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the panamerican

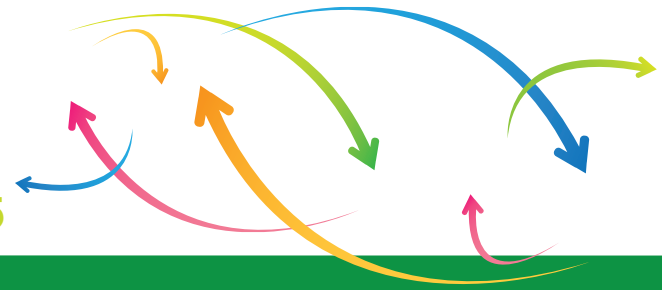
Volume 69, No. 12

November 29, 2012

Changing Places

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Green & White

Baseball scrimmage photo album available on *The Pan American* Facebook and Flickr

Online

panamericanonline.com



Valley native game designer Sheri Graner Ray returns to UTPA



WILL TEXAS LEGALIZE?

WHAT COLORADO AND WASHINGTON MEAN FOR THE VALLEY

By Jose Salvador De Leon III

If one were to ask Jorge Trujillo his two favorite outcomes of the recent 2012 general election, he would answer that it's between the new seats gained by Democrats in the U.S. Senate and the legalization of marijuana in Washington and Colorado.

"It's wonderful. More states need to express sovereignty over archaic laws like federal criminalization of marijuana," the 23-year-old biology graduate student said. "The benefits of this serve not only the user, but the government."

The marijuana legalization, known as Washington Initiative 502 in Washington and Amendment 64 in Colorado, allows for the legal sale and distribution of marijuana to adults over the age of 21 for personal use. Both measures will provide commer-

cial regulation of cannabis in specialty stores to licensed customers, provided that they're purchasing an ounce or less.

This is the first time any state has decriminalized the personal use of marijuana. Trujillo predicts a domino effect occurring for other states legalizing marijuana, but doesn't see it happening in Texas any time soon.

"Texas will be the last state to legalize marijuana. We'll have the federal law changed before it happens," he said.

Both measures passed with a slim margin.

According to the Colorado Secretary of State website, Amendment 64 received about 55 percent of votes and Initiative 502 received about 56 percent of votes, accord-

ing to the Washington Secretary of State website.

Oregon attempted to pass a similar amendment, but the majority didn't favor it. Fifty-three percent of voters were against it.

Colorado and Washington join a group of states that have already legalized marijuana, but those 16 did it with a caveat or two. The states legalized medical marijuana, the use of smoking pot for health benefits, and not for recreational use.

Betty Aldworth, who served on the Amendment 64 Campaign for Colorado, stated that the Denver-area district attorney is no longer pursuing cases involving marijuana possession of less than an ounce. She sees this as a benefit of the newly passed amendment.

"Some of the things people don't think about, like wasting money on law enforcement, is a big deal," she said. "We're wasting too much money on it. Regulation is the better alternative."

Aldworth predicts that as many as 10,000 Coloradans will avoid going to jail for minor marijuana charges, and predicts an increase of \$12 million to the economy from the specialty marijuana stores by 2014, a year after the amendment has gone into effect.

"We think Washington and Colorado can provide an excellent model in how marijuana can be regulated, provided that the wishes of the voters are respected by the federal government," she said in a phone interview.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Letters to the Editor

The Pan American accepts letters of 300 words or less from students, staff and faculty regarding recent newspaper content, campus concerns or current events. We cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks.

Please send all letters to: thepanamerican@gmail.com

Twitter

Tweet at and follow us @ThePanAmerican

Coke machines are getting real fancy here at #UTPA.

- @QueenofMean87

#UTPA smells like tortillas, because?

- @DANIIPSA

Driving in the morning here at #UTPA is horrible. I feel like I'm going to run over everybody!! #college #freakingout #notdrivinganymore

- @BetchHers

Marijuana continued from page 1

It could take as long as a year for marijuana to be sold in stores, but in Colorado, adults 21 and older will be able to possess and grow a maximum of six marijuana plants, and sell up to an ounce of it as soon as Gov. John Hickenlooper signs a proclamation certifying the results of the election within 30 days. He has yet to do so.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR TEXAS

In a recent non-scientific anonymous poll conducted by *The Pan American*, students were asked if they believe that Texas should follow suit. Thirty-one out of the 48 participants said that it should be legalized, but expressed doubts that it would ever happen in Texas.

Texas District 40 State Representative Terry Canales shared his thoughts on the matter.

"I believe that Texas is still far from legalizing marijuana for any purpose because of the political landscape and the conservative majority," he said.

