

ONLINE:



UTRGV hosts successful 'failures' at El Hueso de Fraile

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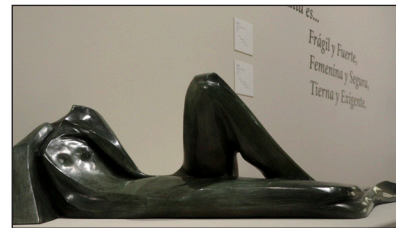
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BURGERS WITH BAILEY



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey greets Claudia Lupescu, a marketing senior and outside hitter for the UTRGV Volleyball Team, as she waits in line for her burger during Picnic with the President Wednesday afternoon in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. See photos online at utrgvrider.com.

Sister of hit-and-run victim speaks out

Natalie Lapsley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nineteen-year-olds Robert Brown and Juan Taylor, and 18-year-old Jaeden Servantez, three UTRGV student athletes who were arraigned in a hit-and-run incident that left a cyclist hospitalized, were released on bond Thursday night.

As reported by The Rider on Wednesday, the Edinburg Police Department responded around 9 p.m. Tuesday to an auto-cyclist collision near 21st Avenue and University Drive.

Emergency medical services transported 37-year-old cyclist Francisco Hernandez to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg, where he remains in stable condition with 12 broken ribs and a broken leg, according to his sister, Jessica Hernandez.

Jessica Hernandez told The Rider in a phone interview Friday that her brother underwent two surgeries last week for his injuries.

"I don't know what to say," See **COURT**, Page 2

A guide through college life TRiO program provides resources, assistance

Pete Mendoza

THE RIDER

TRiO Student Support Services provides UTRGV students with a sense of community and offers a helping hand to those struggling to achieve academic and career goals.

The U.S. Education Department funds the program, which assists college students attempting their first bachelor's degree.

Aaron Hinojosa, director of the program, said there are a wide range of services for students to take advantage of in the program, such as academic success tutors, peer coaches, student success assistants and a computer lab.

"We have some computers that students can use," Hinojosa said. "We have spaces that people can either study or come in between classes and review their homework or review their assignments."

Students do not need to go through an interview process to participate, he said.

"They submit an interest form and then we verify that, and then we have a meeting with them ... about our services," Hinojosa said. "We

TRiO
Resources and services

- academic success tutors
- FAFSA assistance
- networking



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

also review their need, a little like an academic assessment, [and] we also look at a little bit of their grades and see how we can best help each student."

The director said the program's main office and lab are on the Brownsville campus.

"Any student can apply here except that our services are only over here in person," Hinojosa said. "We do offer some virtual opportunities, but I think the beauty is the in-person [assistance] because our lab is here, our physical See **SERVICES**, Page 3

Precautions against mosquito-borne diseases

Andrew Mayo
THE RIDER

An Hidalgo County official says a mix of baby and eucalyptus oils serves as an alternative for those allergic to conventional repellent now that the peak mosquito season has begun.

The suggestion comes after the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court confirmed three cases of the West Nile virus and four cases of the dengue virus in the county in an Aug. 29 news release.

The cases were confirmed over a 10-to-14-day period before the news release, according to Eduardo Olivarez, the chief administrative officer of Hidalgo County Health & Human Services.

"We went and coordinated with the state and set up mosquito traps in [the infected] areas and near their homes, and around their neighborhoods, and started collecting mosquito samples," Olivarez said in an interview Aug. See **MOSQUITOES**, Page 2

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Last day to withdraw
Today is the last day for students to withdraw from classes and receive a 70% refund for Fall 2024.

9/11 Commemorative 5K
The Military and Veterans Success Center, in collaboration with University Recreation and ROTC, will host the 9/11 Commemorative 5K run to remember those killed and honor those who placed their lives at risk to save others. Check-in will begin at 6 a.m. at the flagpole on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Tuesday at the flagpole on the Harlingen campus and Wednesday by the flagpole on the Edinburg campus. The race will begin at 6:30 a.m. on each campus.

Boxing Training
University Recreation offers boxing classes in which students and members will deliver jab, cross, hook and uppercut combinations from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 2

on the Edinburg campus.
Tuesday Brain and Beyond Seminar Series

Dr. Maria Mora Pinzon, an assistant professor in the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, will present a lecture titled, "Understanding Motivations: The Intersection of Myth and Reality in Alzheimer's Care Among Latinos in the USA," from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom ID: 823 8006 9138. The lecture is part of the UTRGV School of Medicine's Brain and Beyond ... Seminar Series.

