

# the Islander

FALL 2009



## **INSIDE**

*University Unveils  
Capital Campaign*

*Basketball Teams Primed  
for Run at Postseason*

*Incubator Program Gives  
Boost to Start-up Companies*





## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

*Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's  
Premier Giving Organization*



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a robust history of the community's engagement in our development and expansion. We see evidence of this generous commitment in our facilities, our programs, our faculty and our students. Building upon the well-being of the University opens additional opportunities for many individuals to step forward and provide private support which helps Texas A&M-Corpus Christi fund essential services that cannot be accommodated through state dollars and tuition revenues.



The President's Council has grown to become our most prestigious private giving society. It is part of the annual giving program, and is rich in tradition. Members of the President's Council support the Presidential Scholars program, the highest-level scholarship awarded to our best and brightest students. Funds also are used for numerous annual activities and programs implemented through the President's Office which further build upon community engagement.

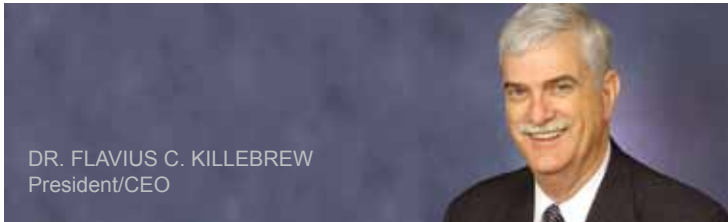
As a member of the President's Council, you become our partner in progress, because your support helps guide us toward the many milestones we will reach.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership in the President's Council places you among individuals who continually focus their efforts on the vitality of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. You are both an advisor and a friend to the University. Throughout the year we have many events and activities in which you have the opportunity to meet with fellow President's Council members. We greatly appreciate the support of this devoted group and ensure ample recognition.



**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi • 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5741  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 • 361.825.2420**



DR. FLAVIUS C. KILLEBREW  
President/CEO

In the 62 years since our doors first opened, the Island University has been transformed from a small college with a narrow focus into a major institution of higher learning with five colleges that produce high-quality graduates and prestigious institutes that are conducting groundbreaking research in a variety of fields.

This didn't just happen. The beautiful campus and top-notch facilities enjoyed by around 9,500 students today would not have been possible without the commitment and generosity of our University's many friends and patrons. For most students, the names on the buildings across campus are just destinations. But, in a higher sense they are a chronicle of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's history, testimonials to the foresight of people who understand the critical link between an educated workforce and a thriving community, both economically and culturally.

It's no secret that universities are being confronted with declining levels of state support at a time when the costs of providing a quality education are increasing. As a college education becomes increasingly essential for today's students, pursuing that goal is creating financial burdens on them and their families. Throughout the nation, substantial private giving is more critical than ever.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been fortunate over the years in having a loyal base of private donors who clearly understand the power of education to transform the lives of people and the community. Many have stepped forward to make substantial commitments that have allowed us to build state-of-the-art facilities, offer significant scholarships to deserving students and to attract the outstanding faculty who are the foundation of our academic success.

This fall, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi launched the Momentum Campaign, a comprehensive fundraising drive that will allow us to fund several key objectives essential to continued growth and excellence. The campaign seeks to establish merit-based scholarship funds to allow the University to compete for the best and brightest students. To do this, we must also hire and retain brilliant faculty who can truly make a difference in the lives of the next generation. Additional funding is necessary to expand and strengthen our programs, especially in the areas of greatest economic growth, such as marine and coastal science, engineering, and the health sciences.

In addition, raising money for bricks and mortar is important for our long-range plans to expand our facilities utilizing the land given to the University last year by the people of Corpus Christi. This gift of approximately 137 acres just minutes from campus makes it possible to move some non-academic operations to the new site, ensuring room for additional classroom and laboratory facilities on campus.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is poised to take its commitment to excellence, engagement and expansion to an even higher level. With the support of our many friends and benefactors, we will build on the greatness we have achieved and pave the way for an even brighter future.

# INSIDE



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**The Islander**  
c/o Office of Marketing & Communications  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5726  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5726

### ON THE COVER

*The University has expanded from a small private college of 312 students to a public university of more than 9,500 students. Satellite imagery courtesy of Google Earth.*

*in* Fa2009

## the Islander

is produced in fall and spring by the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Office of Marketing & Communications, part of the Division of Institutional Advancement. Content in the magazine is designed to enlighten the University's alumni and friends on A&M-Corpus Christi's people, programs and activities. Comments and editorial ideas should be sent to:





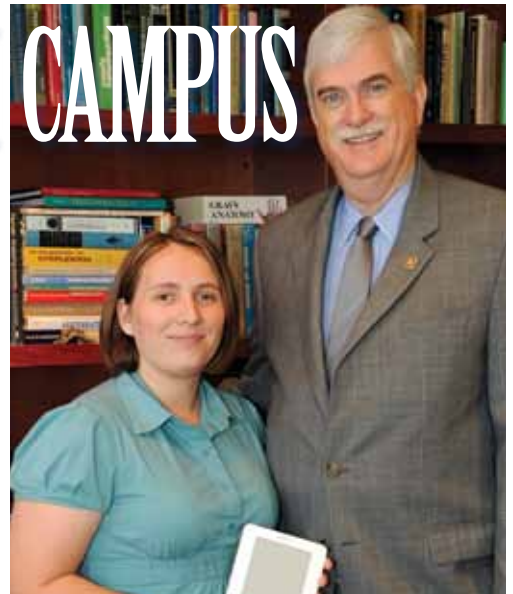
# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS CHRISTI

## UNIVERSITY EARNS CASE AWARD FOR NEW GRAPHIC MARK

The University has received the Award of Excellence for its new graphic mark from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Southwest District IV. The new graphic mark competed in the Communications Awards Competition with entries from universities and colleges from throughout Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mexico.

# MOMENTUM CAMPUS

Seneca Holland, a research associate with the Harte Research Institute, was presented with an Amazon Kindle2 Wireless Reading Device by University President Flavius Kilbrev for submitting the winning entry in the "Name the Land" contest. Holland's suggestion, "Momentum Campus," was selected from hundreds of entries to name the site donated to the University by the City of Corpus Christi.



The Islander Dance Team earned enough points in July at the Universal Dance Association College Dance Camp held at Texas State University to qualify for a spot at the UDA College Cheer and Dance Nationals in Orlando, Fla. The national competition will be held at the Walt Disney World Resort on Jan. 15-18, 2010. The Islanders won several other awards including first place in fight song, the superior performance trophy, and more than 35 individual awards to become one of the top teams at camp.

Top row, left to right: Andrea Estrada, Kaitlyn Andreas, Emily Barrera, Brenae Price, Marissa Flores, Erica Gutierrez and Cami Ramos.  
Middle row, left to right: Corine Carrizales, Marisa Villanueva, Chelsea Childress, Kimberly Garcia and Taylor Miner.  
Bottom row, left to right: Taylor Wilson, Gabrielle Sanchez, and Marina Camero.

## UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEW BUS WRAP

The University's new bus wrap featuring Islander student-athletes from all 14 NCAA team sports was unveiled June 19 at the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority headquarters. The new mural replaces the popular design celebrating the University's 60th Anniversary that has been a familiar sight along the bus route that serves the campus community.





## New Athletic Director TIM FITZPATRICK

Ask Tim Fitzpatrick why he came to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and he'll give you an answer that's short and sweet.

"Optimism," smiles Fitzpatrick, who this summer became the University's third athletic director since the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi revived its sports programs in 1997. "I believe that we have the foundation to make the Islander athletic program the most successful in the Southland Conference."

To make his case, Fitzpatrick points to the national attention that the men's basketball team brought to the University when the Islanders won the Southland Conference title in 2007 and went on to play in the NCAA Tournament. The cross country and men's tennis teams have also won conference titles since joining the Southland three years ago and Fitzpatrick is confident that that success will carry over to baseball, softball, and all other sports.

Fitzpatrick's road to the Island began when he was a student at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Prior to his senior year, he planned to go to law school, but an opportunity to serve as

the athletic department's sports information director changed his career focus.

"I was not competing as an athlete, but had a close relationship with the athletic director," recalls Fitzpatrick. "Unfortunately, the school's sports information director passed away and the president asked me if I would like the job. It ended up being a tremendous opportunity for me."

After completing his year as the sports information director, Fitzpatrick abandoned his plans to go to law school and enrolled at the University of Ohio where he earned his master's degree in sports management. Since then, he has risen through the collegiate administration ranks. He started as an intern in the ticket office then became a successful athletic fundraiser and marketer at the United States Military Academy. He advanced up the ladder steadily, spending time at the University of North Texas, Pittsburgh, The Southwest Conference and North Carolina-Charlotte.

Prior to becoming an Islander, Fitzpatrick spent four years as the senior associate athletic director at Indiana University. Now that he has

become an athletic director, he is looking to take the Islander program to new heights.

"The University's location is great, there's already a solid staff in place and we have the unique advantage of being the only NCAA Division I program in a city the size of Corpus Christi," says Fitzpatrick. "It's important to me that the athletic program receives support from the administration and when I interviewed it was obvious how much President Killebrew wants to see it grow."

While success on the field is important, Fitzpatrick's top priority is the development of student-athletes.

"I get my biggest satisfaction from my job when I see how these kids develop," he says. "It is all about the student-athletes and enabling them to grow so that they can be successful in life. Every time I make a decision, the first thing I consider is the consequence it has on the welfare of the student-athlete, because that will always matter most to me."

## ISLANDER VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH TONY GRAYSTONE



New volleyball head coach Tony Graystone is no stranger to winning, and he plans to instill the same mentality into his players in his first season as head of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi program.

Graystone comes to the Island from West Texas A&M where he was one of the nation's most successful head coaches, reaching 100 victories in 106 matches. Graystone's teams won the Lone Star Conference eight times in his 10 years as head coach. His teams made it to NCAA "Elite Eight" four times and twice advanced to the "Final Four."

With an overall career record of 315-61 coming into the season, Graystone has set his sights on turning around the Islander program and building it into the most successful program in the Southland Conference.

Join us in-person or on the dial at:



**LIVE - MONDAYS - NOON - ESPN 1230**  
**goislanders.com**



**TARPON FOUNDATION**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

*At Every Event, We Say Thanks...*

*Your gifts help more than 200 athletes excel in the classroom and on the courts, in the fields and over the fairways. Becoming a member of the Tarpon Foundation is the ideal way to benefit from your support of Islander Intercollegiate Athletics. Members enjoy numerous benefits including priority seating and parking, newsletters, special event invitations, and opportunities to promote the Islander spirit.*



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# Great Expectations

## RETURN OF BEAGLE KEY TO ISLANDER WOMEN'S QUEST FOR CONFERENCE TITLE



The return of senior post Elisa Beagle, who missed last season with an injured foot, is key to the Islander's quest for a Southland Conference title.

Last year, Elisa Beagle sat on the bench with an injured foot and watched helplessly as the Islanders stumbled to an 11-19 record that included a first-round exit from the conference tournament.

But Beagle turned that season of frustration into a learning experience, watching the action from the sidelines and making mental notes. Healthy once more and eager to make up for lost time, the senior post is burning to prove why last year she was a preseason All-Southland Conference pick before being sidelined for the duration.