However, Canales expressed some concern over the amount of people being housed in prison for minor drug charges.

"I believe it is time that we look past the negative propa-

ganda of yesteryear and really address the cost-benefit analysis of housing so many criminal inmates stemming from personal or medicinal use of marijuana versus the alterna-

are going to wait and see what happens with Colorado and Washington before they move in that direction."

UTPA Professor George Vincentnathan, chair for the Crimi-

"I believe that Texas is still far from legalizing marijuana for any purpose because of the political landscape and the conservative majority."

- Terry Canales
Texas District 40 State Representative

tives," Canales said.

He doubts he'll see any legislation in the upcoming session addressing the issue of legalizing cannabis but plans to remain "open minded" about the issue.

"I think Texas will be one of the last ones. We're too morally conservative," said John Morales, a 20-year-old anthropology major. "I think most states

nal Justice Department, said that despite a federal law that prohibits marijuana, it is possible for states to avoid persecution from the federal system.

"Even if it's illegal in the federal level, national and federal laws can be accommodated as long as it's not a constitutional issue," he explained. "No state law can oppose federal law, but there are exceptions

if it's not a constitutional issue."

Keila Sanchez, a junior majoring in psychology, doesn't support marijuana legalization.

"If you're just going to smoke it for fun, what's the point? There are other outlets available," the 19-year-old Progreso native said.

Sanchez also thinks that marijuana laws in Colorado and Washington won't stop minors from smoking.

"You need a license to buy weed in Colorado," she explained. "Minors can just as easily get a fake ID or get someone with an ID to buy it for them, just like how they do with beer."

Under the Federal Controlled Substance Act of 1970, marijuana is regarded as a dangerous drug with no real medical usage and a high potential for substance abuse.

Some arguments against the legalization of the plant include the danger of marijuana-influenced drivers, lung damage and negative mental effects, according to information collected by the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

James Wenzel, the chair of the UTPA Political Science Department, said that while it'll be interesting to see if other states follow suit, the chances of it happening in Texas are the same as "a snowball fight in Veracruz in the

middle of August."

"The political climate of Texas is very different from Washington and Colorado," the associate professor said. "We're not exactly known as a hotbed for progressive politics."

Philip Ethridge, a UTPA criminal justice professor, believes that a common stereotype involving marijuana could hamper its chances of being smoked in public.

"Many people believe that marijuana is a gateway drug," he explained. "As long as there's people that still believe that, then marijuana will remain at a personal level, for recreational use only."

A gateway drug is one that can lead a user to experiment with more addictive substances, such as cocaine and heroine.

However, Ethridge also expressed some interest in the effects of the law in Colorado and Washington.

"In the next couple of years, states will look at those two states and see what impact the legislation had on them," he said. "For now, it seems as if it's the beginning of states realizing that arresting and prosecuting those for small amounts is too much for the system."

UTPA hosts health summit to discuss RGV improvements

By Charles Vale
The Pan American

Leaders in health, education and the local community gathered at the University of Texas-Pan American's Student Union Theater Nov. 28 to attend the third University of Texas VISTASummit.

The first two UT VISTASummits focused on the issues of economic welfare and education in the Rio Grande Valley. Health was the topic this time around, and throughout the event, panelists addressed the issue of health care disparities, and discussed ways to improve healthcare in the area.

The summit comes just months after plans to build a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley were announced.

Currently, the plan to build the medical school in the Valley calls for two buildings in Harlingen, a school of public health in Brownsville, and the transformation of the Regional Academic Health Center behind the Health Science and Human Services building at UTPA.

UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, who is also a transplant surgeon and pediatrician, was the first to speak at the summit, which was separated into four panels that addressed different questions and themes.

"I'm convinced that if we work together, we will advance this region whether in education or health care," he said, mentioning efforts that the UT System made toward advancing the education of health care professionals in the Valley. Once again, he said that he would make it his mission to see that a medical school is built in the region.

The summit was presented in conference style with each panelist addressing the audience that gathered in the Student Union Theater. Panelists were given a certain amount of time to speak and once they finished, the next group was introduced.