Glutes and Gain
University Recreation holds high-intensity and high-energy lower-body workout classes from 5:30

to 6:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

Cycle Fit
University Recreation offers cycling classes from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday Census Day
Wednesday is the last day to drop classes without it appearing on the

Fall 2024 transcript.
1 Million Cups
The Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center hosts 1 Million Cups from 9 to 10 a.m. at the eBridge Center for Business & Commercialization in downtown Brownsville. The public is invited to make connections, address challenges and find opportunities within the community.

Thursday Basic Stretch
University Recreation offers basic stretch workouts from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Friday Research Connect
Lizette I. Gonzales, research liaison officer for the Division of Research, hosts Virtual Office Hours from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom to provide guidance and support for faculty and staff research investigations. Zoom ID: 683 513 0694.

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SOM Research Colloquium
The UTRGV School of Medicine will host a colloquium for its research scientists and trainees to share research or scholarly activity. The event will take place from 1 to 5:30 p.m. in the Medical Education Building Room 2.125 on the Edinburg campus. Presentations will be viewable via Zoom. Presenters and attendees have until Thursday to register online at forms.office.com/r/b9aXayxir5.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 27 and Sept. 2.

Aug. 27
10:49 a.m.: A student reported she was involved in a two-vehicle collision in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. She said the other vehicle failed to stop to exchange information. The case is under investigation.

3:13 p.m.: Officers responded to a student stuck inside an elevator in the Life and Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus. The officers helped the student exit the elevator. No injuries were reported.

Aug. 28
8:06 a.m.: An employee reported that a man riding a skateboard nearly collided with a student walking near the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The officer attempted to locate the man but was unsuccessful.

1:19 p.m.: Officers responded to the University

Library on the Brownsville campus for an active fire alarm. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management staff said a water pressure pump triggered the alarm. The building was deemed safe for reentry.

Aug. 29
12:35 p.m.: University Police officers responded to the smell of burnt wires in the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management staff determined the odor was coming from the LED lights and deemed the building safe for reentry.

2:22 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a report of a woman possibly carrying an illegal knife in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The officer spoke

with the woman and identified her as a student. It was determined the knife was within legal limits.

4:32 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a man and a woman who were soliciting money outside the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus.

The officers searched the area but were unable to locate the individuals.

Aug. 30
12:18 p.m.: A staff member reported seeing

a man who has an active criminal trespass warning in Lot E-39 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

2:43 p.m.: An officer responded to a fire alarm in the University Library on the Brownsville campus. Upon arrival, Environmental

Health, Safety & Risk Management staff cleared the building and deemed it safe for reentry.

4:41 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to a disturbance in the University Recreation Building on the Edinburg campus. Upon arrival, it was determined a male student was assaulted. The suspect had already left the location. The case is under investigation.

9:04 p.m.: A student reported the theft of his laptop, which he left in the Dining and Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 2
2:45 p.m.: A student reported his pair of running shoes were stolen from the courtyard at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. A University Police officer reviewed video footage and confirmed a man was seen taking the shoes. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas



COURT
Continued from Page 1

she replied when asked for her reaction to the arrest and arraignment. "I just leave everything to God's hands. ... I just want justice. I was still mad to see if they're going to do something, or not."

Hernandez started a GoFundMe account to raise money for her brother's family and to help pay for his medical expenses. The fund has received 38 donations, so far, and reached \$965 of its \$8,000 goal.

Edinburg Municipal Judge Hector Bustos charged Brown, the driver, with "collision involving serious bodily injury," a third-degree felony. The charge is punishable by two-to-10 years jail time and a fine of up to \$10,000 upon conviction.

Brown was also charged with failure to report a felony, a class A misdemeanor punishable by a year in county jail and a fine of up to \$4,000 upon conviction.

Bustos set a bond of \$50,000 on the felony charge and \$10,000 on the misdemeanor. Brown was released Thursday night after posting bond.

The judge charged Servantez and Taylor, passengers in the car, with failure to report a felony, a class A misdemeanor punishable by a year in county jail and a fine of up to \$4,000 upon conviction. Bustos set a bond of \$10,000 each on the misdemeanor charges. Servantez and Taylor were also released Thursday night after posting bond.

Sharon Mahone, Taylor's aunt, exited the courtroom before embracing two other

family members in tears.

"He's come down here to learn and he was just a passenger in the car," Mahone said about Taylor. "It was all a misunderstanding, an accident. But, I don't feel that he should be responsible."

She said she thought the coaches would be present.

"The coaches are not here," Mahone said. "And I would think they [were] going to support them and I don't see not one coach. Not one."

Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for Communications & Championships, wrote in an email Wednesday that UTRGV Athletics is "aware of the situation" and "will take appropriate action if necessary."

