Graduate College enrollment is up; the Office of Global Engagement invites us to celebrate the Year of the Rat; and we highlight Dr. Karen Lozano, recently recognized as a National Academy of Inventors Fellow!

Attention All UTRGV Grant Travelers:
Due to recent external audits from sponsoring agencies, travelers will need to obtain approval from their supervisor prior to any travel arrangements. This includes local travel (mileage reimbursement). In addition, the request to your supervisor must include how the travel is beneficial to your grant. The approval must be documented and included as part of the requisition routed in iShop. To avoid any delays in approvals or disallowances, please make sure you have documented your approval and routed in iShop.

1. Travel Need & Approval Documented and Submitted to iShop
2. iTavel Reservation (Supervisor’s approval) + iShop Travel Authorization (Account Manager/Grants’ approval)

Coronavirus Information/Travel Guidance:
On January 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated travel guidance for China, recommending that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to all of the country (Level 3 Travel Health Notice). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than a thousand confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States. There are ongoing investigations to learn more,” via cdc.gov.
For the latest information on the outbreak, visit CDC’s Novel Coronavirus 2019 website, which has information for travelers, healthcare professionals, and laboratories.
Disclaimer: This is a professionally written summary of the provided text.
New Award for the Graduate College:
In November 2019, Dr. Parwinder Grewal, EVP of the Division of Research, Graduate Studies, and New Program Development, received a new award from the University of Texas System of $374,563 for “Accelerated Studies Scholarship for Graduate Students.”
Click here to see current graduate scholarship opportunities!

Student Opportunity:
The Graduate Student Travel Award applications for Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 are now open.
The Graduate College sponsors the Graduate Student Travel Awards to support research-related travel expenses. Eligible students will be provided with a maximum award of $500 to help defray the costs associated with presenting at a conference. To learn about the eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit the graduate college website.
The deadline for the Spring 2020 application is March 2, 2020 (awards announced March 16).
The deadline for the Summer 2020 application is May 1, 2020 (awards announced May 15).

Save these dates!
Graduate Student Research Showcase
Thursday, April 2, 2020

Three Minute Thesis
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Graduate College Enrollment is On the Rise!
*The 2020 enrollment number reflects the number of students enrolled as of January 29, 2020.
Blackboard Learn (SaaS)
an improved online learning environment!

MOST EXCITING NEW FEATURES:

SAFEASSIGN ORIGINALITY REPORT

The SafeAssign Originality Report has been updated and reformatted for improved usability, responsiveness, and accessibility. It employs Blackboard’s Ultra design philosophy and includes new information about the overall risk of a submission having been copied.

Bb COLLABORATE ATTENDANCE INTEGRATION

When hosting Collaborate sessions, taking attendance is now automated, eliminating the need for manual tracking. Collaborate session attendance is recorded within the Attendance page of the course, is counted in the average attendance calculation, and can be factored into students’ grades.

COURSE ACCESSIBILITY REPORT

The course accessibility report provides an accessibility summary and overview at the course level.

The report shows instructors this useful information:

- Accessibility score for the course
- Distribution of course content by content type
- List of all issues identified in the course

Instructors see their course content items that have issues and then access the instructor feedback from the report to fix the issue.

QUICKLY SEND MULTIPLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Qwickly allows instructors to post announcements and send emails to multiple courses simultaneously.

SHARE CONTENT TO BREAKOUT GROUPS

Moderators can share files, with one or more breakout groups. When sharing content, the first slide of the file displays in the group.

EASILY VIEW ALL COURSE MESSAGES

The ‘My Messages’ module allows users to easily see any unread messages in all the courses they are enrolled in.

PLAY VIDEOS IN Bb COLLABORATE

Now when moderators and presenters share a video in a session, all attendees can hear the audio.

DELEGATED GRADING RECONCILIATION

Faculty now have the ability to grant grade reconciliation permission to any or all other graders within their course.