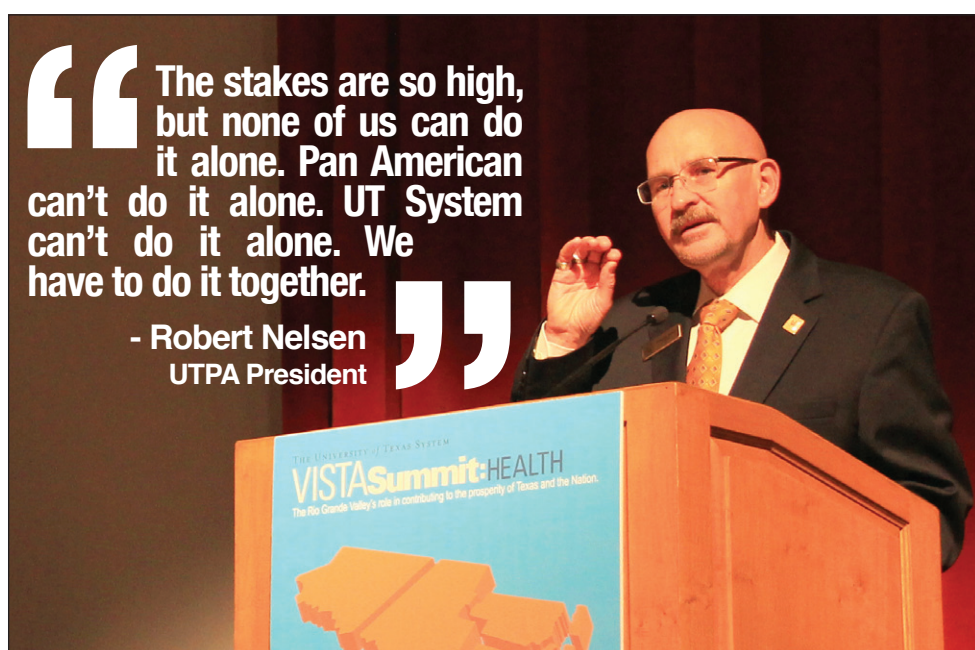
Joseph McCormick, regional dean at University of Texas Health and Science Center, spoke to the VISTASummit audience before he introduced the first set of panelists, stating that diabetes and obesity cost this region \$20 billion a year in healthcare.

All members of the panel spoke about what the organizations they belong to are doing to improve the issues in the Valley, such as Harlingen Independent School District's "Kids in the Kitchen" which teaches children about eating healthy.

UTPA President Robert Nelsen, South Texas College President Shirley Reed, and other leaders in higher education addressed

"The stakes are so high, but none of us can do it alone. Pan American can't do it alone. UT System can't do it alone. We have to do it together."

- Robert Nelsen
UTPA President



the issue of how schools in the UT System are preparing the next generation of health professionals in the Valley.

When asked if the Valley's health care community was prepared to deal with the growing population and the growing number of people trying to access effective health care, President and CEO of Valley Baptist Hospital Manny Vela spoke bluntly.

"Short answer is no," he said.

"That is why Valley Baptist is such a staunch supporter of comprehensive Medicaid and the creation of a med school in the Valley."

As an example of the growing population, Hidalgo County increased from 686,034 people in 2006 to 726,604 in 2008, according to the McAllen Chamber of Commerce website.

Before the summit finished at 3:30 p.m., Nelsen approached the podium and addressed the audi-

ence for the last time.

"I live in the south, it's my home and my heart is here. All you have to do is go out to the colonias and you will see," he said. "The stakes are so high, but none of us can do it alone. Pan American can't do it alone. UT System can't do it alone. We have to do it together."

Jaime Leal also contributed to this report.

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Next Delivery:
Dec. 6 at noon

MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

Thursday, December 6, 2012
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Changing Places

By Karen Antonacci

PA Program:

