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Día de los Muertos

CONVIVIO HONORS GLORIA ANZALDÚA



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER

Magdala P. Garza, an attendee of the *convivio*, reads an original poem Tuesday dedicated to the late Chicana feminist scholar Gloria Anzaldúa.

Chef Roy Choi to take the stage at UTRGV

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV Student Activities will kick off its 21st season of the Distinguished Speaker Series with Roy Choi, a Korean-American chef and entrepreneur, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is an annual event that started at legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American and allows students to listen to world-class speakers on various topics and to get inspired by their message, said Cristina Rodriguez, assistant director of Student Activities.



PHOTO COURTESY TRAVIS JENSEN
Chef Roy Choi

Choi was born in Seoul, South Korea, and raised in Los Angeles.

In 2008, he opened Kogi BBQ in partnership with entrepreneurs Mark Manguera and Caroline Shin.

Choi is known as one of the "architects" of the modern food truck movement, blending street food culture with social media, according to the website of the food truck company Kogi BBQ, where he works as the executive chef and is the company co-founder.

Choi won a James Beard Award for his TV show "Broken Bread" and co-hosts Netflix's "The Chef Show" with Jon Favreau.

He graduated from the Culinary Institute of America. Choi was named Food and Wine's Best New Chef in 2010, and his memoir

See [CHEF](#), Page 10

SGA response to transparency concerns

Daniela Chapa-Reyes
THE RIDER

In some current posts on the UTRGV Students Facebook page, group members have voiced their concerns about transparency issues regarding the Student Government Association and what it has been doing.

The SGA, which represents the student body, has passed two pieces of legislation this semester, Senate Chair Laura Reyes said.

The SGA Accessibility

Bill aims to "make reasonable accommodations in coordination with Accessibility Services to support the participation of members that have a documented disability."

The accommodation "will ensure that if full physical participation in some club activities is limited, it will not negatively impact the participant's members in the organization. The Center for Student Involvement is not responsible for any injury or accident that occurs within



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER
Student Senate Chair Laura Reyes

or result from an event associated with the student organization," according to the bill.

The Legislative Efficacy Act aims to ensure that "if no action has been taken by the committee within fourteen (14) business days after referral of the legislation by the chair of the senate, the legislation shall be placed on the agenda for the next senate meeting following the fourteen business day deadline, and the Chair of the Senate shall be informed as a

matter of record."

Senator At-Large for Edinburg Andrea Gaytan said the Transparency Act was written last semester by Senator At-Large for Edinburg Skyler Howell, then Senator At-Large for Edinburg Alexis Uscanga Cadena and UTRGV student Noah Trstenjak.

"This is a bill that enacts that the Student Government Association to create an SGA Legislation tracker that will bring more transparency of work by previous, current

See [SGA](#), Page 2

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY



Visit sos.state.tx.us
for more information

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
K.I.S.S

The **Korean International Student Society** will meet to discuss **Korean culture, music and language.** Meetings from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday in Science Building Room 2.507 on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday
SPIE Series

The **SPIE (International Society for Optics and Photonics) Student Chapter** will hold a **STEM research and professional development seminar** from 11 a.m. to noon in Mathematics & General Classrooms Building Room 2.412 on the Edinburg campus, in Life and Health Sciences Building Room 2.602 on the Brownsville campus or online via Zoom. ID: 856 2835 8421. School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences graduate students can earn professional development credit. Free coffee and snacks will be provided.

Anthropology Club

The **Anthropology Club** hosts a weekly meeting for students interested in **anthropology** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Palmetto Room on the

Edinburg campus. All majors are welcome.

Zumba Step

University Recreation invites students to take part in Zumba Step from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday
Brownsville Wellness

University Recreation, the Counseling Center, Student Health Services and the Student Food Pantry will host “**Wellness Wednesday**” from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus. The event will offer **guidance on fitness and wellness, including complimentary InBody assessments and tips for personal goals.** For more information, email recfitness@utrgv.edu.

Ladder Up

University Recreation invites students to participate in the “**Ladder Up Challenge**” by showing their ladder up skills from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center on the

Brownsville campus.

Book Club

The **Book Club** will discuss “**Crying in H Mart**” (Vintage, 2021), by **Michelle Zauner**, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Mesquite Room on the Edinburg campus and La Sala on the Brownsville campus. The event will be hosted by Grant Research Officer **Nicole Nicholson** and University Library Head of Research and Instructional

Services **Joel Chirinos.**

R S V P through V Link to receive a digital copy of the book.

3D Workshop

The **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** and the **Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization** will host a “**3D Modeling Workshop**” using Fusion 360 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 2.454 on the Edinburg campus. The workshop will cover **3D modeling basics, from simple shapes to detailed designs,** ideal for beginners and those looking to enhance

their skills.

Thursday

Medical School Webinar

Fasil Malik, associate director of Admissions for **Avalon University School of Medicine** in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao, will **discuss the school’s offerings** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. online via Google Meet. ID: jzy-bcse-yco. The event will be hosted by the **American Medical Student Association.**

Friday
Graduate Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will host a session for students to ask questions and **discuss concerns, programs and internship opportunities** within the **Graduate College** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Mesquite Room on the Edinburg campus and in Student Union Salón Jacaranda on the Brownsville campus.

Sociology Club

The **Sociology Club** will meet virtually to **discuss updates, upcoming events and other topics** from 1 to 2 p.m. online via Zoom. ID: 838 0246 0291 and passcode: 790771.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 22 and 30.

Oct. 22

2:21 p.m.: A student reported being struck on his leg by a lawnmower, causing a minor injury while walking near the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. The student declined medical services and reported the person on the mower left the area after the incident. The case is under investigation.

8:29 p.m.: A University Police officer contacted an intoxicated non-affiliated man who attended a UTRGV event in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The man was released to his parents who were also attending the event.

11:58 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to an odor of gas coming from inside the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management determined the odor was caused by a burner from a gas stove that was not completely

closed. The building was aired out and cleared for reentry.

Oct. 23

10:20 a.m.: University Police officers responded to a report of a student vaping inside a restroom in the UTRGV Community Engagement & Student Success Building in Edinburg. An employee recovered the vape pen from the student and turned

it over to officers for testing. The case is under investigation.

10:43 p.m.: An employee reported an assault by threat involving a family member. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 24

11:22 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to a report of a student sharpening sticks outside the Mathematics and Science Academy on the Edinburg campus. Officers met with the student and the principal and determined no crime occurred.

