



SPRING
COMMENCEMENT

2021

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In April 2021, the UTRGV Chess Team defended its title as national collegiate chess champions and claimed its third consecutive President's Cup in the Final Four of College Chess, which took place virtually for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIRST-CLASS UNIVERSITY

UTRGV ranked as a Top 100 university in the country and 3rd best college in Texas behind Texas A&M and UT Austin, according to Washington Monthly.

STUDENT SUCCESS

During Fall 2020, UTRGV had a record-breaking fall enrollment of 32,618, an increase of 3,505 students – or 11.45 percent – from the previous fall semester. UTRGV is now one of only nine public universities in Texas to surpass the 30,000-enrollment mark.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In January 2020, UTRGV received the coveted Carnegie Community Engagement Classification for 2020, which honors an institution's commitment to community engagement and its collaborations with local, regional, state, national and global partners.



Dear Spring Class of 2021,

On behalf of everyone at the university, congratulations on your graduation!

You have truly accomplished something remarkable: You have gotten through the most disruptive period ever in the history of American higher education. Along the way, you learned about resiliency and perseverance – important life lessons that will only help you, as you embark on your professional career.

Chances are, you can probably name a few people who helped shape you into the person you've become. Your graduation milestone is also for them.

UTRGV stands alongside your family and friends with a great sense of pride in your achievement. All the hard work and sacrifices you made have paid off. Though the homework and late-night study sessions are over, the friendships you made at UTRGV along the way will always remain with you.

You are now a UTRGV graduate, and you join a family of over 100,000 prideful and successful alumni across the world. Like those who came before you, you have paved the way for students who will follow in your footsteps. As you begin the next chapter of your life, remember that the stature of UTRGV and the success of future students will be significantly enhanced by your success.

The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to stay connected with your alma mater and share your accomplishments. Follow the Office of Alumni Relations on Facebook at **UTRGV Alumni and Legacy** or email them at **alumni@utrgv.edu**.

Again, congratulations on your graduation. We wish you continued success, and we remind you that UTRGV will always be your home. You will forever be part of our Vaqueros family. Your friends, family, and everyone at UTRGV salute you - **V's Up!**

Sincerely,

Guy Bailey, President

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley



TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

UTRGV's School of Medicine graduated its inaugural class in May 2020 and soon will graduate its second cohort. The 39 graduates received their medical degree and are now continuing their clinical training in residency programs at hospitals here in the Rio Grande Valley, across Texas, and throughout the United States. UT Health Rio Grande Valley, the clinical practice of the UTRGV School of Medicine, is proudly supporting the Valley's medical response to the pandemic and currently has 25 clinical sites providing over 100 miles of care spanning from Rio Grande City to Laguna Vista.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

UTRGV has received close to \$200 million in private fundraising, including:

- The establishment of the THRIVE medical hub project
- The naming of The Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- The establishment of hundreds of undergraduate and graduate endowed scholarships

NEW CONSTRUCTION

UTRGV is partnering with the city of Harlingen and Harlingen CISD on the construction of UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High, where high school students will be able to take dual enrollment courses.



ORDER OF EXERCISES

Welcome Remarks	Master of Ceremonies
National Anthem	Monica Garza
	Alexis Chapa
Presidential Remarks	Guy Bailey, Ph.D.
Deputy President and Interim Provost Remarks	Janna Arney, Ph.D.
Dean's Remarks & Conferral of Degrees by College	Deans
Presentation of Graduates by College	Deans

BELLRINGERS

College of Education and P-16 Integration
Igdalia Lorena Gonzalez

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Enrique Perez Mendez

College of Fine Arts
Jovanna Mireles

College of Health Professions
Leticia Villarreal

College of Liberal Arts
Luis Chavarria

College of Sciences
Lesley Villarreal

Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Brenda Martinez

School of Nursing
Daisy De Los Reyes

School of Social Work
Zuni Ortega

ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATES

Edinburg Campus Ceremonies

Paul D. Renaud, M.B.A. GME Residency Program Coordinator

Brownsville Campus Ceremonies

Carlo Tamayo, M.A. Associate Director of Outreach

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Janna Arney, Ph.D.	Deputy President, and Interim Provost
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Chasse Conque, M.B.A.	Vice President and Director of Athletics
Veronica Gonzales, J.D.	Senior Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations
Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development
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Kelly Nassour, Ed.D.	Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement

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Steven D. Block, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Fine Arts
Walter Diaz, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Parwinder S. Grewal, Ph.D.	Dean, Graduate College
Lawrence B. Harkless, D.P.M.	Interim Dean, School of Podiatry
Vivian Incera, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Sciences
John H. Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.	Dean, School of Medicine
Michael Lehker, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Health Professions
Lance Nail, Ph.D.	Dean, Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Ala Qubbaj, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science
Sharon Radzyminski, Ph.D., J.D., C.N.S., R.N.	Dean, School of Nursing
Alma D. Rodriguez, Ed.D.	Dean, College of Education and P-16 Integration
Luis Torres-Hostos, Ph.D.	Dean, School of Social Work
Hieu T. Tran, Pharm.D.	Dean, School of Pharmacy

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Bachelor of Business Administration

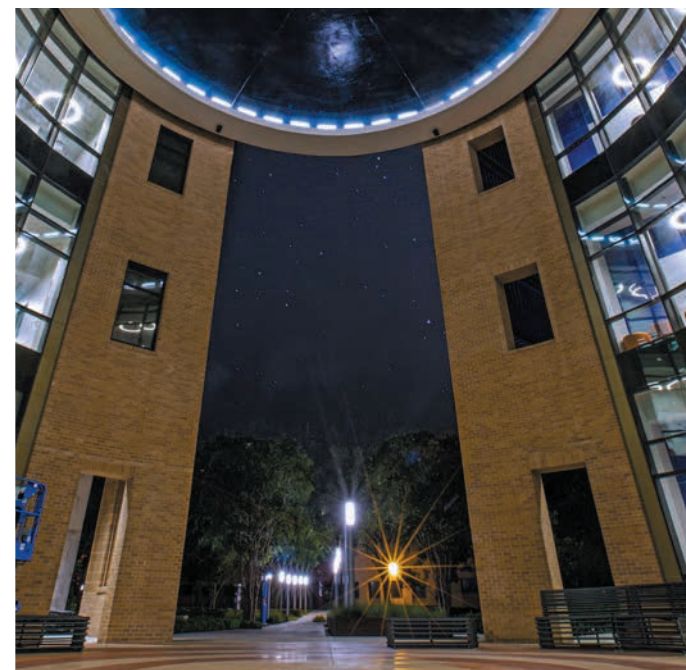
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Virginia V. Marmolejo
Irma L. Marshall
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Cynthia A. Martinez
Danielle Martinez
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Eradio Martinez
Marcela Linda O. Martinez
Maribel Martinez
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Yesi L. Ortega Gonzalez
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Sonia Paiz
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Joshua Perez
Luis A. Perez
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Valerie J. Puente
Andrew Purcell
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Eva M. Ramirez
Guadalupe Ramirez
Michael R. Ramirez
Rafael Ramirez
Rebeca E. Ramirez
Kayla A. Ramos
Mayra A. Rangel
Yulissa Rangel
Jorge Raygoza
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Maria J. Reyna
Norma A. Rico
Elisabeth Rios
David J. Rivera
Denisse A. Rivera
Stacey A. Robles
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Melissa Rodriguez
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Jason Sabotin
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German Salas
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Gautier Tirado
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Felipe D. Torres
Roxana Torres
Mayra Tovar

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Lessly R. Lozano
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Briza Luna
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Zucely A. Gomez SCL
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Cindy Gonzalez CL
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Noemí Cortes SCL
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Yosune Goo MCL

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Gabriela A. Rosales
Tomasita P. Rubio SCL
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Edgar Teran MCL
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Yaritza Trevino MCL
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Vanessa J. Vazquez CL
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Bahareh Bathaei
Homerо Benavides Ramirez
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Sk. Shamim Hasan Abir
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Prosanto Biswas

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Md. Nur-A-Adam Dony
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S M Zia Uddin

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Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

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Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering

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Mayra K. Lara Rangel
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Alejandro I. Martinez

Kevin Martinez Sequeda CL
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Ilse G. Perez Garcia CL

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Carlo A. Zorola Gonzalez MCL

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

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Omar Anaya MCL
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Heriberto De Leon, Jr. SCL

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Elliott D. Thomeyer CL
Edgar A. Torres MCL
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Aron Velasco
Alberto Velazquez-Estrada SCL
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Master of Fine Arts

Olga Alaniz
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Monica Lugo
Stefan J. Pena

Maria M. Perez
Samantha R. Rawls

Robert Ruiz
Yesenia Toscano

Master of Music

Andrea L. Aguirre Molina
Rut E. Del Toro Pech

Fernando D. Garcia Gonzalez
Clyde M. Guerra

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Samuel R. Pasqualetto

Ernesto G. Vergara

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Maricela Casas CL
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Diana L. Purneda

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Dillan Viera
Xitlaly E. Villanueva SCL
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Roberto Cruz
Jacob A. Cuffman CL

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Luis A. Pena MCL

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Michael Sital CL
Paul - Keene S. Spence MCL
Cristian A. Tanguma
Barbara J. Tapia

Ivan Tovar
Amber M. Vela
Ryan A. Wiggant
Jaclyn Ybanez

Doctor of Philosophy

Eva Arjona Rigel M. Pinon Ana V. Serrano Garcia
Brandi N. Cruz Nancy D. Riddick Chia Vang

