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## 'The Expanded Borderlands'

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
SPANISH EDITOR

Ronald Rael, professor and Eva Li Memorial chair in Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, told a UTRGV audience March 7 how the borderlands are a place of unity despite the general perception that they are a place of separation.

Rael, author of "Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the U.S.-Mexico Boundary" (University of California Press, 2017), was the keynote speaker for the Sawyer Seminar Series, for which more than 60 people gathered at the UTRGV Albert L. Jeffers Theatre and via Zoom.

The seminar, titled "The US-Mexico Border Regime: Trauma, Hospitality, Art and Protest," took place March 7 and 8 and discussed dynamics of the U.S.-Mexico border and associated externalization policies through panels.

Luis R. Torres-Hostos, dean of the School of Social Work at UTRGV, organized the seminar series in conjunction with Carrie Preston, associate director of the Center on Forced Displacement and director of Kilachand Honors College at Boston University.

During his presentation, Rael spoke about the "Teeter-Totter Wall," an idea he had with Virginia San Fratello, the chair of the Department of Design at San Jose State University, in 2009.

For about 40 minutes on July 28, 2019, American and Mexican families played on three pink seesaws straddling the U.S.-Mexican border at El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Rael said everyone was laughing and having fun at the seesaws.

"Within eight minutes, the Border Patrol arrived and said, 'What are you guys doing?'" he said. "We said, 'We are having an event with the families.'" They said, 'OK' and they just



Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

Ronald Rael, a professor of architecture and Eva Li Memorial Chair in Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, speaks about how the border wall unites people during his keynote address March 7 in the UTRGV Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

# Activist, Oscar winner Marlee Matlin to address UTRGV audience



PHOTO COURTESY MEAGAN SHUPTAR

Student Activities will start off the 19th season of the Distinguished Speaker Series with Marlee Matlin, who will share her story as an author, actress and activist with the UTRGV community on Wednesday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville.

**Teresita Dominguez**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV Student Activities will begin its 19th season of the Distinguished Speaker Series with Academy Award-winning actress and activist Marlee Matlin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville.

Matlin, who won an Oscar for Actress in a Leading Role in 1987 for "Children of a Lesser God," is the most prominent deaf actress of a generation and advocated for casting deaf actors in the 2021 film "CODA," according to her Forbes profile.

She appeared for seven seasons in the 2000 NBC award-winning drama "The West Wing," starring Martin Sheen and Bradley Whitford.

In 2011, Matlin appeared on the NBC show "Celebrity Apprentice," raising \$1 million for the nonprofit charity, The Starkey Hearing Foundation, in one day, according to her website.

She also appeared on the Peabody Award-winning ABC family drama, "Switched at Birth," the first TV show to feature a number of deaf actors in leading roles, the website states.

When choosing the Distinguished Speaker, there are some criteria that the Distinguished Speaker Series Committee must keep in mind,

such as who would be a good fit for the students, said Cristina Rodriguez, assistant director of Student Activities.

"We thought, 'The month of March is Women's History Month,'" Rodriguez said. "We were also thinking of any other [observances] that are available, and then also what is relevant to our student population. We had a few [people] in mind. Marlee Matlin was one of them."

She said this season of the series is unique because Matlin will first speak in Edinburg.

"Marlee Matlin is meeting with theater students on the Edinburg campus earlier in the day and the public lecture [will be] in the evening in Brownsville," Rodriguez said.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is a signature program that aims to provide the university and surrounding community with world-class speakers and lecturers, according to the Student Activities webpage.

Admission is free, but seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, Rodriguez said.

"There is no fee at all included," she said. "We will have a UTRGV line and a community line. We do ask [students] to have their [school] ID or have the GET app to have it available. ... If they don't have either, we will ask them to go in

# Celebrating women all year

**Silvana Villarreal**

THE RIDER

As Women's History Month progresses, members of the UTRGV community explain the importance of appreciating women year-round and bringing awareness of stigmas surrounding gender.

Silvia Solis, a gender and women's studies lecturer, said it is important to learn about women's history because their contributions to society might sometimes be hidden from "mainstream history."

"We also have to be careful that it doesn't become only a commodity, or only a little trophy that I have as a one day or one month out of the year [when] women get celebrated, because the type of study, the type of deep dive that Women's History Month provides us, or allows us to do, needs to be done all year long," Solis said.

She stressed that having a one-month-minimum celebration in honor of women's history provides an intervention in

## Women's History Month Events

**Wednesday from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
Distinguished Speakers Series presents: An Evening with Marlee Matlin in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center

**March 29 from noon - 1:30 p.m.**  
Women's Leadership Panel in Main Building's Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus

**March 30 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**  
Women's Leadership Panel in the Media Production Studio on the Edinburg campus

Source: <https://www.utrgv.edu/womenshistorymonth/>

Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

a world that is fixed with temporary bandages.

"Just a month out of the year, that's not structural change," Solis said. "That's not helping anyone. It's not bringing about change in social institutions. It's not abolishing harassment

in the workforce ... but it does provide an intervention."

Mayra Avila, a UTRGV history professor, said women's history is important to learn and celebrate because people need role models.

"It's important for students to see themselves in the

individuals they're learning about," Avila said. "There's a lot of women that created change, and it's OK to be loud. It's OK to cause ruckus, because, sometimes, that's what you need to do to create change."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Today Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a watch party for “**The Lorax**” in honor of **Dr. Seuss**, the author of the book on which the movie is based, from noon to 2 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Wednesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

### Tuesday Community Service Opportunity

Students can learn about community service taking place in Buena Vista, Colorado, at **Young Life College RGV’s Work Week Sign Up**, scheduled from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus and from 11 a.m. to noon in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

### K.I.S.S. Fundraiser

The **Korean International Student Society** will sell Asian snacks, ramen and shoe charms from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library Courtyard on the Edinburg campus.