Patrick Gonzales, vice president for

University Marketing and Communications, said Friday there will be no further comment until the investigation is complete.



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

Nineteen-year-old Juan Taylor (from left), 18-year-old Jaeden Servantez and 19-year-old Robert Brown listen Wednesday during their arraignment at the Edinburg Municipal Court. The three were arrested in connection to a hit-and-run incident.

Sports across borders

UTRGV welcomes international athletes

Cadence Vaughan

THE RIDER

Every year, students from across the world play for UTRGV Athletics.

Yuki Nishigaki, a multidisciplinary studies senior from Kobe, Japan, is a goalkeeper on the UTRGV Men's Soccer Team.

Nishigaki moved to the Rio Grande Valley on Aug. 6 after playing for Barton Community College in Kansas. He said he was nervous to do so but is excited to play on the team.

"The people [are] very kind," Nishigaki said. "A lot of people talk to me and they understand me. I cannot speak English, but they understand me."

He said the biggest difference from playing soccer in Japan is that the athletes in the U.S. are better-conditioned.

"It is completely different, more physical," he said. "[Soccer players here] are more strong."

Nishigaki said the biggest culture shock he experienced when he moved to the Valley was not being able to find Japanese food. However, he said his favorite part about UTRGV are the vegetables and chicken from the Vaquero Dining Hall on the Edinburg campus.

Nishigaki said his family was supportive of him moving to UTRGV.

"I miss my family and friends," he said. "... They [are] cheering me [on]."

Nishigaki said he looks forward to playing soccer and making foreign friends this year.

Eddie Lai, a psychology sophomore from Taoyuan City, Taiwan, plays on the men's golf team. He joined the team last year as a freshman.

While Lai was in high school, he visited UTRGV to learn more about the golf program and meet the coach.

"I think it's pretty cool," he said. "After [the visit], I decided to commit with the UTRGV."

Lai said he was nervous when he first moved here because of the culture.

"It's a different culture, different environment," he said. "Everything is, like, totally different. ... The language ... [mostly] here is Spanish."

Lai said playing golf for UTRGV is different from playing in Taiwan.

"Here [we] have, like, a better facility and a better, like, education system," he said. "And, in Taiwan, you have to play golf, but maybe you cannot put that much time in your academic. So, I think in [the] U.S. [you] have, like, a better balance between the golf and the academic."

Lai said he misses his home country. "I think I'll say [I miss] the food the



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Senior goalkeeper Yuki Nishigaki makes a save during practice Aug. 29 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Sophomore Eddie Lai hits a shot during the Big Texan Invitational March 25 in Kerrville, Texas.



Senior forward Kwo Agwa (left) attempts to block sophomore forward Tommy Gankhuyag as he dribbles the ball during practice Aug. 29 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

most," he said.

Lai said he mostly looks forward to winning conferences with his teammates.

Men's basketball forward Tommy Gankhuyag is an international business sophomore from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, who previously played at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Gankhuyag moved to the Valley on Aug. 21.

He said he was very excited to move here.

"I like the team," Gankhuyag said. "I like the coaches. I see the games and stuff, so everything looks so good to me. I loved to come over here."

He said playing basketball at UTRGV is different from Mongolia.

"Everybody is so good over here," Gankhuyag said. "They, like, know what they're doing. They put their time and heart and soul in the game. I like to be around people like that, so it's great to have teammates like this."

He said he is the second person from Mongolia to play Division I basketball, so the people of Mongolia cheered him on when he decided to move.

Gankhuyag said he looks forward to playing basketball in front of big crowds.

He said his favorite part about the Valley is the Mexican food and the liveliness of the UTRGV campus.

"I like this school—how big it is, a lot of students walking in the campus, feeling alive," Gankhuyag said.

SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

resources are here."

The program can serve around 275 participants each year.

To qualify for the program, participants must have low income, be a first-generation college student or have a disability.

Hinojosa said the program is for students who have a difficult time accessing education.

"A lot of times, we have students who [meet] all three of those [requirements]," he said.

Freshmen and sophomores are also offered Grant Aid depending on their activity in the program and if they are receiving the current Pell Grant, according to the program's website.

Hinojosa said TRiO also has some graduate school material.

"Although we can't offer full test prep into graduate school programs or professional programs, we do have some of those resources, like the latest test prep on GMAT, LSAT, GRE, MCAT [and] HESI," he said.

Students can get advice from the program for career-related issues.

"Although we're not career advisers, we talk about resume building," Hinojosa said. "We talk about networking. We talk about interview skills and then we also do referrals."

Veronica Patee, a peer coach assistant for the program and a former participant, said she informs and consults with students to get them help they need.