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Reymundo Barocio Jose R. Etienne Kate Osborne
Kristen D. Brannon Liliana Jaques Oscar I. Riveron

Master of Science

Liliana A. Abarca Brianda K. Cortez Audrey Gonzalez
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Myrna S. Alejo Brittany Deas Sandra Gonzalez
Luisa G. Allen Ruth M. Diaz Vianey I. Gonzalez
Eva J. Almazan Mary K. Dvorsky Sydney L. Grayson
Megan R. Alonzo Brianna H. Escobar Iliana Guerra
Johanna G. Amaro Yolanda I. Escobedo Luulsoom F. Habibi
Alyssa L. Anglin Josue Espinoza Janie Hernandez
Kendrick G. Anonuevo Danny J. Filip Viviana Hernandez
Stephanie Y. Arambula Amy Flores David R. Herrera
Edna E. Aranda Beatriz Flores Gabrielle Hungate
Jordan C. Atkins Carolina Flores Robin L. Jones
Stephany R. Bauer Florelida Flores Marlena M. Juarez
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Berta C. Beltran Sai Flores Kristi F. LaClair
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Vanessa Castellanos Rebeka Garcia Lesslie N. Macias
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Kassandra Castillo Victoria Garcia Nadim Maldonado
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Lillian Chang Karin A. Garza Celina C. Martinez
Amber R. Chavez Paola Garza Rodriguez Chelsea I. Martinez
Kristen M. Clancy Surakshya Gautam Cristhian O. Martinez
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Bachelor of Applied Technology

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Bachelor of Science

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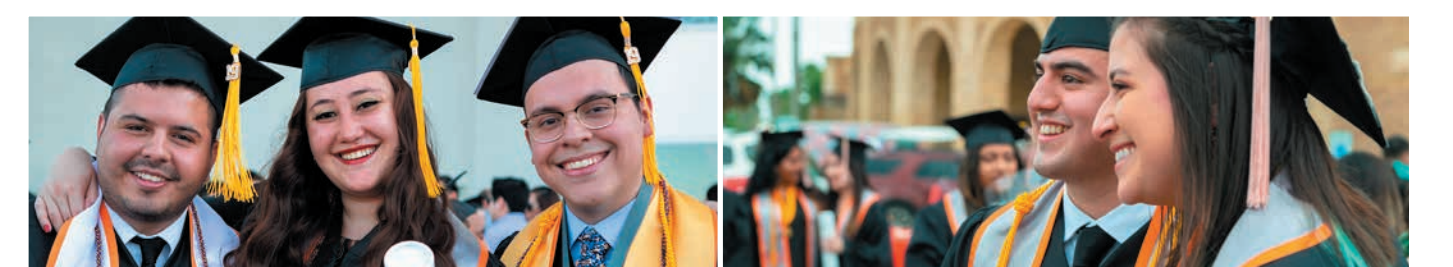
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 Elizabeth A. Mora **MCL**
 Clarissa A. Morales
 Jason C. Morales
 Valerie R. Morales
 Eric M. Morehead
 Cynthia V. Moreno
 Jacqueline A. Moreno **MCL**
 Phillip Moreno
 Brandi D. Morin **CL**
 Ahmad Mougharbel **MCL**
 Jonathan A. Muniz **MCL**
 Manlio F. Muniz
 Alejandra L. Munoz **SCL**
 Andrea J. Munoz **CL**
 Juan C. Nava, Jr.
 Jacqueline J. Navarrete
 Hannah R. Navarro **SCL**
 Aurora S. Navejar
 Orion M. Nguyen **MCL**
 Isabel Noyola
 Alejandra Nunez-McDermott **MCL**
 Bianca E. Ocanas
 Keana J. Occenac, I
 Daniela P. Olazaranth
 Jaqueline Olivares **CL**
 Aaron C. Olivarez
 Nikolas Olvera
 Xin Yee Ooi **SCL**
 Horus E. Ortega **CL**
 Stephanie D. Ortega
 Jose G. Ortegón, Jr. **CL**

Angel A. Ortiz
 Gabriela E. Ortiz
 Gabriela Ortiz
 Glory A. Ortiz
 Carlos U. Padilla
 Katherine V. Padilla
 Carlos A. Paredes
 Cynthia S. Pena
 Melanie Pena **SCL**
 Ricardo Pena, Jr. **MCL**
 Rebecca Pena-Fernandez **CL**
 Sheyla G. Peralez
 Astrid A. Perez **SCL**
 Bertha Perez
 Sabrina R. Perez **CL**
 Angel J. Perez Estrada **MCL**
 Mikayla C. Perkins
 Marshall A. Perry
 Mario A. Porras, Jr. **MCL**
 Jorge L. Quezada, Jr.
 Jose A. Quintanilla
 Kaelin R. Ramas **SCL**
 Eduardo Ramirez
 Lorraine M. Ramirez
 Raul Ramirez
 Anika Ramos **CL**
 Zuryab R. Rana **MCL**
 Rebecca F. Renteria
 Julieta M. Rey **MCL**
 Brenda L. Reyes
 Carmen G. Reyes **CL**
 Edgar D. Reyes

Juan Reyes
 Brenda Rios **MCL**
 Dionicio Rios, Jr.
 Leslie L. Rios
 Oziel Rios **CL**
 Daniela N. Rivera **SCL**
 Porfirio V. Rivera
 William A. Roberson
 Alexis E. Robles **SCL**
 Alexis R. Rodriguez
 Andre J. Rodriguez **MCL**
 Cassandra Rodriguez **CL**
 Diego B. Rodriguez
 Eriberto Rodriguez
 Juan M. Rodriguez, Jr.
 Leslie L. Rodriguez
 Matthew L. Rodriguez
 Maxx A. Rodriguez
 Olivia Rodriguez
 Priscila Rodriguez
 Steven N. Rodriguez
 Victoria N. Rodriguez **MCL**
 Andrea Rodriguez Navarrete **CL**
 Mariana Rojas
 Victoria A. Rojas
 Irma C. Romero
 Alondra Y. Roque **CL**
 Scarlett A. Rosa
 Alyssa Ruiz
 Stephanie M. Ruiz, Sr.
 Vanessa Ruiz
 Christian P. Saavedra

Andrea N. Saenz
 Mario A. Saenz, Jr.
 Alissa M. Salazar
 Jonathan R. Salazar
 Sandra J. Salazar **MCL**
 Eduardo A. Saldana **SCL**
 Vanessa Salinas **MCL**
 Vicente G. Salinas
 Alexa Y. Sanchez **MCL**
 Fayna A. Sanchez
 Houston R. Sanchez
 Ivette Sanchez **CL**
 Jocelyn E. Sanchez
 Katia A. Sanchez
 Monica Sanchez
 Yesika X. Sanchez
 Cesar A. Sanchez Celaya
 Karina A. Sandoval
 Summer R. Sandoval
 Odaliz Saucedo
 Harry E. Siegel **MCL**
 Estefania A. Sierra **SCL**
 Nuri K. Silva **CL**
 Reyna M. Silva **CL**
 Zaira R. Sobrevilla
 Alexis M. Solano **CL**
 Yadira K. Solano
 Jessiel G. Solis **CL**
 Yubizdely A. Tanguma **CL**
 Luis M. Tinoco
 Jim Aica V. Tolentino **SCL**
 Alejandra L. Torres

Dominique N. Torres
 Reyna I. Tovar
 Yvette Tovar **MCL**
 Carlos M. Trevino De Leo **MCL**
 Luis H. Tueme
 Ricardo Uresti **CL**
 David R. Uribe
 Maritza E. Valdez
 Martell Valencia
 Arturo Vallejo, Jr. **SCL**
 Marco A. Vasquez
 Sergio Vega, Jr. **CL**
 Carlos M. Vela
 Molly K. Vela **SCL**
 Jose M. Venegas
 Edward Vera, Jr. **SCL**
 Kaitlyn C. Villafuerte
 Marcos Villanueva
 Alicia Villarreal
 Alicia M. Villarreal
 Dzyra Villarreal
 Lesley Villarreal
 Caitlin J. White
 James D. White **SCL**
 Celinda L. Yanez **SCL**
 Christen J. Young
 Damian L. Zamora **CL**
 Destiny A. Zamora
 Danette N. Zamora-Short **SCL**
 Maximiliano Zavedra
 Ariana D. Zepeda
 Citlali Zertuche



Master of Science in Nursing

Patricia A. Aguilera
 Tiffany S. Alfonso
 Jose C. Amacio
 Hannah Bacalocos Skubic
 Maria L. Briones
 Donna O. Calla
 Carmen F. Camargo

Rachel M. Collins
 Crystal Cordew
 Tianna C. Crooks
 Dorthia S. Daudier
 Justin Davila
 Danielle Esteves
 Amy L. Findley

Adriana Garcia
 Richard R. Garcia
 Melissa Garza
 Catherine A. Gentry
 Juana A. Gomez
 Abigail Gonzalez
 Carolina Gonzalez

Brandi Hawkins
 Lizette P. Martinez
 Samantha A. Martinez
 Jazmin G. Montalvo
 Ashley Quintanilla
 Karina S. Rodriguez
 Jana E. Shank