### SGA Candidate Fair

The **Student Government Association** will host a fair for students to meet SGA candidates and representatives and network with other students from noon to 1 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday on the Student Union Patio on the Edinburg campus.

### Mass Celebration

The **Catholic Student Association** celebrates **Mass** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

every Tuesday in the University Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

### FSA General Meeting

The **Filipino Student Association** will host a general meeting about club events and **Goodphil** season from noon to 2 p.m. in Science Building Room 2.102 on the Edinburg campus.

### Wednesday Desserts and Drinks Social

The **Literature and Cultural Studies** and **Writing and Language Studies** departments will host a meeting about **fall courses for students** studying or considering a career in English from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Dining and Ballroom Complex Bronc Room on the Edinburg Campus and at the same time Thursday in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville Campus. There will be **refreshments**.

### Evening with Marlee Matlin

The **Distinguished Speaker Series** will host **Academy Award-winning actress and activist Marlee Matlin** for its 19th season from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville.

### Free Lunch

The **Catholic Student Association** hosts a **free lunch and fellowship** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Newman Catholic Student Center in Edinburg.

### Meet the Deans

The **Student Government Association** will host **Meet the Deans** for students to speak with their college

deans, ask questions about different opportunities and network with other students from noon to 1 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

### One Million Cups

The **UTRGV Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center** and the **Brownsville Community Improvement Corp.** hosts **entrepreneur-led** events where speakers share their experiences each week from 9 to 10 a.m. in the ECC building at 1304 E. Adams St. in Brownsville.

### Thursday Fine Arts Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will give students the chance to express concerns and ideas or ask questions about the **College of Fine Arts**. The town hall will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 3.126 on the Brownsville campus.

### ASL Meeting and Animal Signs

The **American Sign Language Club** meets to **earn an hour of credit** toward classes, learn signs and play bingo from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. each week via Zoom.

### Free Lunch

The **Baptist Student Ministry** will serve **free food** from noon to 2 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

### Pre-Law Recruitment

The **University of North Texas at Dallas** will host the **Pre-Law Society** to inform students about the admissions

process, eligibility and recruitment from 4 to 5 p.m. through Zoom.

### Friday Workshop Applications

The **Center for Innovation and Commercialization** and the **Career Center** will host the “**Be Your Own Boss Workshop**” from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. There will be **free food**. To apply, visit V Link.

### Student Senate Meeting

The **Student Government Association** will meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 2.130 on the Edinburg campus.

### Anthropology Meeting

The **Anthropology Club** meets from 1 to 2 p.m. each week to discuss business and events in Health Affairs Building East Room 1.122 on the Edinburg campus. All majors are invited to participate.

### Student Fee Advisory Committee

The **Student Fee Advisory Committee** will conduct a meeting regarding **departmental presentations** from 1 to 4:30 p.m. online. To register, email the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@utrgv.edu or call 665-2260.

### Saturday Teatro Latino

The **Latino Theatre Initiatives** will present five plays in its **fourth annual International Latin Theater** from noon to 10 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Studio Theater Room 107. **Admission is free.**

--Compiled by Silvana Villarreal

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 1 and 7.



### March 1

**12:30 p.m.:** A student reported that her nonaffiliated ex-boyfriend had texted her to meet at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The student told the officer that she did not meet with her ex-boyfriend, nor did she physically see him on campus. The student also informed the officer that the ex-boyfriend had assaulted her in the past in Starr County.

**1:01 p.m.:** A student reported that, while in a restroom stall in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus, a man kneeled and looked underneath the stall that she was occupying. The case is under investigation.

**2:41 p.m.:** An officer contacted the Parking and Transportation Services Department regarding a male student who was using a parking permit that did not belong to him in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus. A report was taken for documentation purposes and the owner of the parking permit was notified of the incident.

### March 2

**3:11 p.m.:** An officer met with a student on the Brownsville campus who said her estranged husband, also a student, is making disturbing posts on social media. The student said he has not contacted her in any manner and added that the social media posts did not contain any threatening comments directed at her.

**7 p.m.:** While investigating an active fire alarm in Performing Arts Complex A on the Edinburg campus, officers were approached by an employee who reported injuring his head while walking on the catwalk above the stage area. Emergency medical services were dispatched to the scene and attended to the employee, who was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.

### March 3

**7:21 p.m.:** Officers were dispatched to the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus in reference to an injured person report. Officers spoke with a nonaffiliated woman who said her son injured his forehead while rolling down a hill at the stadium. The woman declined emergency medical services for her child.

**7:23 p.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus in reference to an injured person report. The officer spoke with an employee who stated that her daughter ran into an iron gate located by the restrooms. The employee declined emergency medical services for her daughter.

### March 5

**3:05 a.m.:** Officers were requested by the Edinburg Police Department to assist in searching a woman in their custody. Officers assisted with the search; no contraband was discovered.

**1:43 p.m.:** An officer observed that the door to a leased UTRGV charter bus was open on the Brownsville campus. Upon inspecting the door, the officer determined that the door was damaged.

The UTRGV Police Department dispatch contacted a parking and transportation supervisor, and he said he was unaware if the door had prior damage. There were no signs of forced entry and the interior of the bus appeared undisturbed.

### March 6

**12:15 p.m.:** An employee reported he found markings on a parking and transportation sign at the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus that mentioned his name and he found it embarrassing. The employee said this was not the first incident of this nature. The case is under investigation.

**12:56 p.m.:** A student reported a man at the University Center on the Edinburg campus with whom she has had previous encounters. The man was subsequently located and identified as a student. After further investigation, it was determined no crime had occurred.