"If they're struggling with mental health, they'll sit down with me," Patee said. "They kinda vent. I let them know I'm not a professional and then ... I guide them to the Counseling Center. I encourage them to take care of themselves mentally [and] physically."

Hinojosa said the program also includes occasional trips outside the university for students interested in graduate programs at other institutions.

"Those trips are also based on eligibility," he said. "... We explore what universities are in the area [and] we schedule meetings with them."

Gabriella Carreon, a criminal justice sophomore and participant, said the program gives her a feeling of companionship and unity.

"I am really enjoying the dynamic we have here, and I already made some friends, long-committed friends, and I like how they can help me," Carreon said.

Hinojosa said students who want to know more about the program can visit the program's Instagram or visit the office, located in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 2.104.

"Come in, visit the office," he said. "... Someone out here in the lab is going to help you. I think a lot of our students just want to help each other out because that's our culture here in the program."

MOSQUITOES

Continued from Page 1

30. "All the mosquito tests came back negative, so that gave us the indication that the cases may have been travel-related."

Despite the cases possibly being travel-related, Olivarez explained the illnesses are nothing new to the Rio Grande Valley.

"Every year, we have dengue cases, the West Nile virus—not as frequently," he said. "I think the last [time] we had a case was three years ago. It's something common here in the Valley once you start getting into the fall season."

Along with the commonality of the viruses themselves, the symptoms that can manifest may seem familiar when compared to other common



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

illnesses as well, according to Christopher Vitek, a UTRGV associate professor of biology.

"The symptoms for a lot of these mosquito-borne diseases are very generic," Vitek said. "We sort of refer to them as

flu-like symptoms. You might have some achy bones, achy joints. There's not really going to be any sort of congestion or anything along those lines."

According to Olivarez, the peak of mosquito season

in the Valley is in September, October and November. Because it is so hot, mosquitoes are more active during the early mornings and late evenings, when it is cooler outside.

"Depending on the weather, they can get pretty bad, especially during the night when people could be out celebrating," mathematics sophomore Alfonso Jimenez said.

In order to limit harmful exposure to mosquitoes and keep the populations in the area down, the county suggests taking precautions.

"We make sure we maintain our yards, cut our grass, remove standing water and make sure we have good screens on our doors," Olivarez said.

He recommends avoiding

time outdoors during peak hours of mosquito activity and wearing long, lightweight shirts and pants.

Olivarez also suggested an alternative for those who may be allergic to conventional mosquito repellent, saying, "You can get some baby oil with some eucalyptus oil and mix it together."

He said, in addition to the fumigation efforts the county is taking in fighting mosquito populations, residents can purchase household chemical products that directly attack mosquito larvae.

"People can actually buy larvicide, which are these little tablets that you can put in your plants or your bird feeders," Olivarez said. "It's very effective because one tablet may kill thousands of larvae."



VAQUERO VOICE

What is your advice for students to find parking?



“To find parking, you really wanna come early in the morning. ... But, if not, you’re usually going to find some near the baseball field. Honestly, it’s kinda far, but, you know.”

Gabriela Flores
biomedical science senior



“I would say to show up, like, an hour ahead of time. ... And, just know, like, the routes for VOLTs and ... their schedule.”

Irma Atilano
marketing senior



“The first week was pretty bad. ... I took 40 minutes one day finding parking and I was late to class. ... I have class at 10. Now, I’m coming in at, like, 7 or 8 just to find parking.”

Leopoldo Garza
mechanical engineering freshman

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

‘iNo pasa nada!’



Raquel Cazares
PHOTOGRAPHER

Mental health issues are universal; however, Hispanic culture has always viewed the subject as taboo. Generations have been continuously affected by the standard in which mental health issues are treated. The unspoken rule set up in Hispanic households has affected countless children and will continue to have such an effect.

Through firsthand experiences, I’ve been conditioned to cast my mental struggles aside instead of working through them. This harmful ideology that I’ve been exposed to as a child has caused me to develop issues that I need to work through now as an adult.

In Hispanic culture, it is normalized to face problems in an unhealthy manner or not face them at all. Issues I have encountered in my life have always been met with the words, “Supéralo, you’ll get over it.” Being exposed to this mindset of casting

issues aside because they eventually will go away created this festering insecurity within me that as an adult I am stuck having to fix.

The effects of this mindset can even trace back to the experiences one has as a child. The first time I was exposed to this mindset was being told to ignore a child’s fall to prevent them from crying. “No le pongas atención porque va a llorar” has been heard by countless people living in Hispanic households. The idea of ignoring a child for the purpose of not wanting to deal with their cries creates this harmful mentally surrounding emotions.