Maria D. Silva
 Matthew S. Stromberg
 Kevin A. Trussell
 Steven A. Woods

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

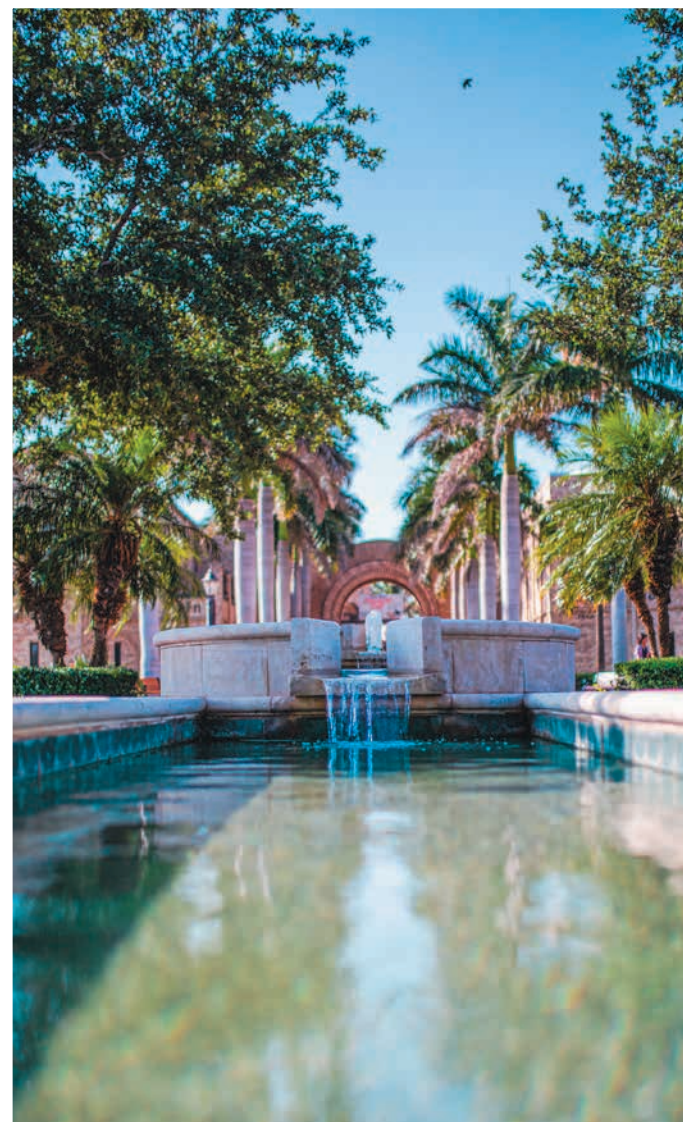
Bryanna Alanis **CL**
 Cassandra Alaniz
 Brieanna N. Almdarez **MCL**
 Anahi Anaya **MCL**
 Leah S. Asebedo **MCL**
 Elias I. Barron **MCL**
 Jose C. Garza, Jr. **MCL**
 Kaelin B. Cabrera Rios
 Gracie A. Calzada **MCL**
 Alyssa B. Canales **MCL**
 Jennifer Carrillo **MCL**
 Tanya L. Carter
 Renee E. Champion **MCL**
 Gabriela M. Chavarria **SCL**
 Daisy De Los Reyes **MCL**
 Rizalyn Joy M. Dela Torre **MCL**

Omar Dominguez, Jr. **MCL**
 Fe Falcon **MCL**
 Aimee G. Flores
 Emily Flores **MCL**
 Victoria A. Flores **MCL**
 David I. Fonseca
 Jose C. Garza, Jr. **MCL**
 Beatriz Gomez **MCL**
 Cecilia Gonzalez **CL**
 Iridian Gonzalez **MCL**
 Samantha L. Greiner **MCL**
 Ana M. Gutierrez **MCL**
 Linda C. Gutierrez **SCL**
 Dillon B. Hendrick
 Maria G. Hernandez **MCL**
 Hailey I. Jasso

Emily Jimenez **MCL**
 Daniela Y. Limas **CL**
 Cassandra Lucio **MCL**
 Alexander E. Marquez **SCL**
 Jasmine Marquez **MCL**
 Crystal Martinez **CL**
 Kristina Martinez **CL**
 Nathaniel Rhaine G. Martinez **MCL**
 Laura E. Meade
 Tamara Mejia **SCL**
 Fatima C. Mendez
 Komal P. Mohan **MCL**
 Jasel J. Montes **SCL**
 Barbara G. Mora-Rodriguez **CL**
 Gilbert Munoz
 Anne A. Ndekhedehe

Elizabeth M. Ortega
 Mirka X. Palacios **MCL**
 Carolina G. Pavon **MCL**
 Cassidy R. Pena **CL**
 Damian Pena **MCL**
 Francisco F. Perez **CL**
 Georgina Perez **CL**
 Kevin L. Perez **MCL**
 Evelyn Perrett **CL**
 Ilse M. Puente **MCL**
 Brianna Ramirez **MCL**
 Dominga D. Reyes **MCL**
 Vanessa M. Rios **MCL**
 Regina L. Rodriguez **MCL**
 Kathy L. Rosas **MCL**
 Elida D. Salinas **MCL**

Victoria M. Salinas **MCL**
 Sergio M. Sanchez **SCL**
 Mariana Sarquiz **MCL**
 Stephanie R. Saucedo **MCL**
 Bae Kyoung Shin **MCL**
 Claudia J. Silva **CL**
 Ricardo V. Soto
 Jolyn N. Sustaita **MCL**
 Cristina Tijerina **MCL**
 Juanita I. Trujillo
 Ana Trujillo Reyna **SCL**
 Greta A. Vasquez
 Jose R. Vela, Jr.





Master of Science in Social Work

Cecilia L. Alaffa
Amber L. Alvarez
Grace Athy
Kenia Azamar
Elizabeth Balderas
Paola M. Barrera
Valeria G. Camacho
Jamie L. Caraveo
Tammy M. Carrillo
Jennifer L. Cartwright
Ana S. Casas
Samantha C. Castelan
Roxana R. Castillo
Lucia Cavazos De Leon
Bleida R. Chavez
Lucero S. Chavez
Chasity Collier
Justa R. Cuellar

Maria E. Davila
Laura De La Rosa
Mariana De Leon
Lisa Duffey
Bianca E. Escobar
Debra Phillip
Maria E. Flores
Paulette L. Galvan
Stephanie O. Galvan
Fatima R. Garcia
Susana Garza
Lorema Gomez
Analyssa G. Gonzales
Anahi Gonzalez
Erika D. Gonzalez
Paolette G. Granja
April Guevara
Alexandra Guzman

Jharezee A. Guzman
Angelica K. Hernandez
Jocelyn Hernandez
Jessica S. Herrera
Kary A. Jimenez
Monica A. Jimenez
Sheila Jimenez
Madeline O. Kriegel
Roxanne L. Ledesma
Janet Lopez
Cynthia A. Loredo
Christopher P. Maddox
Mina Martinez
Samantha A. Martinez
Zaques J. Mccullough
Myra A. Medina
Cristal Mejia
Elvira S. Montes

Ana L. Navejar
Zuni A. Ortega
Jasmine Y. Ortiz
Victoria M. Paiz
Justin Parker
Alexandra Parks
Amanda M. Pena
Leticia Perez
Jonathan J. Pina
Lorena Puente
Melissa Renner
Rosalind M. Reyes
Simon Rios
Elia M. Rivera
Flor Rivera
Mayda L. Rivera
Clara L. Rodriguez
Graciela Ruiz

Natali Salazar
Maribel Saldivar Martinez
Victoria San Miguel
Crystal Solis
Mateo Solis, Jr.
Nennette Svenningsen
Nicsa V. Tanco
Patricia S. Tijerina
Jennifer Torres
Selma Trevino †
Jasmin Valdez
Ana P. Vasquez
Sanjuanita Vera
Victoria Vivian
Dina L. Wuornos
Juan J. Zubieta

Bachelor of Social Work

Nohelia Aguilar
Alyssa M. Aguirre MCL
Astrid G. Alfaro
Irasema L. Almanza
Rodriguez MCL
Alexis M. Alonzo CL
Cassandra Alvarado
Maritza Alvarez MCL
Ashley M. Alviar
Andrea Arjona
Israel R. Armijo, Jr. CL
Silvia Arreola SCL
Alejandro Arroyo
Aimee E. Avilez
Caleb A. Ayala
Marycarmen Baltierra
Daphnie J. Barrientos MCL
Talia Becerra
Mere Cepeda CL
Cassandra Chapa
Roxanne Chavez
Karla V. Cisneros-Lopez
Maria G. Colin MCL

Rose L. Croeser MCL
Genesis J. Cruz MCL
Emily A. Cuenca CL
Victoria De Los Santos
Michelle L. Espinosa CL
Angela Y. Flores
Gladis Flores SCL
Valeria Fuentes SCL
Briana K. Garcia CL
Cassie E. Garcia CL
Desarae Garcia
Jasmine L. Garcia
Jose A. Garcia, Jr.
Leonardo Garcia
Luz V. Garcia
Priscilla A. Garcia MCL
Jonathan A. Garcia Castro
Nydia I. Garcia De Garza MCL
Monica Y. Garza
Samantha M. Garza CL
Sasha K. Garza MCL
Gabriela Gonzalez MCL
Keylah Gonzalez