### March 7

**9:10 a.m.:** An employee reported that another employee sent him a concerning text message. An officer located the employee in his office on the Edinburg campus to check on his status. The employee explained he was fine and had just made the comment to seek support from his supervisor due to being overwhelmed with work. The employee further stated that he had already sought assistance through campus resources available to him and he had no intention of self-harm.

**11:22 a.m.:** A woman called to report she received a concerning message via

Facebook Messenger from an unknown man whom she follows on social media. The woman said the man claimed he was going to overdose on narcotics at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus. The Facebook profile was obtained but provided no leads on the man. Officers checked the stadium to see if anyone required assistance, but nobody was located.

**1:30 p.m.:** A resident assistant reported a strong odor of marijuana while conducting a health and safety check inside a room of Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus, but no narcotics or drug paraphernalia were located.

**8:19 p.m.:** A student called the police department to report her nonaffiliated ex-boyfriend had forced his way into her room at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus without consent and physically assaulted her. The suspect then took the victim’s phone, which was on her nightstand, and left the area. UTRGV Police Department officers located the suspect shortly after he left at a nearby, off-campus location and arrested him. During the investigation, it was determined the suspect had also threatened to disclose intimate visual material of the victim and tampered/destroyed the victim’s cell phone, which contained evidence of the offense. The suspect was then transported to the Edinburg Municipal Jail where he was booked on all three charges and left in their custody pending arraignment.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

## 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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### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Daniela Martinez Salazar

Ramiro Castro Jr.

Aura Velasquez

Isabel Morales

Aurora Acevedo

Landon Burns

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Azenett Cornejo

### STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER

Jesus Sanchez

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez

Maggie Castillo

### CONTACT:

#### EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

#### BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

### Email:

TheRider@utrgv.edu

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# Putting Texas families first



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## Brigitte Ortiz THE RIDER

House Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) announced the first priority bills the 88th Texas legislature discussed Feb. 23. The bills focus on enhancing privacy and supporting mothers and children in the state.

House Bill 12, relating to the duration of services provided under Medicaid to women following a pregnancy, was one of the priority bills filed by State Rep. Toni Rose (D-Dallas) on Feb. 23.

The Rider asked Lori Kennedy, Rose's district director in the Office of State Representative, for an interview with Rose on Feb. 27 and Kennedy

replied on March 9, "So sorry, but we're not going to make your deadline as the representative's schedule is super tight the next couple of weeks."

Diana Forester, director of Health Policy for Texans Care for Children, said it has been the lead advocacy group behind the extension of Medicaid benefits following pregnancy.

"Last session, we did get the six months extension, but that required a waiver from the [federal government], and it's still pending with the [federal government]," Forester said in a March 6 Zoom interview with The Rider. "So, as of today, the policy is [after] two months postpartum, women lose coverage."

The Texas Maternal Mortality and

Morbidity Review Committee, which develops recommendations to help reduce the incidence of preventable pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in the state, has recommended, since 2016, to extend the coverage to 12 months, according to Forester.

"We've seen this happen in other states, and we've seen the impact of it," she said. "So we know it's a good policy. We've been leading the charge for a few sessions now, and it's been, like, almost a decade on this issue. So, last session, the six months really felt like a huge win, because it has been something that we've been talking about for so long. Unfortunately, you know, that hasn't been implemented yet, but I think we have a real opportunity this session."

The rest of the bills are House Bill 4, filed on Feb. 16 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake), which would grant Texans new online rights, including the ability to crack down on how companies collect and, in instances, profit from, their personal data.

The bill is also known as the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act.

House Bill 18, filed Feb. 16 by Rep. Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville), relates to the protection of minors from harmful, deceptive or unfair trade practices in connection with the use of certain digital services.

House Bill 300, relating to an exemption from sales and use taxes from certain family care items, was filed by State Rep. Donna Howard (D-Austin) on Feb. 23.

The Rider asked Kristine Richmond,

Phelan's scheduler, for an interview with Phelan Feb. 27, but she wrote, "At the moment the Speaker does not have any availability this week for an interview."

Richmond cc'd Cassi Pollock, Phelan's press secretary, to help with the newspaper's request but Pollock wrote, "Thank you. The Speaker will not be available for an interview," in a Feb. 27 email to The Rider.

However, Pollock sent a link to a Feb. 23 news release by Phelan.

"I am so proud of the hard work that members of the Texas House have already put into these four legislative proposals, which reflect some of the most pressing issues on the minds of Texans today," Phelan is quoted as saying in the news release. "These bills are great starting points for our chamber as we work to get them over the finish line this legislative session, and I thank Representatives Capriglione, Rose, Slawson and Howard for their leadership."

He said making meaningful progress on supporting mothers and children starts with extending health care coverage to a year.

Phelan also said that it is important to put "Texans and Texas parents back in the driver's seat" when talking about enhancing privacy.

"Additionally, I am eager to see our chamber take on Big Tech, which for too long has taken advantage of the data and privacy of Texans and especially our children, who are vulnerable to predatory and addicting algorithms and advertisements on social media platforms," he said.

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# VAQUERO VOICE



**If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you wish you had and why?**



**Ava Martin**  
civil engineering junior

"I would take, like, a lighter, and also extra clothes and then ... a friend."

"Those portable little stoves. You know, like the ones you take camping—one of those. Probably an ax and a tent. You know, a tent for shelter [and] an ax to get supplies, wood, maybe hunt, like, hunt an animal, and then, like, the little stove to cook in fire and heat and survive."



**Pablo Perez**  
civil engineering freshman



**Laura Sanchez Martinez**  
theatre senior

"Oh, I know. I would probably want, like, a GPS/tracker/locator, so that I'll know that people are on the way to come and find me. And then, after that, I would probably want some really good snacks and a really good hat."



**Jaire Gutierrez**  
estudiante de primer año de inglés

"Un avión, una cobija y mi teléfono".

