategia que vincula todos esos

datos y la práctica”.

La aplicación anual se abrió a finales de marzo y se cerró en junio. Las instituciones pasaron por una

atienden a todos los estudiantes.

El presidente de UTRGV, Guy Bailey, dijo que era un honor aceptar el sello durante una transmisión en vivo del 29 de octubre desde Washington, D.C.

“Trabajamos muy duro para este sello”, dijo Bailey. “Gracias por hacernos ganar. Ganar un sello es diferente a simplemente obtenerlo. Y realmente apreciamos esa diferencia. Es algo que no se nos escapa a nadie. Así que muchas gracias. Estamos comprometidos, junto con [*Excelencia in Education*] a asegurar que nuestros estudiantes, el 90% de los cuales se identifican como hispanos o latinos ... [puedan] graduarse y servir a sus comunidades, entren en sus comunidades y marquen la diferencia. Y si piensas en el 90% de nuestros estudiantes, son 29,000 personas que se graduarán y estarán equipadas para transformar sus comunidades”.

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“Nuestros estudiantes tendrán grandes oportunidades”, dijo Bailey. “Podrán graduarse sin deudas y podrán transformar nuestras comunidades. Quiero agradecerles por toda su ayuda para ayudarnos a hacer esto. Significa mucho para nosotros. Significa mucho para nuestras comunidades”.

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--Guy Bailey
presidente de UTRGV



La vicepresidenta mayor de inscripción estratégica y asuntos estudiantiles de UTRGV Maggie Hinojosa (de izquierda), la vicepresidenta ejecutiva y preboste Janna Arney, el presidente Guy Bailey y la vicepresidenta mayor de relaciones gubernamentales y comunitarias Veronica Gonzales asisten a una conferencia de prensa el 29 de octubre en Washington, D.C., donde UTRGV, junto con otras nueve instituciones, recibió el Sello de Excelencia, una certificación integral otorgada por *Excelencia in Education*, una organización que reconoce el compromiso y la capacidad de una universidad para acelerar el éxito de los estudiantes latinos.

revisión de solicitudes y los finalistas se anunciaron en julio. En agosto se entrevistó a los finalistas y en septiembre y octubre se notificó a las instituciones.

Rodríguez dijo que la mayoría de estas instituciones solicitan usarlo como un punto de partida para decir: “Está bien, ¿qué más podemos hacer?”

“Ahí es donde entra la recertificación y, a menudo, les decimos a las instituciones que la aplicación, también evaluación, es un marco y un enfoque, y cómo usted, como institución, puede reflexionar sobre su propio esfuerzo y ver su propio impacto”, ella dijo. “La certificación puede ser, ya sabes, tres años y la obtienes de nuevo y no hay límite. Realmente es un enfoque para pensar en cómo se atiende a los estudiantes”.

Dijo que la aplicación sirve como una autoevaluación para que las instituciones reflexionen sobre cómo

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Tailgate on the Lawn



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

The Student Union hosted a Tailgate on the Lawn in celebration of last Wednesday's exhibition game of the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team against the University of Texas at Tyler in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

Students pick up merch during Tailgate on the Lawn last Wednesday on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. The event was also held on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Brownsville Early College High School (BECHS) junior Carlos Ocasio prepares to throw a football during the Tailgate on the Lawn event on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is BECHS junior Gerry Reyes.



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

Members of the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team play spike ball with students last Wednesday during Tailgate on the Lawn on the Edinburg campus.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Biology sophomore Jacob Resendiz hits a forehand during a table tennis game at Tailgate on the Lawn last Wednesday outside the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The event was held to celebrate the beginning of basketball season.

UTRGV Men's Basketball Exhibition Game vs. UT Tyler



UTRGV graduate guard Xavier Johnson looks to pass the ball to a teammate while Patriot defender Jaxon Edelmayer guards him. Johnson ended the night with 11 points.



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Graduate forward Marek Nelson shoots a fade away jumper against Patriot defender Finn Fleute in the paint in the second half of last Wednesday's game. Nelson scored eight points and posted 10 rebounds.