Magali Gonzalez CL
Maria A. Gonzalez CL
Jullyssa Guajardo
Nallely Guajardo
Yesenia N. Gutierrez
Maria G. Hernandez
Raquel Hernandez SCL
Kelah D. Hoard MCL
Andrew J. Hull
Elizabeth Ibarra CL
Alondra Jimenez
Lizeth D. Jimenez
Kathryn E. Lafferty MCL
Monica Loera CL
Jacqueline M. Maldonado
Crystal L. Martinez
Joliza Martinez CL
Kayla Martinez
Cynthia Mata CL
Jessica Mena MCL
Jocelyne Mojica CL
Antonia A. Molina MCL
Isabel Molina CL

Derika D. Montes SCL
Kathia Munoz
Alondra Olvera SCL
Rose M. Ortega MCL
Taylor R. Ozuna
Belinda M. Pequeno
Maribel Pina CL
Maria E. Quintanilla-C MCL
Cassandra Ramirez
Melissa K. Ramirez
Felicia Ramos CL
Marissa Reyes
Jose N. Rivera, Jr. CL
Marlynn I. Rodriguez MCL
Samantha J. Rodriguez
Crystal L. Martinez
Laura M. Rojas MCL
Jennifer Rubalcava
Ruben Ruiz
Selena M. Ruiz CL
Leslie Z. Salazar MCL
Alejandra Santiago MCL
Nadia G. Santoy CL

Areli A. Silguero Lozano
Stacey E. Silva MCL
Greg A. Solis
Juan A. Sosa
Delia Sustayta CL
Margarita T. Tirado
Rosa N. Torres
Elizabeth Troncoso
Joanna G. Valenzuela
Josie M. Valero
Monica A. Vallejo
Emily D. Vasquez
Felix Vasquez
Jacqueline M. Vasquez SCL
Marta D. Vega MCL
Stephanie Velazco
Adriana J. Venegas
Dolores Villanueva
Iris L. Villanueva
Michael A. Villarreal
Briana N. Youngblood
Cassandra E. Zuniga



† Degree awarded posthumously

Doctor of Medicine

Mario R. Aguilar Jr.
Shah Z. Ali
Adrian D. Barrera
Lauren M. Bayliss
Luis R. Berrios
Benjamin J. Brunell
Jason C. Burton
Dandrea R. Ceasar
Jose Chavez
Anjalee A. Choudhury
Sabrina L. Doffing

Armando J. Flores
Giuseppe A. Fonseca Badillo
Corey V. Fuentes
Cole E. Glasgow
Aaron T. Gomez
Jonathan Guajardo
Baine Herrera
Matthew E. Hidalgo
Shea-Lynn F. Hopson
Rouzbeh Kotaki
Abraham Lee

Alexander R. Lee
Jiyun Lim
Annalisa Lopez
Kathleen Lutchi
Christopher L. Martin
Miriam Martinez
Rogelio Z. Mendoza
Sarah E. Miller
Sonya R. Montes
Kevin Mutore
Vania Nwokolo

Leslie M. Ocampo
Ibrahim Odewale
Macaulay A. Ojeaga Jr.
Patrick O. Ojeaga II ♦
Adedayo O. Okanlawon Jr.
Alexa Perlick
Chelsea T. Peterson
Courtney E. Remington
Angel M. Rendon
Lauren E. Roddy
Michael Rotko

Stacy M. Sebastian
Moktar A. Sheikh-Salah
Jacob A. Smith
Abaigeal M. Thompson
Fabiola Valenzuela
Jose R. Velasquez
Colton D. Wayne

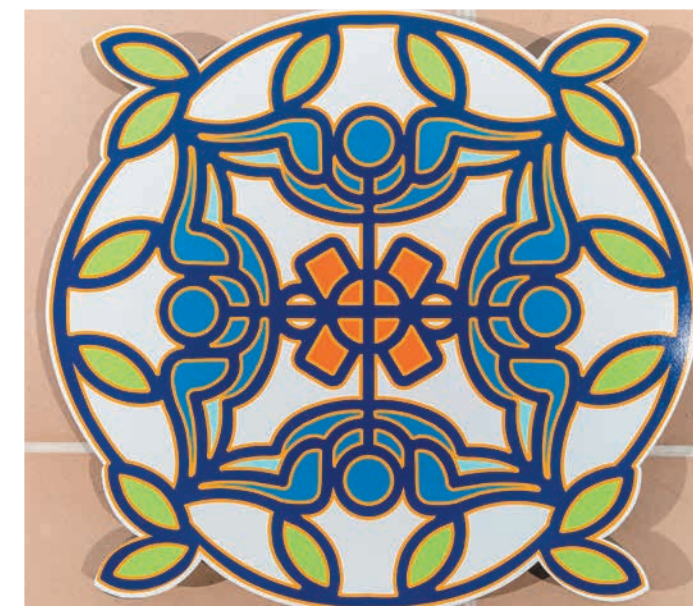
Master of Science in Bioethics

Julio Cesar Rodriguez Araujo
Veronica De Leon

Swathi Holla
Kiara Paradise Olmeda

Adela I. Parras
Nicolas Restrepo

LeAnna Marie Salinas



♦ Student Regent, UT System Board of Regents



UTRGV Mathematics & Science Academy

Mathematics & Science Academy

The Mathematics and Science Academy (MSA) is an accelerated and innovative concurrent enrollment program for bright, motivated high school juniors and seniors interested in mathematics, science, and engineering careers.

Students enrolled in the MSA wear two hats - as high school upperclassmen and university undergraduates. They take classes alongside UTRGV students and are taught by university professors. By the time they graduate, they earn between 60 and 80 college credits.

The goal of the MSA is to educate the whole person. Caring faculty and staff mentor students to develop their creativity, curiosity, reasoning ability, independence, and self-discipline. Graduates of the academy are prepared for college-level mathematics, science, and engineering courses but also in other areas of higher-level studies. MSA students are also encouraged to serve their community, society, and humanity.

MSA students are part of the university and engage in many of the same campus activities as traditional students. At the same time, they form close bonds with their MSA peers as they work and study together in a collaborative learning environment. Many MSA students form friendships and memories they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

The 79th Texas Legislature established the MSA in May 2005 to meet the growing national need for students who are well prepared in mathematical and scientific problem solving, and who can compete in an increasingly technological world.

It opened to students in fall 2007 at UTRGV's legacy institution, UT Brownsville/Texas Southmost College and graduated its first cohort in 2009. In August 2016, MSA expanded to the UTRGV Edinburg Campus. It is the only program of its kind within The University of Texas System.



Candidates for High School Graduation

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adriana Acevedo 1, 2, 4 | Sara L. Chavez 1, 2, 4 | Ashlyn G. Holubar 1, 2, 4 | Emma E. Morales 1, 2, 4 | Tayde S. Salinas 1, 2, 4 |
| Anisha Agarwala 1, 2, 4 | Joshua C. Comisky 1, 2, 4 | Samir O. Huq 1, 2, 4 | Dania Nisar 1, 2, 3 | Allan E. Samano 1, 2, 4 |
| Leen Al-Jafari 1, 2, 4 | Sonja G. Culbertson 1, 2, 4 | Bradley A. Ibarra 1, 2, 4 | Idem N. Otu 4 | Emmanuel E. Sanchez 4 |
| Carlos I. Almaguer 1, 2, 3 | Samuel Davila-Vega 1, 2, 4 | Alishba Javed 4 | Aaron D. Palacios 1, 2, 4 | Valeria Sanchez 1, 2, 4 |
| Marilyn R. Alvarez 1, 2, 4 | Joselin De La Torre 1, 2, 4 | Barbara Jimenez 4 | Arturo N. Palacios 1, 2, 4 | Bryssa I. Santiago 1, 2, 4 |
| Abel Babuji 1, 2, 4 | Miguel M. De Los Santos 1, 2, 4 | Bianca M. Jimenez 1, 2, 4 | Sofia A. Palacios 1, 2, 4 | Clara F. Schlimper 4 |
| Braedon G. Baker 4 | John D. Dimas 1, 2, 4 | Maya E. Juarez 1, 2, 4 | Mike R. Panuelos 1, 2, 4 | Madison F. Shortill 1, 2, 4 |
| Aun A. Bangash 1, 2, 4 | Mara N. Dunbar 1, 2, 4 | Saumya Kalamkar 4 | Federico G. Perez | Christine A. Silva 1, 2, 4 |
| Elijah A. Barget 4 | William A. Duong 1, 2, 4 | Mohammad Y. Karkoutly 1, 2, 4 | Christopher T. Phillippe 1, 2, 4 | Javier F. Soriano 4 |
| Daniela Barrera 1, 2, 4 | Ernesto A. Escudero 1, 2, 4 | Jake D. Lanoue 1, 2, 4 | Andrew J. Popan 1, 2, 4 | Margaux V. Steele 1, 2, 4 |
| Jonah D. Benitez 1, 2, 4 | Ellisah Patr O. Famador 1, 2, 4 | Daniel A. Leal 4 | Intisar A. Qubbaj 1, 2, 4 | Madison R. Stuart 4 |
| Jazelyn A. Bermudez 1, 2, 4 | Jasmine Figueroa 1, 2, 4 | Ana C. Ledezma Cortes 1, 2, 4 | Pritivi Rajkumar 1, 2, 4 | Karina M. Torres 4 |
| Steven J. Betancourt 1, 2, 4 | Sebastian S. Flores 1, 2, 4 | Shania M. Linder 1, 2, 4 | Homero E. Ramirez 4 | Juan R. Torres 1, 2, 3 |
| Amrit J. Bhakta 4 | Elizabeth Gamez 1, 2, 4 | Hector X. Martinez 1, 2, 4 | Pablo M. Ramirez 1, 2, 4 | Casey N. Valencia 1, 2, 4 |
| Larry E. Bolt 1, 2, 4 | Mia M. Garza 1, 2, 4 | Jose Martinez 1, 2, 4 | Andrea Ramirez Garcia 1, 2, 4 | Hadassah L. Villafranca 1, 2, 4 |
| Russel Lloyd J. Cabasag 1, 2, 4 | Vivek B. George 1, 2, 4 | Veronica Martinez Azuara 1, 2, 4 | Everardo Riojas 1, 2, 4 | Shashank Vinay Kumar 1, 2, 4 |
| Alyssa I. Cadriel 1, 2, 4 | Paige M. Gonzalez 1, 2, 4 | Carlos David McVey 1, 2, 4 | Jude F. Riojas 1, 2, 3 | Alivean M. Weaver 1, 2, 4 |
| Arely J. Campos 1, 2, 4 | Sofia A. Gonzalez 1, 2, 4 | Hiram Medellin-Solis 1, 2, 4 | Ryan P. Rivas 1, 2, 4 | Holland S. Wynne 1, 2, 3 |
| Juan A. Campos 1, 2, 4 | Vincent A. Gonzalez 1, 2, 4 | Andrea Medrano 3 | Rain A. Rivera 1, 2, 4 | Daisy E. Yanez 1, 2, 4 |
| Santiago Cardenas 4 | Salomon Z. Green 1, 2, 3 | Lucas S. Mendez 1, 2, 4 | Mari Clara Rivera-Marrero 1, 2, 4 | Brianda Zamarripa 1, 2, 4 |
| Abrianna A. Carrera 1, 2, 4 | Jesus A. Guajardo 1, 2, 4 | Eric M. Mendoza 1, 2, 4 | Mikayla D. Robles 1, 2, 4 | Ava S. Zamora-Wiley 1, 2, 4 |
| Clarisse C. Carroll 1, 2, 4 | Antonio Gutierrez 1, 2, 4 | Alex G. Mohme 1, 2, 4 | Maria F. Rodriguez Villegas 1, 2, 4 | Benita E. Zavala 1, 2, 4 |
| Matthew A. Cedillo 1, 2, 4 | Joel Hansen 4 | Martin D. Molina 1, 2, 4 | Jazmine D. Ruiz 1, 2, 4 | Julia Zhou 1, 2, 4 |
| Adriana Chapa 1, 2, 4 | Justin Z. Heckman 1, 2, 4 | Ashley Morales 1, 2, 4 | Thomas E. Saenz 1, 2, 4 | |
| Luis J. Chavez 4 | Daniel A. Hernandez 1, 2, 4 | Aislyn G. Morales 1, 2, 4 | Adrian Salinas 1, 2, 4 | |