"What happened last season gives me the fire to come back and help my team win the conference," says Beagle. "Having to sit out the year was really tough. But I learned a lot watching from the sidelines. I want to use that to make myself a better player and to help us reach our goal of playing in the postseason."

Beagle (6'0") gives the Islanders an established presence in the middle. Completely healed and looking to prove she is as strong as ever, she provides invaluable leadership on an experienced ball club that returns 10 players.

"We're talented at every position and we should go far," she predicts. "If we stay focused, we can win the conference and make it into the postseason."

Starters Shaye Montgomery (5'6"), Jade Davis (5'9"), Myeisha Myles (6'1") and Adrienne Scott (6'1") all return along with Beagle, who was a starter before being sidelined. Lauren Smith (5'8") and Deziree Green (5'10") each started at

least 13 games last season as well.

Davis led the Islanders in scoring with 12.8 points per game, followed by Montgomery with 10.3 per game and Myles who averaged 10 points per game. Montgomery led the team with a 3.45 assists per game average and Myles was the team leader with 8.3 rebounds per game.

Height is a long suit for the Islanders who have six players taller than 6 feet. Senior Dian-dra Torres (6'1"), junior transfer Anitra Jeffery (6'0"), senior LaToya Thomas (6'2") and juniors Myles and Scott also have the speed to allow the Islanders to do things on the court that they have been unable to do in the past.

"I'm excited to see how we can utilize our speed," says Coach Robert Robinson. "We will be able to take advantage of some situations and press a little more with our length."

The Islanders bring four newcomers to the team including Jeffery, a transfer from Angelina Junior College, and true freshmen Ashley Darley, Imani Dunn and Jessica Jammer. Junior guard Louvinia Robinson rounds out the Islander roster.

Coach Robinson believes that a friendly schedule that includes six home games before the start of the conference play should be a boost to the Islanders.

"It's a nice thing for our players to be able to play at home in front of our fans and it is a good opportunity for our fans to be able to watch us play," says Coach Robinson. "We have a lot of players we can run out on the floor and that will only help us. It's going to be an exciting year."

## SPRING 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

### BASKETBALL GAMES

#### Women's Basketball Conference Home Opener

Saturday	January 9	Islanders vs. Central Arkansas	1PM	American Bank Center
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#### Men's Basketball Conference Home Opener

Saturday	January 16	Islanders vs. Northwestern State	7PM	American Bank Center
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#### Homecoming

Saturday	February 6	Islanders Men vs. Nicholls	7PM	American Bank Center
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### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

#### Islander Classic

Thursday	February 18	Islanders vs. Centenary	12PM	Chapman Field
Friday	February 19	Islanders vs. Southern	2PM	Chapman Field
Saturday	February 20	Islanders vs. Boston College	2PM	Chapman Field
Sunday	February 21	Islanders vs. Boston College	2PM	Chapman Field

#### Holiday Inn Emerald Beach Classic

Thursday	February 25	Islanders vs. Houston Baptist	3PM	Chapman Field
Friday	February 26	Islanders vs. North Dakota	2PM	Chapman Field
Saturday	February 27	Islanders vs. UL - Monroe	2PM	Chapman Field
Sunday	February 28	Islanders vs. UL - Monroe	2PM	Chapman Field

# Hungry for Success

## EXPERIENCED ISLANDERS PRIMED TO TAKE ON BIG NAME FOES



Islander guard Kevin Palmer is a marked man after being named the Southland Conference Newcomer of the Year, last season.

If you want to challenge the big dogs, you've got to take them on in their own backyard. That's the philosophy of men's basketball Coach Perry Clark as the Islanders prepare for a run at the Southland Conference championship and a return to the "March Madness" of the NCAA postseason tournament.

How good is this year's Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi team? Perry should have a pretty good idea by the time the Islanders tip off their conference opener at Central Arkansas on Jan. 9. By then the Islanders will have faced five schools that made it to the postseason last year including teams from the Southeast Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big 12.

The Islanders grueling non-conference schedule begins in West Texas where they face Texas Tech and Oregon State in the "Dust in the Desert" Classic before taking on Mississippi and Houston in non-conference road games. Looming largely on the schedule is a Jan. 2 date at Texas to face a Longhorn team that begins the season ranking in the top five in national polls.

The challenge doesn't faze Kevin Palmer (6'6"), the Islander guard who is shouldered with great expectations after averaging 18.2 points and earning Southland Conference "Newcomer of the Year" honors last season. As a junior transfer, he started 33 games, scoring 599 points, averaging 5.2 rebounds and snaring a team record 86 steals. After such an impressive debut, Palmer knows he is a marked man.

"Coach told me that I have a bull's-eye on my back and that everybody's going to be coming after me. But, I'm up to the challenge," smiles Palmer. "We've got as good a group of players as anyone in the conference and if they go after me we've got other guys who know what to do with the ball."

Experience is the key word for the Islanders who return four starters from last year's 18-15 team. Although they doubled their win total from the previous year, the Islanders missed the playoffs, a disappointment they plan to correct this season.

"We were so close that we could feel it and that makes us want it that much more," admits Palmer. "If we stick together and play as a team, we'll be tough to beat. Our goal is to win the conference and make it to the (NCAA) tournament." The Islanders have four players returning who averaged between 6.2 and 8.2 points a game a year ago. Junior Demond Watt (6'7") averaged 8.2 points while Justin Reynolds (6'9") netted 8.1 points and earned honorable mention All-SLC honors. Horace Bond (6'8") averaged 4.6 points and was the Islander's top defensive player. Senior center Filip Toncinic (7'0") averaged 6.2 points with 4.4 boards.

In addition, sophomore Jawan Nelson (6'9") is back in the paint and should improve upon his rookie season. Also returning is forward Marcus Hammonds (6'5"), who provides athleticism on the wing. Returning in the backcourt are seniors Shamar Coombs (6'1"), Lamar Drake (6'1") and junior Antonio Topps (6'1"), the team's biggest long-range threat. Guard Terence Jones (6'2") is expected to help ease the loss of last year's sixth-man Tim Green. Michael Bables (6'1") will come off the bench for the Islanders.

*For complete schedules, visit [goislanders.com](http://goislanders.com)*

### BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

#### Whataburger College Classic

Friday	March 12	Islanders vs. UCLA	6PM	Whataburger Field
Saturday	March 13	Islanders vs. Oklahoma	1PM	Whataburger Field
Sunday	March 14	Islanders vs. Mississippi State (DH)	3PM	Whataburger Field

#### Southland Baseball Championship

Wed.-Sat.	May 26 - 29		All Day	Whataburger Field
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### GOLF

#### Islander Classic

Sun.-Tues.	Feb. 28-March 2	All Day		Corpus Christi Country Club
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### TENNIS

#### Islanders Tournament of Champions

Thur.-Sat.	March 5 - 6		All Day	HEB Tennis Center
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#### Southland Conference Tennis Championship

Thur.-Sat.	April 23 - 25		All Day	Tennis Center
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# THECB Grant Opens GATE for Free Summer Education Program

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded a three-year \$750,000 grant to the University's College of Education for the Governor's Academy for Teaching Excellence (GATE) free summer educational program. The three-week program for high school students interested in teaching careers in mathematics and/or science at the elementary or secondary levels includes field trips, films, guest speakers, mentorship from exceptional educators, and a first-hand teaching experience in the University's "Kid's College," a summer program for elementary students.

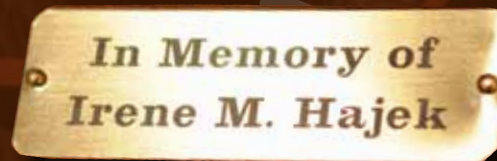


## "Chair"-ish the Performing Arts Center

*A new opportunity to show your support for the Performing Arts Center has been established. You now have the opportunity to dedicate a chair in this beautiful campus venue.*

*For a donation of \$250, a plaque (actual size 1.5" x 3") honoring the individual or organization of your choice will be permanently affixed to the arm of each seat that you dedicate.\**

*The first plaque has been dedicated in memory of Irene Hajek by Terry and Andrea Hajek and Linda and Gordon Landreth. It is fitting that Gordon, the architect of the Performing Arts Center, donated funds for the initial dedication.*



*Please contact Dr. Lari Young, Director of the PAC, at [lari.young@tamucc.edu](mailto:lari.young@tamucc.edu) or the Development Office at (361) 825-2420 to secure a chair at the Performing Arts Center to honor a friend or loved one.*

\*This is not the purchase of a seat option or license, and does not guarantee that particular seat will be available to you for any concert or event.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. David Berlanga Jr.** Aug. 14, 1943-April 20, 2008

Dr. David Berlanga Jr. retired in 2005 after nearly 30 years as a professor in the University's College of Education. Throughout his career, he encouraged his students to learn to teach in two languages to help those who were limited in the English language. Because of his grant-writing abilities, he was able to help many students obtain scholarships that

allowed them to earn their college degree.

Berlanga grew up in Corpus Christi where he graduated from King High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&I-Kingsville and his post-graduate degrees from the University of Michigan.

**Richard Russell "Dick" Phelps** Jan. 21, 1931-Nov. 25, 2008

Richard Russell "Dick" Phelps, a retired civil engineer and public land surveyor, was a former chair of the University's Blucher Institute where he was responsible for the development of a tide gauge system and research project along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Phelps was born in Evansville, Ind., and reared in Beaumont, Texas, where he lived for 34 years. After graduating from high school, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry from Texas A&M University, a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Lamar University, and an M.E.

in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After a productive career as a consultant, he joined the engineering technology faculty at the University of North Carolina then, seven years later, accepted a similar position at the University of Houston's Central Campus. He joined the Blucher Institute in 1989 and retired in 1992 following completion of the tide gauge system.

During his 33-year career, Phelps was active in many service and professional organizations including the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 1995, he received the Hugh L. George Award for Outstanding Service. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 51 years, daughters Linda Phelps and Laura Phelps Archer, and three grandchildren.

**Lawrence "Larry" Weiner** June 22, 1932-June 26, 2009

Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Weiner was a professor of music for 31 years and was conferred Composer-In-Residence Emeritus status upon his retirement from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2003.

Weiner, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, graduated from the University of Texas in 1954 with a bachelor of music degree and, two years later, received his master of music degree. He joined the military in 1956 and spent three years as the principal pianist with the 4th U.S. Army Band at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

He began teaching in 1959 as a choir director in the San Antonio, Texas, Northside

ISD. He taught music theory and composition at Texas A&I University in Kingsville from 1968-74 during which time he was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Composition from the University of Miami.

Weiner taught and composed at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi from 1974 until his retirement. During his tenure, Dr. Weiner also established and directed the highly-acclaimed "Distinguished Visitors in the Arts" concert series.

Weiner is survived by his wife, Laura Sherman, and daughters: Leah and Aria Sherman-Weiner of Austin, Texas; and son, David Weiner of New York City. He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Weiner.