UTRGV freshman forward Rayquan Taylor attempts a layup in the second half of last Wednesday's game against The University of Texas at Tyler. The Vaqueros' lead was cut to 51-40 early in the second half, then Taylor answered with back-to-back layups.



UTRGV redshirt junior guard Ricky "Doc" Nelson shoots a free-throw in the second half of last Wednesday's game against the University of Texas at Tyler. Nelson finished with 14 points, nine assists and two steals.



Vaqueros junior guard Justin Johnson (center) high-fives redshirt junior guard Ricky "Doc" Nelson after scoring a layup with graduate forward Marek Nelson (right) in the second half of last Wednesday's game against the University of Texas at Tyler at the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg. The Vaqueros blew out The Patriots, 101-72.

School of Music premieres digital magazine

Kaitlyn Polvado

A&E EDITOR

UTRGV's School of Music premiered its digital magazine *SOUND*, which features alumni, upcoming events and articles pertaining to music written by UTRGV faculty on Oct. 22.

Mark Ramirez, the associate director of the School of Music and editor of *SOUND*, said the magazine was created to connect the community.

"Being forced into a virtual environment, it's very easy to feel disconnected when all you really want to feel is some kind of connection," Ramirez said.

He said the idea for a magazine is not new, but came about due to the stay-at-home orders brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We found ourselves in the middle of a pandemic," Ramirez said. "I had found myself in front of the computer, and I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to really bring [*SOUND*] to life."

When it came time to bring

this idea up to faculty after it had been approved by the board of directors, he said many faculty were ready and willing to contribute what they could to the project.

"I didn't really know what to expect when I brought this idea up to everyone," Ramirez said. "With technology, I think a lot of people are a little uncomfortable with recording themselves and worrying about audio and video quality. 'Do I even have the right gear for this kind of thing?' There's quite a bit that goes into post-production, but I was really happy with the creative team that we got."

Assistant Professor of music, technology and composition Anthony Marasco said he decided to get involved with *SOUND* to keep the community engaged with the arts and because he had previous experience in writing articles.

"If we wrote a new article about something, such as the new jazz program at UTRGV, and it piqued somebody's interest just by the title alone, I want to give them a good experience through



SOUND - Creative Team

COURTESY PHOTO

The UTRGV School of Music released the first issue of *SOUND*, a digital, biannual magazine, in October. The magazine's creative team is composed of a variety of faculty. Mark Joseph Ramirez (far right), a School of Music professor of percussion, is the editor of the magazine. Also shown (from left) are music education Assistant Professor Kristina Weimer, music theory Assistant Professor Rachel Mann, piano Lecturer Stacy Kwak, Communication department Chair and Professor Jennifer Lemanski, percussion Assistant Professor Marco Schirripa, music Assistant Professor Anthony Marasco, Lecturer of music technology and composition Jason Mitchell and Writing and Language Studies department Chair Colin Charlton.

my articles and keep their interest," Marasco said. "We want to pull them in so that people will want to be more involved with the school and their events."

Rachel Mann, an assistant professor of music theory at

UTRGV and member of the *SOUND* creative team, said the magazine will provide outreach to UTRGV alumni to solidify connections with them through a digital platform, as well as intriguing prospective students to join the School

of Music.

"I think that [*SOUND*] is a good platform for showing the world, as well as our students, and saying that 'you could choose to go anywhere, and here's why this university

See *SOUND*, Page 11

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

Aries-Take this opportunity to talk things out with someone you have been bumping heads with recently. You know that you will not be able to focus on anything else until you clear the air, so take that first step. Remember that while it is important to voice your concerns, you also need to be a good listener to have a productive conversation.

Taurus-Find time to breathe this week. Once you have caught your breath and found your bearings, use them to speak up about an issue that has been on your chest. You will feel better once you exhale.

Gemini-While it may be hard for you to step out of your beloved comfort zone, use this week to try things you usually would not or even think in ways you normally would not allow yourself to. Different does not necessarily mean bad.

Cancer-You may find that you will be visited by several reminders of your past this week. Know that you do not have to worry about any repeats in history and your memories are all that are left of that.

Leo-You will make a new friend this week who might prove to be someone you can rely on. This person could either be the best friend you have always wanted or another mellow acquaintance that you can count on.

