

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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/UTRGVRIDER



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## Countdown to walk the stage



DAVID PIKE/UTRGV MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Valeria Henderson

THE RIDER

UTRGV's Fall 2021 Commencement will be held in person Dec. 10 on the Brownsville campus in parking Lot B3 and Dec. 11 in the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg.

The times for the ceremonies have still not been set, because it depends on the RSVP's and how many students are interested in attending in Brownsville or Edinburg, according to Sofia Almeda, university registrar.

This will determine how many ceremonies will be needed and the times that they will be scheduled. The times will be decided this month.

Oct. 31 was the deadline to apply to be included in the commencement ceremony, Almeda said. The final graduation application deadline for students to get their degree is Nov. 10.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for graduates to submit their photo and message and RSVP for Fall 2021 Commencement.

The locations for the ceremonies are decided depending on two main factors, Almeda said. One is the size of the graduating class. This is based on the university registrar projections when it comes to

See **STAGE**, Page 8

## 11 COVID-19 positives, 2 quarantined at UTRGV

### Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

UTRGV reported 11 additional COVID-19 cases between Oct. 15 and 21, 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 11 were nine students and two staff members.

Among the nine students was an athlete, according to Jonah Goldberg, senior associate director for communications

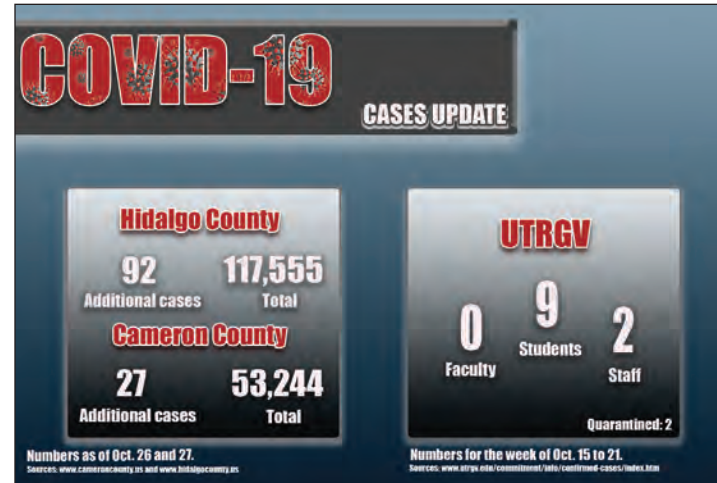
for the UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, who spoke with The Rider last Tuesday.

The athlete tested positive for COVID-19 Oct. 21 and was released from off-campus isolation Sunday.

Goldberg said this is the third positive for the department this semester.

"I'm proud of our student athletes, and our coaches and staff," he said. "They've done a great job. We have an 85% vaccination rate among our entire athletics department."

See **COVID-19**, Page 3



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## Lana Condor to be next Distinguished Speaker



COURTESY PHOTO

### Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

Student Activities will host its second Distinguished Speaker Series virtually this semester with actress Lana Condor at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16. Condor is best known for her acting role as Lara Jean Covey in the Netflix movie series "To All the Boys I've Loved Before."

Condor was originally set to speak this week. However, a scheduling conflict postponed the event.

Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities, said this program was carried over from one of the legacy institutions.

"We're now, I believe, in our 18th season and so, over the years, we've been able to bring once-in-a-lifetime speakers to the university so that students can not only participate in the lectures but also listen to inspiring messages from all of them," Mata-Vasquez said. "We've brought everything from renowned scientists, Nobel laureates, past presidents, even world leaders and some athletes as well and well-known people in the

business community."

She will moderate the conversation with Condor.

"It's something new for me, but I'm excited to have that conversation and ask her some questions and just get to know her a little bit better and see how she can inspire our students," Mata-Vasquez said.

She said bringing someone with her background would be great for students to listen to.

"She has had a very different story and, so, it'll be interesting to hear her speak to our students," Mata-Vasquez said. "I mean, she was adopted. She and her brother were adopted from Vietnam as babies, and so they grew up in the U.S. I think she's also battled some, like, body image issues, of course, being in Hollywood. And then, now, you know, she's been very successful with, almost, an overnight success."

Linda Chapman, a mass communication senior, said she has previously attended the Distinguished Speaker Series.

"The last one with John See **DSS**, Page 3

## UTRGV Chess Team wins at super finals, women's team makes debut

### Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men's Chess Team won the 2021 Texas Collegiate Super Finals Oct. 23 and 24 in Lubbock.

UTRGV was eligible to send two teams to the super finals, according to an email sent to The Rider Oct. 25 by Bartek Macieja, UTRGV's chess coach.

Team A placed first with 3.5 match points and 11 game points, resulting in UTRGV's fourth first-place win, and team B placed fifth with 1 match point and 6 game points.

Kamil Dragun, a financial planning graduate student and UTRGV Chess Team member, placed first.

"I started [playing chess] when I was, like, around 5 years old," Dragun said. "So, I've played, like, for 20 years."

He said he did not expect UTRGV to win first place this year.

"Last semester, we lost a lot of team members," Dragun said. "Now, we have, like, half of the team is new, basically."

He said chess is the reason he is at UTRGV with a scholarship.

"Everything was possible because of chess," Dragun said. "In another case, it would have been very difficult for me to come to the United States and study at the university."

Last Sunday, UTRGV's Women's Chess Team competed at the 2021 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Cup.

See **CHESS**, Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY BARTEK MACIEJA

The 2021 Super Final was the sixth edition of the Texas Collegiate Super Finals. UTRGV also won in 2016, 2018 and 2019, and was a co-champion in 2017. Shown are Alex Mista, chess program manager, and Teams A and B members Viktor Gazik, Maria Malicka, Ulvi Bajarani, Maili-Jade Ouellet, Kamil Dragun, Ana Shamatava, Dante Beukes and Irakli Beradze.

## 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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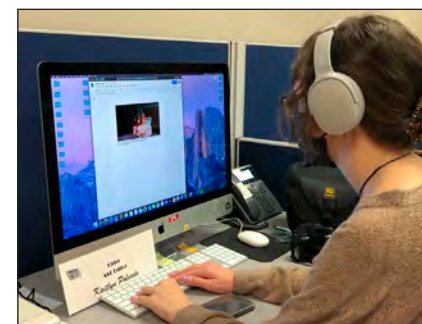
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## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Today

Represent UTRGV The **Student Government Association** is seeking student representatives to recommend for state-level positions in the **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board** and the **University of Texas System Board of Regents**. The application deadline is Sunday. Visit V Link for more information on how to apply.