--Compiled by Landon Burns and Aurora Acevedo  
--Photos by Aurora Acevedo

## Stories in the night sky



**Natalie Lapsley**  
COPY EDITOR

on, that even the first humans looked at that same moon, that I've only seen one side of it with my own eyes. I think about the lunar rovers that hang out up there, collecting data.

I hope I'm wrong—that people are just being quieter about it—but, nowadays, it seems that fewer and fewer people are interested in outer space.

You have those who think astrophysics, astronomy and space travel are a waste of time and money and those who believe whole-heartedly that the moon landing was fake, but I think there is merit in learning the secrets of this endless void that is home to our giant galaxy, that is home to our big solar system, that is home to our tiny Earth.

The moon landing is real, by the way. Do not get me started. My point is, there is so much out there, and so much to learn. As small as Earth seems in relation to everything else, the scale of our planet is astounding—due to its size, our tallest mountains and deepest trenches virtually make no change to the planet's "spherical" shape.

"If you had a super-duper, jumbo-gigantic finger, and you dragged it across Earth's surface, (oceans and all), Earth would feel as smooth as a cue ball," wrote astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson in his book "Astrophysics for People in a Hurry."

I couldn't believe it. Then there are things

scientists still aren't sure about, like dark matter. Around 85% of all measured gravitational force in the universe comes from substances that do not interact with our matter or energy the way the gravity we're familiar with does, according to deGrasse Tyson.

We're waiting on our next Einstein, our next Newton, to make a new discovery about gravity.

On top of that, whether or not the whole universe has been observed yet is unclear.

Keep these two things in mind: When one looks out to the stars, they are looking into the past, because light takes time to travel to us. Secondly, ever since what theorists called "The Big Bang," everything in space has been expanding outward, and fast.

That means that we don't even know yet if there is anything beyond the current observable universe. Either that light hasn't reached us yet, or nothing lies beyond.

Enough with the scary, existential stuff. I just think it's wild.

Like deGrasse Tyson wrote in his book, everything that is and ever was used to fit in a volume smaller than one-trillionth the size of a period. Then the story of our universe began to unfold, with strong and weak nuclear forces; electromagnetic forces, which bind molecules; and gravity, which binds matter; and spoiler alert: Nearly 14 billion years later, here we are.

**WACKY WEB POLL**  
WOULD YOU RATHER GIVE UP COFFEE OR SODA FOREVER?

53% COFFEE	47% SODA
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**AIR MAIL**  
PAR AVION

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](mailto: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.

# Cinco obras, una frontera



Jose Medina / THE RIDER

Juan Mendiola (izquierda), un estudiante de último año de teatro, ensaya su guión mientras que Rolando Garza, un estudiante de último año de teatro, representa una escena con Emiliano Tamez, un estudiante de último año de teatro. Garza interpreta el personaje de Antonio Rolando Garza, mientras que Tamez interpreta a Eufocio Pantaleon para "Se Vende Una Mula", en la próxima obra que se presentará en el "4to Festival Anual Internacional de Teatro Latino". Las obras se presentarán desde el mediodía hasta las 10 p.m. en el *Studio Theatre en Liberal Arts Building South* cuarto 107 en el campus de Edinburg.

## Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Departamento de Teatro de UTRGV será el anfitrión del 4to Festival Anual Internacional de Teatro Latino de medio día a 10 p.m. el sábado en el *Studio Theatre Liberal Arts Building South* cuarto 107 en el campus de Edinburg.

"Tenemos cinco obras diferentes en un día", dijo Eric Wiley, profesor del departamento de teatro. "Si te gusta el teatro, es una gran oportunidad para ver una obra tras otra. Vamos a tener comida y bebidas ... *souvenirs* [y] camisetas. ... Tendremos teatro de la escuela, pero también tenemos grupos que vienen de México. Todas las obras van a ser en español".

Wiley dijo que el propósito del festival es reunir a los artistas de teatro "de ambos lados del río" juntos.

"Para promover una conversación entre los artistas y ... darles la oportunidad de compartir su trabajo", dijo. "Básicamente para apoyar, nutrir y cultivar las artes teatrales en esta región".

El evento estará abierto para el público y la admisión es gratis. El festival comenzará a medio día con la inauguración oficial.

El espectáculo comenzará de 12:15 a 12:45 p.m. con "Se Vende una Mula", una obra de teatro de comedia escrita por Hugo Rodolfo Gómez Paredes, maestro de teatro del estado de Hidalgo, México.

Francisco Garza Rincones, estudiante de último año de teatro y presidente de *Latino Theater Initiatives*, dirigirá la obra.

"Se Vende una Mula" trata de un señor en una hacienda ... que quiere vender su mula," Rincones dijo. "La muchacha del aseo se confunde y piensa que el comprador de la mula es el novio de [la hija de] don Pedro. ... Don Pedro piensa que es el comprador y le da referencias de la mula y le dice 'Nada más ten cuidado porque está bien cansada y nunca quiere hacer nada y da patadas'. Entonces el novio se saca de onda. De eso trata la obra, de cómo se crea toda una confusión en un instante".

La segunda obra, "Waiting for Julieta", tomará lugar de 1:15 a 2:15 p.m. "Es una nueva obra de un grupo llamado Gorguz Teatro en Monterrey", dijo Wiley. "Se basa muy libremente en Romeo y Julieta, y trata de la región fronteriza. Y esa es una obra nueva. Así que eso lo harán nuestros visitantes".

Continuando con el festival, "Cinco Años de Flores" tomará lugar de 2:45 a 3:15 p.m.

Una obra basada en hechos reales escrita y dirigida por Dalia Emanuel, estudiante de último año de teatro.

"Es la historia de mi hermano," Emanuel dijo. "Él lamentablemente tuvo una muerte muy trágica en el

aperitivos y música en vivo.