Virgo-You are aware of a conversation that needs to be had between you and someone important in your life. As per usual, if you do not initiate the mature conversation about your feelings, it will be brushed off. Find some time this week to have that talk and you will find that you will feel much better after.

Libra-Your love life may feel a little bland right now. Know that it is normal for romantic relationships to go through waves of passion, but also recognize that the spark we crave requires effort to be created. You cannot have a chemical reaction without a chemist. Cook up something new in your love lab this week.

Scorpio-You have been on your grind this week. Keep that momentum of productivity and pour it into the aspects of your life that you feel need the most attention. This is the perfect time to do it.

Sagittarius-As Usher once said, "These are my confessions." You have feelings about something or someone and have been hiding them for a while. It is time to let the truth out.

Capricorn-As tempting as it is for someone like you to get ahead of the game, remember to leave room for the true priorities in life. Do not take work home with you anymore and learn to be present when you are with your loved ones.

Aquarius-Something has been bugging you for a while now and you have done your best to keep it to yourself for fear of being irrational. You might find that if you speak up, your feelings will be validated and you will stop feeling like it is all in your head.

Pisces-With the holiday season approaching, it is the perfect time to reflect on where you are and cherish the ones who love you. Your family misses you and would love to spend more time together. Make it a habit to call more and visit when you can.

SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle answer key:

1	7	5	8	3	4	6	9	2
8	4	2	5	6	9	1	3	7
9	6	3	2	1	7	8	4	5
6	1	4	9	5	8	2	7	3
2	3	9	4	7	1	5	6	8
5	8	7	6	2	3	9	1	4
4	9	1	7	8	5	3	2	6
7	2	8	3	9	6	4	5	1
3	5	6	1	4	2	7	8	9

		1						7
4			5	2				9
6				9				3
					9	7		
5						4	1	
	8	2						
	5		1			6	3	
					5			4
	6			7	2		5	

Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



Making a difference, a fist bump at a time



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

UTRGV junior guard LaQuan Butler fist bumps a student at Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School while freshman guard Ismail Habib (left) and graduate guard Mike Adewunmi stand behind Butler in Edinburg on Oct. 29 as part of Fist Bump Fridays.

Omar E. Zapata

THE RIDER

The last couple of Fridays, the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team has fist-bumped elementary students in the morning as they get dropped off at school, a small gesture that head coach Matt Figger said could make a lasting impact.

Figger, who previously told The Rider he wants to emphasize community service, said he thinks the most important people they can reach as a Division 1 program are children, giving them hope about going to college and even playing college-level athletics.

"I've heard so many stories about how just one Division 1 athlete that a kid comes in contact with will help [them]," he said.

Fist Bump Fridays started on Oct. 22 as the

men's basketball team visited De Zavala and Lee elementary schools in Edinburg early in the morning.

"It's probably the first time they've interacted with a Division 1 athlete, so it's a chance for kids to be able to say, 'You know what? I can do this, too,' and they get inspired to do it," Figger said. "And to be able just to get a college scholarship, it doesn't have to be basketball or anything else. It could be a college scholarship in anything, just to give them some hope and understand that they have an opportunity as well."

Graduate forward Marek Nelson said his favorite part of the event was the energy that everyone had early in the morning, with a speaker playing music and just overall "good vibes."

"I really enjoyed it," Nelson said about the event. "It took me back to my days as a young elementary-school

kid and just having school super early before the sun's out and getting on the bus or having your parents drop you off, but it was good. It was good to be there in the morning with those kids and trying to put a smile on their faces and meet some of the administration staff involved in those elementary schools was really enjoyable."

Sophomore guard Isaiah Garcia, a Weslaco native, said it was cool to get the students' morning started.

"It's very important for the people in the Rio Grande Valley to be able to feel like they have something in common with our kids. Which they do. ... And the more that people in the Rio Grande Valley know who our kids are, the more that they're going to feel like they're a part of them."

--Matt Figger
men's basketball head coach

Asked how he felt about being from Weslaco and participating in the event, Garcia said, "Well, hopefully, they can see me and just think they can do exactly what I'm doing. Because, I mean, I thought it was kind of crazy just to imagine that I was just like them."

