UTRGV hosted its inaugural Graduate Research Symposium on February 27 and 28 on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, respectively. A total of 63 graduate students from seven academic colleges presented their posters, and 135 students attended the research symposium. Keynote speakers Drs. Karen Lozano and Volker Quetschke shared their research journeys with the attendees and encouraged students to work hard and innovate in knowledge discovery. A panel of faculty judges reviewed the poster presentations and selected the top winners from each college. Congratulations to all of our graduate students that participated in the symposium, their faculty supervisors in research, and those that won the awards!

Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- 1st place: Kelvin King Kizito (Ph.D. in Business Administration)
- 2nd place: Taiwo Abraham (Master in Business Administration)

College of Education and P-16 Integration
- 1st Place: Jennifer Mendoza Culbertson (Ed.D. in Educational Leadership)
- 2nd Place: Selina Duran, German Garcia & Israel Arevalo (Master of Arts in School Psychology)

College of Engineering and Computer Science
- 1st place: Jesus Rodriguez (Master of Science in Computer Science)
- 2nd place: Alejandra Valdez (Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering)

College of Fine Arts
- 1st place: Terri Sponsler (Master of Music)
- 2nd place: Laura Briseno (Master of Fine Arts)

College of Health Affairs
graduate program directors and coordinators to discuss how a UTRGV graduate degree can help you advance your career. RSVP

Meet a graduate recruiter (Harlingen: March 16, April 23, & May 18, 2018)
Come and meet a graduate recruiter to learn more about graduation programs of your interest. RSVP

For Current Students

Thesis/Dissertation Workshop (Edinburg: March 20, 2018; Brownsville: March 22, 2018)
Come and learn tips on how to prepare your thesis and dissertation. RSVP

Writing Processes and Strategies for Academic Writing (Edinburg: March 27, 2018; Brownsville: March 29, 2018)
Join us to learn how to be a more effective writer. RSVP

Presentation Skills: Oral Communication and Body Language(Edinburg: April 5, 2018; Brownsville: April 12, 2018)

1st Place - Isaac Nino (Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner)
2nd Place - Paloma Mendoza (Master of Science in Exercise Science)

College of Liberal Arts

1st place - Denae Dibrell (Master of Arts in English)
2nd place - Cristina Madrid (Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies), Leslie Cisneros (Master of Arts in Disaster Studies), and Rebecca Moran (Master of Arts in Disaster Studies)

College of Sciences

1st Place - Nareg Ohannesian (Master of Science in Physics)
2nd Place - Anton Gribovskiy (Cooperative Ph.D. program in Physics)

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

UTRGV has the following graduate program approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in spring 2018 and now pending approval by SACSCOC:

- Master of Science in Civil Engineering

GRADUATE STUDENT PLACEMENT

Congratulations to our December 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.
Workshops on how to be a more effective presenter. RSVP

Career Center Workshop
(Edinburg: April 17, 2018; Brownsville: April 19, 2018)
Workshops on how to navigate the job search process and helpful resources on campus. RSVP

Research Techniques
(Edinburg: May 1, 2018; Brownsville: May 3, 2018)
Come and learn different research techniques that will help you succeed in your graduate program. RSVP

For Faculty
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 College Newsletter Content."

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Gerika Padro Geraldina (non-thesis option): Texas Instruments, a global semiconductor design and manufacturing company
- Ganesh Reddy Gunnam (thesis advisor: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar): Ph.D. student at the University of Texas San Antonio starting from spring 2018
- Jorge Castillo (thesis advisor: Dr. Hasina F. Huq): Ph.D. student at the University of Texas San Antonio starting from spring 2018
- Edni Del Rosal (thesis advisor: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar): IBM Texas, an American multinational technology company

Master of Science in Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering
- Francisco Rafael Torres Diaz (Cummins Fuel Systems)

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Journal Publications
- Brenda Leal, a graduate student in biology, has published her research with Drs. Donald Thomas and Robert Dearth on the cattle fever tick, *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*, in the *Journal of Veterinary Parasitology* in 2017. She has also presented her work at nine conferences including a presentation in Australia.
- Lilia Sanchez, a graduate student in biology under the supervision of Dr. Megan Keniry, has published her research on cell fate specification in cancer and mechanisms that determine FOXO transcription factor subcellular localization in *Discoveries, Harvard*.

Research Presentations
- Francisco Rafael Torres Diaz, a master’s student in manufacturing and industrial engineering, presented his research "Annual Expected Cost of High Blood Pressure in Young Adults" at the 2017 Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) National Conference in Pittsburg, PA.
- Daniela Elizabeth Rojas Quintero, a graduate student in manufacturing engineering, presented her poster on "Wind Energy: An Assessment of Alternative Sources for Texas Municipalities" during the 16th annual HESTEC poster competition in 2017.
- Jesús A. Valladares and Dr. Hasina Huq have been working on Compound Semiconductors Boron Nitride (BN). The composition, stoichiometry, and thickness of the grown film is examined. Besides presenting the poster at the HESTEC symposium, the team will present their research paper entitled "‘Synthesis of Hexagonal Boron Nitride by Physical Vapor Deposition" at the Society of Vacuum Coaters' (SVC) 61st Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition in May 2018.
- Hannah Masso, a master’s student in clinical psychology, had her presentation...
Global Engagement

- **Daniela Elizabeth Rojas Quintero** and **Francisco Rafael Torres Diaz**, graduate students in engineering, have participated in the Engineering Your World Program by the University of Texas, Austin.
- **Daniela Elizabeth Rojas Quintero**, a graduate student in manufacturing engineering, has served as a judge during the 58th Rio Grande Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair in 2018.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- **Melissa Gonzalez**, who holds a Ph.D., an MBA and a BBA from UTRGV's legacy institution the University of Texas-Pan American, was named the Interim President of Houston Community College in November 2017.
- **Margot Cisneros Torres**, a long time educator with a master's degree from the University of Texas at Brownsville, received a congressional award in January 2018.