HSHE → Bookstore

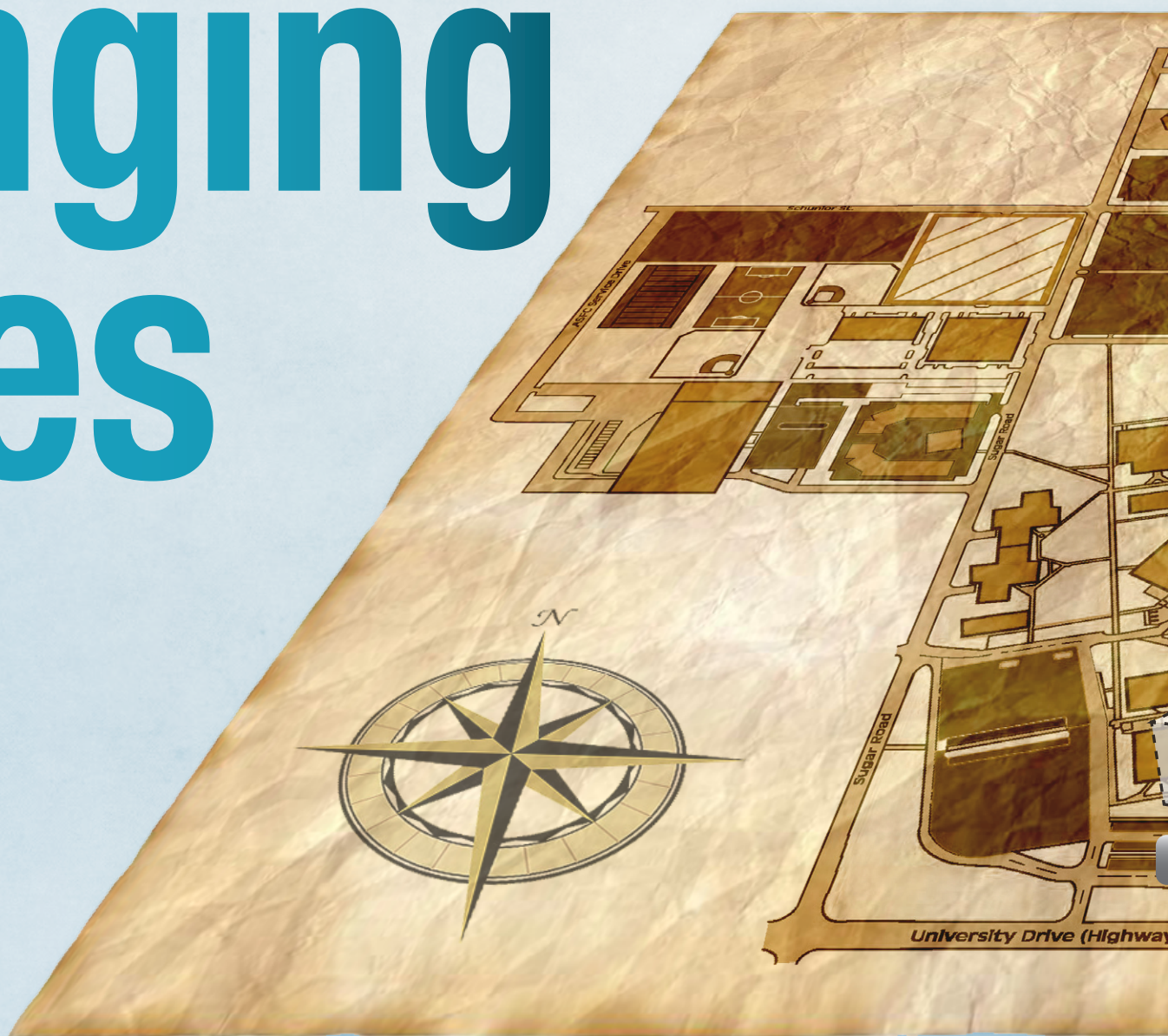
Bookstore:

Bookstore → Library

Writing Center:

Library → ACAS (Temp.)

New Building ←



Bookstore, PA program,

It seems that despite various discussions and resolutions by student and faculty senates and committees, the Bookstore will move to the Library after all.

The move is part of a set of maneuvers meant to maximize space on campus, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Martha Cantu.

Basically, the strapped-for-space Physician's Assistant program will move into the current Bookstore location, on the corner of University Drive and Nevarez/4th Avenue. The Bookstore will then move to the first floor of the Library, in the Writing Center's current location. The Writing Center will be moved temporarily to the Academic Services Building before being relocated to a new building yet to be built on campus, called the University College for now.

The University College will be built between the University Center and the Administration Building as a hub of undergraduate activity, including offices such as Study Abroad and the Guerra Honors

Program along with the Writing Center. The proposed building will cost about \$11.9 million and be financed by the state, student fees, and private donations.

The moves will free up the Bookstore location for the PA program, which admits only 50 students despite getting about 400 applications annually. The hope is to be able to admit 100 students, according to Cantu.

"The University is also proposing to double the size of the PA program; thus, the urgent need for additional space," Cantu said via email. "The Bookstore will be within closer proximity to all the academic buildings on campus."

According to the administration, the Writing Center will move to the Academic Services Building during the upcoming Winter Break and the anticipated date for the Bookstore to move into the Library is in March 2013

MIXED REACTIONS

The idea of moving these University entities around caused a stir

among the Student Government Association, the Faculty Senate and the Library Advisory Committee, specifically the Bookstore moving into the Writing Center's current spot.

According to Cantu, the various groups were informed of the plans.

Cantu, Vice President of Business Affairs Marty Baylor, and Provost Havidan Rodriguez attended the SGA meeting Sept. 28 to present the plans, which Baylor said had been talked about among the administration for about a year. The plans were met with a myriad of questions from the senators and SGA President Matthew Garcia.

"Personally, I don't see a lot of benefit coming to the Library from the move. I'm not a business major, but I don't see a lot of textbooks sales coming from that, unless it's on impulse," Garcia, a double major in biology and political science, said after the meeting. "Plus you would have to drive and then walk to the center of campus and then drag your books back to your car."