GradBash **Alumni Relations** will host **GradBash2021** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday and Thursday at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. Students may **order class rings, buy caps and gowns, receive free snacks or giveaways**, have their resume reviewed and more. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at 665-2500.

Ambassador Scholarship **Engaged Scholarship & Learning** invites undergraduate students to apply for the **Ambassador Scholarship to gain leadership experience, collaborative skills and network**. Students may be awarded **up to \$1,500**. The application deadline is Thursday. To apply, visit the Engaged Scholarship and Learning website.

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.

K.I.S.S. Meeting The **Korean International Student Society** will conduct a general meeting from 12:30 to 1:45 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.

Thriving Study Halls The **Women in STEM Programs** organization will host a **virtual study hall** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Assignment assistance and studying motivation may be provided. 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

BESO General Meeting The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will conduct a **meeting** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom to give members general **information** about the organization. RSVP is available on V Link.

Grief through Art & Culture The **School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling** will host an online **discussion** from 2 to 3:30 p.m. to talk about the **healing power of grieving collectively** through cultural rituals and ceremonies.

*Día de los Muertos Baile*

**Housing & Residence Life** and the **Student Union** will host a **Día de los Muertos Baile** from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Casa Bella pool area on the Brownsville campus. The event will feature a *baile*, drinks, food, *altar de muertos* and a *catrin* and *catrina* of the night contest. The first 250 students to attend will receive a free Day of the Dead T-shirt. For more information, email home@utrgv.edu.

Clarinet Concert

**Clarinetist Jonathan Guist**, a School of Music assistant professor, will perform in concert at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Complex in Brownsville. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Faculty Artist Series**.

### Wednesday

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.

Jazz Concert

The **UTRGV Jazz Big Band** will perform in concert at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Student Performance Series**.

### Thursday

Sex-Education Meeting The **Access for Sex-Education** organization will host an informational session from noon to 1 p.m. to **educate students about sexual health,**

where to find services, and how to advocate for reproductive health care programs.

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.

Free Lunch The **Baptist Student Ministry** offers students **free lunch** at 12:30 p.m. every Thursday in the BSM building, located across from the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

Graduate and Professional School Fair The **UTRGV Career Center** will conduct a **Virtual Graduate and Professional School Fair** from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event is for students interested in law school, medical school or graduate schools. Register on Handshake. For more information, email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Trumpet Concert The **UTRGV Trumpet Ensembles** will perform a **Musical Harvest** concert at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Student Performance Series**.

### Friday

The People Series The **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** will host an **educational series** about the legacy of **Bayard Rustin**, a civil rights leader and gay rights activist, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

*Noche de la Guitarra*

The **Patron of the Arts program** will host its **24th Annual Noche de la Guitarra** concert featuring **50 performers** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free.

### Saturday

Celebration of Piano Music The **Patron of the Arts program** will host **The French Connection: A Celebration of French Piano Music** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville and at 4 p.m. Sunday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The concert will feature repertoire ranging from the French composers **Jean-Phillipe Rameau** and **Oliver Messiaen**. Admission is free.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 22 and 28.



### Oct. 22

**8:44 a.m.:** A student reported falling off his skateboard while at the Health Affairs Building West on the Edinburg campus, injuring his right knee.

The student complained of pain, stating he was not able to stand on his own. Emergency medical services arrived at the location, but the man declined medical assistance. He stated he would seek medical attention on his own.

**11:09 a.m.:** UTRGV Police Communications observed two men on camera jumping the U.S. border fence behind the Academic Support Facilities Building on the Brownsville campus. An officer and U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the area. An agent took custody of the Mexican nationals without incident.

### Oct. 24

**12:14 a.m.:** While visiting the Southeast Texas city of Beaumont, a student discovered an unknown

individual was impersonating her on several social media accounts. The student reported that the same individual had also sent intimate photos of her to her new boyfriend without her consent. The case is under investigation.

**10:24 a.m.:** A woman attempted to make contact with her granddaughter, a current student, but to no avail. The student had already reported a past incident to Residence Life staff regarding her not wanting any contact with any of her family members. The woman left the area without incident.

**10:50 p.m.:** A resident assistant at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus reported there were two students under the age of 21 in possession of alcoholic beverages in a dorm room. The RA reported there were two men at the location with the students, but that they had left the area before the officer's arrival. The officer spoke with the students and confirmed they had not consumed any of the beverages. The alcohol was removed and disposed

of by the RA. The students reported the men were not students. At the officer's discretion, no citations were issued to the students. This incident will be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

**9:25 p.m.:** A member of a student fraternity on the Edinburg campus reported the appointed treasurer, a current student, had made four unauthorized charges on the fraternity credit card. The case is under investigation.

### Oct. 28

**12:14 a.m.:** A student reported a man knocked on his apartment door at Casa Bella on the Brownsville campus and reported he had been assaulted by two men at an off-campus location. Emergency medical services and a Brownsville police officer arrived on scene. The man was subsequently transported to Valley Baptist Hospital for further evaluation. The incident is being investigated by the Brownsville Police Department.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

# Brownsville commission approves \$8.8M award for West Rail Trail Project

**Alejandra Yañez**  
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission approved action Thursday to award an \$8.8 million contract to Foremost Paving Inc. for the construction of the West Rail Trail Project.

The project's aim is to construct a 22-foot-wide, dual-purpose concrete hike-and-bike trail from an abandoned railroad alignment in Brownsville. The trail will run from Palm Boulevard to I69E, for a distance of 6.89 miles, according to agenda documents.

The approval of the project was motioned by Mayor Trey Mendez. District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded the motion.

At the meeting, Multimodal Transportation Director Joel Garza presented the project details.

The City of Brownsville, in conjunction with the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, the county and the Texas Department of Transportation proposed the

project earlier this year.

In late September, the city received approval from TxDOT to move forward with the construction phase of the West Rail Trail Project.

The trail consists of a 100-foot-wide old railroad corridor that is made of only rock ballast that ranges in width from 25 to 30 feet.

"Vegetated grass drainage ditches that run parallel on both sides of the rock ballast provided drainage for the old railroad," the agenda documents read.

The existing right of way is 100 feet wide throughout the length of the project. The proposed typical section consists of a 12-foot-wide, dual-purpose pathway for hiking and biking use.

The development of the project has been as follows: On Oct. 5 and 10, legal advertisements appeared in The Brownsville Herald and were posted on the purchasing website, BidNetDirect. No addendums were issued during the process.