High School Recognitions

1. National Honor Society: Recognizes outstanding high school students
2. Community Service: Recognizes completing 75 hours or more of community service
3. Outstanding Academic Achievement Grade Point Averages 3.5-3.8
4. Exemplary Academic Achievement Grade Point Averages 3.9-4.0

Master Thesis

Sk. Shamim Hasan Abir

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Force Spun PVDF and TPU Nanofiber Based Triboelectric Nanogenerator for Energy Harvesting and Sensor Application
Committee Chair: Karen Lozano

Consuelo Aguilar

College of Sciences
Assessing the Level of Knowledge of Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases Among the Residents of Several Cities in the Trans-Boundary Region of Us-Mexico
Committee Chair: Teresa Patricia Feria Arroyo

Ghaleb S. Al-Duhni

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Planning a Renewable Power System in Texas as an Introduction to Smart Power Grid
Committee Chair: Jaime Ramos

Clifton Frederick Albrecht

College of Sciences
Winners and Losers in Reforestation Efforts in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and the Predictive Power of Xylem Anatomy on Long-Term Growth and Survival
Committee Chair: Bradley Christoffersen

Salvador Baruch Alcorta Bautista

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Effect of Obesity on Walking to Running and Running to Walking Transitions
Committee Chair: Dumitru I. Caruntu

Jonathan G. Ayala

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Novel Coating Methods on Centrifugally-Spun Polymer Fibers for Applications in Libs
Committee Chair: Mataz Alcoutlabi

Abhijit Baul

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Learning to Detect Pedestrian Flow in Traffic Intersection from Synthetic Data
Committee Chair: Weidong Kuang

Julio S. Beatriz

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Secondary Resonances of Electrostatically Actuated MEMS and NEMS Circular Plates
Committee Chair: Dumitru Caruntu

Rosa N. Benavidez

College of Health Professions
Perspectives on Bilingualism in Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Rio Grande Valley
Committee Chair: Ruth Crutchfield

Mirza Addaito Billah

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Lower Rio Grande Valley Tap Water Hardness Removal Using Conductive Concrete Cathode in Electrochemical Precipitation
Committee Chair: Jong Min Kim

Prosanto Biswas

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Characterization of the RF Magnetron Sputtered P-Si, N-Si & SiO₂ Over Si Substrate and Effect of Process Parameters on Their Structural & Electrical Properties
Committee Chair: Hasina F. Huq

Luis Mario Bres Castro

College of Sciences
Numerical Modeling for Patch Antennas
Committee Chair: Volker Quetschke

Paola A. Campano

College of Sciences
Role of Caspase 8 on HMREC Migration in Hyperglycemia
Committee Chair: Andrew Tsin

Martin Carrillo

College of Sciences
Blood Flow Through an Artery with the Presence of Stenosis
Committee Chair: Dambaru Bhatta

Johana Castro

College of Sciences
The Effects of Caffeine and its Metabolites on the Activity Levels of Honey Bees, Apis Mellifera
Committee Chair: Julie A. Mustard

Miriam Michelle Cepeda

College of Liberal Arts
Ad Infinitum: The Bourgeois Construction of an American Lady
Committee Chair: Christopher L. Miller

Luis F. Chavarria

College of Liberal Arts
How are Police Lineups Represented in Popular Crime Shows in the U.S.A? An Examination of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
Committee Chair: Rosalva Resendiz

Mohammad Ashif Hossain Chowdhury

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Metamaterial Inspired Multi-Band MM-Wave 5G Antenna
Committee Chair: Heinrich Foltz

Thomas Cruz

College of Sciences
Automated Identification of Lines in Data from Gravitational Wave Detectors
Committee Chair: Soumya Mohanty

Biswajit Kumar Dash

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Spectrum Sharing and Interference in Smart Homes
Committee Chair: Jun Peng

Patrick De La Torre Schutz

College of Sciences
OPA1 Modulation of Mitochondrial Dynamics in AC16 Cardiomyocytes
Committee Chair: Robert Gilkerson

Maria Jackeline Diaz

College of Liberal Arts
The Relationship Between Mindfulness, Social Anxiety Traits, and Emotion Processing
Committee Chair: Yu-Cheng Lin

Md. Nur-A-Adam Dony

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Distributed Formation Control and Navigation of Fixed-wing UAVs at Constant Altitude
Committee Chair: Wenjie Dong

Jannatul Ferdous

College of Sciences
Topologically Robust Bulk State in Non-Hermitian Acoustic System
Committee Chair: Hamidreza Ramezani

Wesley D. Franklin

College of Sciences
An Assessment on Microplastic Pollution in the Resacas of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas
Committee Chair: Elizabeth Heise

Jose de Jesus Galarza Lozano

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Effect of Additional Weight on Ground Reaction Forces and Center of Pressure for Human Squat Exercise
Committee Chair: Dumitru I. Caruntu

Caroline Rose Garcia

College of Sciences
Biological Safety and Efficacy of Nanodisc Based Delivery of an Antiretroviral Drug (Tenofovir) to the Brain for the Treatment of HIV-1
Committee Chair: Upal Roy

Hideki Garcia Goo

College of Liberal Arts
Effects of Victim Gendering and Humanness on People's Responses to the Physical Abuse of Humanlike Agents
Committee Chair: Jason Popan

Javier A. Garcia

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Assessing the Feasibility of a Biofilter in Medium-To-High Scale Industries
Committee Chair: Hiram Moya

Nayeli E. Garcia

College of Liberal Arts
Escaping Machismo: Educating a New Generation of Mentors for Latina Students
Committee Chair: Lyon Rathbun

Gisel Garza

College of Sciences
Understanding the Ecological Role, Population Dynamics, and Geographic Distribution of Manihot Walkerae
Committee Chair: Teresa Patricia Feria Arroyo

Clyde M. Guerra

College of Fine Arts
Mariachi Programs at the University Level: Investigating Eurocentric Stereotypes
Committee Chair: Susan Hurley-Glowa

Khan Md. Zobayer Hassan

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Designing MIMO Omnidirectional Millimeter-Wave Metamaterial Antenna for 5G Communication
Committee Chair: Heinrich Foltz

Rebekah A. Hernandez

College of Sciences
Assessing Long-Term Benthic Community Dynamics at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
Committee Chair: David Hicks

Zachary E. Johnson

College of Sciences
Physical and Chemical Defense Mechanisms in Aloe Barbadosis Against Insect Herbivores
Committee Chair: Rupesh Kariyat

Ishveen Kaur

College of Sciences
Variation in Trichome Types and Density Mediates Plant-Herbivore Interactions in Two Cucurbitaceae Members
Committee Chair: Rupesh Kariyat
Co-Chair: Debasish Bandyopadhyay

Jui Vitthal Kharade

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Characterization and Fabrication of Polyvinylidene Fluoride Nanofibers for Energy Harvesting Application
Committee Chair: Horacio Vasquez

Luis Roberto Lopez, Jr.