Oct. 25

our personal views,” Gaytan said. “We use this platform to advocate for student concerns and share insights on various topics. We also invite special guests to provide diverse perspectives on issues that matter to the student body. So, I am proud to say that myself and fellow Senator Skyler Howell are breaking barriers between senators and students. We are also excited to continue advocating for them.”

She said the podcast reflects their and their guests’ personal opinions and does

10:47 a.m.: A student reported being assaulted by another student on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

11:13 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to a man causing a disturbance in the Student Academic Center voting location on the Edinburg campus.

Officers arrived on scene and determined no crime occurred. The non-affiliated man was issued a criminal trespass warning and left the area.

11:44 a.m.: A student reported an assault by threat involving another student. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 26

12:26 a.m.: A student reported while he was at an off-campus location in Hidalgo County, a group of unidentified men asked him if he had any alcoholic

beverages. When he told them he did not, they responded with vulgar language. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 28

3:35 p.m.: A male student reported he was assaulted by his ex-girlfriend, who is also a student, on Oct. 14 in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. The assault was captured on closed-circuit TV footage. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 29

11 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to a student stuck in an elevator due to a power outage in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. The elevator was opened, and the student was found to be fine.

Oct. 30

2:29 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to a report of a man and a woman asking for money in Lot E-37 on the Edinburg campus. The officer located a man who matched the provided description and, after further investigation, it was determined no crime occurred. The man subsequently left campus.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

SGA

Continued from Page 1

and future terms towards the UTRGV student body,” Gaytan said. “This way the students know what SGA is doing for them, what legislations have been passed and how that affects them.”

Howell said he and Gaytan are trying to keep up to date on issues students present on the page.

“They have over 16,000 students on there,” he said. “Anytime there’s a concern

that students post on there, me and Andrea, we view whatever the issue is and we do our best to resolve it in our capacity.”

Howell said the SGA is trying its best to be as transparent as possible with the students.

“We hear you,” he said. “Of course, we can always do better and we’re striving to do better.”

Gaytan and Howell said they created a podcast that will be aired from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Monday on Vaquero Radio.

“Our discussions reflect

not reflect the overall opinion of the SGA.

“I do know transparency is always a concern, and it’s something that we definitely view as a priority, and we’re actively doing our best to always improve it,” Howell said.

The SGA hosts town hall meetings throughout the semester in various locations depending on which senator is hosting the meeting.

“The purpose of these town halls are to inform students about what SGA is and what we do for them, as students are

sometimes unaware of what we are and how we are there to help them,” Howell said.

The SGA also hosts “Meet Your SGA Representatives,” where students are given the opportunity to learn about the SGA and who their senators are.

The Rider tried to obtain an interview with SGA President Odalys Saenz and Vice President for External Affairs Juana Elena Jimenez for this article. Neither Saenz nor Jimenez were available for an interview as of press time.

Linguistics and beyond: A look at language

Hugo A. Sepúlveda
THE RIDER

A professor emeritus visited UTRGV Tuesday to speak about the impact of Hispanic vernaculars in linguistics and how Dominican Spanish differs from other versions of the language.

The UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies presented a B3 Linguistics Series seminar featuring Jacqueline Toribio, a Dominican emeritus professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin.

“Thank you for the kind invitation to be here with you to celebrate what is our rich history and cultural heritage, but also to promote the advancement of heritage language bilinguals and heritage language studies,” Toribio told the audience gathered in the Academic Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

The lecture was also livestreamed to the Biomedical Research and Health Building on the Brownsville campus and available via Zoom.

She said the Spanish that she speaks is a racialized variety of the language.

“And the code-switching, which I prefer, is also a stigmatized variety of the language,” Toribio said.

She said as a student, she



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jacqueline Toribio, a professor emeritus of linguistics in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin, discusses the phonology and general observations she made in the Dominican Republic during a linguistics seminar Tuesday in the Academic Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

suffered some indignities because of her language.

“In some of my graduate Spanish linguistics courses, I was not allowed to give judgments about my variety as being valid because they didn’t

coincide with what other varieties were presenting,” Toribio said.

She seeks to bring visibility to stigmatized varieties of language and that the takeaway of her positionality



Jacqueline Toribio, a professor emeritus of linguistics in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin, presents research to 50 UTRGV students who attended a linguistics seminar Tuesday in the Academic Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

is Latino matters in academics and elsewhere.

Toribio said she seeks to observe language and then bring a different orientation to its study.

“So, we can look at the ways in which language is structured, the ways in which they vary,” she said.

The emeritus professor said she looks at individuals because their language patterns are influenced by the societies they inhabit.

Toribio said she has been conducting research along the Dominican-Haitian border, drawing on multiple types of methodologies.

“A lot of it is just ethnographic observation, in part, because the communities that we’re talking about are communities where speakers might not be schooled,” she said.