At the meeting, it was announced that the only bidder



**Roxanna Miranda**/THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission approves action on the West Rail Trail Project during Thursday's meeting in the Brownsville Public Library Main Branch meeting room. Shown (from left) are Mayor Trey Mendez, Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose Gowen, District 3 Commissioner Roy de los Santos and District 4 Commissioner Pedro Cardenas.

for the project was Foremost Paving Inc.

On Oct. 8, a pre-bid meeting was held and on Oct. 20 sealed

bid was received for the project.

The total bid for the West Rail Trail Project is \$8,840,681.25, with a completion time of 220

calendar days after breaking ground.

## COVID-19 *Continued from Page 1*

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 two UTRGV students were quarantined on campus the week of Oct. 15 to 21.

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 45,787 tests and 86,308 vaccine doses, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

In other COVID-19-related news, UT Health RGV issued a campuswide email Oct. 25 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 CDC'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 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 who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago.

With UTRGV's presence in both Hidalgo and Cameron counties, cases continue to be reported.

Hidalgo County reported an additional 92 confirmed cases last Wednesday, raising the county's total to 117,555, according to its website.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported four additional deaths, raising its death toll to 3,440. Of the four dead, none were vaccinated.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health reported an additional 27 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 53,244.

Cameron County also reported five additional COVID-19-related deaths Tuesday, raising its death toll to 1,968. Of the five deaths, four were unvaccinated individuals.

## DSS *Continued from Page 1*

Quiñones was my first distinguished speaker and I have never gone to it before, so I wanted to try it out, see what it was like and I really enjoyed it," Chapman said. "I loved everything he said. The advice was amazing. And he was very inspirational to me."

She is interested in what Condor has to say because she is only a few years older than her and she has done so much.

"So, I want to know what

kinds of questions she's going to get because I haven't seen too much of her, so I'm going to be learning a lot from what she has to say," Chapman said. "I like listening to interviews. I'm a fan of, like, celebrities because of their journeys. With Lana, I first saw her on 'X-Men' and so I became a fan. And then, I like cheesy comedy rom coms and all that kind of stuff, so when I saw that she was in the series of 'To all the Boys I've Loved Before,' I was, like, 'OK, I like her.' I want to see what she has to say with this speaker

series."

Asked what questions she would ask Condor, Chapman replied that she would like to know the challenges she has been through to get to where she is now.

"Because she has done a lot and the movies she's been in have been very successful, so I want to know, like, not just the good of it, but what she had to go through to get there," she said.

Priscila Gomez, a graphic design junior, said this will be her first time attending a Distinguished Speaker Series

lecture.

Gomez said she and her friends are excited to learn more about Condor as she is a great inspiration to a lot of people.

"I have followed her for a little bit," she said. "And she's spoken so much to a lot of people and that's why I am really excited to be in that meeting."

Gomez would ask Condor how she manages her acting career, personal life while managing to stay centered and balanced.

Asked who she would like to

see next in the speaker series, she replied, "I think it would be good having someone that just has an objective opinion about things and someone that can really bring a different perspective on what we have here in the [Rio Grande] Valley because I know for some things, we kind of live in a bubble. And up there in the state or even in other states, they have problems that we may not be facing here. ... But just someone that can bring an outer perspective or life outside the Valley."

## CHESS *Continued from Page 1*

As of press time, results were unavailable.

In the United States, there have been collegiate chess competitions for roughly 70 years, but last Sunday the first official women's collegiate event took place online and was endorsed by the U.S. Chess Federation, Macieja said.

"Last year, we had our first women's [match], but there were no official tournaments yet," he said. "But there was a match, like, a friendly match. For instance, we played against Texas Tech University, but no official championship."

A lack of women in chess has made it difficult to form teams

up until now, Macieja said.

"There is a huge domination of men over women," he said. "It was very difficult, even for the most talented women to get scholarships to get on the team."

Macieja said in order to provide women with chess scholarships and opportunities, he had to get in touch with coaches and program managers from other universities.

"I needed to ... check with them whether they wanted to have additional competitions just for women," he said. "Because if they didn't, then what's the point of us having a team [if we are unable] to compete against anybody?"

The chess coach said there was concern about how difficult

it would be to find female players.

"Nobody was against it," Macieja said. "Just not everybody was enthusiastic that [it] would be possible to do in practice. We said, 'Well, let's give it a try, let's start.'"

He said the hope is that the team continues to develop and grow.

"We don't expect that much of a participation the first year," Macieja said. "You know, 70 years ago, even the general competitions were not big, but later, it grew."

At the moment, the UTRGV Women's Chess Team has four students on its roster, including Maria Malicka, a computer science freshman from Poland who earned her Woman Candidate Master title

in 2017 and FIDE Master title in 2020.

"I've been playing chess since I was 8 years old, I think," Malicka said. "My grandfather showed me this game. He just wanted to play with me. And I liked it, and I wanted to play more. It was just completely random, really. It wasn't on purpose."

She said at first she learned the rules to play the game with her grandfather, but soon she started to compete.

"I started to play more professional, like in tournaments," Malicka said.

She said before she came to the United States, she traveled through Europe to compete and visited at least 10 different countries.

"It's a lot," Malicka said.

"But for a chess player, I didn't travel so much, mainly because of [COVID-19]. It took [away] a lot of chances to travel."

She said that chess has provided her with many opportunities.

"I like everything about this game," Malicka said. "It's not just random. Winning depends only on you, not on if you're lucky or something. You have to calculate all of it. It's a logical game. I like such activities, and because of this, I have a great opportunity to be here and study in the U.S. So, basically, chess gave me a lot."

Macieja said that chess allows people to travel and provides "amazing and unique opportunities."

# YAQUERO VOICE



## ATHLETICS FEE REFERENDUM

On Oct. 26, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What are your thoughts on the Athletics Fee Referendum?" The results are shown below.

### facebook

**IT IS A GREAT IDEA** 11

**I DO NOT HAVE AN OPINION** 2

### twitter

**I AM IN BETWEEN** 4

**IT IS A BAD IDEA** 2

**IT IS A GREAT IDEA** 1

### Instagram

**IT IS A GREAT IDEA** 6

**I AM IN BETWEEN** 5

**IT IS A BAD IDEA** 3

**I DON'T HAVE AN OPINION** 3

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# 1 hour and 30 minutes of travel



# Art majors matter



**Danielle Perez**  
THE RIDER

It always been this way since high school. Athletics always seems to one-up artists, and for what reason? After graduating from high school, I thought we would leave that mindset behind. But as soon as I walked into UTRGV, it felt like déjà vu.