CREATE CUSTOM POLLS

Moderators can now add their own questions and answer choices to Blackboard Collaborate polls.

UTRGV.edu/online/whatsnew
Noteworthy Resources at the University Library:
Did you know that the UTRGV library grants you access to The New York Times and Chronicle for Higher Education? Click on the links below to explore these resources.

• **The New York Times** covers a variety of topics through breaking news articles, blogs, videos and interactive features. In addition, you will be able to share content on social networks, save articles of interest, subscribe to email newsletters and set up personalized alerts. Once activated, access to NYTimes.com is available from any location, on or off campus.

  **To use this tool:** you must first REGISTER HERE to sign up and activate your access to NYTimes.com. To download your free NYT apps: visit nytimes.com/mobile. Faculty and staff will need to renew annually whereas students will have access until their anticipated graduation date.

• **The Chronicle of Higher Education** is one of the most widely used sources of information for college & university professors and others interested in higher education. Contains an archive of past issues, vibrant discussion forums and thousands of current job postings.

### OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**Now Hiring Two Graduate Assistants!**
The Office for Sustainability is looking for two communication studies or environmental studies graduate students to join the OFS team. Encourage your students to apply via handshake! This is a paid, 19-hour-per-week opportunity to contribute to campus sustainability and develop a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of the environment, the economic, and society.

**Register to attend TRACS: the 8th Annual Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability Summit**
We’re proud to host the 2020 Annual TRACS Summit at the South Padre Island Convention Center. The Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability provides the time and space for dialogue on experiences and challenges in an open and collaborative environment. We have moved beyond show and tell presentations towards skill building, rich discussions and deep dives into the challenges and solutions facing our institutions. [Register here](#) (Users will have to setup an account under the system in order to register and make a payment.)
Effective Communication
February 17 - March 20
Language Institute is now offering an Effective Communication course at the Edinburg campus. This 4-week course is designed to help you improve your communication skills in English.

Online TOEFL Writing Prep Course
February 17 - March 27
Language Institute is now offering a 100% Online TOEFL Preparation course for the Writing section of the TOEFL iBT test that is designed to help you increase your overall score in just six weeks.

Certificate in Grant Development
February 18 - April 28
This series of progressive and interactive workshops are designed to provide the participant with the resources, expert-guided practice, and mentoring to be able to write a competitive grant proposal.

Certificate in Social Media Management
February 15 - February 29
Whether you’re interested in lead generation, social influence, or creator marketing, improving your social media skills will always pay off in the long run.

To learn more visit www.utrgv.edu/pewd
#YouAreWelcomeHere:
International Admissions & Student Services proudly welcomed 66 new international students for Spring 2020 from 12 different countries - As of this semester, UTRGV has 729 international students from 60 countries!

World Series Today Scholarships Awarded:
International Admissions and Student Services (IASS) in collaboration with OGE, has awarded 6 international students with the World Series Today Scholarship. The students will make a presentation to K-5 students about their home country, culture, games, and reading activities at different elementary from the PSJA School district during their International Education Week on Feb 4th – 7th.

Student Highlight:
Isidro Zapata (Spring 2021) from Alamo is a work-study in the Office of Global Engagement. He won the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship from the US Dept of State for his study abroad program in summer 2020. The total award was $5,000. He was also the first UTRGV student to be awarded the Critical Need Language Award. He is a Computer Engineering major and an Asian Studies Minor.

Join us in Celebrating Lunar New Year 2020!
Lunar New Year will be celebrated at the UTRGV Edinburg Ballroom on February 4th this year. The lunar calendar has a 12-year cycle with a different animal each year. About 1.5 billion people around the world were prepared to welcome The Year of the Rat. This celebration is all about spending time with family and friends, feasting on foods with symbolic meanings, gift-giving and good wishes. International Admissions and Students Services celebrate Lunar New Year to bring the world to UTRGV and to expose our students to other cultures, customs, and traditions.

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