Toribio said she has surveyed individuals from the

See **LANGUAGE**, Page 11

\$2M to protect a ‘unique’ ecosystem

Natalie Lapsley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

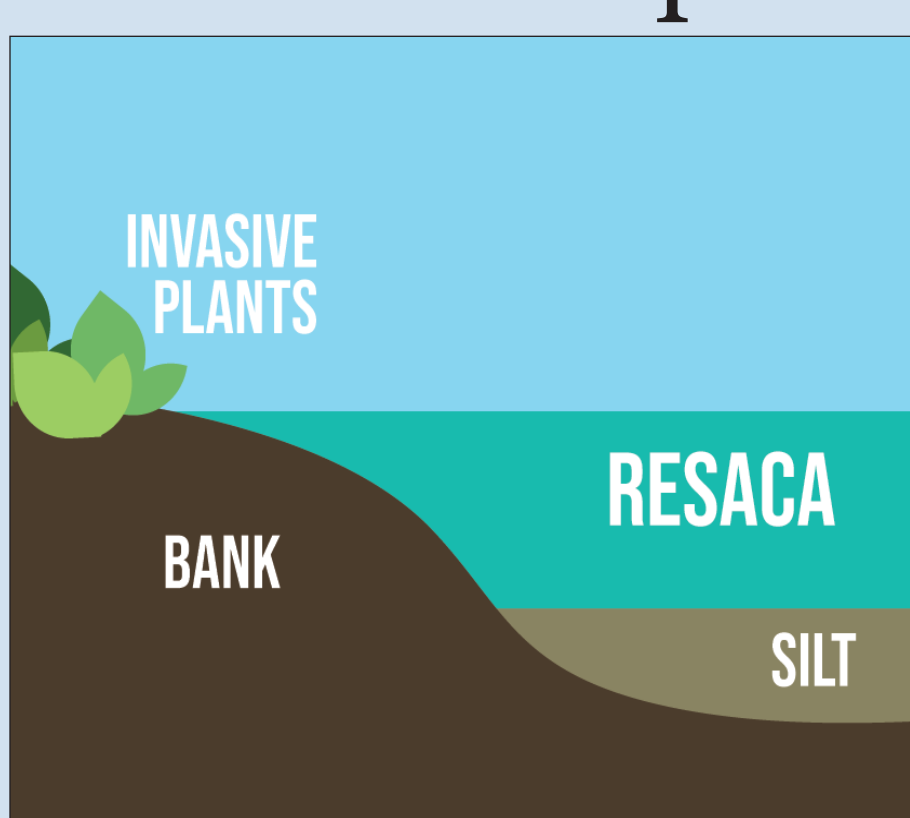
With pre-existing projects to dredge silted resacas underway, the Brownsville Public Utilities Board will begin additional efforts to restore the city’s historic resaca systems thanks to \$2 million in federal funding presented by U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-Texas).

Rene Mariscal, BPUB division manager for Water Resources Conservation and Compliance, said restoration not only benefits the “unique ecosystem” in Brownsville, but it also offers drainage assistance and additional water storage.

Mariscal said the Resaca Restoration Program, launched in 2013, organizes improvement efforts, including the dredging of silted resacas. Dredging is the removal of sediment and silt from the beds of rivers, resacas and other bodies of water, and it improves storage capacity.

He said the projects that will be funded by the \$2 million are divided into 16 contracts, the first of which will focus on improving Resaca de la Guerra and Resaca del Rancho Viejo.

“You’re looking at about 14 months estimate for this contract,” Mariscal said. “Moving forward for the additional contracts, it could be a year for design depending on, you know, the number of segments that you’re



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER ILLUSTRATION

looking at for contract two. And then, you’re looking at construction again.”

Designs for improvement, created collaboratively by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, city and BPUB staff, focus on dredging, restoring habitats,

removing invasive vegetation and improving resaca banks, according to Mariscal.

“In addition to that, there’s some ... water control infrastructure that’s improved,” he said. “Water level

management is controlled by various gate valves, weirs, dams throughout the resaca, and some of these are in need of upgrades or repairs.”

Although Mariscal said he could not pinpoint exact start dates yet, he said work on the first contract will begin following a project partnership agreement between the city and BPUB, which is in development.

Brownsville Mayor John Cowen said resaca restoration is “of great interest” to city officials.

“[The funding is] definitely well received,” Cowen said. “This project has been in the works since 2013.”

He said this is the first time an award is presented to begin restoration work from a federal perspective.

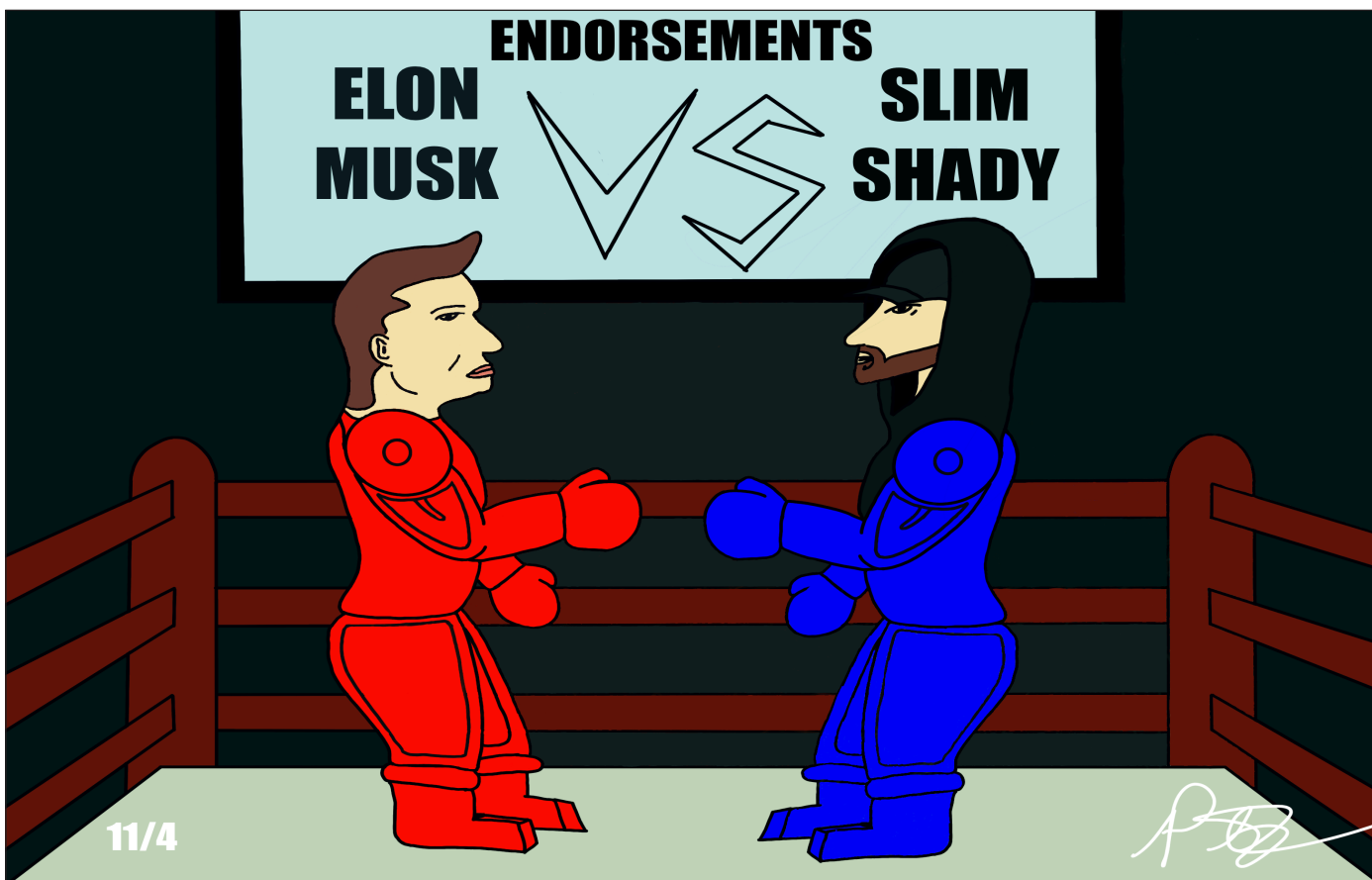
Other funding has come from the Resaca Fee, set at \$6.25 per account for retail water customers, paid to BPUB.