For almost the entire fall semester, there has been a whole master plan about bringing in new spirit and athletic programs. I am not going to lie. They had me in the first half. I heard about this great idea and how it would benefit the university and the community. It sounded like an easy piece of cake I was so willing to take a bite of.

Then, I started to think. How will this benefit the School of Art? How will this make me feel safer and important in the university? How is it that the university takes care of its athletes but not its artists, who have been crying for help since day one? It is crazy to hear seniors and professors discuss how they have complained since long ago about the distribution of classes between campuses and lack of materials and space provided to the department. But nothing has been done.

In the first week of school this semester, I entered my sculpture class in Rusteberg Hall, so excited to get started. But little did I know, I would want to be out in the first five minutes. The air-conditioning unit was broken, the professor was dripping sweat and classmates were taking off their masks because it was too hot for them to handle.

I guess the university forgot that COVID-19 exists and did not think students would remove their masks. We were provided bottled water to "help" with the issue but to this day, I am not sure if they came from the university or one of our professors. Either way, it should not have come to that.

My head was hurting from the heat and I could not

concentrate on my artwork. Some students chose to stay in that room, while others, including myself, moved to another classroom. About two or three weeks into the semester, they decided to "fix" the sculpture classroom by installing an AC window unit that does not cool off enough in our garage-looking classrooms. When I returned to the classroom, I did not know I would only have about elbow-length space in which to sculpt.

Rusteberg Hall belongs to Texas Southmost College and while other UTRGV departments, such as Music, are getting brand-new facilities built for them, mine is falling apart.

Before registering for the

"Just keep this in mind: We are the ones who create your graphics, logos and designs. So, you need us, too."

Fall 2021 semester, I had the hardest time trying to find classes that were based solely on the Brownsville campus. I was on the waitlist for about half of them, not knowing if I would even get in before the semester began.

The thing about being an art major based on the Brownsville campus is that you will more than likely wish you lived in Edinburg to be able to access all the art classes. Unfortunately, not every student has the means to move to Edinburg. The Brownsville campus has a limited number of professors and space and for that reason, art majors miss out on classes they want to take.

Even when you get a class in Edinburg, you still need to take another bus, which no one even tells you about, because the Visual Arts Building is not on the main campus. This only makes us feel even more separated.

Not only is the Edinburg art building separated from the main campus, it is also separated in Brownsville, which means the parking lot is, too.

One of my classes ends after sundown; therefore, walking to my car is a bit terrifying. Half the time, I do not even

know if it is really safe for me. Every time I see cars parked next to the sidewalk, I feel as if I am being watched and hesitate to walk by. Hearing that someone wrote a message with their phone number on a classmate's car was also creepy.

As terrifying as it is walking in the dark to your car, sharing a restroom is, too. I have had enough of having to put down the toilet seat or having to flush it every time I walk in because a man was too inconsiderate. These may not seem like big issues to athletes but try being in our shoes: How would you feel if the court was too small, or water came inside the gym or weight room every time it rained?

Recently, a Student Government Association senator for the College of Fine Arts spoke to art majors on the Brownsville campus after concerns were raised during the Oct. 14 town hall on the Athletics Fee Referendum. A couple of peers voiced their concerns as to how nothing has been done to increase space and the number of classes offered in Brownsville since the opening of UTRGV in 2015. The senator told attendees that there was "no information" about budgets or logistics regarding the College of Fine Arts when she joined the SGA. Even though the addition of marching bands may seem like it will benefit the arts, it falls under the School of Music, not the School of Art.

I understand that creating new programs will help the school grow, but how are we supposed to grow if we cannot even fix what is already broken? I have heard time and time again how art students are tired of trying to make a change because they feel like they are talking to a wall. Why do we need to take that extra step and sign a petition or write letters to the provost? Why are we not already being taken care of just as Athletics is? Does our art not matter? Just keep this in mind: We are the ones who create your graphics, logos and designs. So, you need us, too.

# El baile del Día de los Muertos regresa a UTRGV

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Departamento de Vivienda y Vida Residencial celebrará el Día de los Muertos con un baile de 6 a 9 p.m. el martes en el área de piscina en la Casa Bella en el campus de Brownsville.

El evento tiene como propósito honrar y recordar a las personas difuntas a través de un baile en conmemoración al Día de los Muertos.

"[El Día de los Muertos] es una ocasión especial para nosotros", dijo Nayeli Garcia, coordinadora de vivienda en la Casa Bella. "Es un evento que hemos organizado en años pasados."

Garcia dijo que técnicamente serían cinco años de conmemorar el Día de los Muertos a través de este evento, pero debido a la pandemia, este sería su cuarto año.

"Es un día en el que les pedimos a toda la comunidad de UTRGV que se unan a nosotros para celebrar las vidas de esos seres queridos fallecidos", dijo. "Nos tomamos la ocasión muy en serio, nos gusta mucho tener el altar de muertos, en donde podemos traer fotos de nuestros seres queridos fallecidos".

Garcia explicó que crear estos bailes es una forma de bailar en memoria de los difuntos.



Luis Martinez Santillano/FOTO RIDER

Estudiantes se inscriben en el concurso de disfraces de la Fiesta de Fright Brownsville de Halloween en la Casa Club en los apartamentos de Casa Bella en el campus de Brownsville el pasado miércoles. Fiesta de Fright Brownsville es un nuevo evento tradicional organizado por UTRGV Departamento Vivienda y Vida Residencial para todos los estudiantes.

"El Departamento de Vivienda y Vida Residencial hacen de todo en este evento", dijo Mabel Cortina-Matos, directora de eventos de la Unión Estudiantil en UTRGV. "Este año es como todos los demás, con mucho amor y mucho esfuerzo en esto".

Cortina-Matos explicó que por la pandemia el evento será al aire libre en la zona de la piscina en Casa Bella.

"El clima está a punto de ponerse realmente hermoso", dijo Cortina-Matos. "Será un martes a las 6 p.m. donde

tendremos baile, música, juegos, y comida deliciosa".

La Unión Estudiantil colaborará con el Departamento de Vida Residencial al proveer comida y juegos para los estudiantes, en donde tendrán la oportunidad de comer tacos y churros, dijo Cortina-Matos.

"Nuevamente, tomando precauciones con la manipulación de alimentos con la ayuda de Sodexo, nos aseguraremos de que todo esté a la altura del código, manejando correctamente

todo y sirviendo individualmente la comida y todo eso", dijo.