**Ray Whitmire** March 13, 1939-Jan. 28, 2009

Dr. Ray Edward Whitmire was a professor of accounting and finance in the College of Business for 35 years. A native of Corpus Christi, he graduated from Ray High School in 1957 and, in 1961, received his bachelor of arts from Texas A&M University. He served in the United States Army, volunteering for two tours in Vietnam and attaining the rank of captain. He did his postgraduate work at the University

of Texas before joining the faculty at Corpus Christi State University. As one of the initial

College of Business faculty hires, Dr. Whitmire helped shape the initial courses and continued to contribute to the College's development and expansion.

He was a dedicated mentor and as sponsor of the Student Finance Association helped many students in the development of their professional and leadership skills. Dr. Whitmire was never too busy to help a student or colleague, either with an academic matter or one of a more personal nature. He enjoyed outdoor activities and many stories are told of his unique solutions to practical problems. He is survived by his wife, Joan; son, Russell Whitmire; daughter, Joy Whitmire Pollock, and three grandchildren.



## THECB RECOGNIZES NURSING PROGRAM FOR RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in recognition of its exceptional programs under the Nursing Education Performance Initiative.

The grant was one of three awarded to Texas institutions that have achieved graduation and licensure rates of 85 percent or above during the 2008 academic year. The overall retention and graduation rate for nursing schools throughout Texas is 67 percent. The initiative was implemented by the THECB to help relieve the state's current and predicted nursing shortage.

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi nursing program is the only one in The Texas A&M University System and in South Texas to receive the award. The grant funds will be used to develop a detailed plan for best practices for other schools to use as a guideline to achieving higher graduation and licensure rates.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences' "Assisting at Risk Minority Students for Success" (ARMS) program utilizes a database of factors to impact a student's success in the nursing program. The data is collected from each student on admission and is evaluated along with test grades to predict success in the program and to identify students at risk for failure prior to academic difficulty occurring.

# Cooperative Ph.D. Helps Address National Nursing Educators Shortage

Texas Woman's University and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi have combined to offer a cooperative Ph.D. in nursing that will help address the national shortage of nursing educators.

This cooperative Ph.D. makes a doctoral nursing science program available to nurses in South Texas with a blend of online, televideo and face-to-face classes. Students are taught by Texas Woman's University doctoral faculty.

According to Texas Board of Nursing data, less than one percent of the nurses in Texas hold a doctoral degree while 6.3 percent have earned a master's degree in nursing. During the period 2004-2006, almost 56 percent of the qualified applicants to nursing programs in Texas were denied admission because of insufficient faculty resources. The faculty vacancy rate for the Texas Coastal Bend nursing schools is currently 20 percent.

"The ability to prepare new nurses is directly related to our ability to supply trained professionals to teach nursing programs," points out Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, dean of the University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "The national shortage of nurses is intricately linked to a lack of nursing faculty and training facilities."

Since he became Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President/CEO in January 2005, Dr. Flavius Killebrew has consistently championed the creation of new programs to meet the needs of both prospective students and the South Texas community. In addition to supplying teaching pro-

fessionals, the new doctoral program will help meet the demand for better-educated nurses and administrators in the private sector.

"A doctoral degree is quickly becoming essential for nurse executives of healthcare organizations across the entire country," says Killebrew. "This program will reduce the necessity for full-time administrators to travel to complete their doctoral education and will provide students with flexible options that will allow them to retain their jobs and complete their education with the support of local faculty."

Although students in South Texas will be participating through Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the degree will be conferred by TWU. Current doctoral faculty and advisors will mentor with faculty at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi who will assume teaching roles in the Ph.D. program after gaining TWU Graduate Faculty status.

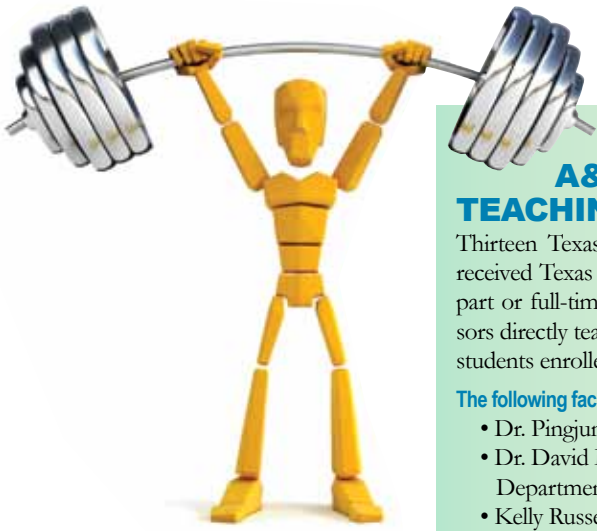
With more than 900 graduate and undergraduate students, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the fastest-growing College at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



In September, the University marked the placing of the highest beam atop Island Hall, the \$45 million, 14,000-square foot building that, when completed in spring 2010, will become home to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the College of Education's kinesiology program. The nursing facilities include offices, various-sized classrooms, computer labs, a simulated hospital ward, patient simulator laboratories, and other specialized research spaces. The kinesiology area will include classrooms, computer labs, gymnasium space, large meeting spaces, cardiovascular training space and specialized labs for exercise physiology, biomechanics, and motor evaluation and development.







## KINESIOLOGY PROGRAM ACCEPTED INTO ERP

The College of Education's Kinesiology Program has been accepted into the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Education Recognition Program (ERP). The ERP Graduate Studies Program recognizes colleges and universities that offer at least a master's degree related to strength and conditioning or sport performance. The Department of Kinesiology prepares students for professional careers in athletic training, exercise science, physical education, sports management, sports coaching, and strength/conditioning.

## FACULTY RECEIVES TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Thirteen Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty members have received Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Awards. All part or full-time adjuncts, instructors, assistant, associate and full professors directly teaching classes of at least three credit hours with 15 or more students enrolled are eligible for the awards.

**The following faculty scored in the top 5 percent for their respective classes:**

- Dr. Pingjung Tintera '04, instructor of mathematics
- Dr. David Moury, associate professor and coordinator of the Department of Life Sciences
- Kelly Russell, assistant professor of theatre
- Dr. W. Scott Sherman, associate professor of management
- Dr. Jim Lee, professor of economics
- Dr. Bunny Forgione, associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and professor

**The following faculty scored in the next 15 percent for their respective classes:**

- Marcia Venzon '79, mathematics instructor
- Shere Salinas, adjunct instructor of mathematics
- David Jensen, adjunct professor of chemistry and director of the National Spill Control School
- Dr. Gregory Buck, assistant professor of life sciences
- Dr. Kevin Strychar, assistant professor of marine biology and microbiology and Harte Research Associate
- Christine Peters '07, adjunct instructor of mathematics
- Sharon Polanksy '80, director of the College of Business Master's Programs

Awards are based on the percentile ranking of the average score of the system-wide faculty evaluation form which is comprised of 16 questions developed by the TAMU System from input by the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, the System Faculty Senates, Presidents and Provosts, and the System Administrative Office.



Pictured from left to right with the STEP Award are University President Flavius Killebrew; Dr. Patricia Hill, director of the Academic Advising Transition Center; and Margaret Dechant, associate vice president for Enrollment Management

## UNIVERSITY JOINS NATIONAL CONSORTIUM

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has accepted an invitation to join the National Learning Communities Conference (NLCC) Consortium. The University will join Delta College, Harper College, Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City, Mo., Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and Kennesaw State University in the consortium which organizes the annual National Learning Communities Conference. A&M-Corpus Christi's First Year Learning Communities Program has received state and national recognition and is regarded as a national model for learning communities.

## Island Day Reception Draws Record Crowd

Dr. Gilda Ramirez '92, director of Student Services and College Finances, was among the nearly 200 faculty, staff and current students to greet a record turnout of more than 1,500 prospective students and their parents from across Texas at Island Day April 25 in Lee Plaza. Several times a year, the recruitment event brings prospective students and their families to campus for a full day of informational sessions about the University's many degree opportunities, the enrollment process, housing, and student life.



## AATC RECOGNIZED FOR SERVING TRANSFER STUDENTS

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Academic Advising Transition Center (AATC) has received the Silver Award in the Best Practices in Transfer Enrollment Management category from the Successful Transfer Enhancement Program (STEP). The STEP Award Competition recognizes outstanding work in serving transfer students within the State of Texas. As part of the honor, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's AATC was also named one of the Seven Examples of Excellence.

# LEWIS NAMED KCACTF FACULTY FELLOW

Dr. Terry Lewis, director of University Theatre, was honored as The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Faculty Fellow for Region VI, at the national competition April 13-18 in Washington, D.C. The national theater program recognizes the best and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs across the United States.



DR. TERRY LEWIS

# Canales Lectures in Peru

Dr. JoAnn Canales, professor and associate dean of Graduate Studies, addressed Peruvian government officials on methods for implementing quality control assurance and accreditation systems for higher education in Peru. At the request of the U.S. Department of State, Canales lectured before Peru's National Assembly of University Rectors during a week-long series of events in June that also included conversations with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Peruvian government, public and private institutions, newly-organized accrediting entities, nongovernmental educational organizations, think tanks, and Peruvian Binational Center educational advisors. The Peruvian government is soliting the insights of professional educators on the implementation and quality control of accreditation standards, and seeking international cooperation for further research and development.



DR. JOANN CANALES

# FACULTY RETIREES



Dr. Veronica Guerra, director of Title V/Trio, was honored for her years of service to the University during a retirement reception May 5 in the Performing Arts Center lobby. The University's TRiO Programs are designed to identify students with academic potential and provide tutoring and support services to prepare them for college level work.



Faculty, staff and students honored David Jensen (center) at a retirement reception May 22 in the University Center, Legacy Hall. For 19 years, Jensen headed the University's National Spill Control School which conducts classes in spill prevention and the control of oil, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste.



Dr. David Mead chats with colleagues during a retirement reception held in his honor May 1 in the Performing Arts Center atrium. Mead, a professor of English and former associate dean and department chair, retired after more than 30 years at the Island University. He has authored and co-authored numerous science fiction stories and is a former president of the Science Fiction Research Association.



# ASTON STUDIES IN BEIJING, CHINA

Nicole Christine Aston, a junior biomedical science major, is studying in Beijing, China, on a Boren Scholarship awarded by the National Security Education Program. In addition to her medical/health internship, Aston is studying the Mandarin language, and the history of Beijing. Boren Scholarships focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security interests. These areas include Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin American, and the Middle East. Boren Scholars study less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

# RECEPTION HELD FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

An appreciation reception to celebrate the Mechanical Engineering Program was held on campus June 24. University President Flavius Killebrew was joined at the press conference by State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and State Reps. Todd Hunter, Abel Herrero, and Solomon Ortiz Jr. Those attending the reception were area businesses, organizations and individuals that have stepped forward to support the University's new mechanical engineering program. Other guests included members of the Corpus Christi City Council, Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, and Nueces County commissioners. The new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 30. Classes began this fall. In May, the Corpus Christi community met its challenge goal of \$3 million requested by legislative leaders for the mechanical engineering program. Commitments toward the ME program will contribute to providing the laboratory space, faculty, research opportunities, and scholarships required for an exceptional program. More than 60 students are enrolled in the first class.





