

UTRGV[™] Graduate College Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1 - December 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

[Message from the Dean](#)
[New Programs](#)
[Program Spotlight](#)
[New Graduate Students](#)
[Accelerated Programs](#)
[Student Placement](#)
[Student Spotlight](#)
[Alumni Spotlight](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

UTRGV's accelerated online program in [educational leadership](#) was named the **2017 No. 1 best-value college nationwide** for an accelerated online Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership by [CollegeValuesOnline.com](#).

Diverse Issues in Higher Education tied UTRGV at **#1 in 2017** with City University of New York in the number of Master of Science degrees awarded to Hispanics in [mathematical and statistical sciences](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the Graduate College's first newsletter!

We have over 3,000 enrolled graduate students in 30 graduate certificate programs, 55 master's, and 4 doctoral degrees offered across several campuses and online in traditional and accelerated semesters. We are developing several new degree programs to significantly increase the number and variety of graduate programs offered as we march towards emerging research university status in the near future.

We created this newsletter to provide vital information about graduate programs at UTRGV in one convenient location. This will be a quarterly publication where we will keep you up-to-date on everything graduate... from new program launches to stories about how our graduates are changing the world. In the first issue, we welcome our new students, celebrate our five-year anniversary of our online accelerated programs, and spotlight achievements of some of our recent graduates. We welcome your feedback in helping us make this newsletter even better in future issues. Thanks for reading!

Dave O. Jackson, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate College

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS

UTRGV has expanded our graduate program offerings with the launch of the following programs and specializations in 2017. Click on each program to find out more:

- [Master of Business Administration in Business Analytics](#)
- [Master of Business Administration in Philanthropy and Non-Profit Organizations](#)
- [Master of Education in Educational Leadership - Accelerated Online](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

For Prospective Students

Meet a Graduate Recruiter (Harlingen, December 8, 2017)

Discuss the program of your interest one-on-one with a graduate recruiter.

[Read more](#)

UTRGV Expo (Brownsville: January 27, 2018; McAllen: February 3, 2018)

Come and join our recruitment event in Spanish for Mexican nationals.

Graduate School Prep Workshop (Brownsville: February 10, 2018; Edinburg: February 17, 2018)

Join us for a free half-day workshop on how to prepare for the GRE or GMAT, how to apply for the graduate college, and how to make your application stand out.

UTRGV Staff Information Session (Edinburg: February 20, 2018; Brownsville: February 22, 2018)

Join us for an exclusive Graduate College information session for UTRGV employees.

Graduate Fair (Brownsville: March 1, 2018; Edinburg: March 8, 2018)

- [Master of Science in Agricultural, Environmental and Sustainability Sciences](#)
- [Master of Science in Health Sciences in Healthcare Informatics - Accelerated Online](#)
- [Master of Science in Nursing Administration - Accelerated Online](#)
- [Master of Science in Nursing Education - Accelerated Online](#)
- [Master of Science in Ocean, Coastal and Earth Sciences](#)

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

In fall 2017, UTRGV welcomed 869 new graduate students from 24 countries to our traditional, online, and accelerated online graduate programs. Students received a big Texas-styled welcome and learned about Graduate College and graduate program policies during the new student orientation.



ACCELERATED ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Fall 2017 marks the 5th anniversary of UTRGV's [accelerated online graduate programs](#). During the last five years, our accelerated online graduate programs have grown from 15 students enrolled in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in fall 2012 to 669 students enrolled in nine graduate programs in business administration, education, health sciences, nursing, public affairs, and social work in fall 2017. Students in these programs enjoy UTRGV's high quality yet affordable education with the convenience and flexibility of online classes. Stay tuned for more accelerated online graduate programs to come in spring 2018...

GRADUATE STUDENT PLACEMENT

Congratulations to our 2017 graduates for a job well-done! This is just the beginning of the endless opportunities and career success a graduate degree from UTRGV presents to you.

Come and meet our graduate program directors and coordinators to discuss how a UTRGV graduate degree can help you advance your career.

For Current Students

New Graduate Student Orientation (January 10-11, 2018)

Learn graduate college policies and get to know your program director/coordinator.

[Read more](#)

Time Management in Grad School (Edinburg: January 30, 2018; Brownsville: February 1, 2018)

Join us to learn how to effectively manage your time in the graduate school.

Financial and Scholarship Opportunities(Edinburg: February 13, 2018; Brownsville: February 15, 2018)

Workshops on ways to fund your graduate education.

Graduate Research Symposium (February 27-28, 2018)

Come and learn about our graduate students' innovative research.

[Read more](#)

Ph.D. in Business Administration

- **Wonsuk Cha** (Assistant Prof of Management, Southern Connecticut State University)
- **Juan Chavarria** (Assistant Prof of Information Systems, Emporia State University)
- **Won-Seok Choi** (Assistant Prof of Finance, University of North Texas Health Science Center)
- **Arash Hosseinzadeh** (Assistant Prof of Marketing, Dominican University of California)
- **Yuanqing Li** (Assistant Prof of Management, Dominican University)
- **John Ned** (Visiting Assistant Prof of Finance, Pepperdine University)
- **Khoa Nguyen** (Assistant Prof of Finance, Southern Connecticut State University)
- **Hamid Sakaki** (Associate Prof of Finance, Central Connecticut State University)
- **Lijuan Sun** (Assistant Prof of Finance, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania)
- **Samaneh Torkzadeh** (Assistant Prof of Marketing, Indiana University South Bend)

Master of Accountancy

- **Paola Alaniz, Carmen Cadenas, and Nallely De Leon** (Ernst & Young, one of the big four accounting firms)
- **Debbie Mata and Angelica Robles** (PwC, one of the big four accounting firms)

Master of Arts in School Psychology

- **Stevan Arteaga** (Northside ISD-San Antonio)
- **Daisy Bearden** (Mission CISD)
- **Sonia Chapa** (Victoria ISD)
- **Alma Espinoza** (Hidalgo ISD)
- **Nallely Garcia** (Alvin ISD)
- **Amanda Lozano** (Goosecreek ISD)
- **Irma Rios and Diana Sanchez** (Conroe ISD)
- **Rossana Torres** (Akron Public Schools, Ohio)
- **Rodolfo Urbina** (PSJA ISD)

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Research Awards and Presentations

- A paper that management doctoral student **Hazel Dadanlar** coauthored with professor Michael Abebe on board gender diversity and corporate discrimination lawsuits won the best doctoral student paper award at the 2017 Southern Management Association meeting in St. Pete Beach, FL.