College of Liberal Arts
The Backlash of the Online-Right During and After the 2020 United States Presidential Election
Committee Chair: Daniel Chomsky

Paula C. Luera

College of Sciences
Developing Best Practices to Increase Seedling Production of Native Thornscrub Plant Species
Committee Chair: Christopher Gabler

Yajaira Janett Macias

College of Sciences
Impact of Bmp7 in Glioblastoma Multiforme
Committee Chair: Megan Keniry

Master Thesis continued

Andy Najera

College of Liberal Arts
Agency of Mexican/Tejano Union Recruits During the United States Civil War: An Archival Case Study of Private Pedro Garcia
Committee Chair: Charles Waite

Linda Isabel Navarro Navarro

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Development of a Cyberinfrastructure for Assessment of the Lower Rio Grande Valley North and Central Watersheds Characteristics
Committee Chair: Andrew Ernest

Gaukhar Nurbek

College of Sciences
Enhanced Detection Efficiencies and Reduced False Alarms in Searching for Gravitational Waves from Core Collapse Supernovae
Committee Chair: Soma Mukherjee

Samuel Robinson Pasqualetto

College of Fine Arts
Bach to Bassics – From a Student's Perspective
Committee Chair: George Amorim

Yash P. Patil

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Spark Plasma Sintering of CrFeTiCuNiAl Hea
Committee Chair: Jianzhi Li

Anna J. Prado

College of Liberal Arts
A Biopsychosocial Approach to Mental Health Treatment: Designing Effective Psychological Interventions for Individuals Affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias
Committee Chair: Mario Gil

Sandeep Puri

College of Sciences
Design and Modeling a Tunable Non-Hermitian Acoustic Filter
Committee Chair: Hamidreza Ramezani

Qulina Rai

College of Sciences
Sunn Hemp as Cover Crop, Enhancing Module Formation Using Different Adhesives and Assessing its Pathogenicity to Agronomic Crops
Committee Chair: Alexis Racelis

Arnoldo Caleb Ramirez

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Predicting Community Response to Online Interactions: Classifying Reddit Comments by Rank
Committee Chair: Timothy Wylie

Mark A. Reyna

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Automated Quality Control in Manufacturing Production Lines: A Robust Technique to Perform Product Quality Inspection
Committee Chair: Satya Aditya Akundi

Padraic S. Robinson

College of Sciences
Status, Distribution and Conservation of the Black-Spotted-Newt (Notophthalmus meridionalis) in South Texas
Committee Chair: Richard J. Kline

Cristobal Rodriguez

College of Sciences
Exploration of Antimicrobial and Cell Proliferation Properties of Nanofibers Incorporating Nopal (O. Cochenillifera) Extract
Committee Chair: Robert Gilkerson

Dario F. Rodriguez

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Study of Particle Size Effect on the Performance of TiO₂ Nanoparticles as Lubricant Additives on Vegetable Oil-Based Nanolubricants
Committee Chair: Javier Ortega

Joselyne Rodriguez

College of Sciences
Gupta, Ramanujan, Dyson and Ehrhart: Formulas for Partition Functions, Congruences, Cranks, and Polyhedral Geometry
Committee Chair: Brent Kronholm

Reanna R. Rodriguez

College of Sciences
Understanding the Molecular Pathway of Hypoxia and Acrolein Inducing VEGF Secretion in 661W by Activating TGFB Signaling Pathway
Committee Chair: Andrew Tsin

Luis Javier Romo, Jr.

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Temporal Convolutional Neural Network for Intrusion Detection
Committee Chair: Lei Xu

Eli Ruiz

College of Sciences
SARS-CoV-2 Sampling Using Superpool Method of Samples Collected via Nasalpharyngeal Swab
Committee Chair: John Thomas

Sunanda Kumar Saha

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Production and Characterization of Polyurethane Fibers by Forc spinning Method and Incorporation of Luminiscense Nanoparticles
Committee Chair: Karen Lozano

Luis Enrique Sanchez

College of Liberal Arts
Tracking the Affective State in Individuals with Autistic-Like-Traits and Alexithymia-Like-Traits with Geneva Emotion Recognition Test
Committee Chair: Yu-Cheng Lin

Ana Vanessa Serrano Garcia

College of Health Professions
Transitioning to Housing First: The Role of the Rehabilitation Counselor in Puerto Rico
Committee Chair: Roy Chen

Sk. Md Ali Zaker Shawon

College of Sciences
Flexible and Surface Modified ZnSnO₃ Nanocubes for Enhanced Piezoelectric Power Generation and Sensory Application
Committee Chair: M. Jasim Uddin

Zarina N. Sheikh

College of Sciences
Determining the Effectiveness of Wildlife Exits Along a South Texas Highway
Committee Chair: Richard J. Kline

Estefania A. Sierra

College of Sciences
Optimality of Delaunay Triangulations
Committee Chair: Oleg Musin

Dionn Carlo A. Silva

College of Sciences
Vertical Transmission of Zika Virus in an Opossum Model
Committee Chair: John M. Thomas, III

Sukhman Singh

College of Sciences
Effects of Plant Secondary Metabolites and Host Specificity on Growth, Development and Oviposition of Lepidopteran Herbivores
Committee Chair: Rupesh Kariyat

Shaynah J. St. Vallier

College of Sciences
Developmental Activation of Mitochondrial OPA1 Processing is Retinoic Acid-Independent
Committee Chair: Robert Gilkerson

Courtney R. Stuart

College of Sciences
Teacher Experiences in Relation to Strategies Used for Teaching English Language Learners
Committee Chair: Aaron Wilson

Mandip Tamang

College of Sciences
Unravelling the Role of PGPR "Pseudomonas Fluorescens" in Semi-Arid Soils of the Rio Grande Valley
Committee Chair: Pushpa Gautam Soti

Farzana Tasnim

College of Sciences
A Study of Nanogenerator Based Flow Sensor
Committee Chair: Mohammed Jasim Uddin

Amanda Alysse Taylor

College of Liberal Arts
Transatlantic Triangulations: Genre and Traumatic Memory in the Novels of Esmeralda Santiago and Alejandro Zambra
Committee Chair: Cathryn Merla-Watson

Yesenia C. Toscano

College of Fine Arts
Homemade Remedies and Religious Amulets for Protection Against Embrujo in the Mexican Culture
Committee Chair: Christen Sperry Garcia

Julio Enrique Trevino

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Development and Characterization of Nanofiber-Based Thermoelectric Composites
Committee Chair: Karen Lozano

S. M. Zia Uddin

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Design of Multi-Layered Lenses for Resolution Enhancement
Committee Chair: Nantakan Wongkasem

Luis A. Uribe

College of Sciences
Do Waterlilies Increase Fecundity by Making their Pollinators Go for a Swim?
Committee Chair: J. Andrew McDonald

Carlos Vasquez

College of Liberal Arts
The Brown Moral Panic: Racism in the Trump Era
Committee Chair: Rosalva Resendiz

Marie Angelica Ventura Vallangca

College of Engineering and Computer Science
A Meta-Analysis on the Constitutive Behavior and Performance of Fiber Reinforced Composite
Committee Chair: Phillip Park

Ileana Georgina Villarreal

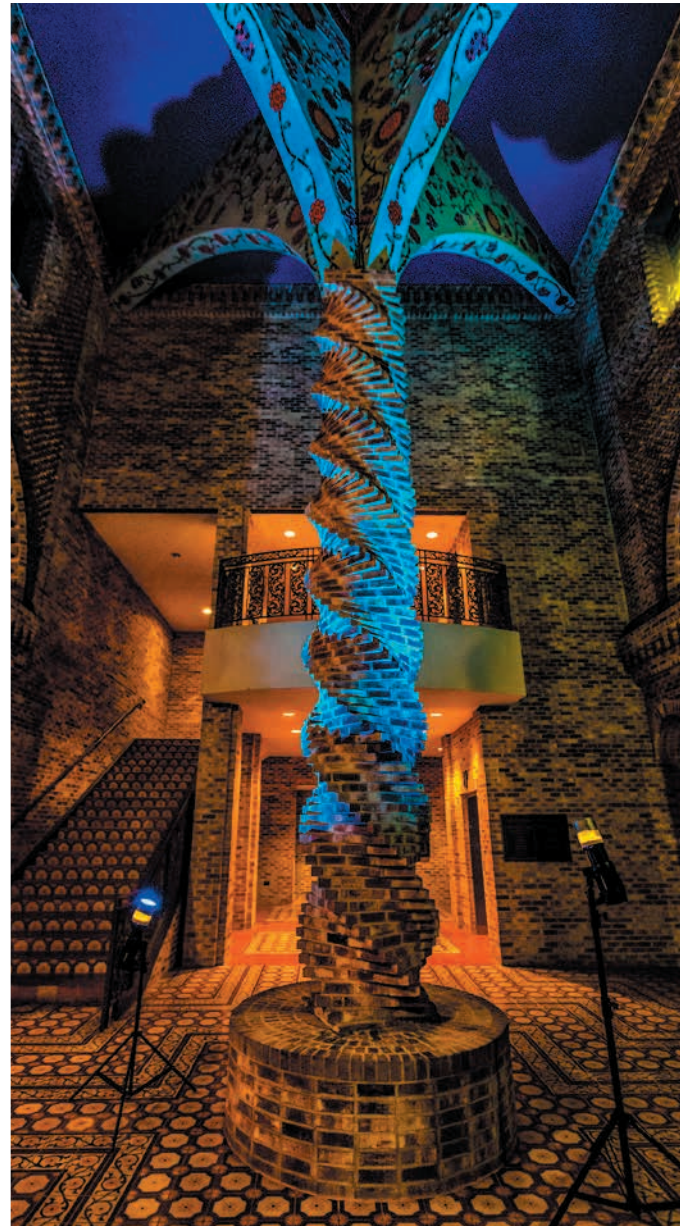
College of Sciences
Cytochrome c; A Possible Early Biomarker of Diabetic Retinopathy
Committee Chair: Andrew Tsin