Growing up being surrounded by people who believe mental health isn’t important causes people to have similar views throughout their life. Constantly being disregarded leads to suffering in silence. Similarly, I grew up in a household that pushed aside all of my mental health issues. Not being taken seriously by the adults in my life caused me to disregard my own issues until I couldn’t handle it anymore.

Having an unreliable environment

throughout my childhood left wounds that I am in therapy to mend. In my personal experience, I remember the extreme struggle I had in telling my parents I believed I was autistic. I was never taken seriously by anyone, so that led me into learning how to mask just to be socially acceptable. It took me until senior year of high school to finally tell my parents the internal struggles I was facing. I still continue to have impostor syndrome because all my life I was told, “You’re lying” or “You’re not autistic enough.” Since then, I have gone through a massive journey in accepting myself, and I will continue to learn and evolve to become myself.

Mental health issues should never be ignored because they are actual problems that people deserve to be helped for. It is extremely normalized in Hispanic culture to take things lightly; however, I believe mental health should not be included. Mental health issues are valid, and everyone deserves to be heard and assisted with their personal problems. Normalizing mental health issues will create a flourishing community where everyone is validated.

Growing up being surrounded by people who believe mental health isn’t important causes people to have similar views throughout their life.

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WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER COMMUTE TO CAMPUS EVERY DAY OR SPEND 30 MINS FINDING A PARKING SPACE?

COMMUTE 64.29%

PARKING 30 MINS 35.71%

Emociones a través de ‘Ella’

ELLA

Ella examina las profundas conexiones personales que los individuos tienen con las mujeres en sus vidas. Ya sea madre, abuela, hermana, prima, amiga o pareja, cada persona tiene una mujer especial que ha impactado su vida. A través de su serie de esculturas, Nour Kuri explora las conexiones, percepciones y emociones asociadas con estas relaciones. Esta exposición no solo invita a los espectadores a reflexionar sobre sus propias conexiones con las mujeres importantes de sus vidas, sino que también celebra los logros de todas las mujeres en todos los aspectos de la vida.

Nour utiliza la escultura como medio para comunicar sus emociones y pensamientos, trabajando con materiales como bronce, mármol, madera, terracota y vidrio. Su estilo artístico, definido por el expresionismo y el surrealismo, presenta formas humanas estilizadas que rayan en la abstracción manteniendo la cercanía a su inspiración original. A través de Ella, Nour captura la esencia de la figura humana estilizada expresándola en diferentes instancias de la vida, individualmente, como familia o incluso como comunidad. La exposición es un tributo sincero a las mujeres impactantes en nuestras vidas y una celebración de sus importantes contribuciones a la sociedad.

Ella examines the deep personal connections individuals have with the women in their lives. Whether it is a mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, friend, or significant other, every person has a special woman who has significantly impacted their life. Through her series of sculptures, Nour Kuri explores the connections, perceptions, and emotions associated with these relationships. This exhibition not only prompts viewers to reflect on their own connections with important women in their lives but also celebrates the achievements of all women in all aspects of life.

Nour uses sculpture as a medium to communicate her thoughts and emotions, working with materials such as bronze, marble, wood, terra cotta, and glass. Her artistic style, defined by Expressionism and Surrealism, features stylized human shapes that verge on abstraction while retaining closeness to their original inspiration. Through Ella, Nour captures the essence of the stylized human figure, expressing it in different instances of life: individually, as families, or even as communities. Ella is a heartfelt tribute to the impactful women in our lives and a celebration of their significant contributions to society.

Esta exposición fue organizada por la artista, Nour Kuri y es apoyada por Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Plumbing Services, Inc.

This exhibition was organized by the artist, Nour Kuri and is supported by Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Plumbing Services, Inc.



Fatima Gamez Lopez / FOTO RIDER

No Duermo, Pienso (bronce, pátina rojo Ferrari), por la artista mexicana Nour Kuri, es una de las esculturas en la exhibición “Ella” en el Museo Internacional de Arte y Ciencia que estará hasta el 9 de febrero de 2025.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La exhibición “Ella,” por la artista mexicana Nour Kuri, explora las conexiones y emociones de las mujeres celebrando sus logros en todos los aspectos de sus vidas.

“Ella” estará abierta al público de 10 a.m. a 5 p.m. de miércoles a sábado y de 1 a 5 p.m. los domingos en el Museo Internacional de Arte y Ciencia (IMAS por sus siglas en inglés) en McAllen hasta el 9 de febrero de 2025.

Cada una de las 31 esculturas de la exposición fueron creadas con una variedad de materiales, como bronce, mármol, madera, terracota y vidrio.