Figger said he believes the team loves it and just because they are 6 feet tall does not mean they are not kids at heart.

"When they see a kid's face light up, because they think they're special, because, No. 1, they look at them and go, 'Oh my God, you're so big.' You know, I think it brings as much joy to our guys as much as it does to little kids."

The second Fist Bump Friday took place Oct. 29 at Freddy Gonzalez and De Zavala elementary schools in Edinburg.

Asked how Fist Bump Fridays will bring the Rio Grande Valley community to

UTRGV games and events, Figger replied, "It's very important for the people in the Rio Grande Valley to be able to feel like they have something in common with our kids. Which they do. I mean, a lot of our kids come from hard-working families and things like that. ... And the more that people in the Rio Grande Valley know who our kids are, the more that they're going to feel like they're a part of them."

"And, so, we've got to get them out into the public ... and, you know, there's over, or at least, a million people in this Valley. This is their school. We want to make this their school that they're proud of, that they can wear that V with pride."

Nelson agreed, saying Fist Bump Fridays will help the Valley see players' faces and make a connection with the community.

"[The students'] parents hear about, you know, the day they had with all the basketball players who were there from UTRGV," he said. "We get a good review home to the parents and next thing you know, we got more people to come to the games, to come support."

Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for communications, told The Rider the latest Fist Bump Friday was last Friday at Austin Elementary School. There is no set end date for the events and he hopes to keep it going for an extended period of time with the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District.

"Winning will always bring people," Figger said. "Hope brings people, but when people can put names and faces and interaction with your players, then you have community and that's what we're trying to build, a community."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

7 P.M. TUESDAY VS. TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (HOME)

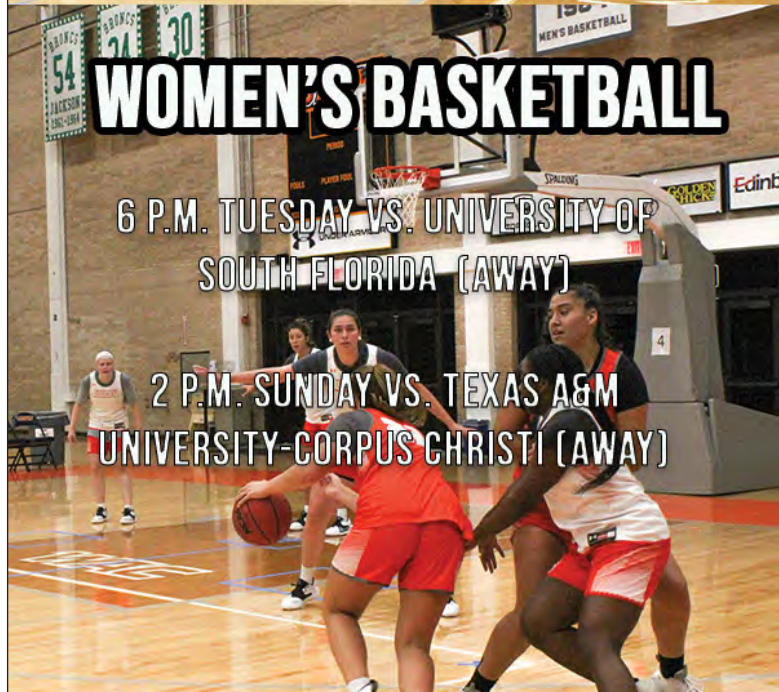
8 P.M. FRIDAY VS. THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA (AWAY)



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

6 P.M. TUESDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (AWAY)

2 P.M. SUNDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (AWAY)



MEN'S SOCCER

RESULT AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD ON NOV. 6 WILL DETERMINE QUALIFICATION FOR THE WAG TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, QUARTERFINALS MATCH