Garcia explicó que el baile en conmemoración al Día de los Muertos es muy especial para la comunidad de UTRGV.

"No nos gusta que sea solo un evento o una excusa para poner algo especial", dijo Garcia. "Es un día que realmente nos tomamos en serio sólo porque afecta tanto a nuestra cultura y es algo para lo que realmente queremos educar a los estudiantes".

Arturo Rivas, estudiante

de segundo año de comunicación masiva, explicó la importancia como estudiante de participar en este tipo de eventos.

"Creo que es realmente importante asistir a los eventos y saber que estoy haciendo amigos a través de los dormitorios," dijo Rivas. "Personalmente, para mí, es mi primer año en el campus y no tenía muchos amigos, pero debido a que elegí vivir en los dormitorios yo pude diversificarme y hacer amigos".

Rivas dijo que el vivir en el dormitorio y participar en los eventos ayuda a los estudiantes a crear más relaciones.

Él explicó el porqué es importante aprender sobre el Día de los Muertos aun estando en los Estados Unidos.

"Creo que es importante que todos aprendan sobre este tipo de eventos para estar más en contacto con nuestra cultura", dijo Rivas. "Sé que hay muchos estudiantes que entienden lo que es [El Día de los Muertos], pero no tienen un sentido profundo de lo que realmente significa".

Creo que solo hablar de ello o publicar información al respecto y tener eventos de vez en cuando ayuda a los estudiantes a estar más en contacto con su cultura, dijo.

Vea BAILE, Página 8

## Clinging to Nothing

By Rebecca Green

As the water pressed against her chest, she knew nothing could free her but her own flesh. The comm was still online but no one would answer the cries from someone thirty-three feet underwater. She grabbed it once more and cried out, "You left a diver behind turn back!" Still nothing.

"You gotta fight Deb's; No one is coming." She could almost hear him in the silence of the deep, blue, forsaken ocean. It felt peaceful to just stay and let the death sweep over her once the oxygen tank would run out. "Deb's." She woke up to him calling her once more. She looked at her tank, "Six minutes left, if I could make it in one breath and swim up." She unzipped the vest and after, took the pack off. Before she inhaled her last breath, she took a second to try and hear him one more time. Hearing nothing, she inhaled her last breath looked up, and swam.

The darkness was subsiding, but she was already feeling hopeless, desiring to breathe in water. "Faster, faster." The sun cracking through the black depth seemed so close yet far. After thirty more

seconds of this hell, she reached her hand once more and felt it break through the surface of the water. The heat of the sun hit her hand, but just as it did, she also breathed in.

Her hand fell as sin into the never-ending abyss of darkness. Her greatest fear was to die alone, yet there she sank in each and every tear, not floating but not drowning, not living even so not dying. She would've never known that a fake life to everyone is lying, and although they saved her from death that day, she replays the death over and over in the psychiatric hospital. She had been diagnosed with depression, and this was the fight to continue living every day. To this moment she forever unconsciously and insanely looks to the depth of the ocean, which although not there, filled with screams of her crying.



## Second Sight By Diane Joseph

Meryl closed the book she was reading and leaned back in her chair. She rubbed her eyes and glanced back at the book cover, *The Art of Mind Reading* by Hendrik Fexeus. If she were being honest, she was a little disappointed with the book's contents. When she had seen the book at the school library, tucked behind the other non-fictions, she thought she had finally found the right book, but all it really discussed was how to read a person's non-verbal cues - interesting, but not what she was looking for.

Seventeen-year-old Meryl had what her friends and family considered to be an odd fascination - the ability to peer into someone else's mind. Mind-reading, telepathy, clairvoyance, whatever you want to call it, it's a topic that she had an obsession over, even though she has yet to prove it even works.

She sighed and leaned against her hand. Her eyes travelled around her chemistry classroom, blocking out her teacher's lecture. *What are the chances of a student in here being a mind reader?* She thought. Very slim, but she might as well try. Plus, it wasn't like she was even paying attention to the lecture anyways.

One of the main methods of finding a mind reader, based on all the books she read, is to catch them by surprise. If she were to suddenly scream in her head with no warning, it could make the mind reader give off some sort of reaction.

Meryl mentally drew in a deep breath, and screamed at the highest decibel she could in her head, *I HATE THIS CLASS!*

As she yelled, she watched everyone closely, from the teacher who stood by the whiteboard explaining a model, to the kid sleeping in the back of the class. Suddenly, her eyes widened. She stared at the back of her long-time crush Elijah Delaney, his dark chocolate curls wild yet tame around his neck. It was incredibly subtle, but she thought she had seen him flinch ever so

slightly in his seat two rows ahead of her. *No, it can't be,* she thought. She sat staring at his back.

*C-can you hear me?* She asked nervously in her head. He made no sort of movement. Meryl waited for a few minutes but then brushed it off. *It probably was a coincidence,* she thought. She was about to go back to paying attention to the class when he turned around in his seat, making dead-on eye contact with Meryl. He rubbed his temple and grimaced. *Yes I can hear you, but did you really have to scream that loud before?* He asked but not verbally.

She was able to hear him in her head. *Mind readers were real,* she thought. She just proved it.

*Yes, yes, we're real,* he said. *I can hear practically anyone's mind.*

*Wait, then have you been able to hear my thoughts for last several years?*

He blushed, then turned back to facing front in his seat. *Yeah, I have,* he said softly.

Meryl blanched, then blushed. *Wait so that means...*

He mentally laughed. *Don't worry, I think you're cute too.* He paused for a few seconds.

*Do- do you want to go to the winter dance with me?* He asked tentatively.

...

"And that, kids, is the story of how I met your father," Meryl said, hugging on to thirty-seven-year-old Elijah.

"Oh, that's such a cute story," their younger daughter said sighing. "Tell us more," their son said eagerly, his chocolate curls a photocopy of his father's. Meryl laughed. "No, that's it for today kids. It time you all went to bed. We'll..."

"Do more stories tomorrow evening," Elijah finished. Meryl rolled her eyes as her children walked to their bedroom. "You haven't changed one bit," she said smiling. *Hehe, I guess I haven't,* he replied.



# Pharr theater prepares for new workshops

**Kaitlyn Polvado**  
A&E EDITOR

The Pharr Theater Company will host screenwriting classes for ages 18 and older from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays this month through Zoom.