Cantu said the parking issue is being seriously considered but that moving the Bookstore to the Library will still benefit the University.

"Currently, having the Bookstore across the street is an inconvenience for UTPA students and visitors," she said. "For example, attendees at conferences and special events on campus are more likely to visit the bookstore to shop for UTPA souvenirs if it is located within the Library building."

Cantu also pointed out that there is unused space in the store.

"The current Bookstore building was built to serve bookstore operations before the existence of eBooks and other online textbook companies," she added.

Garcia of the student body also expressed concern for ousting the Writing Center, which students visit year-round, in favor of the Bookstore, which he said students only go to twice a semester. Baylor responded at the SGA meeting that the Bookstore was going to push to get more of a year-round presence by selling UTPA and

Bronc spirit attire.

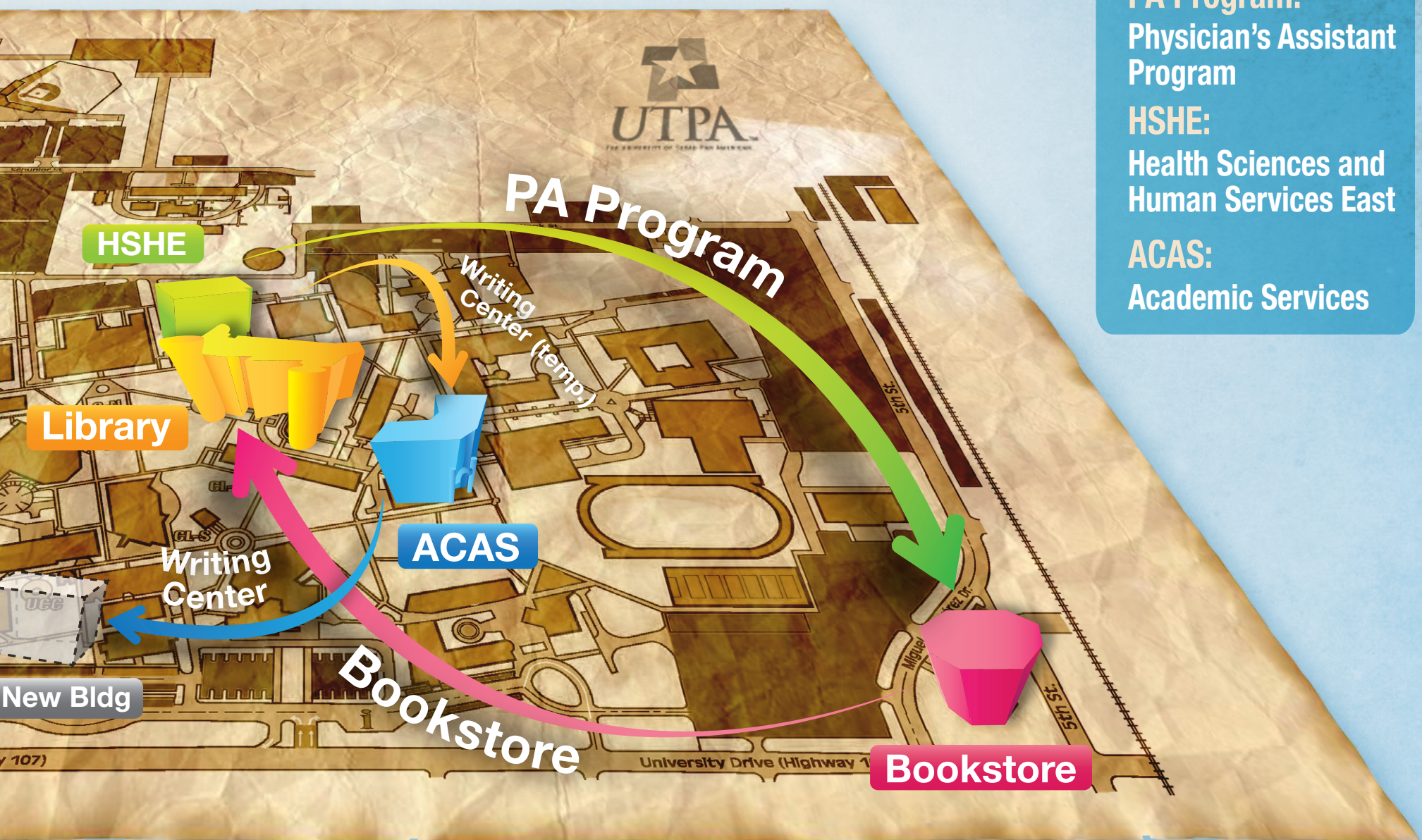
Andrew McDonald, who teaches biology at UTPA and serves on the Library Advisory Committee, also spoke at the meeting and vehemently expressed concerns about housing the Bookstore under the same roof as the

**The Bookstore
within closer proximity
to the academic
buildings on campus**

- Martha Cantu
Vice President for Student Affairs

Library.