La cuarta obra se llevará a cabo de 7 a 8:15 p.m. "Desdén, el Último Danzón", una obra escrita por Gilberto Guerrero, un miembro del Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte del Sistema de Apoyo a la Creación y Proyectos Culturales.

"Se trata de danzón ... un tipo de baile que originalmente vino de Cuba, pero que también es popular en México", dijo Wiley. "Ese espectáculo debería ser muy divertido, porque están invitando a mucha gente mayor de Reynosa a bailar en la obra. ... Este grupo de bailarines realmente aman hacerlo. Les encanta actuar en ella.

... Entonces hay como un grupo completo que viene de Reynosa a bailar en esta obra. Y eso debería ser muy divertido".

La última obra del festival, "Corruptocracia", es una producción conjunta entre una Casa Teatro Reynosa y Gorguz Teatro que se llevará a cabo de 8:45 a 9:45 p.m.

"Una obra de teatro de objetos que expone un espacio para el diálogo directo y metafórico de cómo, a partir de una solicitud ciudadana, todos los niveles de gobierno se ven involucrados en una serie de actos de corrupción que impiden que el individuo obtenga lo que necesita," dijo Wiley en un correo electrónico el 3 de marzo.

Emanuel invita al público a asistir al festival.

"En el Valle [del Río Grande] necesitamos más teatro latino," ella dijo. "Somos una comunidad mayormente mexicana y la mayor parte del teatro que se hace aquí en el Valle es en inglés. Entonces necesitamos tener más teatro en español y es lo que nosotros como *Latino Theater Initiatives* estamos haciendo".

## "Somos una comunidad mayormente mexicana y la mayor parte del teatro que se hace aquí en el Valle es en inglés. Entonces necesitamos tener más teatro en español y es lo que nosotros como Latino Theater Initiatives estamos haciendo".

--Dalia Emanuel  
estudiante de último año de teatro

2012. Fue víctima de la violencia y la guerra antidrogas en México. Le encantaba ayudar a la gente. Él era muy sano, era joven, tenía 27 años, se acababa de casar. Y su vida era ayudar a la gente de nuestro pueblo. Muchas veces, así como yo que estoy aquí, le ofrecimos venirnos para acá, para el Valle, y él dijo no".

Su familia es de Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico.

"El dijo, 'No. Yo aquí voy a vivir y aquí me voy a morir', y, pues, lamentablemente sí pasó así", dijo. "El día que falleció, él falleció rumbo a un evento donde iba a ayudar a la comunidad. Y esa es la historia. Yo, hace mucho tiempo cuando éramos niños, le prometí que cuando fuéramos grandes le iba a escribir una historia y eso es lo que es esta obra. Estoy honrando la promesa que le hice cuando tenía 17 años".

De 5 a 6 p.m., habrá una presentación de el *Latino Theater Initiatives* con



Nombre: Julia Salas

Carrera: Ingeniería de fabricación

Clasificación: Estudiante de posgrado

Fecha de graduación: Primavera 2025



Isabel Morales / FOTO RIDER

Ciudad natal: Talca, Chile

Actividades extracurriculares: "Voy al gimnasio, pero además de eso no".

¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos? "Todo. ... La principal diferencia que noté es que nadie camina aquí. Todo el mundo usa carros. Como allá, es muy común ver a la gente en la calle o usando el transporte público más que ... sus propios vehículos. Tuve mi primer carro cuando tenía como 23 años. No como aquí. Todo el mundo tiene un carro desde que tienen como 18 años".

¿Qué hay en tu lista de deseos? "Me gustaría viajar más por los Estados Unidos para ver más lugares como ... *New York* o *Los Ángeles*. Eso estaría en mi lista de deseos".

¿Quién es tu modelo a seguir? "Yo diría que mis padres son mi modelo a seguir. ... Mi padre vino aquí a estudiar su doctorado cuando yo tenía tres años, y dejaron atrás a toda su familia. Luego volvimos a Chile, pero me inspiraron a saber que el mundo es más grande que Chile, donde solía vivir".

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás? "Bueno, honestamente, siempre me ha gustado la ingeniería. Me inspira. Y creo que así es ... cómo quiero cambiar el mundo, cómo ... tener más, como, un medio ambiente más respetuoso, como un ecosistema o como productos similares que podamos implementar para mejorar en todo. Creo que tenemos que cuidar el planeta".

¿Qué películas o programas te gustan? "Ahora mismo estoy viendo *'The Last of Us'* en *HBO Max*, pero mis programas de comodidad siempre son *'Modern Family'* o *'Friends'* o *'Grey's Anatomy'*".

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales? "Solo aguanta. Es difícil. Es muy difícil, como mudarte de tu país sin nadie, como no tener un sistema de apoyo. Pero encontrarás gente que te va a ayudar. ... Pide siempre ayuda. La gente es muy agradable aquí. ... Están muy abiertos a ayudar a los estudiantes internacionales, especialmente ... los profesores. Conocen la lucha que tenemos. No es solo 'Oh, tengo que estudiar'. Es 'tengo que pagar el alquiler, tengo que alimentarme a mí mismo. Tengo que venir a estudiar y trabajar'. La mayoría de nosotros trabajamos. ... Es difícil, pero puedes hacerlo. Necesitarás encontrar un sistema de apoyo aquí y seguir adelante".

--Recopilada por Fatima Gamez Lopez



## Chord progression: from UTRGV to Carnegie Hall

**Omar E. Zapata**

A&E EDITOR

Jingyue Ren, a UTRGV graduate student, puts all of her emotions into playing the piano, which has earned her a spot to play at Carnegie Hall this summer as a winning soloist of the New York Golden Classical Music Awards.