“It’s a very positive step in the right direction,” Cowen said about the \$2 million in funding. “I think it will likely lead to more federal funding coming towards this project in the future.”

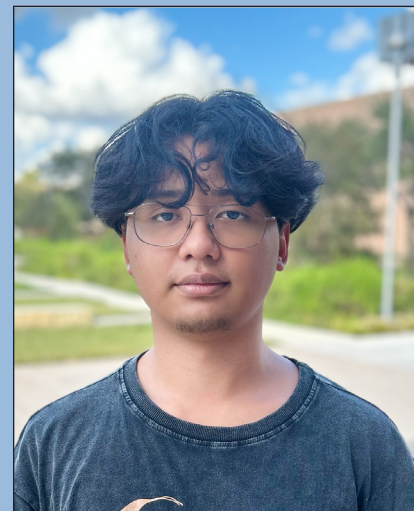
The Rider reached out to Gonzalez’s office for an interview. Jason Andrew Delattre, social media coordinator for Gonzalez’s Brownsville office, provided a statement from the congressman.

“Brownsville’s resacas are unique and play a critical role in our region’s environment, economy, and culture,” Gonzalez is quoted as saying. “This

See **RESACAS**, Page 10



Who do you want to win the election and why?



"The person who I think is gonna win this election this year is gonna be Kamala Harris because she has given more opportunities to minorities, such as African Americans and some Hispanic communities."

Cristian Herrera
computer science freshman



"I want Trump to win the election because he is closer to what I believe, in my faith, in Christianity, 'cause Kamala is for abortion and she's trying to legalize it more in other states. But, I'm against that 'cause in the Bible, God is against it."

Anthony Pedraza
psychology freshman



"Kamala Harris. ... My main reason is because she supports education. ... I wouldn't want the rights of teachers and students to be taken away, just for this turnout. They deserve to have proper ... accommodations [for students]. I wouldn't want books to be taken away, and as well women's rights and the immigration process. ... Coming from immigrant parents, I wouldn't want that to happen."

Delaney Diaz
early childhood education senior

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

The YA recap



Silvana Villarreal
THE RIDER

I spent most of my high school and early college days reading young adult novels. I know them like the back of my hand, so let me tell you the story of my college days as such.

Officially, I started college in Fall 2021. But really, I don't count anything before Spring 2022—when I landed a job at Student Media.

I was fully convinced I wanted to become the next Lois Lane, so I applied for a radio reporter position that I thought I was unqualified for, yet somehow, I got it.

After that, my social circle and college life skyrocketed.

My role was literally to be nosy, to know all the campus happenings. I was always in the middle of it all, checking out rumors and tracking down the

truth. I loved it.

I had a blast being in everyone's business and having the opportunity to question people.

I attended everything: sporting events, dance recitals, Distinguished Speaker Series, symphony concerts and award ceremonies.

I witnessed new deans come in and others leave. I even met some incredible people, such as Dolores Huerta and Marlee Matlin.

I saw a rat in a building before I saw real campus equality, but that's probably par for the course of a college student, right?

Somewhere along the way, I found out that, instead of having to talk to representatives, I wanted to become one. So, I switched my mass communication

concentration to public relations and never looked back.

I also found friends in the oddest of places. I made friends with the girl who wants to be the first female president of the United States, the

most amazing photographer, the friendly fashionista and the girl who has potential to be everything she wants to be.

Some friends stayed, some left, but it was all meant to happen. I found my chosen family.

Now that I am a hair away from graduating, I learned some things I would implore you to consider while completing your degree.

Get out there. Go to the random event that takes place on campus. Ice cream on Mondays? Why not? Free soccer game? Count me in. This is how you will meet people and create connections.

Get out there. Go to the random event that takes place on campus. Ice cream on Mondays? Why not? Free soccer game? Count me in. This is how you will meet people and create connections.

Be careful of the people you choose to include in your circle. It's true when they

say people do make or break your experiences. They can either ruin your college experience, or they can make it the best years of your life.

See **COLUMN**, Page 10

VISIT US ONLINE AT UTRGVRIDER.COM TO PARTICIPATE

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER GIVE UP USING INSTAGRAM OR TIKTOK?

41.38% INSTAGRAM

58.62% TIKTOK

El chef Roy Choi en UTRGV

Fatima Gamez Lopez

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Departamento de Actividades Estudiantiles de UTRGV dará inicio a la 21ª temporada del *Distinguished Speaker Series* con Roy Choi, un chef y empresario coreanoestadounidense, a las 7:30 p.m. el 12 de noviembre en el Performing Arts Complex del campus de Edinburg.

El *Distinguished Speaker Series* es un evento anual que comenzó en la institución heredada University of Texas-Pan American y permite a los estudiantes escuchar a oradores de talla mundial sobre diversos temas e inspirarse con su mensaje, dijo Cristina Rodriguez, directora adjunta de Actividades Estudiantiles.

Choi nació en Seúl, Corea del Sur, y se crió en Los Ángeles.

En el 2008, abrió Kogi BBQ en asociación con los empresarios Mark Manguera y Caroline Shin.

Choi es conocido como uno de los “arquitectos” del movimiento moderno de *food trucks*, que combina la cultura de la comida callejera con las redes sociales, según el sitio web del *food truck* Kogi BBQ, donde trabaja como chef ejecutivo y es cofundador de la empresa.

Ganó un premio James Beard por su programa de televisión “Broken Bread” y es copresentador de “The Chef Show” de Netflix junto a Jon Favreau.

Choi se graduó del Culinary Institute of America. Fue nombrado el Mejor Chef Novel por la revista Food and Wine en el 2010, y su autobiografía “L.A. Son” se convirtió en un éxito de ventas del New York Times.