"I have worked at eight universities and no one has ever put (a bookstore) in the center of a library," he said. "This is just commercial enterprise. You are going to take away serious institutes



PA Program:
Physician's Assistant
Program

HSHE:
Health Sciences and
Human Services East

ACAS:
Academic Services

Writing Center to move

of students."

Thomas White, professor of criminal justice and chair of the Faculty Senate, said there was a general feeling of disagreement among the Senate about the moves. The Senate voted Oct. 10 to approve a resolution supporting re-

**Bookstore will be
in proximity to all
academic
buildings on campus.**

Ma Cantu
Director of Student Affairs

locating the Bookstore to make room for the PA Program, but opposed moving the Bookstore into the Library. It passed eight to seven, with two abstentions, according to White.

The SGA drafted a resolution

Oct. 12 containing much the same language as the Faculty Senate opinion, but ultimately it did not come to a vote, because the group felt it needed more student response. The SGA typically takes about a month from the time an issue is presented to draft and vote a resolution, according to Garcia.

Additionally, the Library Advisory Committee sent an email to the provost outlining their concern about the move, saying that it "would diminish the quality of education at UTPA and undermine our shared interest in elevating our institution to a higher level."

According to Cantu, the administration does its best to keep everyone's best interests in mind.

"It is the University administration's duty and responsibility to make decisions that benefit students, faculty, staff and our visitors while maintaining our commitment to excellence in our physical facilities and our academic programs," she said.

DECISION METHOD

Members of the SGA, the Faculty

Senate and the Library Advisory Committee felt that the changes were proposed to their groups too late for them to give any meaningful input.

"We would have been more open if it was revealed in a different way - if it was presented as a discussion rather than people just coming to present," Garcia said. "If we had actually had time to come up with a resolution.... but as it was, we really couldn't do much of anything."

When McDonald spoke at the SGA meeting in September, he expressed concern to the administration about the decision-making process.

"You did not speak to the Library advisory committee," he said. "Faculty is unaware of these plans; this is an ambush."

After various complaints, a meeting was called Oct. 10 between UTPA President Robert Nelsen, the three vice presidents (Cantu, Rodriguez and Baylor) as well as Garcia, White, and Gilbert Perez Jr., chair of the Staff Senate, to attempt to work things out.

The Writing Center's temporary

location was going to be the Lamar Building off Schunior Street, but after hearing from representatives of the various senates, the temporary location was changed to the Academic Services Building closer to the center of campus. This pacified Garcia and White to some extent.

"We would still rather it didn't have to move, but if it does have to, then (the ASB) is much better," Garcia said.

Perez said that after the meeting with Nelsen and the other members of the administration, the Staff Senate's concerns were put to rest and they didn't feel a resolution was necessary.

"All of our concerns were addressed," he said. "It was explained that this is for the betterment of the community."

LIMITED SPACE

According to the resolution drafted by the SGA and passed by the Faculty Senate, there is a space shortage at UTPA of approximately 600,000 square feet and the Library has about half the

square footage it should, based on university enrollment.

The Faculty Senate's resolution as well as the Library Advisory Committee's email to the provost suggested putting the Bookstore across the street, in the Union or in the pending University College near the University Center, but Garcia said it was made clear to him, at least, that the Library is now the only option.

"I'm trying to encourage everyone to not see it as 'we lost,' but that we still need to fight for the majority of the space to be study space," he said.

If anything else comes out of the disagreement, it might be a loose agreement between administration and community organizations to communicate changes earlier.

"We pushed to be involved the next time if they are doing something that affects the students, faculty and staff," Garcia said. "They should include representation from them. We should be involved, not informed."

WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov. 29- Dec. 9

"Man, Woman, Other"

Nov. 29 at 6 p.m.

UTPA Art Annex
Bachelor of Fine Arts studio art exhibit opening

Defend Our Right to Learn!

Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

Edu. Bldg. 1.102
Mexican American Studies Club and American Civil Liberties Union of Texas to host a film screening and panel discussion on ethnic studies

Winter Festival

Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

Chapel Lawn

Mariachi Aztlán concert

Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

UTPA Field House

Palabras Bajo la Piel

Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Cordoba Cafe

A night of Spanish poetry

Mariachi Aztlán concert

Dec. 1, 2 at 2 p.m.

Edinburg City Auditorium

Truth or Fiction?

Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

IMAS

Discussing and debunking the end of the world predictions for Dec. 21, 2012

International Festival

Dec. 8 at 9 a.m.

St. George Orthodox Church, Pharr

Fundraiser event featuring entertainment, international foods and baked goods

Silent Dinner

Dec. 8

Haggar Building, Edinburg
Dinner hosted by the Deaf community

Golden Cobwebs

Dec. 6-8 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 8-9 at 2 p.m.

UTPA Albert Jeffers Theatre

A Christmas play for young audiences



Navidad Mexicana

A Mariachi extravaganza

Photo courtesy of Mariachi Aztlán

By **Valentina Rodriguez**
The Pan American

The guitars are tuned, the trumpets ready and the gold buttons of the Mariachi *Aztlán's* uniforms have been shined to perfectly catch the glow of the stage lights-- it's showtime. All of the summer's constant practicing is going to be put to the test with the group's first concert of the semester, to be held at the UTPA Field House Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

The UTPA Mariachi *Aztlán* is a group of 15 men and women who use guitars and trumpets to play Mexican music. According to Director Francisco Loera, they play traditional Mexican folk songs along with slow ones called *Posadas* (songs showing someone trying to find refuge, like Mary and Jesus in the Bible) and *rancheros* (tradi-

dance, wearing colorful skirts and using exaggerated movements to tell a story through music.

"We have a lot of elements," said 30-year-old vocalist and guitarist Adolfo Estrada. "We accompany the dancers...and there's different costumes that accompany the different regions and cultures of Mexico."

Along with the award-winning Mariachi and the dancers, there will also be a storyteller to guide the audience and paint a picture of how this music evolved over time.

"(The concert) is a hybrid from Mexican traditions to North American traditions and the Mexican-American crossover of both," said Fernando Mendoza, a 33-year-old violist for the group.

The audience will be able to hear a mixture of traditional Mariachi songs along with some featuring a Mexican spin on North American Christmas tunes. Estrada went on to say that there will be some American Christmas music, such as "Sleigh Ride" and "Winter Wonderland" to name a few.

The two-hour concert has been in preparation since August, "slowly pulling everything together," according to Estrada.

"We don't want to be *candil de la calle oscuridad de su casa*, meaning we don't want to be the light of the street, sharing so much outside of the community while forgetting about our own community. We want to thank them for all the support they gave us," said Mendoza, a graduate student getting a master's in public administration.

The Mariachi *Aztlán* has

been recruited to play with many highly recognized music houses. Including the Houston Grand Opera in the premiere of the world's first Mariachi opera to showcasing their talents with the Valley Symphony Orchestra.

The group has multiple awards and prestigious recognitions. In 2010, they went to play in the White House for President Barack Obama and later that year won first place at the national competition Mariachi *Spectacular de Albuquerque*.

que. In 2011, they took home first place for the second consecutive year in a row at the Mariachi *Spectacular de Albuquerque* and were invited to perform at the Hollywood Bowl later that year.

"My goal as a musician is to actually transmit some sort of emotion, and actually make it art," Estrada, a Mexican-American studies major said. "And I want the audience to leave with a sense of having experienced something."

Whether in Mexico or the States, the Mariachi *Aztlán* employs traditional folk songs to connect with the audience.

"In this concert, they will break any stereotypes," that one has about Mariachi's and their music, Loera said. "You will get the full effect of how the Mariachi should sound."

This Friday night at the concert, students with a valid ID get in for free and general admission costs \$10 at the door.

Beyond these concerts the Mariachi *Aztlán* will hold six concerts in December and four in January along with accompanying the Chicago Lyric Opera in April for a concert series called "*Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*" (To Cross the Moon's Face).

NERD NIGHTS

At The Learning Assistance Center

Study for Finals, Meet with Your Study Group, and Enjoy Refreshments

during Nerd Nights at the LAC. The facilities will be open to students looking for a quiet place to study as they prepare for finals.

Rooms will be designated for individual or group study.

OPEN WEEK OF FINALS

December 9 - 13, 2012

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

*Note: Tutoring will not be available during this time.

Tutoring is available during regular daytime hours:

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Fri., 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



SGA

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"I want the audience to leave with a sense of having experienced something."

- Adolfo Estrada
Mariachi member

tional folk music that originated in Jalisco Mexico).

The concert will have everything from Mariachi *Aztlán* to the University's *Luz de Luna* Folkloric dancers (traditional Mexican dancers). It will include musical styles from various regions of Mexico, such as La Huasteca, Veracruz and Jalisco.