Doctoral Dissertations

Eva Arjona
College of Health Professions
 Relationships Between Perceived Quality of Life and Spiritual Beliefs, Education Level, Socioeconomic Status, Age, Gender, and Ethnicity in Cancer Patients and Cancer Survivors
 Committee Chair: Irmo D. Marini

Samantha Lopez
College of Education and P-16 Integration
 Academic & Cultural Perceptions and Experiences of International Students at a Hispanic Serving Institution of Higher Education
 Committee Chair: Ming-Tsan Lu

Monica Sifuentes
College of Education and P-16 Integration
 Exploring Teacher Agency and Literacy Practices in a Border-Region Secondary English Language Arts Classroom
 Committee Chair: Sandra I. Musanti



Honors College

Edward Abrego II
 Fariha Ahmad
 Katherine R. Alvarez
 Alan Babuji

Austin E. Cantu
 Juliette Cantu
 Clarissa Gonzalez
 Jason Hough

Emily Jimenez
 Mikayala Mata
 Alondra Medina
 Samaris I. Ortega

Victoria N. Rodriguez
 Miranda Sosa
 Rachel Yu
 Damian L. Zamora

Honor Societies

Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First Year Students

Grecia C. Amieva
 Anahi Anaya
 Bryce C. Box
 Victoria Cantu
 Kevin Chen
 Daniel Errisuriz

Gladis Flores
 Elisia M. Gallardo
 Monserrat M. Garcia
 Kristan Gonzalez
 Mariela Gonzalez
 Rebecca R. Gonzalez

Emily Jimenez
 Priscilla L. Martinez
 Linda I. Navarro Navarro
 Andrea Rodriguez Navarrete
 Karina S. Rodriguez
 Miranda Rodriguez

Nathaniel Rhaine G. Martinez
 Neyda Penafior
 Joseph A. Paez
 Alexandra Perez-Saldana
 Isabel C. Sanchez
 Vivien S. Sepulveda

Javier A. Valdez
 Sarafey Zuniga

Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Julia N. Baldonado

Luis F. Chavarria

Beta Beta Beta (Tri Beta) National Biological Honor Society

Kayla Marroquin

Angel J. Perez Estrada

Anika Ramos

Kappa Delta Pi-Lambda Psi

Linda S. Buenrostro

Lydcel R. Cirlos

Michelle E. Coronado

Samantha S. Montoya

Kappa Delta Pi (Omicron Eta)

Armando Arechiga III
 Yahaira Buenrostro

Yadira Rodriguez
 Marcela M. Salinas

Jessica P. Tomas
 Amanda Villarreal

Abigail L. Woolston

Lambda Alpha - Anthropology Honor Society

Rolando Castilla II

Order of Omega

Luis F. Chavarria
 Brianna H. Escobar

Steven A. Hughes
 Sydney R. Landa

Kendra E. Lara
 Adriana Muniz

Aleah L. Quiroz
 Miranda Rodriguez

Rebekah J. Valdez

Pi Alpha Alpha, The Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration

Carlos E. Alvarez
 Stephanie M. Alvarez
 Shelby R. Bessette
 Rose M. Barahona
 Adriana Cadena

Jennifer N. Cano
 Jorge Cantu
 Heath Doyle
 Sarah M. Garcia
 Julia Gorka

Jacquelynn Hernandez
 Nancy D. Hinojosa
 Gabriela C. Juarez
 Frank Knowles, Jr.
 Stephanie A. Lara

Tiffany Langevin
 Laura A. Lopez
 Jesus R. Martinez
 Priscilla Ann Rodriguez
 Natalie G. Salazar

Isabel Saldana
 Jennifer Lee Serna
 DesiRae G. Smith
 Linette Solorsano
 Norma Trevino

Pi Alpha Theta, The National History Honor Society

Destiny I. Puentes

Lauren T. Quick

Juan J. Vela

Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society

Roxana Lopez

Jacob A. Solis, Jr.

Martha Tellez

Daniela Trevino

Franklin L. White, Jr.

Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology

Byanka M. Arreola
 Ana C. Botello
 Elizelda Calles

Sandra V. Chapa
 Joselly S. Coronado
 Zayda A. Flores

Ayline Garcia
 Samayia L. Gonzales
 Kristan Gonzalez

Azul M. Granados
 Gisselle Razo
 Amy Reyes

Daniella A. Ybarra

Sigma Delta Pi, National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society

Selene A. Perez

Salma K. Escobedo

Jessica S. Garcia

Sigma Pi Sigma, The National Physics Honor Society

Kolade S. Adjibi

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

Brianna N. Almendarez
 Anahi Anaya
 Leah S. Asebedo
 Gabriela Bazan
 Donna O. Calla
 Jennifer Carrillo

Renee Champion
 Gabriela Chavarria
 Maria Del Carmen Silva
 Rizalyn Joy M. Dela Torre
 Daisy De Los Reyes
 Fe Falcon

Eric Flores
 Richard Garcia
 Ana Gutierrez
 Emily Jimenez
 Nathaniel Martinez
 Jasel Montes

Carolina Pavon
 Ilse M. Puente
 Dominga Reyes
 Regina Rodriguez
 Elida Salinas
 Sergio Sanchez

Ana Trujillo Reyna
 Kevin Trussell

The National Society of Leadership and Success

Ailis Abalos
 Petra D. Bazan
 Eric J. Borrego
 Alma G. Carrillo
 Idalis R. Castro
 Karla V. Cisneros-Lopez
 Michelle E. Coronado
 Justin J. Elizalde
 Kristal G. Espinoza

Carolina A. Garcia
 Getzemany Garcia
 Melanie M. Garcia
 Monica Y. Garza
 Jose O. Garza
 Claudeth A. Gindl
 Samayia L. Gonzales
 Cailey B. Granado
 Marisa Guerra

Adriana L. Hernandez
 Neftali I. Jameson
 Nicholas A. Kopan
 Anadalia Luna
 Keven L. Martinez
 Janelle Medellin
 Sarahy Mendoza
 Gisselle Montemayor
 Samantha S. Montoya

Joseph J. Munguia
 Maria M. Pena
 Max J. Perez
 Bryanna N. Ramirez
 Santos Ramirez, Jr.
 Elizabeth A. Rodriguez
 Alondra Saenz
 Summer R. Sandoval
 Aleyssa I. Segura

Julie Serino
 Clarissa Serna
 Martha Tellez
 Maria Torres
 Mayra A. Walters
 Diana Zavala
 Taylean M. Zuniga

COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF COMMENCEMENT

The colorful costumes and traditional customs of college commencements trace their beginnings back to the origins of the contemporary university in medieval Europe. Modern American colleges and universities carry on many traditions that began at Oxford and Cambridge to demonstrate the continuity of learning over the centuries and to emphasize the importance attached to commencement exercises. Academic regalia refer to the distinctive attire worn by students, faculty, and other university officials at commencement. The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. Though the custom of wearing academic dress was brought to America in colonial times, it was not until 1895 that a standardized code of academic dress was established and followed by most colleges and universities. The gown, hood, cap, and additional ornaments are the main categories of academic regalia and are distinctive for each degree.

CAPS

Headwear is an important component of the cap and gown, and the academic costume is not complete without it. The standard commencement headwear is the Oxford cap: a skullcap topped by a square cloth-covered board - the reason for its "mortarboard" nickname. Some doctoral faculty members wear a softer Cambridge version of the cap that is a velvet tam with four, six, or eight corners. Usually, the color of the cap matches the color of the gown. Caps are worn throughout academic processions and during the ceremony of conferring degrees.



TASSEL

The tassel is attached to a button on the top of the cap and hangs down to the right for bachelor's candidates until their degree is conferred. Many universities ceremoniously have graduates move their tassel from the right to the left. Both master's and doctoral candidates' tassels often begin and remain on the left.

GOWNS

The gown is the most basic of academic regalia. The Costume Code calls for three types of gowns: doctoral, master's and bachelor's. Most gowns are black, but some universities have adopted distinctive colors. The bachelor's gown is the simplest of the three, a plain gown with long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is distinctive for its extremely long, closed sleeves (originally used as a place to carry small books or other materials), the arms protruding through a slit at the elbow. The doctoral gown is the most elaborate, with front-facing velvet and three velvet bars on each of the full, billowing sleeves. The velvet can be black, Ph.D. blue, or the academic color to which the degree corresponds.



