We are updating our website with resources to help you during this time of adjustment and virtual transition.

**Connecting to Virtual Private Network (VPN)**

**Two-Factor Authentication Without the Duo Mobile App - Via Phone Call or Code.** (Using the DUO Mobile app is the preferred authentication method.)

*These short courses are available free on the LinkedIn Learning Platform.* You can utilize and share with your team members that are scheduled to work remotely. The learning path includes 13 hours of expert-created content.

**Laboratory Research Guidelines**

Consistent with the Centers of Disease Control (CDC)’s Guidelines, UTRGV’s Division of Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development recognizes that each research project is unique and involves different complexity and level of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. *These are general guidelines for ongoing research in laboratories with the understanding that Principal Investigators (PIs) have the knowledge and expertise on how best to apply these guidelines to their individual projects.* Therefore, the continuity of the research work should be determined on a case-by-case basis, with an initial determination made by each PI considering the unique operational settings.

Please know that the primary objective of these guidelines are to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of students, faculty, and staff as well as the community, and to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Continuation of research is important, but secondary in nature under these extenuating circumstances. Should you choose to modify or continue your research operations, *these guidelines will apply to you.* Keep in mind this is an evolving situation and guidelines are subject to change. The [UTRGV Research website](https://www.utrgv.edu/research) will continue to post updates.

**Congratulate Graduate Student Omar Nedzelsky, Jr. for being awarded the Global Student Leadership Award!**

*Diversity Abroad* announces the 2020 Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion in International Education (EDIIE) awardees. The recipients have developed innovative practices, conducted original research and championed inclusive excellence, all with the aim toward preparing diverse students for academic and career success through equitable access to global education.
The Research Administration Offices (Sponsored Programs, Grants & Contracts, and Grants Accounting) are working remotely. We ask that everyone who calls and is unable to reach us to please leave a voicemail message and send emails to the staff so that we may promptly attend to you. We thank you for your understanding.

- COVID19 Laboratory Guidelines - [General Guidelines for Continuity of On-going Research in Laboratories](#)
- COVID-19 Updates Regarding Proposals and Grants - [Impact to NIH and NSF grants](#)
- Interim IRB Policy for Human Subject Research - [In-person research is temporarily paused](#)

19 Grants Were Awarded in February. Congratulations to the following faculty and staff! View details on the [Research website's reports page](#) including research expenditure data such as the graph above.

Dr. Constantine Tarawneh, Mechanical Engineering  
Dr. Satya Akundi, Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering  
Dr. Kurt Martinez, Music  
Dr. Teviet Creighton, Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy  
Dr. Hudson DeYoe, SEEMS  
Dr. Richard Kline, SEEMS  
Dr. Veerachandra Yemmireddy, SEEMS  
Maria Juarez, Business Development  
Dr. Teviet Creighton, Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy  
Dr. Colin Cain, Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Advancement  
Aisha Cruz-Reyes, Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Advancement  
Paul Sharpe, University Library  
Dr. Gladys Maestre, Neuroscience  
Dr. Tony Ogburn, Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Dr. Michael Escamilla, Psychiatry  
Dr. John Ronnau, Interprofessional Education  
Leo Villarreal, College Access Outreach Programs

UTRGV physics undergrad takes Best Poster award at Women in Physics conference

UTRGV physics undergraduate student Brina Martinez presented her award-winning poster, titled “Classification of Acoustic Noise in LIGO Livingston,” at the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, held at Texas A&M University, College Station, in January. Martinez won the “Best Poster” award for her work. [Read the full story](#).

Capacity Building for Faculty, Students, and Staff:  
**Now Available Online: Free, Self-Paced “Essentials of Grant Proposal Development” Course!**  
This course aims to provide the basics of grant writing by walking learners through the process with in-depth instruction that includes videos, exercises, resources, and examples. This course was peer reviewed by experts.

[Login to CITI](#) to access the course. [This guide shows you how](#).
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley’s Graduate College announced on March 25 the temporary waiver of GRE and GMAT test scores due to testing center closures from COVID-19 concerns.

Graduate students applying for the Summer and Fall 2020 terms will not be required to submit scores for admission at this time. The University of Texas System approved the measure due to the increased number of testing site closures in the US and other countries. The TOEFL exam is also being affected, and students may use Duolingo as an alternative test for English Proficiency. Prospective graduate students must still meet all other graduate admissions requirements and provide all required documentation for consideration. For more information, please visit http://tiny.cc/grad-admissions-covid-19.

The Graduate College recruitment team continues to provide assistance to prospective graduate students (remotely). They urge all interested students and applicants to schedule a one-on-one Skype meeting with a member of the UTRGV Graduate Recruitment Staff or a Financial Aid representative. Schedule a meeting by visiting our website. You can also attend a upcoming Graduate College Information Webinar to learn more about UTRGV masters, doctoral degrees and scholarships! Sign up for a webinar by visiting www.utrgv.edu/gradevents.

UTRGV Graduate College General Information Webinar
During this UTRGV Graduate College informative webinar, you will learn about the on-campus and online graduate program offerings directly from a member of our Graduate College team. This information session will focus on program offerings, admission requirements, deadlines, financial aid and assistance, scholarships, upcoming events, and much more.

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020
Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Location: Virtual
Register: www.utrgv.edu/gradevents.

OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Office for Sustainability’s Graduate Student Employee Ms. Roshni Manwani Recognized as the 2020 UTRGV Accounting Excellence Award recipient.
The School of Accountancy Scholarship Committee has selected Ms. Roshni Manwani as the 2020 UTRGV awardee of the Accounting Excellence Award of The Accounting Education Foundation of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Award. This prestigious award is bestowed upon accounting majors students at a Texas college or university, which have the intent of becoming a Texas Certified Public Accountant and entering the accounting profession upon graduation. They also must have a high cumulative college GPA and perform well in accounting classes.

On behalf of the International Center for Sustainability Across the Curriculum (IC-SAC), these resources may be useful during our current on-line transition.
Academic Continuity Resources can be found [here on the COLTT website](https://example.com).

Webinar Training Sessions And Resources Are Available To Faculty And Students [via the COLTT website](https://example.com) including Blackboard, Panopto, Respondus Test Generator, Zoom and more.

The Educational Technology faculty in the Department of Teaching and Learning have provided six [Online Learning Success Tips](https://example.com) to help you have a positive online learning experience.

1. Stay Current
2. Stay in Contact
3. Use the Resources Available to You
4. Submit Your Coursework in a Timely Manner
5. Allow Time for Technical Problems
6. Enjoy the Experience

These In-Person Training Sessions Were Hosted by COLTT Early in March:
The Border Studies Archive (BSA) houses archival collections highlighting the folklore, histories, and lives of people living along the U.S.-Mexican border in South Texas.

BSA's collections include multi-media resources related to Border Music, construction of the Border Wall and Border Security, Latinas and Politics, Spanish Land Grants, Traditional Mexican American Folklore, and Visual Border Studies. The holdings for each of these collections is available on our website along with links to our digital collections.

Notable resources include:
- Interviews with musicians, politicians, and notable RGV natives
- Audio recordings from the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame and Museum
- Audio recordings, videos and images from the Cuaranderismo Collection
- Interactive maps

We hope you will call 956-665-2909 or email bsa@utrgv.edu for more information about how we can support your research interests.

The Research and Instruction department is ready to assist the educational community during this time with a variety of online resources and tools.

The department is fully committed to support your research needs with the virtual services listed to the right:

- One on one research consultations using Zoom
- Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate research or instruction classes
- Purpose-built Course LibGuides
- Produce course-specific video tutorials
- Library Treasure Hunts for electronic resources
- Library LibWizard Tutorials
- Manage Chat
- Email reference assistance
- Research support to faculty /skype/email/chat
- Online instruction
- Online chat response
- Teleconference meetings
- Online presentations and sessions
- Online journal article access and retrieval
- PDF conversion and attachment of online journal articles

For additional information and how to set up a virtual consultation, instructional session or contact the Research and Instruction department please visit: https://utrgv.libguides.com/researchguides

During this time, our Special Collections and Archives Department staff will still be hard at work and happy to assist you by phone and email for research inquiries:

Brownsville: 956-882-7968
Edinburg: 956-665-2726
Email: archives@utrgv.edu

Our website also provides access to many online resources.

Access to 27 digital collections, including serials, photos, videos, and oral history interviews.

Notable collections:
- Rio Grande Valley Oral Histories: over 500 Oral histories within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Collection recorded and collected by faculty, staff, students, and community members
- The Pan American Newspaper was the primary student newspaper of UTPA. The first issue was published on September 25, 1954.
- La Guerra de Texas y La Guerra Mexico-Estados Unidos: Documents in Spanish related to the War with Texas in 1835, and the Mexican–American War of 1846-1848.
- Texas-Mexico Border, 1846: Digital objects related to what are now Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas in the year 1846 as the Mexican-American war was beginning. Images of special note are from the Casa Mata Museum and Archives in Matamoros, Tamaulipas.
- UT Rio Grande Valley Regional History Series: An important serial publication started by Pan American University at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, and now continued by the history department of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, these publications offer essays about various fascinating historical topics regarding the Rio Grande Valley and Mexico.

Search our online finding aids for 238 archival collections.

Notable collections:
- Eligio “Kika” de la Garza’s Congressional Papers
- John H. Shary Collection
- Hidalgo County Historical Commission Collection
- Hidalgo County Records Collection (1844-1985)
- Hidalgo County Marks and Brands Index (1854-1923)
- Starr County Marks and Brands Index (1848-1871)
As part of the Textbook Affordability Program at UTRGV, several courses moved to Open Educational Resources (OERs) as part of a stipend grant. These courses included Chemistry, General Physics, Astronomy, and Rhetoric and Composition. Together, it’s estimated this program saved 286 students $45,000 for this Spring semester.

Additionally, the University Library has been purchasing unlimited-license ebooks which serve as the main course materials for several courses running this Spring. They include UNIV 1301: Learning Framework, and Research in Health Sciences. They totaled an estimated savings of $49,162, impacting an estimated 700 students.

In the News: UTRGV Library Safety Measures
Read the Valley Central article which includes information about adjustments the UTRGV Library has made, including social distancing measures and cleaning.

Since last September, the Scholarly Communications Department has been soliciting and mediating deposits of scholarly work into the repository. We are pleased to announce that we have over 1200 items in the repository with over 6,000 downloads worldwide. You may have received an email from us regarding a recent publication we’d like you to deposit. Please hang on to all your versions of your scholarly papers until you’re sure which version the journal you’re publishing with will allow you to self-archive.