## Chopin Receives Silver Wave

Dr. Flavius Killebrew presented Dr. Suzette Chopin '03 with the Presidential Order of the Silver Wave for bringing national recognition to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, during a faculty convocation held Aug. 24.

Chopin, a professor of biomedical sciences, was one of 22 honorees nationwide selected to receive the National Science Foundation's Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). The PAESMEM Program identifies outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities who are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The awardees serve as leaders in the national effort to develop the nation's human resources in those fields. Chopin will receive a \$10,000 award to support student travel to scientific conferences and will be honored at an upcoming White House ceremony.

During the convocation, State Rep. Abel Herrero also presented Chopin with a resolution to congratulate her on receiving the award. Chopin was named a Texas A&M University System Regents Professor in 2006 and has received numerous awards for advising and mentoring students.



DR. SUZETTE CHOPIN

## VOKURKA APPOINTED TO MALCOLM BALDRIDGE AWARD BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Dr. Robert Vokurka, chair of the Department of Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences, has been appointed to the 2009 Board of Directors for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. This is the 10th year that Vokurka has been named to the board composed of experts from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and healthcare organizations and government.



DR. ROBERT VOKURKA



## STUNZ AWARDED GRANT TO STUDY RED SNAPPER

Dr. Greg Stunz has been awarded a \$66,585 grant from the Environmental Defense Fund to test hypotheses on red snapper survival and stock and recruitment patterns. In seven years, Stunz has secured nearly \$6 million in research grants which center on understanding the relative value of habitat for aquatic organisms and ocean and human health. The Harte Research Institute's endowed associate research professor is coordinator for the University's new Marine Biology Program. His other current research projects involve shark population dynamics on Padre Island National Seashore, and stock structure assessment of spotted sea trout along the Texas coast.



## NUCKOLS SPENDS SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

History major Erin Nuckols participated in the Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The program exposes students to a broad spectrum of library work, including preservation, reference, access standards and information management. Nuckols and other interns worked with unprocessed collections held by the Library of Congress to prepare them for access by researchers. At the end of their assignments, interns displayed and discussed their most significant discoveries during a presentation at the Thomas Jefferson Building.

## GOV. PERRY APPOINTS HERNANDEZ TO THE TEXAS DIABETES COUNCIL

Dr. Arthur E. Hernandez, dean of the College of Education, has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Diabetes Council. Hernandez is one of four appointees who will serve through Feb. 1, 2015. The Texas Diabetes Council's *Plan to Prevent and Control Diabetes in Texas* endorses a comprehensive approach to diabetes by employing systems dynamics modeling tools developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that have provided new insight into how clinical, lifestyle, and health policy interventions can offer a cumulative effect in reducing the health and economic burden of diabetes in Texas.



DR. ARTHUR HERNANDEZ

## Huerta Elected Chair of APSA Section

Dr. Juan Carlos Huerta, a professor of political science, has been elected chair of the Political Science Education section of the American Political Science Association (APSA).

As head of the 413-member section, Huerta will be a leading APSA advocate for the importance of teaching and learning. He will also represent professors from a diverse range of universities. He previously



DR. JUAN CARLOS HUERTA

served on the program committee for the APSA Conference on Teaching and Learning from 2006-2008 and on the 2005 APSA Program Committee for the annual meeting.

## VOLUME ONE OF HRI SPONSORED INVENTORY OF GULF OF MEXICO BIODIVERSITY PUBLISHED

Dr. Wes Tunnell, associate director of the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies (pictured), Dr. Sylvia Earle, chair of the HRI Advisory Council, and Dr. Darryl Felder, professor of biology and head of the Laboratory for Crustacean Research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, are overall editors of the seven volume update of "Bulletin 89: The Gulf of Mexico- Its Origin, Waters, and Marine Life" published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Volume one (Biodiversity) "Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters, and Biota," a 1,393-page comprehensive update of knowledge of the Gulf of Mexico, was published in July.







### A Letter from the Campaign Chairs

We have lived in this community for many years and have been a part of its growth. We believe that our investment of time and support has brought a substantial return. When our friends and associates ask what can best inspire growth in this region, it is always quick reply. The success of the greater Corpus Christi community is integrally tied to the success of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

When we were approached to serve as chairs of the Momentum Campaign for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, it was a gesture that made us feel very proud. We have watched the campus grow in its student body, academic programs and buildings, especially in these more recent years. The University has woven itself into the fabric of the greater community, creating an economic boost, cultural awareness and educational strength. The work undertaken by faculty and students continually improves our well-being, and that is something we must continue to foster.

We continue to work to ensure the progress of the University, and the Momentum Campaign to meld investments in people and programs that will directly benefit the community, the state and nation.

Over these next months many who have pledged their support to the campaign will be calling upon individuals, organizations and businesses throughout the area. Now is the time when we all must act. Think broadly on what the Momentum Campaign can do that directly affects you, your family and the prosperity of this growing area. Then step forward to make your commitment to help.

Larry and Karen Urban  
Chairs, Momentum Campaign

# Capital Campaign







University President Flavius Killebrew was joined on stage by chairs Larry and Karen Urban and their co-chairs to announce the Momentum 2015 Capital Campaign during the State of the University Luncheon attended by more than 840 community leaders and friends of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in September. The campaign goal is \$25 million with an additional \$5 million challenge.

# gn Gains Momentum

## MEET THE CO-CHAIRS

Welcome aboard! This group of alumni and community members has tirelessly dedicated themselves to the purpose of the Momentum Capital Campaign. Help them achieve their goals by making Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi a university for the 21st century.

### HOUSTON ALUMNI

Julia and Howard Townsend

### SAN ANTONIO ALUMNI

Larry and Linda Mills

### CORPUS CHRISTI ALUMNI

O.B. Garcia

### AUSTIN ALUMNI

John and Betty Baker

### TAM-CC FOUNDATION BOARD

Al Jones

### PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Peggy and Avinash Ahuja

### ACHIEVE PARTNERS

Gordon and Linda Landreth

### UNDER 50

Curtis and Jennifer Rock

### FACULTY AND STAFF

Kathy and Don Deis

### ATHLETICS

Dan and Deborah Shea

### FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Bruce and Elenita Collins

### PARENTS' COUNCIL

Gail and Michael Sutton

### FOUNDATIONS

Marty and Becky Davis

### RETIREES

Janice and Joyce Freeman

### STUDENT FOUNDATION

Justine Hatton

## A COMMON GOAL

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has undertaken the Momentum 2015 strategic plan to chart the course of the University's development by focusing on the themes of excellence, engagement and expansion. Results from the comprehensive feasibility study indicated that we can turn this plan into reality without burdening students with excessive tuition, the University is committed to a comprehensive fund raising campaign with an initial working goal of \$25 million. The completion of the campaign at this level will allow Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to fund several key objectives essential to our growth.

Of this campaign total, we are focusing fund raising efforts on:

<b>Endowments</b>	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>
<b>Annual Giving</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>Planned Giving</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>

# A Map of Progress



Committed Visionaries Chart Path to Greatness  
for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi



For more than 20 years, Bernard Paulson told anyone within ear shot that Corpus Christi would not be able to attract top corporations to the Coastal Bend until the local University had an engineering program. This year, people finally listened.

Impressed by strong support from the Port of Corpus Christi, the business community and a \$1 million pledge from the City, in January 2009, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents approved the bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Classes began this fall with 65 students, more than twice the number originally projected for the first year.

"It's just good economic sense," points out Paulson, who has more than 40 years experience in the Corpus Christi business community. "We have industries that need engineers and others that will come because the University now has an engineering degree program."

The outpouring of financial support for the mechanical engineering program is just the latest example of the ongoing commitment from the community to give the Coastal Bend a first-class University that offers a high-quality education. Through their endowments, gifts and scholarships, in the 40 years since the University became a public institution, visionary donors have transformed what was a small private Baptist college into a major public institution with outstanding academic programs, cutting-edge research projects and top-notch facilities.

For most of the 9,500 Islander students, the names on the buildings across campus are just destinations. But in a higher sense they are a chronicle of the University's history, testimonials to the foresight of people who understand the critical link between an educated workforce and a thriving community, both economically and culturally.

Perhaps the most visible example of this commitment is the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. Established in 2000 through a \$46 million endowment from former Corpus Christi Caller-Times publisher Ed Harte and his family, with the addition of several endowed research chairs, it has become a leading marine science and policy research institute to support and encourage the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the world's sixth-largest body of water. In 2007, Harte and local attorney John Hornblower established the \$1.5 million Furgason Fellow-

ship endowment, named in honor of former University president and HRI executive director Robert Furgason, to support teaching and research fellowships for scientists from Mexico and Cuba.

Since it opened in 1987, the Conrad Blucher Institute has earned a well-deserved national reputation as a leader in innovative research and the development of scientific measurement technology in surveying. However, few know that the Institute, which today includes The Texas Coastal Observation Network, the Division of Nearshore Research, and the Texas Height Modernization Project, would not have been possible without the generosity of Conrad Blucher, a registered professional land surveyor and the last in a long family line of surveyors who mapped South Texas for more than 100 years.

Jeff Bell has been a champion of the Island



University for many years and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library is just one testament to the immeasurable impact he and his late wife have had on students at A&M-Corpus Christi. As president of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Foundation from 2002-2004, Bell was on the frontlines of leadership, overseeing the Foundation's money management strategies and bringing together a large group of influential individuals with the goal of enhancing education opportunities for the University's students.

The University's award-winning Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) would not have been possible without the generosity of the late Corpus Christi resident who dedicated her life to advancing education in the Coastal Bend. The ECDC, which includes students age 3 to fifth grade, is the only school in the Corpus Christi

Independent School District that presents its entire curriculum via dual-language education. All students' instruction is split evenly between Spanish and English every day.

In addition to the elementary school, the two-story, 50,000-square foot building houses professors, student workers, and support staff for two departments of the College of Education: the Curriculum and Instruction Department and the Counseling Department. Four classrooms and a computer lab on the second floor are used for University classes.

One of the most popular buildings on campus is the new Dr. Jack and Susie Dugan Wellness Center, a 67,000-square foot facility that, in addition to two NCAA regulation basketball courts, includes weight and cardio areas, locker rooms, including two for those with special needs, and group exercise rooms for students, faculty and staff. The Center would not have been possible without a \$1 million seed gift from Dr. Dugan in memory of his late wife.

Another major addition to the campus is the O'Connor Building which, when completed, will allow the consolidation of business faculty and classrooms at one location. The \$25 million facility was in large part made possible by the application of more than \$6 million from a gift to the University by the late Corpus Christi businessman Michael A. O'Connor and his wife, Karen.

While state-of-the-art facilities are an integral structural part of a major university, the lifeblood is the students, many of whom would not

be able to pursue a college degree without financial assistance. In that respect, the late Lawrence Atkins is unmatched in his generosity to the University. In 2008, the Atkins estate bequeathed \$5 million to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the single largest gift for scholarships in the University's history.

According to his friend and attorney Kenneth Botary, Atkins, who started his multi-million dollar advertising business out of the trunk of his car, admired people who become successful through a strong work ethic and wise investment.

"Early in life Larry learned the value of saving and working hard," recalls his long-time friend. "He wanted to show his appreciation to the people of South Texas by helping college students and encouraging them to work hard, invest wisely and remain in South Texas."