Ren, who is studying for a master's in piano performance, will be a featured soloist in the New York Golden Classical Music Awards winners' concert in July at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The New York Golden Classical Music Awards is an international competition open to strings, piano, wind, chamber music and vocal disciplines of all nationalities and ages with the purpose to "discover artists of outstanding personality and provide awards which can launch international careers," according to its website.

"I feel excited because this is a great chance for me to perform at Carnegie Hall," Ren said. "And, maybe, I can get to know other good performers, professors, and make friends there."

Ren, who is originally from Shuozhou, China, performed "Klavierstücke" Op. 119 by Johannes Brahms on her recorded audition that she submitted to the organization.

Describing her playing style as emotional, Ren said, "Emotion is the most important part of playing piano.

It is like being a different character in different pieces, like an actor."

Ren said she was shocked when she found out she had won the award.

"I wasn't sure before I got [the award] and I got so happy and I think my friends and my professor were so happy, too," she said.

She said her parents advised her to not become complacent with the achievement and to continue to practice every day.

Brendan Kinsella, a professor of piano at the UTRGV School of Music, told The Rider it is great that Ren will showcase the talents of the program and gain the experience as a soloist to play at Carnegie Hall, a destination performance space internationally.

"It's a great validation for the experience that we offer here at UTRGV," Kinsella said. "... It really showcases the fact that our students are just as good, if not better than many other music schools across the nation."

While he has only known Ren for about a year, Kinsella said she is a fantastic student and a role model for the other students in the program.

"She has really broadened our culture in a lot of ways and shown us a very high level of performance, and the other students aspire to what she accomplishes," he said. "She's someone who I can give very complicated assignments to and always know she can complete them with a really strong sense of artistry."



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV graduate student pianist Jingyue Ren rehearses last Tuesday in UTRGV Professor of Piano Brendan Kinsella's office on the Edinburg campus. As the winning soloist for the New York Golden Classical Music Awards, Ren will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Describing her musical personality as closely intertwined with her personality, Kinsella said Ren's confidence, sensitivity and genuine spirit can be seen in her performances.

Paola Karolina Garcia, a fellow graduate music performance peer, said she is happy and excited for her friend, Ren, and hopes to be able to see her perform live this summer in New York City.

"I really like how she comprehends [music pieces]," Garcia said. "It's

something I noticed about her playing. She's reached a high level of maturity in her playing and she knows certain styles of playing really well."

Asked what advice she has for UTRGV pianists and School of Music students, Ren replied to keep practicing every day and learn about the history of a piece before performing it.

"It can help [people] to complete the piece better and ... to make more emotions of it," she said.

## Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

**Danielle Perez**

ONLINE EDITOR

**Aries**-Attempt to balance your work and personal life. Lately, they both have been intertwined and are becoming hard to separate. Remember, work should not take up your whole life. Prioritize your personal life by doing things for yourself from time to time.

**Leo**-The universe is acknowledging your hard work toward becoming the best version of yourself. For that reason, applaud yourself for not giving up. Be proud of the actions you've taken to be where you are now.

**Sagittarius**-It is OK to not know everything. Sometimes jumping into something unfamiliar can help shape us. Moments like these will determine our strengths and weaknesses. Don't underestimate yourself. Strive to make the best out of every situation.

**Libra**-It's time to take a mental break from your situation. The universe is trying to tell you that you need time to refocus and re-energize yourself. The only way you will feel better is if you start to make yourself a priority. Be serious about your next actions to receive peace of mind.

**Gemini**-Spice up your love life this week by doing favors for a special someone. These acts of service will benefit the connection by making it easier to share love. Appreciate these moments and reflect on your feelings and actions in the relationship.

**Aquarius**-Distance yourself from those who are not appreciative of you. These connections are only adding stress onto your daily life and serve no purpose. Try to realize this before it becomes something bigger where you have no control.

**Scorpio**-Instead of pretending like you don't care, try connecting with your feelings and discover what is in between. It can be difficult to be vulnerable, but once you do it, you will notice the importance of what it means to be aware of yourself.

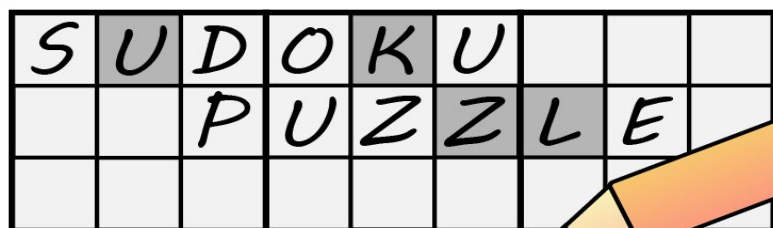
**Pisces**-It is time to let go of old patterns and implement new ones. Each season will provide intel on developments that you should be incorporating in your life. Growth is being highlighted for you this month. Therefore, focus on what can make you happier and apply it to your life.

**Cancer**-Filling in voids will only turn into a bad cycle that will never end. Instead, recognize what is the source of the issue and resolve it. Face your problems head on and deal with the consequences, Cancer. Stop running away.

**Taurus**-Reach out to old friends that have been on your mind. Perhaps reconciling with others will assist your social and emotional needs. Past connections will always leave an impact within, so reconnecting can provide closure or extend the friendship.

**Virgo**-Put a pause on whatever is happening in your life. It is important to remind yourself to stay focused and not distract yourself with outside factors. Remember, there is a goal you have in mind and the only way to achieve it is if you put effort into prioritizing it.

**Capricorn**-Now that you are well rested and have caught up on past work, it is time to get back on track. Avoid waiting for the next break to catch up and relax. Establish a good routine that gives you enough time for all of your responsibilities and more.



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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

## DIBBLE DABBLES

by Alejandro Peña





Kristyna Mamicova



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Senior Kristyna Mamicova is a member of the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team. Mamicova is from Prague in the Czech Republic. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology.