En el 2016, fue reconocido como una de las 100 personas más influyentes en la revista Time.

Para elegir al orador distinguido, hay algunos criterios que el Comité del *Distinguished Speaker Series* debe tener en cuenta, como quién sería el



Chef Roy Choi

FOTO DE CORTESÍA TRAVIS JENSEN

más adecuado para los estudiantes, dijo Rodriguez.

El evento es gratuito y abierto al público, con asientos prioritarios para los estudiantes, profesores y personal de UTRGV. Las puertas se abrirán a las 7 p.m. para los estudiantes, profesores y personal primero y se verificarán las identificaciones. Las puertas se abrirán a las 7:15 p.m. para la comunidad.

Los primeros 50 estudiantes de Brownsville que confirmen su asistencia en V Link tendrán asientos prioritarios.

Rodriguez espera que la historia de Choi inspire a otros.

“Comienza con una pasión”, dijo. “[...] Realmente disfruto de su trabajo. Y creo que eso es lo que realmente puede decirle a la audiencia, que puedes ser un emprendedor. Puedes

tener muchas oportunidades ahí afuera y ser muy abierto, honesto y sincero. Y en el proceso, hacer contactos y conocer a más personas te permite abrir más puertas”.

Jaime Gloria, estudiante de segundo año de biología, dijo que nunca había oído hablar del *Distinguished Speaker Series*, pero le gustaría asistir a la presentación de Choi.

En entrevistas con otros medios de comunicación, Choi describió su experiencia al mudarse a los Estados Unidos con sus padres.

“Mucha gente aquí [en el Valle del Río Grande] son hijos de inmigrantes”, dijo Gloria. “Yo soy hijo de inmigrantes. Por eso creo que es una buena experiencia, spongo, escuchar lo que otra persona también vivió”.

Shaliny Nmuthoo-limon, estudiante

de primer año de finanzas, anima a la comunidad de UTRGV a asistir a la conferencia.

“Una gran parte de la población de nuestra escuela es como, que esa es su historia y también la de sus padres, así que creo que les llega al corazón”, dijo Nmuthoo-limon. “Les llega a corazón”.

Sugirió que traer oradores con experiencias similares a los del Valle sería beneficioso para la comunidad.

“Personas que también tuvieron una historia similar a la de muchas personas aquí”, dijo Nmuthoo-limon. “[...] Tal vez sean de México o se criaron aquí en el RGV o cerca de aquí, así que sería bueno escuchar sus historias”.

Rodriguez dijo que Actividades Estudiantiles está colaborando con Chartwells para crear un menú “único” que incluya tacos de fusión coreanomexicana.

“Lo van a ofrecer en el comedor y estamos tratando de finalizar el menú de Brownsville en este momento”, dijo. “Pero eso es algo que vamos a presentar antes”.

La conferencia también se podrá ver a través de transmisión en vivo en el PlainsCapital Bank Theater en el Student Union del campus de Edinburg, dijo Rodriguez.

Al registrarse a través de V Link, existen las opciones para asistir virtualmente o en persona. Una vez que el evento esté configurado para la transmisión, el enlace se enviará a los estudiantes, profesores y personal para que puedan verlo desde la comodidad de su hogar.

Actividades Estudiantiles está planeando el próximo *Distinguished Speaker Series* para el semestre de primavera.

Los estudiantes que quieran ayudar a seleccionar a los próximos oradores pueden enviar un formulario de sugerencias en el sitio web del *Distinguished Speaker Series*.

Guiándolos de vuelta a nosotros



Silvana Villarreal /FOTOS RIDER

Se muestra un altar, fotografiado el 30 de octubre, instalado en el segundo piso del Music, Science and Learning Center en el campus de Brownsville. Para guiar a los espíritus de regreso al mundo mortal, se colocan cempasúchiles, flores nativas de México de color naranja, y retratos de seres queridos fallecidos en los altares. El altar fue instalado el 24 de octubre por la organización Trio SSS, dirigida por Ivonne Cano, especialista en desarrollo estudiantil, y será desmontado hoy.



El arco colocado sobre el altar del segundo piso del Music, Science and Learning Center en el campus de Brownsville representa el paso entre la vida y la muerte. El altar incluye fotos de celebridades y seres queridos de los estudiantes que han fallecido, además de comida, velas y recuerdos.



Para honrar su memoria en el Día de los Muertos, una foto de la cantante tejana Selena Quintanilla está en un altar fotografiado el 30 de octubre en el segundo piso de Sabal Hall en el campus de Brownsville.

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If you could have dinner with any deceased person, who would it be and why?



"I would have dinner with my Grandpa Ismael because he passed away about almost two years ago and he is kind of the reason why I am still here in college and pushing to graduate."
Angela Treviño
psychology junior



"My pet, Balto, because we would eat Chick-fil-A every Saturday morning."
Jolene Lucio
finance sophomore



"Robin Williams. I'd just like to know what he was going through and talk to him a little bit more about that."
Marko Espinoza
integrated health science freshman

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal

Eduardo Escamilla
A&E REPORTER

"Idle hands are the devil's workshop" is a maxim a group of film photographers defied in the "Silver Jell-O" art show—a one-night-only exhibition that showed images are not merely taken; they are constructed by the hands of the artist.

The exhibition took place Oct. 25 at The Comminos Center for the Arts, located at 214 N. A St. in Harlingen.

"When you look at the history of art, [photography] predominantly was used to replace the idea of a painting or for portraiture ... and it's been used primarily for journalistic or documentation purposes," said Sean Hughes, the show's curator and a studio art senior.

From the earliest days of photography, art historians noted there was a persistent desire to establish it as a legitimate artistic medium.

Henry Peach Robinson was among the first to elevate photography as an art form, a pursuit still shared today by contemporary artists. He combined images, such as in his infamous picture "Fading Away," to showcase the artist's hand as he described in his influential book "Pictorial Effect in Photography" published in 1869.

"The question I've been posing to myself and my fellow [peers] is, 'What elevates a photograph to fine art?'" Hughes said.

Framing a photo and hanging it on a wall, while a "Duchampian" move, is not enough, according to Hughes.

"There's got to be an element to it," Hughes said. "... You have to create a sense of style and be able to understand the [photo] processes that you're doing."

He said he also wanted to showcase the diverse range of photographic techniques and styles practiced by UTRGV art students and highlight the innovative and experimental nature of these artistic approaches.