Mary Haas and her late-husband Paul, who



## COVER STORY

died in November 2008, have been ardent supporters of the University since before it opened its doors in 1947. Mary served on the Coastal Bend committee that brought the University into existence in 1947. And, an endowment from the couple in 1988 helped establish the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation which solicits, invests, administers and distributes donations, gifts and bequests for the exclusive benefit of the University.

“When you consider where we started and where we are now, it is mind-boggling,” admits Mary. “It is very satisfying to have had a part in something that has progressed this way.”

Throughout his life Morris L. Lichtenstein Jr. strived to carry on his family’s rich tradition of public service. It continues today through his legacy, The Morris L. Lichtenstein Jr. Foundation which donates \$20,000 annually to the College of Business Graduate Students Scholarship Program.

The Foundation’s generosity also extends to the musical arts through a capital contribution toward Phase II of the Performing Arts Center. In addition, each year the Lichtenstein String Quartet Scholarship is awarded to four promising musicians who in addition to performing concerts, teach violin to young children at the Joe Garza Recreation Center.

Over the years, many alumni have given back to the University through gifts, scholarships and grants. One excellent example of the ‘Rule of Reciprocity’ is Woo Sung Lee, a 1959 graduate and founder of the highly successful chain of “Boat-N-Net” restaurants. Each day Islander students enjoy “Lee Plaza,” the sanctuary at the heart of the University which bears his name, and some are recipients of the scholarship fund he established in 2004.

Lee’s most recent gift to the University is the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center that houses the University’s alumni relations

operation and several development functions. For his philanthropy, this year Lee was presented with a proclamation naming him a “50-Year Distinguished Alumnus.”

“His extraordinary gifts are what it’s all about, giving back to your alma mater,” says Trent Hill, vice president for Institutional Advancement. “Woo Sung Lee is an honored friend of A&M-Corpus Christi, and we are extremely proud of his generous commitment to the University.”

Since the resurrection of Islander athletics in 1997, the University’s Tarpon Foundation has provided scholarships for talented male and female student athletes and contributed to the general operating budget that includes equipment, travel budgets, and academic counseling. In 2003, retired political consultant Marvin Collins gave the athletic programs an unprecedented boost with a \$1 million charitable gift annuity to the University’s athletics



Momentum Park  
Upcoming Expansion



Chapman Field  
Dedicated March 2007



Dugan Wellness Center  
Opened January 2009



programs.

“To me, one of the biggest things happening in South Texas is Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,” he explains. “I looked at the reasons alumni support a university and decided that A&M-Corpus Christi had to get on the pages of the news with their sports teams. Good sports teams get the attention of alumni, and sports bring in money.”

Another generous benefactor of Islander athletics was the late John Chapman, a lifetime baseball fan and long-time supporter of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s program. Thanks to a generous donation from Chapman and his wife, Louise, in 2007 improvements were made to the baseball/softball complex that now bears his name including the addition of a new press box that accommodate the Islanders’ new level of competition within the Southland Conference.

The Chapman legacy continues to be

instrumental in the development of academic programs and student support at A&M-Corpus Christi through the John Chapman Endowed Scholarship that supports the financial needs of students. The Chapmans were also leading contributors in the construction of the Math and Science Resource Center dedicated in February 2006.

Among the most benefactors are the people of Corpus Christi. In 1972, after the University discontinued its affiliation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, voters approved a \$1.5 million bond issue (the equivalent of \$8.2 million in today’s dollars) to purchase Ward Island and donated the site to the State as a home for a new state-supported university.

In 2008, the City donated 137 acres for the University’s future expansion. The gifted land, which is close in proximity and visible across the Oso Bay from Ward Island, will allow the

University to significantly increase its student population by moving many non-academic facilities off the Ward Island campus which cannot accommodate the strong growth in University enrollment.

“Each year, as the state legislature is forced to cut funding, we must rely on the generosity of our donors to help us keep a high quality education affordable for all who want to earn a degree,” stresses University President Flavius Killebrew. “It is through donations, both large and small, that we will be able to provide current faculty with support and capital resources for the expansion of existing programs while attracting more outstanding scholars to teach and conduct research for undergraduate and graduate programs that will bring national recognition to the Island University.”



Bell Library  
Opened in  
Fall 1978



Lee Plaza  
Created in 2001



Harte Research Institute  
Opened in November 2005



Woo Sung Lee  
Alumni Welcome Center  
Opened November 2009



Blanche Davis Moore  
Early Childhood Development Center  
Dedicated October 2005



O'Connor Building  
Opening in 2011



## DEVELOPMENT OF PLASMA ENGINEERING RESEARCH LAB OPENS WIDE RANGE OF POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

A new research program initiated by the College of Science and Technology focuses on the application of plasma science and engineering technologies in bio-medical engineering, energy conversion and material processing areas.

The Plasma Engineering Research Lab (PERL) program is directed by Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan, an assistant professor in the University's mechanical engineering program. In its initial stages, PERL is receiving federal support to establish the plasma research center on campus. It is also collaborating with the new business incubation program developed by the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in the College of Business.

Plasmas are the most common form of matter, comprising more than 99 percent of the visible universe. They permeate the solar system, interstellar and intergalactic environments. Plasmas are conductive assemblies of charged particles, reactive species and fields that exhibit collective effects. According to Thiyagarajan, plasma technology opens multiple avenues for a wide range of potential applications.

"Plasma science and engineering is a rapidly-growing field that can provide a great opportunity for engineering students to participate at the state-of-the-art facility through cutting edge research," says Thiyagarajan. "These technologies will have a great impact in many military and consumer applications."



DR. MAGESH THIYAGARAJAN

Because plasmas respond to electric and magnetic fields and can be efficient sources of radiation, they are usable in a vast range of applications, both civilian and military. Plasma technology is already being applied in almost 100 areas including the development of high-efficiency lighting, gas treatment, semiconductor production, and sterilization of medical tools.

A large-volume cold plasma sterilizer developed by Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan's research group makes it possible to decontaminate deadly microorganisms without damaging an envelope.



## Incubator Program Nurtures Growth of Entrepreneurial Start-Up Companies

The College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has established the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center to stimulate job growth by encouraging entrepreneurial economic development of companies that, once established, are committed to remaining in the Coastal Bend.

A key component of the Center, which was funded by a \$500,000 donation by Dusty Durrill and \$1.5 million from the City of Corpus Christi, is its innovative incubator program that will nurture entrepreneurial startup companies by providing targeted resources and services to accelerate their growth and ensure long-term success. The business incubation program promotes cross-disciplinary academic and entrepreneurial programs utilizing University faculty and staff to maximize the potential for success. By extending the services and expertise to help them become financially viable, the program helps new companies create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, commercialize new technologies, and strengthen local and statewide economies.

"Our faculty, students, community organizations, and Center staff will provide the necessary guidance for member companies to enhance their chances for success," explains Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the College of Business. "The Center will be able to provide the business aspect necessary to supplement the technical side of new ventures to increase their viability. This is a great partnership with benefits to all concerned."

Under the program, fledgling businesses receive appropriate rental space and flexible leases, shared basic business services and equipment, and technology support services. Additionally, they have access to professional Ph.D. level consulting, student internship programs, coursework modeling and interaction, executive-level education classes and assistance in obtaining the financing necessary for company growth.

The Center has already accepted its 10 residents and one affiliate client into the incubator program. Plasma Technologies, Inc. is a medical technology company that develops, designs, patents and markets medical devices to be used in wound healing, tissue regeneration and sterilization. The local company works in close collaboration with Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa., as well as Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Ensemble Group, a Web site design and application developer, uses the latest technology to assist clients in Internet marketing. Using database technologies, the company provides custom-built systems to increase productivity and economic returns.

"In two years our goal is to be hosting 25 resident and 100 affiliate (non-resident) clients, subsequently creating new job opportunities in the Coastal Bend area," says Richard Bell, director of the business incubator. "This is a great opportunity for the University to provide a positive economic impact to a community that has supported higher education and educational opportunities for university students to work in an entrepreneurial environment."

## SUSSER HONORED AS KIRKLAND DISTINGUISHED VISITOR



Sam L. Susser, president and chief executive officer of Corpus Christi-based Susser Holdings Corporation, was the recipient of the 2009 G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award presented by the College of Business. Through its subsidiaries, Susser Holdings Corporation operates Stripes Holdings, L.L.C., Susser Petroleum Company and Applied Petroleum Technologies (APT). Susser operates more than 510 retail stores under the Stripes, Town & Country and Village Market banners.



# Endowed Scholarship Council

Scholarships are an essential resource in providing deserving students with the means to an education. Without the support of generous individuals, many students would lose the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of achievement. The mission of the Endowed Scholarship Council is to educate students and ensure they reach their full potential to become the leaders of tomorrow.

*Creating a scholarship endowment is one way to ensure your contribution will remain in perpetuity to support higher education and to help the University remain competitive in attracting the brightest students.*

*In recognition of donors making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council. Donors with cumulative gifts to endowed scholarship funds of \$50,000 or more are inducted into the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.*



# HAVE YOU HEARD?

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Marshall R. Endsley '75 BBA Accounting** is a senior accountant for Varsity Brands and controller for three subsidiary companies. He has been enjoying life in east Texas for the last 30 years where he and his wife raised three kids (two teachers and a legal assistant). He enjoys his grandkids and traveling.

**Leo R. Barrera Jr. '77 BBA Banking & Finance** works in the health insurance industry on both the fully and self insured sides of the business. He is involved in legislative affairs, sales, training, servicing agents and employers. He is based in Corpus Christi and works the entire south Texas region.

**Don McBride '77 MS Management** is a global strategy leader for GE Healthcare in El Paso, Texas, where he is part of a team that performs product offering rationalization, supply chain optimization, and location rationalization. He was recently blessed with his first grandchild, Lynell, and has enjoyed 32 years of marriage with wife, Mollie.

**Adolfo Gutierrez '78 BBA Business Administration** has been married for 35 years. He is retired from AT&T and is now self-employed as an enrolled agent in San Antonio, Texas. His son is a CPA and works with him on business audits, tax audits and taxes.

**Kenneth Morgan '78 BBA Marketing** teaches insurance adjusters in property and auto estimating. He is incoming president of Del Mar Southside Kiwanis, and vice president of the Corpus Christi Claims Association fundraising committee for donations to nonprofit agencies. Kenneth and wife, Claudette, have four grandchildren.

**Betty Muzio '78 BBA Marketing** retired at the end of 2005 and her life is hectic, but good. She is president of her homeowners association, but that tenure should be completed by the end of 2009. Her main job is taking care of her mom. Her hobbies are Jazzercise, traveling and reading mysteries.

**David Leon Spencer '80 BBA Banking & Finance** is an internal auditor for Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He loves to cruise the high seas and travel the world. His eligibility for retirement is right around the corner, and he will move back to Corpus Christi, when the City develops a cruise port.

**Sarah Fay '80 BBA Management** passed the Professional in Human Resource exam on May 30, 2009, and is working as a program assistant for CHRISTUS Spohn Health Systems in Corpus Christi.