**Q: What do you do for fun outside of tennis?**

**A:** "I love to read. I love to cook, that's my big passion. And I love to drive. So, when I can go somewhere with a car and into nature, that's what I love to do."

**Q: What are some of your favorite dishes to cook?**

**A:** "I love to do, like, it's a Czech dish, 'cause I'm from [the] Czech Republic. It's, like, a little potato dumpling, basically, filled with beans. So, I love to do that. And then I love to bake."

**Q: Any shows you're currently watching, or ones that you would like to recommend?**

**A:** "Yeah, I love, right now, the [Netflix series] 'Formula 1: Drive to Survive.' That's what I'm currently watching. It's very entertaining, too. ... They're recording the background of Formula 1. ... How is it with the managers, what actually is going on behind the scenes that we don't see, and it's actually really interesting."

**Q: How did your love for tennis come about?**

**A:** "Actually, it started when I was pretty little, because my dad is a tennis coach, so, yeah. ... I kinda grew up around it, and I just learned to love the environment and the culture and everything, and it was just, like, a natural thing for me, I would say."

**Q: What has been your proudest moment in your athletic career?**

**A:** "I would say my proudest moment was definitely getting here as a tennis player. It was a big achievement for me to get a full scholarship, to have that opportunity. And, also, [this is] more like a team thing, but because last year, we managed to beat some pretty good teams, and just those clinching moments when we all can celebrate as a team. ... Those moments are very, very special."

**Q: Do you have someone or something to keep you motivated and playing?**

**A:** "For sure, my teammates. My teammates keep me motivated, and just wanting to be better for the team, and also my dad. My dad is a big influence to me, and also my conditioning coach back in Prague, too. And also coach West [Nott], too."

**Q: What advice would you have given to your younger self?**

**A:** "I would say, enjoy it. Enjoy the ride, even if it gets stressful, even if you get anxious about the future. Just let it go, let it flow and, yeah, just let the things figure themselves [out]. Just do your best."

**Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?**

**A:** "Yeah, I mean, I would just say that this is a super special place to be, even though I know some people don't even know about McAllen. ... I didn't know about McAllen, and yeah, I actually really learned to love it here, and yeah, it's really, really nice. ... I know I will always be coming back here for some special occasion."

--Compiled by Julien Juarez

# Expanding audience for UTRGV sports



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Vaqueros junior pitcher Nico Rodriguez hurls the ball toward a Houston Christian University player during a game Feb. 17 against the HCU Huskies. UTRGV Athletics will broadcast UTRGV baseball games in Spanish at 6:30 p.m. April 1 against Tarleton State University and at the same time May 13 against Grand Canyon University on Vallevision Channel 8 (XHAB-TV) with hosts Hector Zapata, a former Telemundo Sports anchor, and Luis Rubio, a former Vaquero Radio sports reporter with experience broadcasting games with UTRGV Athletics, ESPN+ broadcasts and the Western Athletic International tournament.

## Jose Medina

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is set to broadcast two more Saturday baseball games in Spanish through Vallevision Channel 8 (XHAB-TV).

The first broadcast took place March 4 against the University of Houston, where the Vaqueros defeated the Huskies 13-5.

The next broadcast will be at 6:30 p.m. April 1 against Tarleton State University and the third will take place at the same time May 13 against Grand Canyon University.

The announcers set for the games are Hector Zapata, a former Telemundo Sports anchor in the Rio Grande Valley and Houston, and Luis Rubio, a former sports reporter for Vaquero Radio, who has experience broadcasting games with UTRGV Athletics, ESPN+ broadcasts and the Western Athletic International tournament.

Asked how this series of Spanish broadcasts came to be, Rubio replied the Athletics Department had the idea years ago and he was contacted to see if he was interested in doing Spanish broadcasting for UTRGV.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do," he said. "Broadcast the game in Spanish, because, you know, from my background, I mean, coming from a Spanish-speaking home."

Rubio said it was something he was

prepared to do, especially since his family and extended family would be able to watch the games and understand what he is saying.

"So, I jumped on the opportunity and, plus, working with Jonah [Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for Communications & Championships], working with Danny [Elizondo, assistant athletic director for Communications], working with everybody at UTRGV Athletics, it's always a great time."

He said the Rio Grande Valley is a diverse and culturally unique place.

"It's great that the university is branching out, providing the accessibility to this population that is dominant in our area," Rubio said.

He said besides a couple of technical errors in the beginning, the first broadcast went amazing.

"The equipment UTRGV has is amazing," Rubio said. "The staff, the production room, the camera guys, you know, all of them top notch."

He said the Spanish broadcast reaches a new audience and explained that there is a difference in the tone and feeling you get from watching sports broadcasts in English compared to Spanish.

"Some people are gonna go with the Spanish broadcast because they prefer it being Spanish," he said. "They prefer me and Hector. And that's all and well, because even though it's two broadcasts, it's still for the same team."

Rubio said the broadcast will bring a new set of people to UTRGV sports because it will be on a local channel that is easily accessible.

Justin Vasquez, a theatre senior, said he believes it is important to have Spanish broadcasts available.

"I think it's very important to keep stuff like that accessible," Vasquez said. "I think it's important that people who only speak Spanish have as [many] opportunities to enjoy things that, like, may be only be accessible to someone who speaks English."

He said it makes sense for the school to broaden its horizon and have a sport like baseball be accessible to everyone.

"It just makes sense in a place, especially like the Valley, where, like, a majority of people here also speak Spanish," Rubio said.

Michelle Guiza, a marketing freshman, said it would be nice for UTRGV to have more Spanish broadcasts available.

"I have interacted with a lot of people who Spanish was their first language," Guiza said. "And they come to UTRGV and it very much becomes a culture to which they become connected."

She said everything seems to be in English when it comes to clubs and sports, saying the option should be available more often.