“Hay momentos en la vida en que necesitamos, como, sacar lo que llevamos cargando, lo que nos está pesando en el corazón”, Kuri dijo al hablar de la creación de sus esculturas. “Y creo que esa caricia a mi alma en ese momento lo necesitaba tanto. La encontré al estar acariciando el barro, esta tierra húmeda, tan sensible, tan frágil y, al mismo tiempo, tan receptiva”.

Nació en la Ciudad de México y cuenta con una licenciatura en ciencias de la comunicación social en la Universidad Anáhuac, México.

Kuri dijo que su amor al arte comenzó desde muy joven, cuando sus papás la llevaban a museos y exhibiciones de arte.

“La escultura en sí siempre me apasionó, no como algo ajeno, [sino] como algo inalcanzable, como algo que nunca en mi vida me imaginé yo poder crear algo”, Kuri dijo. “Y, en 1994, empiezo con esta inquietud dentro del corazón y creo que del cielo me mandaron como un pedazo de barro, una maestra maravillosa. Y, de allí, fue como mi pluma para empezar a escribir mi vida a través de la materia”.

En 1994 comenzó con los escultores mexicanos Marcela Arbide y Eduardo

Nasta en “todo lo que es este caminar en el arte”.

Dijo que, cuando comenzó, nunca se imaginó el cambio que su vida tomaría.

“Yo estaba muy tranquila en mi casa, con mis hijos, mi esposo, mi vida ya muy hecha y de repente me encuentro con el barro”, Kuri dijo. “Y el barro fue algo que me dio alas y sin miedo he seguido ese camino y he dejado que me ilumine y me lleve”.

Durante una entrevista con The Rider, ella dijo que el hecho de no incluir un rostro o una cabeza en sus esculturas incita a cada espectador a convertirse



Fatima Gamez Lopez / FOTO RIDER

“Ella” estará en exhibición de 10 a.m. a 5 p.m. de miércoles a sábado y de 1 a 5 p.m. los domingos en el Museo Internacional de Arte y Ciencia (IMAS por sus siglas en inglés) en McAllen hasta el 9 de febrero de 2025.

en el protagonista de su propia historia.

“Creo que no lo necesitan”, Kuri dijo. “Es muchísimo más fácil que tú te identifiques y puedas hacer tu propia historia y eso es lo que me encanta de las exposiciones: invitarte, llevarte de la mano y que te pierdas un poco en la obra y hagas tu propia historia y de ahí salgas”.

Dijo que las reacciones de la comunidad a sus esculturas fueron positivas.

“Se identificaron muchos con la obra”, Kuri dijo. “Hubo alguien que me dijo, ‘esta escultura me recordó lo



FOTO CORTESIA NOUR KURI

“Ella”, por la artista mexicana Nour Kuri, está en exhibición en el Museo Internacional de Arte y Ciencia (IMAS por sus siglas en inglés) en McAllen hasta el 9 de febrero de 2025.

que me decía mi abuelita cuando yo era chico, de esta relación familiar en la que todos somos uno’. [...] Y así mil anécdotas que son las que yo me llevo en el corazón, esos abrazos, esas sonrisas, esas miradas con mucha emoción”.

Dijo que todas sus esculturas son muy importantes para ella.

“Doña es una pieza muy fuerte de una mujer sentada”, Kuri dijo. “En esta fuerza, te está hablando de que se merece el nombre de doña y creo que toda mujer nos merecemos ese apelativo. Somos doñas siempre”.

Sandra Boadu y Jada Good, residentes de Houston, visitaron el museo por primera vez en donde conocieron la exhibición.

“Evoca una emoción, especialmente cuando tienes un fuerte apego a tu madre”, Good dijo. “Y, no sé, últimamente están pasando muchas cosas con el feminismo y todo eso. [...] Estas obras de arte son realmente hermosas y siento que transmiten mucho”.

Boadu dijo que la exhibición para ella representa los ciclos de la feminidad y el ciclo de la maternidad.

“Creo que yo tuve la experiencia opuesta con [Good] porque yo perdí a mi madre”, dijo. “Así que, creo que ver algunas de las esculturas y a las madres abrazando a sus hijos es muy conmovedor y nostálgico”.

Dijeron que sus esculturas favoritas fueron *Ternura* y *No Duermo, Pienso*.

La entrada general cuesta \$5. Los niños de 4 a 12 años, los estudiantes con identificación y las personas mayores de 65 años pagan \$3, mientras que aquellos con WIC/EBT pagan \$1. Miembros de IMAS, niños menores de 3 años y los educadores de escuelas públicas de preescolar a grado 12 entran gratis.