**Eva De La Garza '86 BBA Management** is director of career services for South Texas Vo-Tech in Corpus Christi. She is married to retired postal services manager, Ernest De La Garza, has two children, Ernest M. De La Garza, 26, a graduate of Texas State University and Chris De La Garza, 21, a Del Mar College student.

**Mike Quintanilla Jr. '87 BBA Management** serves on the local boards of directors of the United Way of the Coastal Bend and the Contractors Safety Council of the Coastal Bend in Corpus Christi. He and his wife, Sandy, have three children. Their oldest son, **Michael Quintanilla '99 BSN Nursing**, is also an alumnus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Their son Justin is a freshman at the University of Texas-Pan American, and daughter, Meagan, is a fourth-grader at Tuloso-Midway Elementary School.

**Kathy Sullivan '88 MBA Management** works in the Mineral Oil and Gas Department of Wells Fargo Bank's Well Management Group in San Antonio, Texas. She misses living on the Gulf Coast, but is happy in San Antonio.

**William Vauter '90 BBA Marketing** lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife and 1-year-old daughter. He works for Schlumberger Oilfield Services as a sales engineer selling directional drilling, measurement while drilling and logging while drilling services to Andarko Petroleum and other smaller independents in north Houston.

**Alan Causey '91 BBA Management** is an access planning manager for Zayo Bandwidth in Tulsa, Okla.

**Scott Miller '91 BS Accounting** is associate minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Port Arthur, Texas. He is very involved in the church's summer camping program.

**Joan McKaughan '92 BBA Management** is a certified senior professional in human resources management and a certified public manager. She is a member of the Corpus Christi Human Resource Management Association and the Coastal Bend Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrations. Her two sons attend school in Odem and her husband is employed by Llyondess Basell in Corpus Christi.

**Melinda Gonzales '93 BBA Accounting** is a financial analyst for Geotrace, Inc. in Houston, Texas. She lives in Katy and loves to travel to Hawaii and any other beach.

**Benita Mendell '94 BBA Marketing** works for Freedom Communications as the general manager for The Monitor and La Fontera Newspaper, and the regional advertising director for Texas Valley Freedom Newspapers, in McAllen, Texas.

**Michael McClure '95 BBA Accounting** and his wife, **Rose Pereira McClure '94 BSN Nursing**, are expecting their second child, a boy, in late October.

**Lucinda Hernandez '98 BBA Marketing** is a store manager for Perfumania at La Cantera Mall in San Antonio, Texas, since late November of last year. She plans to return to Corpus Christi in February 2010.

**Barbara Miller '99 BBA Management** is a stay-at-home grandmother who helps her son and daughter-in-law by babysitting her granddaughter, which, she says, has poor pay but wonderful benefits.

**Gina Prince '99 BBA Accounting** is coming up on her five-year anniversary as president of Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union in Corpus Christi. She has been employed for a total of 24 years and has two children, one who attends Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Zulema Gonzales '00 BBA Accounting** is a senior accountant for Lockheed Martin Corporation in Orlando, Fla. She donates annually to the University and keeps in touch with alumni and administration. She is amazed at how much the University has grown.

**Stacy Mitchell '01 BBA Accounting** works in the accounts payable and payroll departments at Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody in Austin, Texas. Stacy and husband, John McMahan, are expecting their first child in late January.

**Ricardo A. Guerra Jr. '03 BBA Management Information Systems** is a career and technical education teacher in the Roma, Texas ISD.

**Juan Montoya '03 BBA Marketing** builds schools and hospitals as a project engineer for Flintco, Inc. in Albuquerque, N.M. His current project is the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center, a state-of-the-art cancer center.

**Peggy Marshall '05 MBA Business Administration** was promoted to supervisor of two American Electric Power (AEP) equipment repair facilities just three months after earning her MBA and has spent the last three years working on improving processes, customer relationships and teambuilding. She and husband, Lee, have purchased a future retirement home on an acre in Sacramento, Calif.

**Denise Morales '05 Management** is a training specialist for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Edmundo Mireles Training Academy in Beeville, Texas.

**Jonathan Sullivan '05 BBA Management** recently purchased his first home in Pearland, Texas, and is a loan closer for Texas First Bank SBA.

**Carol Ann Eccleston '06 MBA Business Administration** stays busy with her business, ThirdStep Consulting, and family activities.

**Patsy Goldberg '06 BBA Management** works for the Nueces County Community Supervision and Corrections Department as a community supervision officer.

**Robert Harbolovic '06 BBA Accounting** hit the two-year mark working as an accountant for STG Design, Inc. in Austin, Texas. He will return to school full-time to meet the 150 hour requirement to take the CPA exam. Afterward, he plans to move to Portugal to live with his grandparents and study to become a CPA.

**J. Lainhart '06 BBA Management** moved to San Antonio, Texas, in March 2008 to work as a retail consultant for Sprint Nextel. He also plays on a traveling softball team.

**Crystal Rau '06 BBA Business Administration** is a financial advisor for USAA working exclusively with its members needing retirement advice. On June 29, 2009, she and husband, Seth, welcomed their identical twin boys, Colton James and Levi Kenneth, into the world.

**Camy Simone '06 BBA Finance** began in banking as a teller and worked in several areas before being promoted to bank auditor.

**Ann Fields '07 BBA Accounting** is an auditor for Collier, Johnson & Woods in Corpus Christi. She recently completed the MACC program and will take the CPA exam in the fall.

**Mary Pena '07 BBA Business Administration** is a tax fraud investigative assistant for the Criminal Investigation Department of the IRS in Corpus Christi. She has two children, Mark A. Pena, II born Oct. 29, 2007, and Morgan Celia Pena, born May 5, 2009. She hopes to pursue her MBA at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Stacey Rivere '07 BBA Accounting** earned her master's degree and is now a senior buyer for the Sherwin Alumina Company.

**Matthew Schmidt '07 BBA Management** received his Series Seven and 66 Investment Securities Licenses. He is a personal financial advisor and financial planner for Waddell & Reed in San Antonio, Texas, working with clients by managing their money in relation to their goals, objectives and risk tolerance.

**Jeremy Tomascha '07 BBA Accounting** and his wife, Kristen Tomascha '07 MS Elementary Education, have two daughters, Trinity, 3, and Carissa, four months. Jeremy is an inventory cost analyst at McTurbin Inc. Kristen is a second-grade teacher in the Flour Bluff ISD.

**Tarah Boehle '08 BBA Management** is owner of The Back Roads bar and dance hall in Hondo, Texas, which she hopes to open soon. It will have a "Texas" feel to it, including a jukebox, horseshoe pits, and playground area. She and her fiancé, Anthony Calls, were married on Oct. 3, 2009, in Hondo.

**Lt. Damon Cook '08 MBA Business Administration** is serving aboard the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier. He is proud to serve with the men and women of the United States of America who sacrifice their freedom so others have it.

**Jessica Forman '08 MACC Accounting** is an accountant with The Rental Management Company in Corpus Christi.

**Nathaniel Harris '08 BBA Finance** married Ashley Robinson '08 BA Psychology on June 6, 2009. In January 2009, he was promoted to general manager for one of the Fastenal Company's 2,300 branches in the United States.



A freshman gets in the Islander spirit with Izzy the Islander at a Freshman Send-Off Party.

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# IslanderNetwork.com

## The Place to Be for Alumni!

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Winter Jazz Mixer

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010 + 6 – 8 p.m.

#### Islander Art Gallery

4024 Weber Road in Hamlin Center

Enjoy live music, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction, at this kick-off event for The Island University's 2010 Homecoming Week festivities. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. Tickets: \$20. For more information, contact Chapter President Lee White at 361.548.3141; or lwhite01@stx.rr.com.

#### Homecoming Islander Men's Basketball vs. Nicholls State

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 + 7 p.m.

#### American Bank Center

Join us in downtown Corpus Christi for an evening of great tailgating fun and edge-of-your-seat action as the Islanders take on Nicholls State.

#### Alumni Awards Breakfast

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 + 9 – 10:30 a.m.

A hearty breakfast and awards ceremony combine to make an outstanding morning to a great day for alumni during the Homecoming celebration. Join us in the University Center Ballroom to see if your nominee wins the outstanding alumnus award! For tickets call the alumni office at 361.825.3895.

#### Alumni Shrimp Boil

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 + 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Join the fun as alumni gather before the Homecoming game to tailgate with a free shrimp boil in the American Bank Center parking lot. Loads of fun, drinks and food. Call to R.S.V.P. at the alumni office 361.825.3895.

#### Alumni Awards and Board Nominations

Have you thought about serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors? Can you nominate an alumnus and/or professor for the Distinguished Alumni Awards? See details and forms at [www.IslanderNetwork.com](http://www.IslanderNetwork.com) Deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, December 7.

### ALUMNI CHAPTER CONTACTS

**National Alumni Association**  
Bea Blomquist '98  
beatrice.blomquist@tamucc.edu  
361.825.3207

**Corpus Christi Club**  
Lee White '95  
lwhite01@stx.rr.com  
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**Anchor Alumni Club**  
Cassandra Hinojosa '99  
cassandra.hinojosa@tamucc.edu  
361.825.2337

**Houston Club**  
Patrick Richardson '03  
prichardson28@hotmail.com  
832.721.2914



**About Bea Blomquist**  
National Alumni  
Association Presi-

Bea Blomquist '98 is president of the National Alumni Association. She is a graduate of the College of Business with a bachelor's degree in accounting. While attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, she was involved in the Student Accounting Society, serving in several leadership roles. She also served on the College of Business Dean's Student Advisory Council. After graduation she accepted a position in the University's budget department and now works as the business manager for the College of Science & Technology.

Bea has continued to participate in community events such as the HEB Feast of Sharing for a number of years but her love of volunteering has been at the University with many student related events such as the Relay for Life, New Student Orientation, Grad Ring Sales, Late Night Breakfast, Graduation, and President's Picnic. In 2006, Bea received the Young Alumni Award and received the TAMUCC Employee Excellence Award for Engagement in 2007.

Bea has served as an alumni association board member since 2004. She has been very active in the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club and the Anchor Alumni Club serving in several leadership roles. "I want to encourage all alumni to give back to our great University whether it is by getting involved or contributing to your college. What an opportunity we have to see others succeed." Bea and her husband, Gus, also an alumnus, have a son who will continue the tradition of attending the University. Bea can be reached at (361) 825-3207 or at [beatrice.blomquist@tamucc.edu](mailto:beatrice.blomquist@tamucc.edu).

The Alumni Web site is the place for news about fellow alumni, the University, job opportunities and more. Go to [IslanderNetwork.com](http://IslanderNetwork.com) and:

- ◆ Register and gain entry to the "Alumni Access" section
- ◆ Start a blog and interact with other alumni
- ◆ Tell us what you think by taking our ongoing opinion poll
- ◆ View photos of alumni events and learn about the activities of local alumni chapters
- ◆ Learn what your fellow alumni are up to in the Class Notes section
- ◆ Re-establish old friendships by e-mailing classmates directly from the Web site

# The Best of Both Worlds for Melanie Carr

A speech class at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi ultimately changed the life and career path of alumnus Melanie Carr.