The games will be available through Vallevision Channel 8 and through WAC International.

### THIS WEEK IN SPORTS



**Baseball**  
6:30 P.M. Tuesday vs. University of Texas at San Antonio

**At the UTRGV Baseball Stadium**



**Women's Tennis**  
10 A.M. Friday vs. Grand Canyon University  
10 A.M. Sunday vs. New Mexico State University

**At the Orville L. Cox Tennis Center**

through the community line as there's a different process."

The event will also be available through a livestream.

"We will publicize on the website, and we'll go ahead and send some mass emails," Rodriguez said. "It'll be a website where people [are] able to register all the way up to the actual event time. So, [when] the event is happening,

pulled off to the side and watched. Very soon after that, the Mexican National Guard arrived heavily armed. And they, too, said, 'What are you guys doing?' And we said, 'We are having an event with the families.'"

He said the moms on the Mexican side were more aggressive.

"They [were] like, 'Get out of here.' ... 'We are just having fun,'" Rael said. "Then I invited [the] Border Patrol and the Mexican National Guard to ride the teeter-totter together. But they said that that wouldn't be very professional. So they didn't do it. But no one ever told us to take it down. We never asked permission to do it."

The Teeter-Totter Wall was the "overall winner of the Beazley Designs of the Year competition for 2020, which considered 74 projects by designers from around the

She explained that, even though society frowned upon it, daughters took on jobs during the Bracero Program from 1942-64 because groups of women had no support from their husbands.

Avila said the Bracero Program was a period of time when the United

they can still register and have access to live viewing it."

The livestream will include closed captioning and the live event will include an interpreter provided by UTRGV, as well as Matlin's own interpreter.

"Those are just extra elements that allows for more audience viewers to be able to participate in it," Rodriguez said.

Lilian Saucedo, an integrated health science freshman, believes having Matlin is a great opportunity to bring awareness

world," according to the Associated Press.

During an interview with The Rider, Rael said he has always been interested in the border.

"Where I am from in Colorado was once the border between the United States and Mexico," he said. "And, so, that history of that being borderline still exists. And in my adult life, I traveled away frequently to the contemporary U.S.- Mexican border."

He said he saw the similarities between the "two worlds."

"It became very interesting to me to think about the future of this border," Rael said. "To think about what happens over time and space and geography, and the traumas and issues of the borderlines. And so that's been a long-term interest of mine."

Asked if he believes the wall is architecture, he quoted the philosopher Noam Chomsky and said the wall is an "architecture of violence."

States allowed Mexican men to work in farms legally but were forced to leave their wives and children behind.

"It comes to a point that you have to feed your family, and that's more important," she said. "So it's amazing to see how women maneuver these times. The beautiful part, now, is that women are managers. That women can work in any field, not just what they

to American Sign Language and the Deaf community.

"Having the speaker come in and give, like, brief ... information about it would be pretty cool because it could teach people about disabilities other than, like, the ones that are mostly commonly known," Saucedo said.

Justin Vasquez, a theater senior, said Matlin would help give a different perspective to theater majors and help widen their horizons.

"Architecture affects the spaces around it," Rael said. "And while it affects those spaces negatively, and the people negatively, this is why I call it an architecture of violence. And it's really not my term calling it architecture violence."

Rael said the wall serves as a tool to bring people together.

"I think that despite the goals of the wall to keep people separated, apart, it actually serves [as] an attractor," he said. "The wall is a focal point to talk about their togetherness. This is a landscape that's divided cities, that are divided communities, that are divided. ... In this case, there's a steel wall. But there are so many creative ways that people have engaged that wall to show that we are still connected to people on the other side."

Asked if he is working on any projects, Rael replied he is working on the "Teeter-Totter House."

"It imagines the world after the border wall disappears, and what to do with

consider women's work."

Graphic design freshman Carla Santoyo said the monthlong celebration allows people to acknowledge and learn from the hardships women went through in order to get what they have now.

"There is more beyond what you are, [more] than just a woman," Santoyo said. "You can have dreams. You can have opportunities and different abilities

"I think the event is going to give people within my major, it really gives perspective on, like, how theater works or performance works with someone with a disability and, maybe, what we could do, like, adapt and be more accessible," Vasquez said.

Rodriguez said students may suggest speakers for the series by accessing a form through the Student Activities' Distinguished Speaker Series webpage or using the link [utrgv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b33FxxwvmUI6xv7M](https://utrgv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b33FxxwvmUI6xv7M).

the millions of tons of steel," Rael said. "And could you do something productive with that steel? For example, making a house. So I've built a house out of steel that came from an imagined version of the border wall, and thinking about how the wall might transform some day into something nonviolent and something productive and useful."

Philosophy senior Sofi Homes said she came to the presentation because she read about the seesaw in one of her classes.

"I thought that was really interesting," Homes said. "That's why I came. Like, this is something that I am genuinely, like, interested in."

Ernesto Morua, a graphic design sophomore, said he liked Rael's Teeter-Totter Wall project.

"Well, I came here for my humanities class for extra credit for my final but actually got interested because of what he did, like, a seesaw thing," Morua said.

than what was just given to you."

She believes women's stereotypes have diminished over the years, causing opportunities to multiply.

"[Women's History Month] means that if someone like my mom, who came from a household where you have to respect the men, and just the men, can do it ... I can pursue my dreams and accomplish them," Santoyo said.

# Distinguished SPEAKER SERIES

AT UTRGV™

*An Evening with*

**MARLEE MATLIN**

**MARCH 22, 2023 | 7:30 PM**

Doors open at 7pm

**TSC Performing Arts Center  
Brownsville, Texas**



LIVESTREAM

For more information or to request accommodations, contact [studentactivities@utrgv.edu](mailto:studentactivities@utrgv.edu).