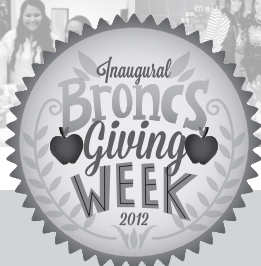
The Folkloric dancers perform a traditional Mexican

Thank you to the following organizations for their participation in the Canned Food Drive for the Inaugural Broncs-Giving Week. Over 2,000 food items were collected and donated to the RGV Food Bank.

ORGANIZATIONS

Eta Omega Tau
 Delta Xi Nu
 LGBT Alliance
 Eta Omnicron Nu
 Association of Public
 Administrators
 Pre Law Society
 PMBMS
 RHA
 VOX
 NSSLHA
 Psychology club
 Habitat For Humanity

Staff Senate
 Student Union Staff
 NSCS
 SACC
 PanAmMexicanos
 H&K
 Phi Iota Alpha
 TriBeta
 Department of Intercollegiate
 Athletes
 Culinary Arts Club
 Jewish Student Association
 Student Alumni Association





Beyond the game

Community service, academics required for student athletes

Norma Gonzalez/The Pan American

Volleyball player Ijanae Holman interacts with an 8-month-old baby at Edinburg Children's Hospital in August.

By Dana Nazarova
The Pan American

During the best volleyball season since 2007, blocker Sarah Davis could be seen dominating on the court, recording a career-high 15 kills in the match against Hampton University and a career-high 33 attacks against Texas A&M University-Kingsville. But that's just the beginning, because off the court the student-athlete from California must also make sure to comply with many extra requirements, such as community service and strict academic habits.

For their first such project of the semester, the volleyball team visited the Edinburg Children's Hospital late August. There, the ladies read to and interacted with a few children and visited others in the Intensive Care Unit.

Davis instantly bonded with 10-year-old patient Yaletcy Perez. The pair read Hannah Montana: Backstage Pass, looked through the pictures and discussed their favorite episodes from the Disney Channel show. Other team members explain that this sort of activity is part of being a student-athlete.

"We do not only promote athletics, but also show that ath-

letes try to help community," said San Benito freshman Kasey Sanchez. "The event was very successful. It's amazing how such little things can bring the smiles on kids' faces and I feel like that it's an important thing to do."

The women's tennis team has engaged in such community service projects as the Rio Reforestation at the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and helping the UTPA nursing program, both in October. Nov. 17, the men's squad hosted Tennis Kids Day, a free clinic for children ages 6 to 13.

"It was fun and we were able to introduce tennis for lots of kids," men's netter Yosua Adiyasa said. "Many of the kids who attended never held racquet before, so it was great to teach them how to hit and overall introduce tennis to them for the first time."

The general theme of the mandatory service routine is giving back, usually for some cause that has caught the eye of the UTPA athletic community.

Most of the recent community service events the baseball team has been involved in have revolved around 5-year-old Brownsville native Nolan Naranjo, who has been battling MDS (pre-leukemia). The players held a blood drive in May, a bone marrow drive in September, and shaved their heads in

support of Nolan in October. "We still send him lots of stuff (like) photos and hopefully he'll get healthy soon. Just recently we went to the church and had a Thanksgiving Day community service," right-handed pitcher Sam Street said. "Coach always tells us that we have a gift, that we play baseball, and we need to give something back to the community. It is rewarding to do community service, plus it helps."

Besides having to complete at least 10 community service hours per semester, student-athletes must meet other requirements. As freshmen, they must complete at least 24 hours within the academic year, maintain a 1.7 grade-point average (GPA) and complete eight study hall hours per week. As a sophomore, at least 18 hours should be completed within the academic year along with a 1.8 GPA.

The same amount of hours must be completed the next two years, but by their junior year

student-athletes must have progressed 40 percent toward their degree credit (48 hours) and 60 percent toward their degree credit (72 hours) by senior year, while maintaining a 2.0 GPA.

Coach always tells us that we have a gift, that we play baseball, and we need to give something back to the community. It is rewarding to do community service, plus it helps.

- Sam Street
Pitcher

The University Athletic Department and the Learning Assistant Center provide help so that the student-athletes may be able to keep their GPA up and balance between practices, traveling and school.

"Being a student-athlete means you have a lot on your plate," Davis said. "There's no coasting through, you either succeed or you don't. Choosing to succeed means you're all in. Quitting isn't an option, ever."

POWER SERIES 5

OCTOBER 5TH
BENCHPRESS COMPETITION
7:00PM CHECK IN 7:30PM COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 5TH
DEADLIFT COMPETITION
7:00PM CHECK IN 7:30PM COMPETITION

DECEMBER 5TH
SQUAT COMPETITION
7:00PM CHECK IN 7:30PM COMPETITION

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