Hughes said the exhibition was developed as a low-pressure experience for students to have an opportunity to mingle and talk about their art.

The focus is on the raw



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

"Silver Jell-O" curator and studio art senior Sean Hughes said his work is inspired by Robert Adams and the New Topographics movement. "The aluminum negative carrier, I took a file and scratched it all up," Hughes said. "That's what gives you this jagged line [around the photo's border]."



Ivan Davila, an exhibit artist and UTRGV laboratory manager for the Physics and Astronomy department, said he used a camera that uses 4-by-5-inch sheets of film, offering exceptional image quality and creative control. "The pieces all have to do with abandonment and fading memories," Davila said.



America Bernal, a studio art senior, exhibits her work for a one-night-only exhibition of the "Silver Jell-O" art show Oct. 25 at The Comminos Center for the Arts. Bernal said her focus has shifted to film photography since being introduced to it by photography Assistant Professor Romeo Di Loreto. "I was mind blown by everything, because [film photography] is very interesting," she said. "It's a very interesting process."

expression and the joy of creating, bypassing the need for formal artist statements or complex naming conventions, according to Hughes.

"A lot of these frames are thrift store finds," he said. "... And then, I've just basically put masking tape [on the wall] and with a Sharpie they put their names."

Rachel Comminos, co-director and co-manager of Comminos Studio, expressed enthusiasm for the "Silver Jell-O" art show. She noted the rarity of such focused exhibitions in the past, which made this event particularly special.

"The mission [of Comminos Studio] is to empower the community," Comminos said. "We don't take a percentage or cut off the artist's earnings from their sales. We really want to promote the artists themselves and give students a taste of the 'gallery life.'"

Comminos Studio is housed in a historic building: the former DeMint Hotel. The building, with its rich history, has served various purposes over the decades, including City Hall, doctor's offices and antique stores, according to Comminos.

Now, the building has become a hub for artists, providing a space to showcase their work and connect with the community.

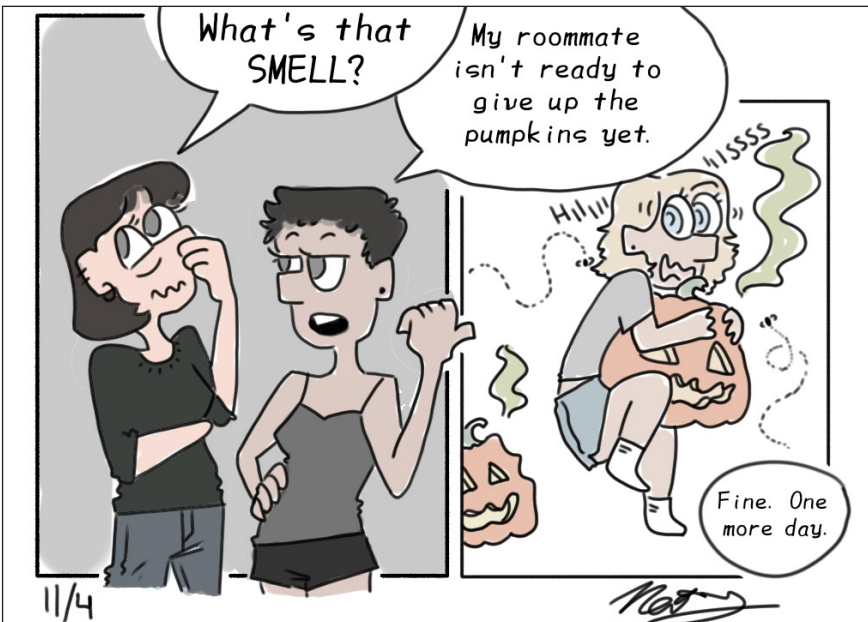
"We've really become part of the community," Comminos said. "We've shown people through our time here and our efforts that we're worthy of being part of the community, and we want to empower these artists."

America Bernal, a studio art senior exhibiting her work at the show, said her photographs reflect the impact of human development on natural spaces and the importance of preserving these areas.

"It's kind of melancholic in a way, because we have certain parts in the [Rio Grande] Valley where it's very rustic," Bernal said. "And then you, kind of, just look around, and then there's buildings being built, [and] more buildings or old buildings that we don't really take care of."

Ivan Davila, an exhibiting artist and UTRGV laboratory manager for the Physics and

See **FILM**, Page 10



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Oct. 28 puzzle answer key:

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7	9	8	2	3	4	6	5	1
9	5	4	3	8	6	1	7	2
6	2	3	7	9	1	5	8	4
8	7	1	5	4	2	9	3	6
1	8	6	4	2	7	3	9	5
5	4	7	9	6	3	2	1	8
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Libby Beilfuss



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Libby Beilfuss is a business administration graduate student from Cedarburg, Wisconsin, and a right back for the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team. In a 3-1 loss to Northwestern State University on Oct. 27, Beilfuss climbed to the top of the Vaqueros program leaderboard in total career minutes played. She has played all of her collegiate soccer seasons at UTRGV.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I'm from Wisconsin."

Q: Who or what got you started in soccer?

A: "My dad definitely got me started [in soccer]. He played when he was younger, and I played at the same club he did."

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

A: "Definitely my friends from club. I think just growing up [and] playing with them, we got very close. And, seeing them go to different colleges and succeed at their schools really inspired me to keep pushing at mine."

Q: Who is your favorite soccer player or team?

A: "UTRGV Women's Soccer Team—I really don't watch soccer."

Q: What do you think about getting the UTRGV Women's Soccer career minutes record?

A: "[I think] it's really cool. It's nice to see, like, if you put a lot of love into something, you will get rewarded."

Q: What practice drills help you the most in your position on the team?

A: "I think anything, 1 v 1."

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

A: "Kind of everything."

Q: Which shows or movies do you like to watch?

A: "Psych, the show."

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: "Camping, hiking [and] hanging out with friends."

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: "I think just doing the best I can and seeing how far I can go."

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: "The culture."

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: "I think, right now, just [graduating] with my master's."

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

Not throwing away their shot

Women's basketball young, hungry entering 2024-25



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Freshman guard Gianna Angiolet prepares to shoot the ball during practice Tuesday afternoon in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.



UTRGV Women's Basketball head coach Lane Lord responds to questions regarding the upcoming season Tuesday afternoon in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

A renewed sense of hope and optimism is in the air around the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team, as it enters the 2024-25 season in a new conference with a desire to prove doubters wrong.