FRIDAY, SEMIFINALS MATCH

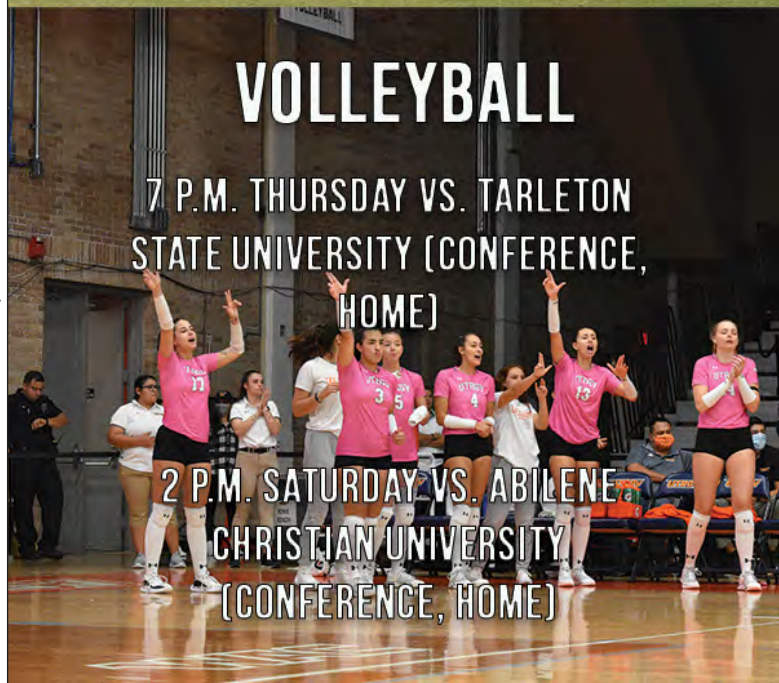
SUNDAY, CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH



VOLLEYBALL

7 P.M. THURSDAY VS. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, HOME)

2 P.M. SATURDAY VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, HOME)



CEO
Continued from Page 1

learned how to launch a new venture in a real-world simulation.

“Our topic was, like, a 3D bicycle company and, basically, we had to, like, transform from marketing to the cash flow, to the IRS things, income, revenue,” Wals said. “It’s just to see if your company will actually, eventually, succeed or not. So, it’s interesting. I had never done one. It was a challenge.”

She said of the five students that participated, only one was a business major.

“Everything was new to us,” Wals said. “We had to adjust to it, like, quick on the spot, and we didn’t know the terminology we had to do, like, research and it was tough. But, I’m glad we were able to go through it. Overall, I enjoyed it and I’m going to miss it.”

Derek Abrams, an associate professor of practice in entrepreneurship and innovation, associate director for the Center of Innovation and Commercialization, and faculty adviser for CEO-Edinburg, said the stimulation challenge worked for students of all majors.

“That’s one of the unique things about entrepreneurship. It doesn’t matter,” Abrams said. “Entrepreneurship happens in all industries. ... You don’t have to be a business major. ... You can run into, you know, people who are starting businesses in all the different industries, no matter what their major is. So, the business is going on in every field.”

He said this was a tremendous learning opportunity and experience for students.

“[Students] get to meet diverse students from around the world who are also interested in entrepreneurship and have [different majors],” Abrams said. “They get to learn about entrepreneurship in all industries and from entrepreneurs, obviously, with different degree types.

SEAL
Continued from Page 1

institution to show impact.

“The certification comes from a pretty extensive application,” Rodriguez said. “We ask for some things from the institution and within there we ask for five years of data in six areas. We asked for three evidence-based practices in those six areas, and those six areas, they asked the question, ‘Are institutions enrolling, retaining, transferring and supporting financially and modeling the faculty and staff and graduating Latino students?’ So, those are the six areas for which they provide data and practices. And then the application also looks at strategy that links all of that data and practice.”

The annual application opened in late March and closed in June. The institutions went through an application review and the finalists were announced in July. In August, the finalists were interviewed and in September and October, institutions were notified.

Rodriguez said most of the

It’s an opportunity for them to gain confidence, experience [and] utilizing their developing skills from their major as it’s applied to entrepreneurship.”

He said the students also learned about effective leadership for a student organization chapter and how to manage it.

“They get to develop their ... public speaking skills,” Abrams said. “For example, when they get the pitch or they can attend the pitch competitions, where you actually have to stand up on the stage and present your business idea. Doing those are all life skills, right, that will help you no matter what your chosen profession is. So, they get experienced with all that as well.”

Clarissa Sepulveda, a biomedical sciences sophomore, said she would return to the conference because she learned a lot from the people there who had more experience than her.