Once Carr, then Melanie Kliebert, discovered her strength in the course, she switched her major from psychology to TV/film communications. The decision led to news and media relations opportunities.

"I took the required speech course and everything just clicked," says Carr, who is communications manager for the City of Cedar Park, Texas. "I actually ended up enjoying the class I feared the most."

After graduating high school in San Antonio, Texas, Carr attended Sonoma State University in Northern California but returned to Texas after her sister and mother moved to Corpus Christi. In 1997, she graduated from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with highest honors.

"The University was such a supportive environment," says Carr. "I knew all the professors and the students in the communication program. I felt a sense of belonging, and I wasn't just a number."

As communications manager, Carr, a board member of the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO), handles the public and media relations for the City of Cedar Park, maintains the Government Access Channel and the city's Web site, and writes, produces and hosts all local Cedar Park TV programs.

"I get the best of both worlds," says Carr, who has received TAMIO and TELLY awards for special tourism videos and cable programs. "I still get my TV fix because we oversee a Government Access channel and I get to do several tasks that keep me motivated."

While at the Island University, Carr served an internship at KRIS 6 News, eventually becoming the weekend producer there, and later at KIII-TV 3. After the traumatic events of Sept. 11, 2001, Carr decided she needed a break, but returned a year and a half later.

"I missed the fast-paced environment and the feeling of never knowing what's going to happen next," she says. "With TV, there's always breaking news. That's what keeps it exciting."

In 2003, Carr became an anchor at Corpus Christi's Action 10 News where she was also assignments manager and producer. The following year, she took a management position in Tyler, Texas, and later became the morning executive producer at the CBS affiliate in Austin, Texas.

"In Tyler, I started on their assignments desk, but eventually became their assistant news director and a sports anchor," Carr says. "The nice part of being in a small market is the variety it offers."

During her career, Carr has covered many important people and events. But, it is the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, she will always remember most.



MELANIE CARR

"I was assigned to cover the situation at the schools that morning," she recalls.

"Parents were panicking and schools were under lockdown. During that time, I was dealing with my emotions and fears. It's moments like that, that really stand out."

## HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Nicole Levy '08 BBA Management** is director of operations at Coastal Cycle Academy in Corpus Christi and is in the MBA program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Come see her at Barton Street Pub where she works a second job as a bartender.

**Leanne Marie Mulholland '08 BBA Management** is a branch development officer with the Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union and is working on her MBA at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Mia Cannon '09 BBA Management** is the Jobs4Youth program special projects coordinator for Serco of Texas Inc. in Corpus Christi. She also works with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's American Cancer Society and Colleges Against Cancer's Relay for Life.

**Dianna Doebbler '09 BBA Accounting** hopes to graduate with her MACC by December 2010.

**Jay Garcia '09 BBA Marketing** is a partnership specialist intern with the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities for the United States Census Bureau in Dallas, Texas. He began working on his MBA with emphasis in business marketing at the University of North Texas in fall 2009.

**Jessica B. Garcia '09 BBA Marketing** works in sales and marketing for Doucet & Strain Aesthetic Laser and Wellness Center.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Betty Lee Orchard Snow '52 BS Education** is the widow of Bill Snow '50 BS Physical Education. In 2006 she moved from Corpus Christi to the Independence Retirement Resort in San Antonio, Texas, to be closer to her three daughters and their husbands, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, reading, sewing, researching family history and nature at the family home on Lake Travis.

**Lillie Hebert '68 BS Elementary Education** recently celebrated 30 years of teaching in the Chula Vista, Calif., ISD.

**Judy Maroney '73 BA Elementary Education** retired and moved to the family farm in Boxelder, Texas, with her husband, Bob. She is adjusting to farm living by working in the garden and vineyard, and fishing in the pool in the back yard.

**Juana Teresa Cavazos '75 BA Special Education** retired after working 33 years with Corpus Christi ISD as a special education teacher in both in elementary and high school.

**Frederick Mann '76 MS Educational Technology** has a radio and television station at the University of Texas-Pan American that plays more than 35,000 hits from over 40 countries. He also serves as the public affairs officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla in Port Isabel, Texas.

**Rudy Garza '77 BS Recreation** is a teacher at Martin High School in Laredo, Texas. He has one daughter, Monica Garza Urdiales, who is a fifth-grade science teacher for the United I.S.D. He also has two grandsons.

**Max "Manuel" Villarreal '79 BS Secondary Education** is a disc golfer. In 1979, he helped set up an 18-hole disc golf course on the University campus.

**Stephen Wolverton '81 MS Educational Administration** recently retired from the Huffman, Texas, ISD after working in education for 38 years. He now owns and operates an Internet travel service with Your Travel Business (YTB). He and his wife spend a lot of time in McAllen, Texas, with their new grandson.

**Brenda Lee Velazquez '83 BS Secondary Education** teaches for the Department of Education in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Nora Vasquez Casarez '84 BS Elementary Education** is an assistant principal and instructional supervisor at the Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes, Texas. She serves on the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals board of directors and is presently a doctoral candidate with Walden University. Nora is married to Rene S. Casarez and will soon celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.

**Denise Cavazos '84 BS Elementary Education, '86 MS Counseling and Guidance** has worked for Coles

Special Emphasis School, entered the counseling profession, and is now going on her 10th year as a school administrator for Harlingen CISD in Harlingen, Texas. She married Luis Lopez in 1988 and they just celebrated their 20th anniversary in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Carol Ziegler '85 BS Secondary Education** has been married to John Ziegler Jr. for 27 years. She has been teaching and coaching at the Klein School District for 15 years in Spring, Texas, and looks forward to retiring. Her two daughters, Ashley, who has a son, Easton Brett, 2, and Jenna, are both in their junior year at college.

**Candy Hein '87 MS Occupational Education** works in Institutional Advancement at Texas A&M International University. She has been nominated to the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas as the Texas Woman of the Year. She is the grandmother of three girls.

**Daniel Barbaro '89 BS Education** is a board operator for Valero Energy in Portland, Texas. His eldest son, Samuel, will graduate from the Air Force Academy in May 2010 will marry cadet Shannon Hindley. His youngest son, Andrew, is pursuing a career in the medical field and will become a medical missionary upon graduation.

*continued page 23*



## HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Lois Piercefield '81 BS Psychology and Counseling** earned his Master of Science in Counseling from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 1991. He retired after teaching English in the Corpus Christi ISD for 23 years and has been a volunteer worker at Christus Spohn Hospital Shoreline for several years.

**JoAnn Bejarano '92 BSIS Bilingual Education** is an elementary school teacher with the George West ISD. She just celebrated her 16th wedding anniversary and has two children. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and going to the movies with her family.

**Ann Fister '92 MS C&I Reading** retired from the Corpus Christi ISD and now works as a volunteer for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and John Paul II High School. She has traveled to many countries and her favorite activities are going to the beach, traveling and reading. She hopes to continue traveling and visiting with family in Louisiana.

**Janet Johnson '94 MS Counseling & Guidance** helps seniors at Taft High School with college applications and scholarships. Her two oldest grandsons are high school freshmen football players and she is expecting her seventh grandchild.

**Brandey Wade '97 BSIS English** is a teacher in the Tulo-Midway ISD in Corpus Christi. She married James Addison on March 21, 2009, and they are expecting a baby daughter in late October.

**Dianne Chan '99 BS Kinesiology** is a licensed physical therapy assistant in California working for inpatient facilities. She was recently licensed in Florida. Her boyfriend, Christopher, is also a physical therapist.

**Mark Wilder '99 BS Kinesiology** is married to Janice Palmer Wilder '99 BS Computer Science and they have three children, Sarah, 6, Caleb, 6, and Jackson, 4. Mark is an assistant principal at Tejada Middle School in the North East ISD in San Antonio, Texas.

**Michael Shumaker '00 BS Occupational Training and Development** retired from the Army in October 2001 after teaching senior military science programs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Del Mar College. He is now a safety and management director for Choctaw Construction Group in Choctaw, Miss. His career has afforded him the opportunity to work with NASA, the Army Corps of Engineers, Government Services Administration, various military organizations and private entities.

**Christina Barrera '01 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** – English is the assistant principal at Casa Linda Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD. The school received an exemplary rating from the Texas Education Agency. She had her fourth child, Benjamin, on July 10, 2008. She also has three daughters, Melanie, 12, Clarissa, 9 and Emily, 6.

**Witney Kilgore '01 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study Mathematics** is director of academic technology services at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Wyman Crawley '02 BS Occupational Training and Development** completed his master's degree at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and now works in the University's Mechanical Electrical Plumbing Department. He enjoys fishing, hunting and many other outdoor sports.

**Bucky Hartman '02 BS Kinesiology** coaches men's basketball at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas. He has three children, Gram, 7, and identical twin girls, Kennedy and Marley, 3.

**Adam Sadler '02 BS Kinesiology** and his wife welcomed triplets in March 2009, identical girls Hannah Alexis and Hayden Sophia, and a boy, Jonathan Austin. They also have a daughter, Olivia Mae, 2.

**Rachel Hudson '03 BS Kinesiology** teaches high school physical education and coaches cross country, freshman basketball, and track and field for the Gregory-Portland, Texas ISD.

**Lisa Sturges '03 MS Reading** is a reading specialist teaching grades three through six at Hatherly Elementary School in Scituate, Mass.

**Richard Garces '05 MS Occupational Training and Development** teaches business computer information systems at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Memorial High School in Alamo, Texas. This past year Richard also taught classes as a dual enrollment credit for students for South Texas College.

**Thesha Deen '06 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study Early Childhood** is a first-grade teacher in the Ingleside, Texas, ISD. She has completed her first class towards a master's degree in reading at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and began her second class in the fall semester.

**Maria Fernandez '06 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** is a teacher at Blanche Moore Elementary School in Lofita, Texas. She was a non-traditional student who earned her bachelor's degree by attending evening classes and plans to take graduate courses.

**Monica Johns '06 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** is a fourth-grade writing and science teacher in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Texas, ISD. She attended graduate school at Dallas Baptist University and earned a master's degree in reading and English as a second language.

**Pedro Moreno IV '06 BS Kinesiology** is a special education full inclusion teacher at LBJ High School in Austin, Texas, and is a football and softball coach. He lives with his wife and three children CJ, 16, Desiree, 12, and Mark, 11, in Elgin, Texas.

**Chris Casarez '07 BS Kinesiology** is a high school education teacher for the Putnam City, Okla., ISD. He was married on July 26, 2009, and lives with his wife in Oklahoma City.

**Nikki Greenwood '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** teaches kindergarten in Sinton, Texas. She married Joshua Ray in 2008 and they live in Portland with their new puppy.

**Scott Jason Roberts '07 MS Counseling and Guidance** is a school counselor in the Leander, Texas, ISD. He and his wife have a daughter, and a new son born on June 26, 2009.

**Arceli Prado-Smith '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** is a graduate student at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and will receive her master's in education administration in December 2009.

**Jacquelyn Walley '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** is a math teacher at Ed Willkie Middle School in the Eagle Mountain Saginaw, Texas, ISD. She married Jon Tarlton in April 2008.