The team will seek to turn results around from what head coach Lane Lord described as a "rough year for us." Last season, the Vaqueros finished 6-23 overall and 5-23 in the Western Athletic Conference.

During the offseason, the university announced its intention to leave the WAC and join the Southland Conference.

Lord said team health, chemistry, depth and veteran leadership are the biggest changes compared to last season.

"The biggest difference from this year and last year is No. 1, we stayed healthy so far," Lord said at a news conference Tuesday as he knocked on the table in the Fieldhouse media room. "And No. 2, our chemistry is at an all-time high. I think that has to do with great leadership from Kade Hackerott and some of our returners."

This season, the Vaqueros will have eight new players on the roster, five of whom are incoming freshmen and

three from the transfer portal. The remainder of the roster are returning players from last season.

"We got a really good mix of experience and newcomers," Lord said. "It's been neat to see how the chemistry has grown from June to this point right now."

Of the returning players, he pointed out how important leadership from veterans, such as graduate guard/forward Hackerott, will be. Last season, she averaged 11.9 points and 8.1 rebounds in 29 games started.

Hackerott told reporters she seeks to improve her shooting and

be a better finisher at the rim. She also said she wants to "lead by example" and help the newcomers and young players on the team.

"I've just had a year here [at UTRGV] under my belt," Hackerott said. "I know coach Lord trusts me to execute his game plan and help the young kids kinda do that."

Also returning to the mix is sophomore guard Jayda Holiman. In her freshman year, Holiman averaged 9.1 points and 2.4 rebounds in 19 games played, nine of which were starts.

She said the team is "pumped up" to start the season and ready to play at a "consistent" level.

"We have a lot of hard workers on the team," Holiman said. "We know we have to come in here with a whole, 'Let's go. Let's get it [mentality]. I feel like we can win the whole conference.'"

One of the five incoming freshmen is guard Gianna Angiolet. Brought in to solidify UTRGV's attack from behind the arc, Angiolet averaged 18.1 points per game and shot 41% from three in her senior season at Westlake High School in Austin.

She is "excited" to make her collegiate basketball debut and to begin playing opponents other than her teammates in practice.

"I think we have a lot of confidence in our team [and] our ability to hit shots and play together," Angiolet said. "I'm excited to play at the next level and just kinda get a feel for what that's like. It's been a dream of mine for a while now and it's fun that it's coming true."

UTRGV Women's Basketball will open the 2024-25 season on the road at 7 p.m. Tuesday against the University of Houston Cougars (14-16, 5-13 Big 12 last year). Fans can watch it via Big 12 Now on ESPN+.



Sophomore guard Jayda Holiman dribbles the ball during practice Tuesday afternoon in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

VISIT UTRGVRIDER.COM FOR GAME COVERAGE

CHEF

Continued from Page 1

“L.A. Son” became a New York Times bestseller.

In 2016, he was recognized as one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People.

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, Rodriguez said.

The event is free and open to the public with priority seating given to UTRGV students, faculty and staff. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for students, faculty and staff first and IDs will be checked. The doors will open at 7:15 p.m. for the community.

The first 50 Brownsville students to RSVP on V Link get priority seating. Rodriguez hopes Choi’s story will

inspire others.

“It starts with a passion,” she said. “... I really enjoy his work. And so, I think that’s what he can really tell the audience, that you can be an entrepreneur. You can have a lot of opportunities out there and just be very open and honest and candid. And in the process, networking and getting to meet more folks allows you to open more doors.”

Jaime Gloria, a biology sophomore, said he has never heard of the speaker series but would like to attend Choi’s presentation.

In interviews with other news media, Choi described his experience moving to the United States with his parents.

“A lot of people here [in the Rio Grande Valley] are children of immigrants,” Gloria said. “I am a child of immigrants. So, I think it’s a good experience, I guess, to listen to what

someone else went through as well.”

Shaliny Nmuthoo-limon, a finance freshman, encourages the UTRGV community to attend the lecture.

“A large population in our school is like, that’s their story and that’s also their parents’ story, so I think it hits home,” Nmuthoo-limon said. “It hits close to home.”

She suggested bringing speakers with experiences similar to those in the Valley would be beneficial for the community.

“People who also had a story similar to many people here,” Nmuthoo-limon said. “... Maybe they are from Mexico or they grew up here in the RGV or close to here, so it would be nice to hear their stories.”

Rodriguez said Student Activities is collaborating with Chartwells to create a “unique” menu featuring Korean-Mexican fusion tacos.

“They’re gonna go ahead and have it at the dining hall and we’re trying to finalize the Brownsville menu right now,” she said. “But that’s something that we’re gonna introduce prior to.”

The lecture will also be viewable via livestream at the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus, Rodriguez said.

When registering through V Link, there are the options to attend virtually or in person. Once the event is set up for streaming, the link will be sent to students, faculty and staff who can watch it from the comfort of their home.

Student Activities is planning the next Distinguished Speaker Series event for the spring semester.

Students who want to help select the next speakers may submit a suggestion form on the Distinguished Speaker Series website.

RESACAS

Continued from Page 3

project will restore our historic resacas, improve water quality, and ensure residents have reliable access to water. Resacas enhance property values, attract tourism, and help bring residents closer to nature.

“Most importantly, they contribute to [the] city’s identity, connecting residents to our city’s history and natural heritage. I am immensely proud to have secured this funding to allow Brownsville to preserve these important environmental features for future generations.”

To learn more about the Resaca Restoration Program, visit brownsville-pub.com.

FILM

Continued from Page 8

Astronomy department, explores themes of abandonment and fading memories in his photography.

“There’s a lot of new things going up, but there’s a lot of really nice things that are just left behind and forgotten,” Davila said. “And I feel that it’s just beautiful to take pictures of them and then remember them, because we’re at that point where the RGV is not going to be the way we remember it.”

The Rider asked Hughes what the future of photography is.

“I think, like anything else, it’s heading in multiple directions,” he replied.

Hughes said because of the evolving nature of art, what was considered contemporary 20 years ago may not fit the definition today.

This uncertainty creates a dynamic and exciting landscape for artists.

“I like film,” Hughes said. “... I like using the darkroom and using the enlarger because, basically, I’m painting with light ... using techniques like burning and dodging. [And] rather than using tools, I use my hands. So, I’m letting the light cascade through my fingers onto the paper and controlling that, and it’s in a rhythm. It’s very almost, you know, like a musical rhythm.”