“They were able to give us a lot of advice on how to start a business and how to maybe bring up a new business to someone and how to maybe get contacts,” Sepulveda said. “So, yes, I would definitely recommend it to somebody else, and I would definitely go back if I was given the chance to.”

She said the event that stood out to her the most was the pitch competition.

“They basically taught us how to speak to an entrepreneur ... and I thought that that was very helpful because as a student, you don’t really know how to correctly, I guess, communicate with other people in the business aspect,” Sepulveda said. “And they were able to explain, like, what you say and what not to say or, like, what sounds better, what would be recommended.”

Orfelinda Sepulveda, a biomedical sciences senior and executive vice president of CEO-Edinburg, said the process to register for the conference was hectic because

institutions apply to use it as a jumping-off point to say, “OK, what else can we do?”

“That’s where, you know, the recertification comes in and we often tell institutions that the application, also an assessment, it’s a framework and an approach, and how you, as an institution, can reflect on your own effort and look at your own impact,” she said. “The certification may be, you know, three years and you earn it again and there’s no limit. It really is an approach to think about how do you serve students.”

She said the application serves as a self-evaluation for institutions to reflect on how they serve all students.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said it is an honor to accept the seal during an Oct. 29 livestream from Washington, D.C.

“We worked very hard for this seal,” Bailey said. “Thank you for making us earn it. Earning a seal is different from just getting it. And we really appreciate that difference. It’s something that is not lost on us and shouldn’t be lost on anyone. So, thank you very much. We are committed,



COURTESY PHOTO

Officers of the CEO-Edinburg student organization attend the Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization’s 38th annual Global Conference & Pitch Competition, held Oct. 28-30 in Tampa, Florida. Executive Vice President Orfelinda Sepulveda said the officers decided that the conference was an opportunity they needed to take in order to develop their leadership skills and bring back valuable information for their chapter. Shown (counterclockwise, from front) are President Ashley Wals, Vice President of Logistics Clarissa Sepulveda, Vice President of Digital Engagement Yesenia Mireles, Vice President of Finance Elis De La Garza and Executive Vice President Orfelinda Sepulveda.

of the ongoing pandemic.

“We were trying to decide whether it was safe to travel out to a different state, being that we were going to be surrounded by so many people coming from so many different states,” Orfelinda said. “So, finally, we decided that this was an opportunity that we needed to take as officers in order to develop our leadership skills and bring back a bunch of valuable information for our chapter.”

Yesenia Mireles, an international business senior and executive vice president of marketing and digital media of CEO-Edinburg, said the conference was an eye-opening experience.

“It really introduced us to the entrepreneur side that is happening right now in the workforce, in the real world that’s apart from, you know, college affiliation,” Mireles

said. “It really exposes you to know what people and executives and people who are older, who actually had a corporate job, you know, went through the whole, you know, college experience, graduating and then being in the workforce.”

She said she would recommend this conference to students because it puts them in a position of self-evaluation.

“I know many people don’t know what to do post-graduation and seeing the same people who actually went through what you went through, have gotten their degrees, not only in the business area but in other degrees, and have made their own startup company and have been successful and they have gone through challenges and failures, like, it’s really nice to see that

they’ve gone through this process recently,” Mireles said. “But, you can see how much this experience has made them realize that they can thrive, that they can do more than what we’re expected to believe that we can do.”

She said it was nice to see and hear the different backgrounds of the speakers and mentors.

“They were answering questions, even if you don’t want to start a business,” Mireles said. “So they’ll still help you out to be your best self-home network. And, so, I think that that is something that every individual needs.”

For more information on the student organization, visit Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization on V Link or email ceo.president.edinburg@gmail.com.

along with [Excelencia in Education] to ensure that our students, 90% of whom identify as Hispanic or Latino ... [are] able to graduate and serve their communities, go into their communities and make a difference. And if you think about 90% of our students, that’s 29,000 people who are going to graduate and be equipped to transform their communities.”

He said UTRGV wants to provide opportunities for students in two ways. First, to make sure that finances are never a barrier and second, have the best professional opportunities out there.