HOODS

The hood is derived from the cowls worn by clerics in the Middle Ages for warmth. Today, they are worn symbolically, hanging down the back. Master's hoods are 3 1/2 feet in length and have a velvet trim along the edge. Doctoral hoods are 4 feet in length and have a wider velvet trim. The satin lining of the hood, worn so that it can be seen, reflects the colors of the degree-granting institution. The color of the velvet trim signifies the academic discipline of the wearer's degree. As codified by the American Council on Education, some of the official colors associated with the various degrees and disciplines are:

- White: Arts and Letters
- Drab: Business/Accounting
- Light Blue: Education
- Orange: Engineering
- Purple: Law
- Lemon: Library Science
- Green: Medicine
- Pink: Music
- Brown: Fine Arts
- Apricot: Nursing
- Olive Green: Pharmacy
- Dark Blue: Philosophy
- Sage Green: Physical Education
- Salmon Pink: Public Health
- Golden Yellow: Science
- Citron: Social Work
- Peacock Blue: Public Administration



In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the dark blue color represents the mastery of learning and scholarship in any field, not just the field of philosophy.

ADDITIONAL ORNAMENTS

Some participants in the commencement ceremony will wear additional ornaments such as colored cords, medallions, stoles, or sashes. These ornaments signify the wearer's membership in an honor society or special group.

CHAIN OF OFFICE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is the official insignia of the university president and is worn at commencement and other ceremonial occasions. Like many academic traditions, the display of a heavy "chain of office" comes from medieval regalia and represents the weight of responsibility for the wearer.

The UTRGV medallion and chain were designed in 2015 and executed by the jewelry students, jewelry faculty, and craftsman Lino Guiza in the UTRGV College of Fine Arts. The medallion is made up of two parts: the seal of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley surrounded by an abstract sunburst created with a brick and mortar design. The cactus flowers on the outer edges of the seal are placed at the four cardinal points with the largest flower pointing south. The counter weight to the medallion is a representation of the native sabal palm. The Chain of Office is a circlet of art deco-inspired links representing the past, while revealing an infrastructure of bridges, aqueducts, and gears that speak to the importance of our solid foundation, water, and movement into the future. The chain features many aspects of the Rio Grande Valley that aid our growth and commitment to higher education:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Arches | Abacus | Butterfly |
| Water | Bone | Tortoise |
| Turbine | Binary Code | Finger Print |
| Neuron Tree | Leaves/Quills | Road Junction |
| Circuit Board | | Satellite |



CEREMONIAL MACE

In medieval times, the mace was a symbol of authority and carried before or set near a high official when ceremonies or sessions were being conducted. Today, the mace symbolizes the university's governing authority and signifies the proceedings are officially sanctioned. Traditionally, the chair of the Faculty Senate acting as the Grand Marshal carries the mace to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonies.

The UTRGV 47" ceremonial mace was designed in 2016 by students in the College of Fine Arts and a committee of faculty from anthropology, archeology, geology, history, communication, and art. The head and seals of the mace were 3D printed and cast at the UTRGV College of Fine Arts. The mace is intricately imbued with historical, cultural, and architectural meaning.

The handles of the mace are made of mesquite wood locally sourced in the Rio Grande Valley and engraved with a decorative pattern of the state's official turtle, the Ridley, and wind turbines.

The helix, between the handles, represents the coming together of the legacy institutions. The helix is made of petrified palm, the official stone of Texas.

The base is crafted from mesquite and inlaid with blue selenite, thought to be associated with mental clarity, truth and honesty, and to represent the Rio Grande River.

The tip of the mace is made of El Sauz chert excavated and donated by Dr. Juan L. Gonzalez.



BELL

Our stately bronze bell, circa 1850 is rung during commencement to symbolize a rite of passage and proclaims that a worthy and well-qualified individual has passed from one station in their life to a loftier one. Our bell is also the icon for the Bell Scholarship Endowment. Two outstanding students are selected to ring the bell at each commencement.



MEMORY STOLE

When students graduate from UTRGV they know they did not make the journey alone. The Memory Stole, a symbol of appreciation, is worn by graduates during the commencement ceremony. Following the ceremony they are encouraged to present the stole to a special family member, professor, or friend as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation for their support, inspiration, or mentorship.

UTRGV COLLEGE GONFALONS

The college gonfalon—or banner—with roots in the Middle Ages, was a symbol of units or family groups. Today, gonfalons are used at official university ceremonies as heraldic devices and are frequently carried during processions at commencement.

At UTRGV, each college has a custom-designed banner signifying its academic unit. Each flag is rich in unique symbolism while also showing unity through size, shape, and color. The swoop at the bottom of each gonfalon represents the border of Texas, and the field of blue with gold stars of Texas represents the distributed nature of UTRGV—from Rio Grande City to South Padre Island.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Symbols:
The central pattern intertwines the caduceus—a symbol for medical practice—with the tree of life. This pattern is surrounded by a DNA helix—the foundation for all living beings—and roots, which connect the human condition with all forms of creation.

Colors:
Blue for healing, green for earth, and white for air.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Symbols:
A thousand petal lotus is the highest depiction of soul. Seven chakras symbolize the connection between mind, body, and spirit. Metatron’s cube is for the profession’s feminine and masculine side. Nightingale’s Lamp represents beginning, laurel leaves for education and honor, and water for purity and source of life.

Colors:
Apricot for nursing, green, and blue for health professions.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Symbols:
Hands represent care and trust, while the rays of color are specialized paths guiding individuals on their road to recovery. The micro, macro, and mezzo programs are represented by three humans, and the lotus flowers symbolize how a beautiful life can bloom, even in the toughest of situations.

Colors:
Citron for social work, gold for honor and wisdom, and blue and green for caring and healing nature.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND P-16 INTEGRATION

Symbols:
The torch represents the guiding light—the ability for graduates to serve as a beacon for others and for the college to serve as a light that will lead the way for others. The multicolored flame symbolizes the forward-thinking nature of the college, bringing power to ideas.

Colors:
Light blue for education, wisdom, intelligence and integrity.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Symbols:
The dominant image is an interpretation of Moore’s Law: Every year, computer chips and components are able to compute twice as much data. The eye of providence symbolizes the grand architect. In this case, the engineer takes all things into consideration.

Colors:
Orange for engineering and the metals involved in the processing and development of technology. Deep blue for social ethics.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Symbols:
The waves represent the flow of the mind, freedom, imagination and knowledge. The three waves symbolize creativity, imagination, and motivation. The interlocking shapes represent unity and strength between the arts and sciences. The hummingbird stands for joy, beauty, strength, movement and independence.

Colors:
Wineberry for writing, khaki for fine arts, gold for art, and pink for music.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Symbols:
The dominant image is the peony flower, symbolizing health and medicine in Greek mythology; Paeon was turned into the flower by Zeus because Asclepius was threatened by his pursuit of knowledge. The two snakes are Asclepius representing health and Hygeia representing wellness.

Colors:
Blue for the caring nature of the health professions and green for health and medicine.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Symbols:
The trivium is derived from the medieval symbol for the seven liberal arts and sciences. The symbols of the lion and the scales of justice represent the dialogue between the value of the emotions, power, and creativity within the rational, law, and historical institutions.

Colors:
Crimson, gold, silver and blue represent the disciplines within the college.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Symbols:
The infinity symbol for math and physics also represents perfection, unity, and balance. The atom represents the sciences and the vertical pillars represent the foundation of all life and biology, while the vertical lines signify energy.

Colors:
Golden yellow is the color of science, mathematics, and physics, while gold represents wisdom, understanding, and enlightenment.

ROBERT C. VACKAR COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Symbols:
The two-headed eagle represents power and authority, while also symbolizing collaboration. Both heads are facing north, signifying innovation, looking forward, and success. Their wings are open, ready to fly and discover new horizons, and being open to new ideas. Wheat symbolizes wealth.

Colors:
Rust for economics, brown for business, and purple for leadership.



THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

#4
IN TEXAS

Most Hispanic Undergraduates Enrolled
(2018-2019)

#1 IN TEXAS **#3** NATIONALLY

Most Bachelor's Degrees Earned by Hispanic Students
(2017-2018)

#4
NATIONALLY

Most Master's Degrees Earned by Hispanic Students
(2019)

Source: *Excelencia in Education; Hispanic Outlook Magazine*



THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

#3 UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS

TOP 100
NATIONALLY

#1 IN TEXAS
Performance of Pell-Eligible Students
#5 Nationally

#1 IN TEXAS
One-Year Masters Programs Online

#1 IN TEXAS
Performance of First-Gen Students
#11 Nationally

Sources: *Washington Monthly; OnlineMastersColleges.com (2020)*

FREE TUITION FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS

The all new UTRGV Tuition Advantage program fully covers the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying students with a family adjusted gross income of \$95,000 or less.

Learn more about how to qualify for FREE tuition at:
UTRGV.edu/TuitionAdvantage

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It has been five years since The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley officially opened its campus doors. The UTRGV team is thrilled to commemorate the beginning of our legacy, by celebrating our 5th Anniversary!

By showcasing our university's milestones over this half decade, we reflect on where we started and look forward to continuing our journey as the Future of Texas.



Alma Mater

Gather as one in voice ascending
raising the song and anthem to thee.
Orange and grey, your reign's unending;
Hail to the mighty UTRGV!

Chorus:

Strength and devotion, we shall sustain.
True to your colors we shall remain.
Ever our song shall be raised on high.
UT Vaqueros til' we die!

Joyful our days in halls eternal
knowledge and skill forever endured.
Let it be said "your love's maternal".
Nurturing wisdom which all are ensured.

(Repeat Chorus)

UTRGV™