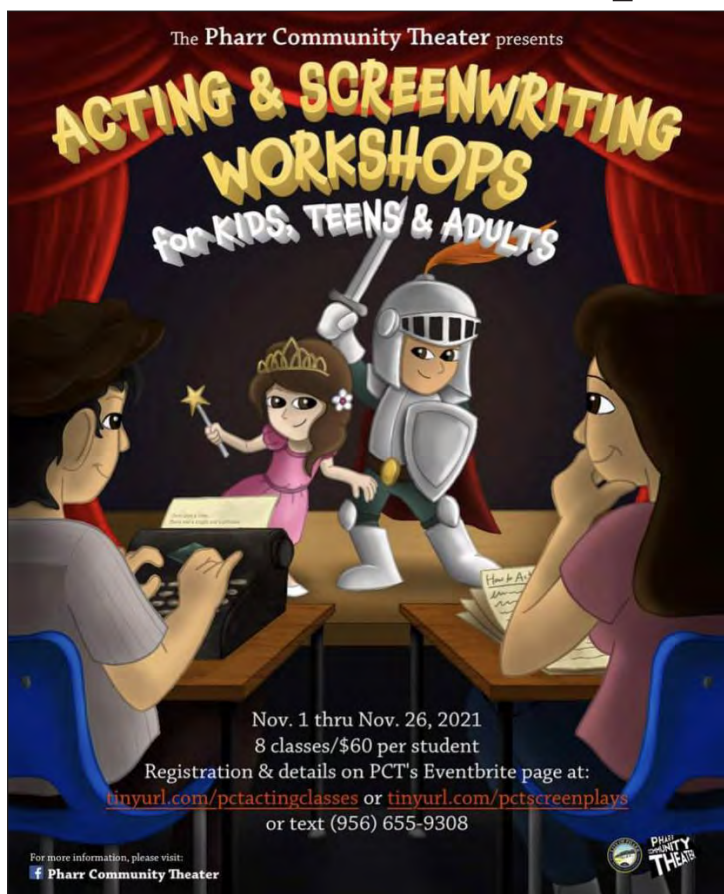
Classes run through Nov. 26, with 10 spaces per class. Registration is \$60 and is available at the theater's Eventbrite page.

Students can develop their skills in plotting stories, building themes, developing scenes, crafting characters and formatting scripts during the classes, according to the theater's Eventbrite page.

Classes will be taught by Robert Longoria, who graduated from the University of Texas-Pan American with a bachelor's degree in English. He earned a master's in English from UTRGV. Longoria is a freelance Rio Grande Valley screenwriter and producer who has written short films, such as "The Hunt," directed by Johnny Hernandez, and "The Monster."

Longoria said one thing he loves about being an instructor at the community theater is that he brings "welcomed experience to the forefront" for beginning screenwriters.

"I had such a strong interest as a teenager looking to learn about the craft of screenwriting," he said. "I started in plays, but on the side, I would always write my own little scripts. Not a lot of people know organically how to tell a story and how to put it on the 'big screen.' A big part of what our classes are, here at PCT, are how to develop a story from its most basic level."



Longoria welcomes those who have just sparked their interest in screenwriting to join the classes.

"Whether you know a lot or little to nothing about screenwriting, hopefully, we can develop those skills, and, hopefully, after, these students continue to write more scripts down the line," he said.

Pedro Garcia, an acting instructor at the theater, said the art of good writing is rewriting over and over again.

"From experience, I understand that not every first draft is where you hit gold," Garcia said. "I once took eight years to write a screenplay, and after 13 rewrites, I finally felt ready to [commit] to my script. Sometimes, the work that you come up with

just needs to be polished a little bit to make it shine."

In addition to screenwriting workshops for adults and teens, there will also be acting workshops for kids and teens starting at \$60 per student. These classes will be taught by Garcia, who has 30 years of experience in the industry and has starred in shows such as "Breaking Bad."

Longoria said these acting workshops can also be beneficial for aspiring screenwriters as well.

"So many times, as writers, we're so stuck in our own world that we're trying to create," he said. "By putting ourselves outside of that world and into another character, it allows for fresher ideas to be produced."

## Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

**Alejandra Yañez**  
THE RIDER

**Aries**-November usually brings you a case of seasonal gloom when you spend it alone. Hit up a friend or partner this week to help keep your mind off of those rainy-day thoughts. After a few hours, you might find that you will not remember why you were sad in the first place.

**Taurus**-You will be swamped with work and school this week. Make sure to respectfully let those who care about you know that you will need some space.

**Gemini**-Cooler weather and the first of the month have a special place in your heart. Feed into that feeling and romanticize your life this week. Remember, it is the details that make life beautiful.

**Cancer**-This time of year usually brings you a wave of nostalgia. Know that it is OK to be lazy this week. Binge watch your favorite show or maybe even cuddle up with a good book. Yeah, right!

**Leo**-You may find that you are popular this week among your peers. You know who is genuine and who is not. Do not forget that.

**Virgo**-As a Virgo, you know when you need to buckle down and get things done. But just in case the message has not been received yet, buckle down and get things done this week. You will have time to play later.

**Libra**-This is your sign to just be yourself this week. You might be tempted to change things up for someone. Know that the people who need to be in your life will never ask you to change.

**Scorpio**-Much like Cancer, the start of November is bringing you all sorts of emotions. Maybe it is a good idea to seek comfort and companionship in the Cancers in your life. You guys might enjoy being lazy together.

**Sagittarius**-This week will bring you new connections. You may meet someone new on campus or maybe even online. Be open to this new connection for it may bring you good company and love.

**Capricorn**-You are on the brink of accomplishing a major goal of yours. Just keep your head above water for a little while longer. You will get your big break soon.

**Aquarius**-Take this week to explore the sides of yourself that you may be too embarrassed to express in your public persona. You like to preach to others about broadening their horizons. Take your own advice and be open-minded when it comes to new things and you might like where these mini leaps of faith lead you.

**Pisces**-You are going through something right now that you feel you have to keep to yourself. Your soul was not meant to hold all that in. Release it. Confide in a close friend or family member to help get this icky feeling off your chest. It is always better to talk about it.

## SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

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

## Daily Musings by Ariael Ortiz

**Feliz Día de los Muertos**  
In memory of those who have died



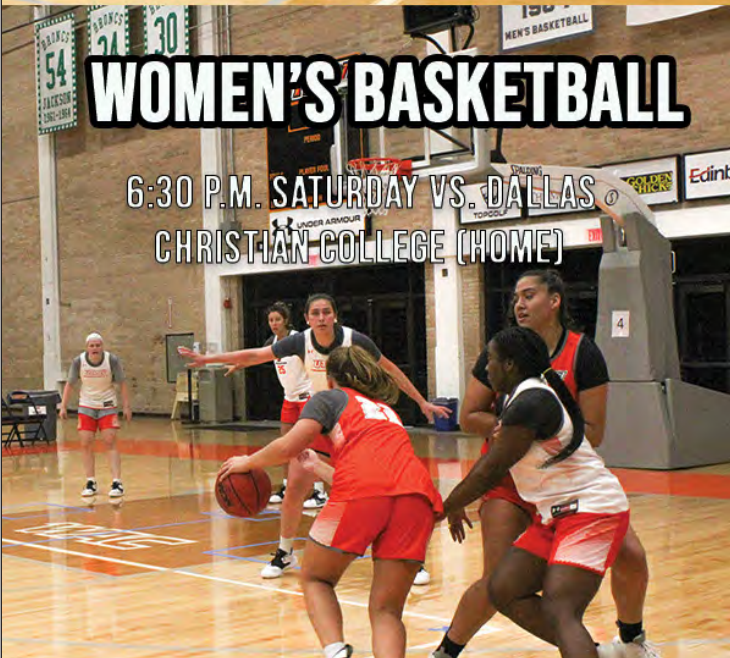
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# SPORTS SCHEDULE



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER (HOME)



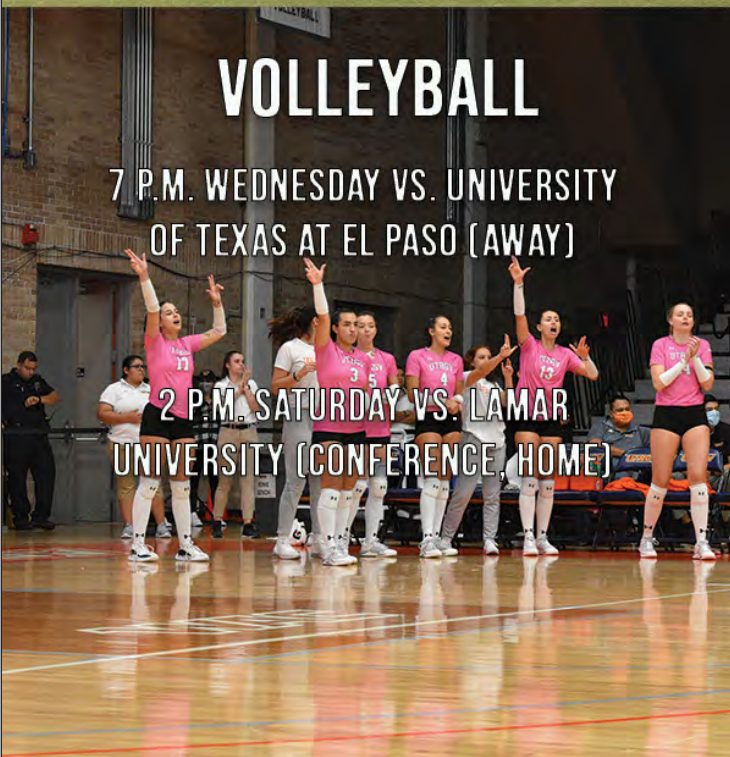
## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

6:30 P.M. SATURDAY VS. DALLAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (HOME)



## MEN'S SOCCER

7 P.M. SATURDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD (CONFERENCE, AWAY)



## VOLLEYBALL

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO (AWAY)

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

# Chasing pro dreams



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

UTRGV junior forward Reshuan Walkes has posted eight goals and five assists in 13 games for the Vaqueros this season.

### Omar E. Zapata SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV junior forward Reshuan Walkes of Ontario, Canada, said he dreams of becoming a professional soccer player and believes playing in the Rio Grande Valley is his first step toward accomplishing that goal.

Walkes said he loves his home but has not visited in a couple of years because he has been chasing his dreams in America.

He said his mom always said, "You got to chase your dream. You got to make sacrifices." And that is what he is trying to achieve in the South Texas heat.

Before transferring to UTRGV in 2020, Walkes tore up the National Junior Athletic Association at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois, with 27 goals and 19 assists in 30 games.

Walkes said his time at Lewis and Clark prepared him to make the transition to Division 1 soccer at UTRGV.

In his first season with UTRGV, Walkes posted five goals in eight games.

The Rider asked Walkes what he thought about his first season at UTRGV.

"It's better than what I expected, personally, just because I knew I didn't know how the game worked, things of that sort," he replied. "But I felt like the players involved me and got me used to how they play."

In Walkes' second season with the Vaqueros, he tallied eight goals and five assists in 13 games.

He said it feels good to be the main contributor of the team but believes he can do better.

With Walkes averaging a goal or assist per game, UTRGV men's soccer head coach Bryheem Hancock told The Rider he thinks the forward is one of the best players in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) and deserves recognition because of his work ethic on and off the field.

"He works out, works hard every single day," Hancock said. "Doesn't take a day off. He hasn't missed a session. Keeps himself very healthy, takes care

of his body, which is also a big part of being on the field and being able to put in extra work. And our team and himself have benefited from that."

He said Walkes is now expected to carry the workload for the team and the winger has accepted that responsibility.

"That's why he's doing extra work, so that he's ready for those moments," Hancock said. "And I expect him to continue what he's done all season for us. And not just scoring goals, but ... the work he's putting in defensively."

Sophomore forward Michael Washington describes Walkes

as a "family guy" and said it correlates to why he works well with the team on the field.

"He's around the younger guys just as much as with the upperclassmen, which I think is important," he said. "Because, you know, for those guys who've just gotten here, they're still trying to get settled with their first semester. So, for him to give them advice on the field and off the field and be there to help them, I think that's important. That shows family."

Asked what motivates him besides chasing a professional soccer contract, Walkes

replied, "I've been cut from [the] Toronto [Football Club] pro team when I was younger. The first time it's ever happened, and I felt I took that the right way instead of the wrong way because I could have just quit right then and there. But, I use it as motivation to get where I am today."

As of press time Friday, UTRGV sat in seventh place in the WAC standings with a 3-4 conference record.

Having to go on the road for the last three games of the season, the Vaqueros must win out to secure a spot in the WAC tournament.

UTRGV was to first face Dixie State University last Friday, then challenge the University of Nevada Las Vegas last Sunday. Scores were not available at press time. Their final match is against the University of the Incarnate Word at 7 p.m. Saturday in San Antonio.

"I feel we have to go to games with the right mindset," Walkes said. "We can't lay back and watch. We got to go in from the front foot and lay it on whatever team we play."