**Thesis/Dissertation
Workshop (Edinburg:
March 20, 2018;
Brownsville: March 22,
2018)**

Come and learn our
graduate students'
innovative research.

[Read more](#)

For Faculty

**Faculty Recruitment
Workshop (Brownsville:
February 1, 2018; Edinburg:
February 6, 2018)**

Special event for graduate
program directors and
coordinators on how to
more effectively recruit
graduate students.

**TxGAP Summer Institute
(June 7-8, 2018)**

Join graduate enrollment
professionals from across
Texas to learn about
effective recruitment and
retention strategies.

[Read more](#)

Do you, someone you know,
or a graduate program
deserve recognition in the
graduate college newsletter?
Or do you need help
publicizing your graduate
event? Email us at
gradcollege@utrgv.edu with
the subject line "Graduate



- **Oscar Rodriguez**, a master's student in mechanical engineering, received the best paper award at the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Four faculty members and two other students from the UCRS group also presented their research at this conference. [Read more](#)



- **Maria Magdalena Elizondo**, a graduate student in occupational therapy, was selected to participant in the 2017 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Institute for Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy and Scholars program. In addition, she presented a poster on her research project "Homeless Veterans in the Rio Grande Valley: A Pilot Student" supervised by Dr. Shirley A. Wells at the 2017 AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Daniel Young**, a master's student in the School of Art in the College of Fine Arts, won the prestigious Archer Fellowship in Washington DC in 2017.
- Four graduate students in occupational therapy - **Clarissa Cruz**, **Bruno Parada Granados**, **Kayla Magee**, and **Brianna Martinez** - gave poster presentations on their research at the 2017 American Occupational Therapy Association annual conference in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Andres Ochoa**, a master's student in electrical engineering, presented his research coauthored with Dr. Nantakan Wongkasem on developing metamaterial-based near-zero refractive index structures in the optical regime at META's 2017 Metamaterials Conference in Incheon, Korea. Moreover, the team has been working on a patent

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application "Optical Multilayer Refractive Index Near Zero Metamaterials."

- **Hannah Masso**, a master's student in clinical psychology, presented her research on Latino children's push and pull of Spanish literacy and translanguaging done in collaboration with Drs. Kathy Bussert-Webb and Karin Lewis on October 23, 2017 at the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies on South Padre Island.

Global Engagement

- Under the leadership of Dr. Hiram Moya and supported by a grant (PI: Dr. Alexander Domijan), ten graduate students (**Anakarina Do Faial, Ana Alfaro, Jose Guerrero, Francisco Torres Diaz, Alberto Moreno, Jorge Pinon Ortiz, Daniela Rojas-Quintero, Madhavi Latha Nandi, Sandra Huerta, and Roberto Bandala**) and thirteen undergraduate students in the UTRGV Industrial Assessment Center have conducted seven free on-site energy assessments for small and medium-sized enterprises and recommended energy savings over 10 million kWh, waste savings over 82k lbs., and water savings over 2.3 million gallons with a total cost savings over one million dollars.



- **Alexandra Swaka**, a master's student in Spanish translation and interpreting, recently spent a week at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, doing translation-and-healthcare work. Additionally, she was tapped to interpret from Catalan and Spanish into English for the international media in London during the terrorist attacks in Catalonia, Spain.
- In fall 2017 and spring 2018, ten students from the school psychology program, under the supervision of program coordinator and internship director Dr. Nancy P. Razo, are completing their School Psychology Internship to fulfill licensure requirements by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. They are located across the state, including **Kathrynnn Castanenda** at Bastrop Independent School District (ISD); **Claribel Leal** at Brazosport ISD; **Julio Colunga** and **Monic Gonzalez** at Brooks County School District; **Zerelda Camargo** at Conroe ISD; **Annayancy Rodriguez** at Donna ISD; **Virginia Martinez** at Galveston ISD; **Yvonne Bravo** at IDEA Public Schools; **Nelcy Garcia** at Los Fresnos ISD, and **Ana Molina** at

Temple ISD.

- **Anakarina Do Faial**, a master's student in manufacturing engineering, has participated in the Engineering Your World Program through the UT System in 2017 assisting, evaluating, and mentoring high school students.

Certifications

- **Greg Gallimore, Salvador García, Priscilla Muzza Pastor, and Dorian G. Vázquez**, graduate students and alumnus in translation and interpreting, have passed their final certification exam and are now Licensed Court Interpreters for the State of Texas.

Student Mentoring and Research Training (SMART) Scholarships

Congratulations to the following graduates students that received the SMART scholarships through the Office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning!

- **Denae Dibrell**, Master of Arts in English in rhetoric and composition.
- **Acadia Larsen**, graduate student in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- **Cristhian Mellado Cid**, Ph.D. '14, was named the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción in Chile in summer 2017.



Brownsville • Edinburg • Harlingen • McAllen
Rio Grande City • South Padre Island • utrgv.edu