Para más información sobre la exhibición, visite IMAS en su sitio web o Nourkuri.com.

“Hay momentos en la vida en que necesitamos, como, sacar lo que llevamos cargando, lo que nos está pesando en el corazón”.

-Artista mexicana Nour Kuri

The Pop in Pop Culture

From snack container to souvenir

Eduardo Escamilla

A&E REPORTER

As movie studios continue to churn out limited-edition designs and themed popcorn buckets, fans are eagerly acquiring them, sparking conversations about the cultural significance of collecting and the potential for popcorn buckets to become prized possessions.

The limited availability of many popcorn buckets further drives their desirability, as fans compete to obtain the latest releases.

AMC employee and Edinburg resident Krystal Torres told The Rider that “the bat-signal popcorn bucket ... sold out after the first few hours of [theater] opening.”

Another popular popcorn bucket was the towering sandworm from “Dune: Part Two,” which was famously parodied on “Saturday Night Live.” It was a legendary piece of movie merchandise with secondary market prices on eBay as high as \$800.

Torres said moviegoers often request popcorn buckets based on the film’s popularity.

“‘Aliens’ sold a lot,” she said. “‘Barbie’ was a big one. ... It was like a convertible. I actually bought one for a friend of mine.”

The fascination with collecting objects dates back centuries, with the Medici family’s Uffizi Galleries serving as an early example.

The collection of art and antiquities laid the groundwork for modern museums, showcasing the value placed on preserving and displaying cultural artifacts, according to www.visituffizi.org.

Today, the collecting instinct remains strong, with people seeking out everything from Funko Pops to trading cards.

Theatre freshman Daniel Reese said he and his friends hope to start a collection of old “Star Wars” action figures that came out around the time “Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope” was released because they are “really rare nowadays.”

“For some, [collecting] can be showing off,” Reese said. “There’s nothing better than showing a person your collection. ... People do take pride in their collection. ... For example, some people will just sit in their chair and stare at their collection for an hour, and they’ll find fulfillment in that, some enjoyment.”

Popcorn buckets have emerged as a surprising addition to the list of collectibles.

“I think it’s ... a sign of the times,” said Jenarae Bautista, curator of



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Collectible popcorn buckets have accompanied major movie releases. The limited availability of many popcorn buckets further drives their desirability, as fans compete to obtain the latest releases.

exhibits at the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg. “... Museums, pop culture and the community at large say, ‘Hey, Funkos are really cool and really important. We should capture that.’ Twenty to 30 years from now, maybe that’s not the case ... but it does represent a time in history.”

Bautista said she prioritizes preserving objects for future generations by considering their material composition and condition.

“I do feel like museums, they’re like libraries,” she said. “All of that history, that content, it needs to be shared.”

of the year, like, what we thought was important. There’s a whole bunch of world events going on and, you know, people still want a really cool popcorn bucket.”

Bautista said that even seemingly mundane items, such as a regional gas station’s 64-ounce cup, can hold cultural value and be worthy of preservation in major cultural institutions.

“There is a Stripes cup at the Smithsonian,” she said. “And you know, like, only a handful of people will know exactly where that 64-ounce cup came from,” connecting individuals and their regional history to that object.

Bautista said the inclusion of these types of pop culture objects challenges traditional notions of art and what is culturally significant.

“Someone may see that as ... a newer trend that has no merit, but we are the new leaders,” she said. “We are the emerging professionals. We are establishing what those standards are.”

Bautista said museums must carefully consider the current relevance of such pop culture objects, as well as their potential future significance in telling stories about people, places and how different generations have responded to them.

Even if the material may not be built to last, the cultural and historical context the objects represent could make them worthy of preservation and exhibition.

“Funny, punny, odd, it’s reflective of the generation,”

—Jenarae Bautista, curator of exhibits at the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg

The museum curator previously worked as an exhibition collections manager at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History and said the popcorn buckets could hold cultural significance, to be “relevant to at least a larger, you know, pop culture history,” even if their material composition makes them unlikely to last.

Bautista said that in 30 years, her own perspective on the relevance of these objects may change, but “I think it just has to be captured.”

“Funny, punny, odd, it’s reflective of the generation,” she said. “It’s reflective



Alexa Hernandez
psychology senior
“bald Barbie”



Alissa De La Cruz
anthropology freshman
“tea party sets”



Josue Perez
biology sophomore
“Nerf gun”



Mireya De La Torre
undeclared freshman
“Nerf gun”

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal and Venisha Colón

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Savannah Frisby

Serving victories in volleyball

Vaqueros look to carry momentum into home opener

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a 3-0 start to its season at the Furman Invitational in Greenville, South Carolina, the UTRGV Volleyball Team will look to carry the momentum throughout the tournament phase of the 2024 season.