Soccer is part of every aspect of Walkes' life, from his efforts during practice and games, uplifting his teammates, and even on his down time when he plays FIFA video games or watches his favorite team, Arsenal from London.

Walkes hopes to take his career to the next level after college.

"He works out, works hard every single day. Doesn't take a day off. He hasn't missed a session. ... And our team and himself have benefited from that."

--Bryheem Hancock

UTRGV men's soccer head coach

on the field as a player who likes to dribble, is a clinical finisher and assists in any way he can, defensively. Washington said off the field, Walkes is a fun person who communicates with his teammates well and will always try to keep the team positive.

"He's been talking and he's been working hard in training," Washington said. "He knows that he should be getting some extra goals for us and extra assists, and he knows that. And that's why he's putting in extra work and training to help us provide for these last three games, because he knows that it's a must-win."

Washington, who lived in Canada for a while, said his favorite memories with Walkes were when they were younger and had sleepovers every weekend at Walkes' house.

"He always took me in as family," he said. "His family always provided for me. So, if anything, he's always been a big brother to me."

Hancock describes Walkes

**STAGE***Continued from Page 1*

the number of students that are near meeting the degree requirements.

"The other big factor for us is trying to get students as many tickets as possible for their guests," she said. "Because one of the things that students have told us many times in the past is that it's very important for them to include as many family members and friends as possible at the ceremony. So, we look for places where we can accommodate a large number of students with the maximum number of guests."

An official decision of how many tickets students will receive for their guests has not been made yet, Almeda said, because it is going to depend on the RSVP's that are submitted and how many ceremonies there can be.

"In the past, we have given students five to six tickets, but we do anticipate giving more than that number of tickets this semester, which we're excited about," she said.

Students have the choice of which location and day works for them and their family and guests.

The decision to hold commencement in person was decided in October, "based on officials we've kept in consultation with regarding the pandemic," Almeda said.

"This is also in keeping with what we're seeing at other institutions of higher education," she said. "A lot of universities are returning back to, like, a traditional format for graduation ceremonies. So, UTRGV is doing the same."

Almeda said there will be no social distancing at the ceremonies and students

will sit with others in their college or school.

At this time there are no restrictions or enforcement of a face covering for the commencement ceremonies.

If anything changes, students will be notified through their UTRGV email, she said.

Another difference from Spring 2021 commencement will be that Edinburg will be able to return to an indoor location, Almeda said.

"We aren't able to do an indoors [ceremony] for Brownsville because there isn't a facility available with that type of capacity," she said. "We would have to severely limit the number of guests that students can have in Brownsville if that was the case."

For students who RSVP, submit their picture and word of thanks or quote, the

slides will be available on the commencement website once the ceremonies begin.

"I will add that there's not really necessarily a virtual alternative for students," Almeda said. "So, a student who does not attend the ceremony would still be able to access that slide, so to speak, on our website. But, they will not be announced at the ceremony because they have to be checked in for us to be able to announce them."

Mass communication senior Victoria Brewster said she will attend the Edinburg commencement.

"I chose the Edinburg location only because I do live in the Upper Valley," Brewster said. "So, it's [a] somewhat convenient location for me and my family to attend. And I wanted to make it accessible, of course, for my family to be able to go."

While she is excited to walk across the stage with the rest of her graduating class, Brewster said she is most looking forward to celebrating with her family afterward.

"I am excited for my family to be able to physically see me walk across the stage whether it's only for a few minutes or for a few hours," Brewster said. "I'm just excited that they're going to be there physically with me. And I'm just excited to be able to experience the whole thing."

Brewster is looking forward to attending commencement in person and hearing all the speeches from the president, faculty, dean, provost and others, she said.

"The whole experience itself, being able to sit out in the arena being surrounded by everyone in their cap and gowns and seeing your peers walk across the stage," she said.

**BAILE***Continuación de Página 5*

"Solo porque el Día de los Muertos vino de países latinoamericanos no significa que no podamos festejarlos", dijo García. "Este evento significa mucho para nosotros, especialmente ahora más que nunca. Con la pandemia sabemos que muchas personas importantes en nuestras vidas han fallecido".

García explicó qué para recordar a nuestros seres queridos es importante

mantener su espíritu y festejar por ellos.

"Queremos asegurarnos de destacar ese día", dijo García. "De esa manera, todos tienen la oportunidad de celebrar la vida de aquellos que la perdieron y recordarlos siempre para que estén aquí con nosotros en todo momento".

Es una gran oportunidad para que los estudiantes vean lo que UTRGV es capaz de hacer por ellos, especialmente para aquellos que son del

Valle del Río Grande, dijo García.

"La mayoría de nosotros tenemos la misma cultura y queremos asegurarnos de educar a los estudiantes para que entiendan parte de su historia para poder seguir educando a las generaciones futuras", dijo. "No es algo que se pierda y se olvide con el tiempo. Es algo que siempre llevaremos con nosotros".

Durante el mes de octubre el Departamento de Vida Residencial organizó

diferentes eventos para celebrar el *Halloween*.

"Fiesta de *Fright* Brownsville [fue] realmente genial", dijo García. "Es un evento tradicional donde invitamos a todos los estudiantes a que vengan y participen en un concurso de disfraces, un *bingo* con temática de *Halloween*, un concurso de envolver a la momia, y otras actividades, donde tienen la oportunidad de ganar diferentes premios como canastas

de *Halloween* y dólares Vaqueros".

Durante la semana de *Halloween* también se organizó una batalla entre pasillos en donde los diferentes dormitorios compitieron en un juego amistoso de patear la pelota, dijo García.

García invita a toda la comunidad de UTRGV a participar en los eventos organizados por el Departamento de Vivienda y Vida Residencial.



# REFERENDUM VOTE

## ELECTION DATES

### NOVEMBER 8-10

 **BALLOT WILL BE SENT VIA UTRGV E-MAIL.**

**SGA invites the student body to vote on the referendum that proposes an increase to the intercollegiate athletics fee.**

### THE PROPOSED INCREASE IS TO:

- *Establish a women's swimming and diving program*
- *Establish marching band programs*
- *Expand spirit programs*
- *Establish a football program*

Information from the sponsors is available at [www.rallythevalley.com](http://www.rallythevalley.com).

# UTRGV

For more information, visit [www.utrgv.edu/sga-referendum](http://www.utrgv.edu/sga-referendum) or e-mail [sga@utrgv.edu](mailto:sga@utrgv.edu).