“Our students will have great opportunities,” Bailey said. “They’ll be able to graduate without debt and they’ll be able to transform our communities. I want to thank you for all your help in helping us do this. It means so much to us. It means so much to our communities.”

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CHESS
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both look forward to the next women's team event in January.
"That might be a bigger event, and it is my dream to make it happen with four women per team," Macieja said. "We don't know yet where it will be organized, but it will definitely be on

campus, and we invite everyone to watch the event."
The chess program is always open to new players, and students can email chess@utrgv.edu to learn about joining.
"As more people see the event, the more happy we will be," Macieja said. "I hope we will help to popularize [chess] even more on campus."



PHOTO COURTESY ALEX MISTA

The UTRGV Women's Chess Team competed Oct. 31 in the first U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Cup. The UTRGV team was represented at the cup by students Ana Shamatava and Maili-Jade Ouellet, who finished second with a total of 7 out of 10 points. Shown is FIDE Women's Master Shamatava.

SGA
Continued from Page 1

Ruiz and Sergeant-at-Arms Patricia Hernandez Howard took charge of the structure of the roll call with rights.
Ruiz went down the line in order of the senators present in person first and then via Zoom. When their name was called, they stated their vote.
Karitza Garcia, senator for the School of Nursing and chair of the internal affairs standing committee, voted against the resolution.
"So, I voted nay with rights, reason being is because I do not believe that SGA should take an official position and just allow students to make an informed decision no matter how good the cause is," Garcia said after her vote.

College of Fine Arts Senator Brandon Navarro also voted "no" with rights.
"I believe that, as [the] Student Government Association, as the leaders within the UTRGV, that we, as a whole, should not be supportive of this as one," Navarro said. "We should remain [unbiased]."
Ruiz announced the results: 10 voted against, four in favor and two abstained.
"This resolution is denied by the senate," Ruiz said.
Job Martinez, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, reminded students of the SGA's role in the referendum during an interview with The Rider last Wednesday.
"SGA's role with the referendum is we as a collective, all the individuals who make up the SGA, essentially we brought up this referendum so that students are able to vote on it," Martinez said. "That it's their voice and it's their vote and they'll decide specifically whether the referendum gets passed or not."

If students approve the referendum, incoming students will pay an additional \$11.25 per credit hour,

capped at 12 hours, to fund the establishment of a football program, women's swimming and diving teams, two marching bands and two spirit programs.
Voting on the Athletics Fee Referendum will take place via email from 8 a.m. Nov. 8 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 10. A ballot will be sent to students' UTRGV emails with the subject line, SGA Referendum Ballot: Vote Now.

Under new business, the senate approved the following appointments:
--finance senior Moises Calderon-Guillén, as senator-at-large
--graduate student in art Kimberly Sandoval, as senator-at-large
--graduate student in rehabilitation counseling Beatriz Treviño, as senator for the Graduate College
--music education junior Luis Viveros, as senator for the College of Fine Arts
--nursing sophomore Victoria Olvera, as senator for the School of Nursing
--environmental science sophomore Patricia Hernandez Howard, as secretary of communication and recruitment.

The senate also approved four courtesy resolutions presented by Martinez praising the Center for Student Involvement for "extraordinary contributions to all student organizations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic"; Custodial and Grounds for its "extraordinary maintenance of campus grounds"; Parking and Transportation for its "commitment to safety while providing exceptional accessibility towards the services provided by transportation services of all students"; and the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship for its "extraordinary contributions to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and it's committed mission towards student success for all students at the College of Business."

The next SGA meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 16.



Thank You

VETERANS

*For your service whether at home or abroad,
Active Duty, Reserves, or Retired; with a grateful heart,
thank you for your service and sacrifice.*



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Karitza Garcia, senator for the School of Nursing and chair of the internal affairs standing committee, also voted against the resolution asking students to vote in favor of the Athletics Fee Referendum.

SOUND
Continued from Page 8

is a good place to choose." Mann said. "We also want to let other people who aren't here see what we're doing. Being a part of [SOUND] and telling the different stories, I think, is really cool."
Not only does SOUND want to provide reasons for students to join UTRGV's School of Music, but it also aims to provide a connection with current faculty and past, present and future students.