UTRGV Volleyball head coach Todd Lowery said, although his team “did some nice things,” he is looking for the team to improve and build off of the results.

“I thought offensively we were decent,” Lowery said. “I thought we served it really well at times. On the flipside, I don’t think we defended anybody’s right side really well. We gotta get better at that.”

As previously reported by The Rider, a preseason Southland Conference poll picked the Vaqueros to finish second in the conference in its first full season as a member.

Last season, the Vaqueros played to a 19-12 overall record while finishing 12-4 in the Western Athletic Conference. Asked if these expectations added pressure on the team to perform, Lowery replied it does.

“We’ve talked about that,” he said. “We’ve had a lot of changeover since last year. There’s a lot of new pieces on the floor, so more, ‘Don’t do too much too soon.’”

Senior outside hitter Claudia Lupescu and senior right side Perris Key both received preseason SLC second team accolades in the same poll. Lowery said this season, Key will play in the middle rather than her natural position on the right side.

“Obviously, [Key and Lupescu] are a big part of what we do,” he said. “[Key] did a tremendous job in the middle helping us win games, and that’s what’s most important.”

Lowery said while the team is deep in the setter and libero positions, it is “not particularly deep in a couple of [other]



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Sophomore outside hitter Giovana Ribeiro tips the ball over sophomore middle blocker Juliana Bryant and volunteer assistant coach AJ Sanchez during practice Wednesday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

positions.” This has led to Lowery starting players, particularly Key, to play out of position.

“[Libero and setter] are two positions that we [do] have depth in,” he said. “So, that creates a bit of competition in the gym, which is gonna allow everyone to push forward.”

... We’re gonna have to move people around.”

Outside hitter Nadine Zech, after dealing with injury issues last season, made an immediate impact in her

sophomore season, being named the MVP of the aforementioned Furman Invitational.

Lowery said the team is working to ensure that Zech stays healthy this season. He said, when healthy, “she’s definitely a force” on the court.

“My point this year [is] to stay healthy, stay as a group this year,” Zech said. “We have a really nice group. What we did during the summer and what we continue to do is work

as a group.”

Lowery said the team will also rely on newcomers to contribute. He said sophomore libero Celaniz Cabrales “did a good job,” while sophomore setter Isabella Costantini “ran the offense

at a pretty good clip” at the Furman tournament.

“I just feel like the energy and the structure of the school and the program was something that really caught my attention,” Costantini said. “... This

group is really special, and we have a lot of special players that can play a lot of different positions.”

As of press time, results from the weekend’s Zips/CSU Invitational in Ohio were not available.

After this tournament, the Vaqueros will play their home opener against the Texas Tech Raiders at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. This will be the last tournament before conference play.

“This group is really special, and we have a lot of special players that can play a lot of different positions.”

--sophomore setter
Isabella “Tini” Constantini



Head coach Todd Lowery addresses his team during practice Wednesday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Q: Can you tell us a fun fact about yourself?

A: “I have three dogs.”

Q: Who or what got you started in soccer?

A: “I would say probably my older brother. He started before me and I always wanted to do everything he did, and I was really competitive with him. So, when he started then, of course, that’s all I wanted to do.”

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration or role model?

A: “I would say my mom. She is a really hard worker and she is always accomplishing her goals. ... She just treats people well and is just a big inspiration of mine. And I just wanna be like her.”

Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to?

A: “I like to listen to R&B. So like, Masego or Omar Apollo are some of my favorites.”

Q: Any shows or movies you like to watch?

A: “I like ‘Modern Family.’ And for movies, probably ‘Ocean’s 8’ is my favorite right now.”

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: “I like to read and paint. I’m a big artist. I also just like to hang out with my friends and explore new places to eat.”

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: “I think my biggest motivation [is] I’m always in competition with myself and just trying to improve. And, I guess, prove people wrong.”

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: “Definitely the people. I’ve met a lot of my best friends here and I love my team and the environment has just been very supportive.”

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: “I want to play professional soccer after I graduate and then, after that, become a physical therapist and start a family.”

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

WOMEN’S SOCCER
4 p.m. Thursday
vs. Prairie View A&M University
at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS
MEN’S SOCCER
6:30 p.m. Thursday
vs. Jacksonville University
at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex

VOLLEYBALL
6:30 p.m. Thursday
vs. Texas Tech University
6:30 p.m. Friday
vs. University of San Francisco
in the UTRGV Fieldhouse

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