COLUMN

Continued from Page 4

Not talking to your professors or using available resources only hurts you. Professors have connections in their field due to their years of experience, so asking for a little push or a letter of recommendation could only benefit you.

Academic centers are more helpful than you think. If you are writing a scholarship essay or updating your resume, they can help.

Sign up for competitions. Some competitions have monetary compensation if you place or all expenses paid. They give you experience, and you make powerful connections.

The last thing I will bring up is joining an organization. After I joined an organization called Young Life, it changed my life for the better. I found my community.

I found people to spend my afternoons with and, most importantly, they helped me better myself. Looking back, I could not have asked for a better experience or for better people to have spent this time with.

I am finally standing on the ledge, anxious for takeoff.

I might just end up being unemployed for one week or one year, who knows, but I’m grateful for every moment leading up to this.

I think I am finally ready to leave and start working for the rest of my life.



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LANGUAGE
Continued from Page 3

Dominican-Haitian border and asked about judgment on different varieties of Spanish. She said researchers need to find ways to elicit data from speakers who oftentimes are not used to being asked questions this way.

“So, we need to find some innovative ways to study these populations,” Toribio said.

She said research points to evidence of the uniqueness of the Dominican variety.

Toribio said Dominican Spanish is held in low esteem in the Dominican Republic.

“I’ve done surveys all over the island and you ask people who speaks the best and the worst Spanish,” she said. “Dominican Spanish never fares well.”

She said Dominicans have a strong attachment to their language because it was part of nation building under the dictatorship of Rafael Leónidas Trujillo.

“[Trujillo] wanted to erase any trace of the Creole speakers—that is the Haitians—from the Dominican Republic, and in particular from the border,” Toribio said. “... Spanish, at the time, really served, and continues today, to unify Dominicans with each other and to separate them from Haitians.”

Katherine Christoffersen, associate professor of Applied Linguistics and director of the B3 Scholarship and Student Connection for the Office for Bilingual Integration, said the seminar is part of the Linguistic Series seminar.

She said the purpose of the Linguistic Series is to promote and enhance

the visibility and understanding of linguistics.

“There were a number of reasons why we were very interested in inviting Dr. Jacqueline Toribio,” Christoffersen said. “I have personally been inspired by Jacqueline Toribio and her work for a very long time.”

She said Toribio has studied and created a sociolinguistic corpora called “Spanish in Texas Corpus,” where it has conducted computational linguistic studies of bilingualism.

“She’s also done some studies on phonetics, so the sound systems of language, looking specifically at Dominican Spanish,” Christoffersen said.

She said Toribio has done a wealth of research.

“Spanish vernacular is a term that just means casual speech,”

Christoffersen said.

She said it is important to learn about the variation of Spanish and other languages, especially here in the Rio Grande Valley.

“The Linguistic seminar series provides a space for students to explore their languages to learn a bit more about language, to learn about some topics that they’re curious about,” Christoffersen said.

She said the importance lies in providing a space to promote linguistics at UTRGV.

Christoffersen encourages students to attend the Linguistic Series seminars.

“We host it on [the] Brownsville campus, on [the] Edinburg campus and via Zoom every single week,” she said.

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Beauty in Imperfections

By: Alexa Valdez

The scent of cardboard lingers in each vacant room of the house formerly cluttered with the items my family had collected over the last eight years. “FRAGILE!” is plastered in violet Sharpie, along each side of the final box sitting across the kitchen counter. As my mother cleans out the last cupboard containing our glassware, my eyes are drawn to a cazuela. This terribly uneven terracotta dish stood out among the mason jars as it was painted with red poinsettias and had grown cracks along the bottom, which was the product of years of torment as the unwitting subject of my baking failed. Although this ceramic was rough around the edges, each crack and chip bore the marks of its journey, a unique portrayal of how time and experience contributed to its sculpture.

Before its configuration, the cazuela was merely an impressionable piece of clay shaped by my seven-year-old self, just as impressionable as my counterpart. Growing up in a Mexican household meant following tradition, but that was not the case for my mother and me. At a young age, I witnessed my immigrant mother overcome the challenge of graduating college, a struggle faced by many in our border community. At that time, a degree was merely a shiny piece of paper with a pretty font, but it soon became a symbol redefining success, etching a mark in the way I faced obstacles and perceived others. Countless hours spent mixing alginate, brushing dentures, and getting unsuspecting volunteers to run hours of medical simulations allowed me to become the first freshman in my high school to excel at the International Leadership Conference of HOSA - Future Health Professionals. Meeting each student left me captivated by their unique mosaic and how their encounters, backgrounds, and cultures forged their individuality—the ability to sculpt my own became an evident force in molding my choices.



As I matured, my choice to embrace independence and authenticity, rather than conforming to the shared ideals of my peers, led to an undeniable sense of isolation. In a room of familiar faces, I became an outlier. Walking through hallways where each judgmental whisper felt like a chisel carving at my inner self led me to find solace in empty classrooms and silent tears—one of my closest friends being the anatomical skeleton. While closed doors shielded me from harsh rumors, they also shut out the opportunities I once chased, and like the cazuela under pressure, this truth left me

shattered. As my ideals stood firm, they eventually became the solution to mending the cracks, attracting a support system that appreciated unique beliefs. After all, no two pieces of pottery are identical.

With broken clay, the ability to be reshaped allows numerous possibilities of transformation, giving a new purpose to the same material. Although cracks may form again, it is still as vibrant and resilient as before, relying solely on the hands that shape it. For me, those hands are my experiences, which have taken a new form—lessons that were paramount in the process of molding me stronger than before.

As I take out the cazuela from the cupboard, I trace my fingers along the bumpy terracotta and re count each dish it helped create, recalling the warmth of comforting meals where simple ingredients sizzled into vibrant flavors and delectable aromas. With a gentle push, it shatters into a mosaic of scattered pieces, causing echoes across the empty house as I eagerly gather the shards to resculpt my childhood project. Just like the cazuela, I am constantly shaped by new adventures, but throughout the journey, the potential to create remains unwavering. Although I don’t know exactly what shape I will take in the future, given access to the right tools, my persistence will forge paths and transform challenges into opportunities that make a meaningful mark on everything I touch.

UTRGV MSA



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