"One of the things that's interesting about the School of Music versus other [schools] is that we do a lot of one-on-one teaching," Mann said. "With music, usually you go to a private lesson with one teacher and you end

up working with that person for many years. So, you end up building a very strong connection with that person. By reading the magazine, people get to form connections with faculty that they never would have formed because they wouldn't have known that they had these similarities without these faculty interviews featured."

SOUND wants to provide a multimedia format for its viewers.
"The goal with the magazine is to not just contribute to the traditional written narrative format, but to also contribute to a digital multimedia format with hyperlinks throughout the articles, or embedding videos so that it's more interactive for the audience," Ramirez said.

Have a story idea?

Let us know at

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NIGHT SHIFT NUISANCE

By Yvanna Gonzalez

Feli looked up at the bright neon lights and winced slightly at how blinding they were. It was raining outside, and the petrichor mixed with cigarette smoke and gas was filling his nostrils and slithering into his lungs. He didn't particularly like working on a Saturday night, but the bills couldn't be paid any other way.

He looked down at the cement as he walked under the red lights displaying the words *A Woman in Red* to anyone from a mile down the highway. He made sure to shuffle his shoes on the placemat before pulling up his face mask and striding in with the "fake it till you make it" confidence he somehow pulled out of nowhere every night before his shift.

What made the whole situation worse was his lack of coffee. The little coffee shop he loved to visit on his way over was closed, since the owner had somehow gotten himself bit by a tarantula and was in the hospital (which made no sense to Feli, since they aren't poisonous.) But he took it in stride and came to work anyways, even if he was a phone call away from calling in sick.

Seriously, he couldn't survive without coffee.

Feli made his way to the back of the bar, almost tripping on a bar stool on his way there. He waved to his coworker, who looked immediately grateful that he showed up to relieve her. She looked like she had her hands full with a party of obnoxious men that were flirting with her like she was Marilyn Monroe reincarnate, which she was, but right now she looked like she just really needed a nap.

He tapped her on the shoulder, giving her a tired smile. "I got this, Susie. You can get on out of here." She shot him a grateful look and sped to the back to put on a raincoat.

He turned back around and saw a particularly annoyed customer who glared at him like he took away his drinking privileges. Although now that Feli thought about it, that seemed like a good idea. The customer's eyes were slowly dropping, and Feli watched him with amusement as he unsteadily raised his beer to his lips. The customer looked straight at him, hateful eyes morphing into curious ones.

"Hey. You..."

Feli waited patiently as he gathered his thoughts.

"You look like a guy I knew . . . when I was a kid."

Feli nodded, encouraging him to go on as he put some tap water into a cup. Best to sneak it in while the customer was distracted.

"Yeah. He took my pogo stick from me. Freaking LOVED that stick, you know."

Feli looked back up at him and handed him the glass of water. "That sucks. Sounds like he owes you a pogo stick."

The customer looked up at him under his long eyelashes. "YOU owe me a pogo stick."

Feli rolled his eyes but kept his voice patient. He didn't want to aggravate him. "I'm not your friend, remember?"

"But you look like him."

"You can't even see half of my face."

The other guy squinted at him, humming as he stared at him. "I have x-ray vision. I'm Superman."

Feli nodded. "Sure."

The other man began to nod too, muttering under his breath. "Yeah. I'm Superman."

Feli tried not to laugh as he took the empty beer bottle he forgot to pick up earlier. The guy was still slumped over the bar, and Feli watched with alarm as he saw him slipping off the stool. He shot forward, grabbing the guy by the collar and yanking him back into place. Unfortunately, he was heavier than expected, and Feli pitched forward and over the bar, not realizing he was falling until he reached the floor with a thump.

Feli shook his head, rubbing at his side where he hit something- looks like the guy's knee elbowed his ribs. He felt a blush rise in his neck as he realized the awkward position he was in.

The guy groaned and looked up at Feli, who was in between his legs and half laying on his torso. His eyes also widened, and he looked ready to say something, but his face contorted, and Feli had seen that face too many times to know where this would end. He scrambled back as the guy turned on his side and hurled, causing everyone around them to groan in disgust.

Feli sighed. He really wanted that coffee now.



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