**Lisa Marie Wood '07 MS Elementary Education** lives in the San Antonio, Texas, area where, after working as a substitute teacher, she was hired as a full-time teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. Her husband is an assistant vice president at Broadway Bank. Her daughter is entering her sophomore year of high school.



Alumni hang-out with freshmen at La Hacienda-Los Barrios for San Antonio Send-Off Party.

**Leigh T. Bryant '08 BS Kinesiology** is an assistant rehabilitation therapist for Gonzaba Medical Group in San Antonio, Texas.

**Estella Camacho '08 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study Generalist** is working on her master's degree in reading. She plans to graduate in December 2010 then obtain a second master's degree in curriculum and instruction before applying for the doctoral program. She has a 4-year-old who is in pre-kindergarten.

**Dawn Davison '08 BS Occupational Training and Development** is pursuing her master's degree in Early Childhood Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Nicole DeLeon '08 BSIS IS Generalist EC-4** is a second-grade teacher at Petty Elementary School in Taft, Texas. She enjoys her job and plans to return to school in the near future to pursue a master's degree in education and become a principal.

**Laura Flack '08 BSIS Generalist EC-4** is a teacher in the Seguin, Texas, ISD. She recently gave birth to her first child, daughter Avery, born May 7, 2009. She loves living in New Braunfels, Texas, with her husband and is ready to begin next year as a fourth-grade teacher.

**Andrea Johnson '08 MS Elementary Education** is an eighth-grade math teacher at Baker Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD, which has a 92 percent passing rate in the mathematics department. She has been invited to present this coming school year and speak to other teachers in services and training.

**Trisha Knight '08 BS Kinesiology** is studying physical therapy at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She plans to graduate in December 2010 and begin practicing at the Children's Medical Center.

**Pamela Pettis '08 BS Occupational Training and Development** is a substitute teacher for the Corpus Christi ISD and the Flour Bluff ISD. She is working on her master's degree in secondary education and hopes to become a full-time physical education coach.

**Teresa Razo '08 MS Educational Administration** is the principal at Corpus Christi College Preparatory High School. She received her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies, BA in Spanish, and MS in Educational Technology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is now a doctoral student in the University's Curriculum and Instruction in Literacy Studies program.

**Joy Talley '08 BSIS Interdisciplinary Studies ED-4** is in her first year as a kindergarten teacher with the Flour Bluff ISD in Corpus Christi.

**Jessica West '08 BS Kinesiology** recently moved to Georgia.

**Janet V. Barrios MS Counseling & Guidance** teaches at Driscoll Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD.

**LaQuisha Haywood '09 BSIS Generalist EC-4** is attending graduate school and working as a teaching assistant. She will be married in February 2010.

**Sarah Jule Laza '09 MS Secondary Education** is married to the love of her life and has two children who keep her on her toes. She has worked as an event coordinator and continues to substitute teach for Flour Bluff ISD in Corpus Christi. She is a certified teacher and hopes to find a speech teacher position.

**Jennifer Limon '09 BSIS Special Education EC-12** is searching for employment as a special education teacher. She plans to get married, buy a home and start a family.

**Crystal Maldonado '09 BSIS Generalist EC-4** is a co-director at A Special Place childcare center in Corpus Christi.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Hugh Delle Manahan '51 BA English** and husband, **William Broadway '51 BA Religion**, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on Aug. 24, 2009. She works as an adjunct at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, where she is a student teacher supervisor. Her husband just completed a two-year interim pastor project for First Baptist Church. They have two children, daughter, Jerene, and son, Mike.

**Eddie Cathey '57 BM Music** retired after teaching school for 38 years and serving as minister of music in churches for more than 43 years. He lives with his wife, June, outside of Kerrville, Texas. They have three children, Daniel, Stephen and Karen, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Eddie served as president of the Greater Houston Alumni Club for two years.

**Joseph Piefari '70 BS History** recently retired from the Sony Corporation and BE Aerospace as corporate vice president of Human Resources. Prior to his business experience, he was a teacher and education administrator for 11 years. He received his master's degree from Kean College and his doctorate from Rutgers University.

**Rich Sheubrooks '70 BS History** worked for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies and, for the last two years, for the Charlotte Bobcats. He has lived in Barcelona, Spain, and Amsterdam, Holland, and just finished a screenplay that takes place in 1968 in Corpus Christi. He is currently writing a book with his daughter who works for CBS in Tampa, Fla. Lucky for him, his wife, Muriel, loves basketball.

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# Researching the ‘Mediterraneo Americano’

When Oscar Garcia graduated from the Island University’s Coastal and Marine System Science Ph.D. program in May 2009, he discovered an endless sea of career possibilities.

Drawn by his natural curiosity for the Gulf of Mexico Garcia, a native of the port city of Tampico, Mexico, accepted a position as a research scientist in Florida State University’s Oceanography Department. He is currently exploring energy resources in the Gulf, using satellite images to detect sites at depths of up to 3,700 meters that contain hydrates, which are methane, and other hydrocarbon gases frozen into an icy slush at high pressure and low temperature.

“My work is a follow-up of the research I did while I was at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,” says Garcia, the first student from the University to earn a Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science. “I just returned from a cruise that produced fantastic results.”

While at sea, Garcia found a location off the Louisiana coast where he detected bubbling gas and oil at a depth of 1,200 meters. Once the accuracy of his find has been confirmed, he will map other sites in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Alaska.

In addition, he is working with NASA and NOAA scientists to implement a prototype for a permanent monitoring system of oil spills in U.S. coastal waters. He hopes the collaboration will lead to more efficient law enforcement of marine environmental laws by the Coast Guard.

Garcia came to the Island University in 2005 after earning degrees in environmental science and electronic engineering. While a doctoral student, he developed a method to identify oil slicks on the ocean’s surface. In addition, he presented the findings of his dissertation on the detection of natural seep formations by merging data from radar satellites, geophysical data, and direct observations made by submarines,

at several international conferences.

Garcia is a member of the American Geophysical Union and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. He also received a distinguished

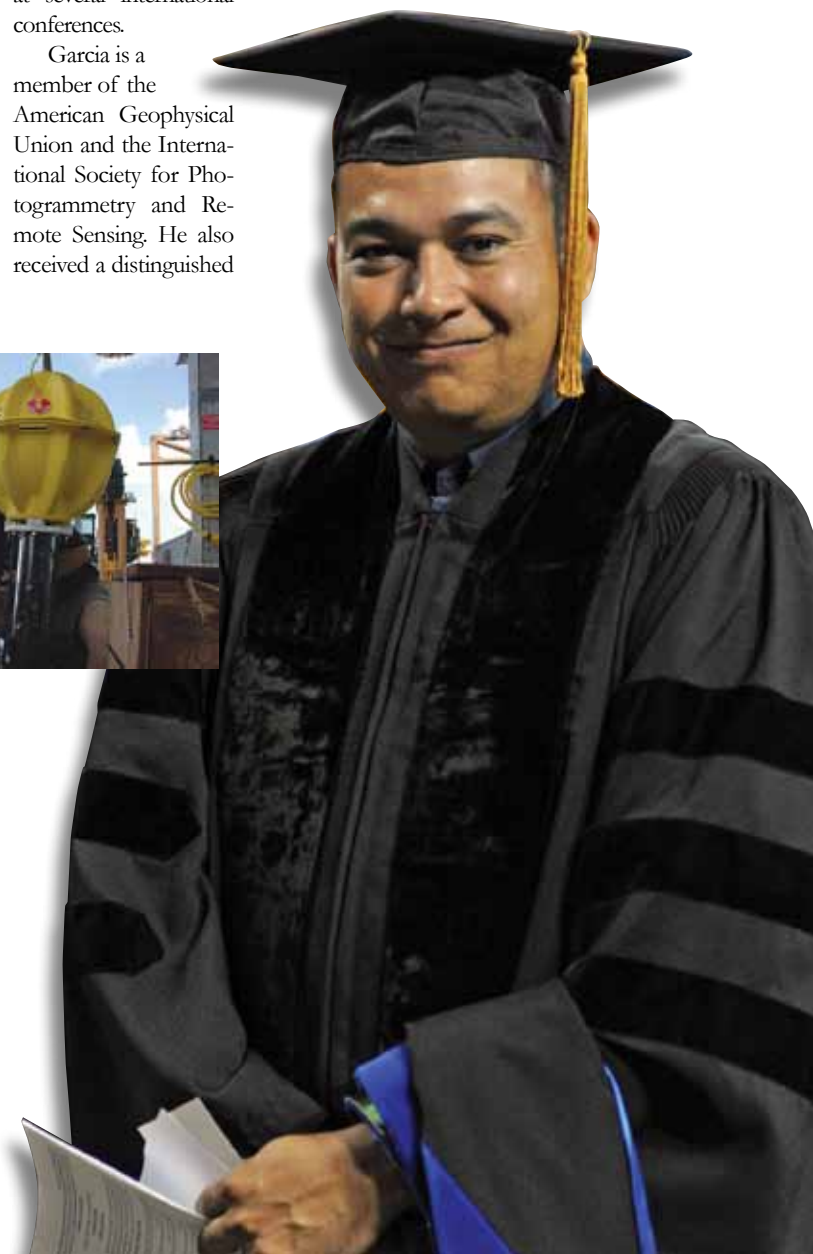
invitation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be part of the Sea Surface Roughness Science Team, whose mission is to research and develop applications for both NOAA and NASA satellite users.

As a teaching assistant and adjunct faculty member at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, he taught physics, algebra and calculus. He also served an internship at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. And he was chief scientist for a two-month exploration expedition in the Southern Gulf of Mexico, working closely with his advisors Dr. Ian MacDonald and Dr. Beate Zimmer. For Garcia, exploring the Gulf waters is like playing in his backyard.

“The Gulf of Mexico is my home,” Garcia says. “I have lived on the Gulf Coast all my life in both the United States and Mexico and it’s been incredible to have the opportunity to apply my research to better know the ‘Mediterraneo Americano.’”



Oscar Garcia, who graduated in May 2009, was the first student at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to earn a Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science. He often works with specialized instruments and submarines that travel to the ocean floor.





# HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Lucille Poludniak '79 BA Art** received her master's degree in library science from Texas Woman's University in May 2009. Previously, she worked as the Rio Grande educational outreach coordinator for the non-profit organization Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in the southwest region.

**John Morales '82 BA Communications** retired from accounting in 2004 and is president and CEO of the company he founded, Lagarto Electromagnetics Inc. His company designed a magnetic Prime Mover, like a diesel engine, which does not use hydrocarbons to operate.

**Wendy Smith '83 BA Psychology** works in quality management for the University Physicians Health Plans in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Wichi Guevara '85 BA Art** is a Rio Grande Valley, Texas, artist with more than 20 years as an artist, instructor and muralist. He continues to design and paint many murals throughout south Texas and abroad.

**Yvonne North '85 BA Art** is a missionary working with the Luo people and the Turkana tribe in Northwest Kenya. She runs a medical clinic in Ngija and takes medicine and the hope of the Gospel to the Turkana Tribes.

**Mark Branchowski '86 BA Communications** moved to Atlanta, Ga., in 1988 where he is a director for HLN and CNN.

**Larry Varley '86 BA Psychology** is married to Verónica, who accompanies him on business trips to Europe and around the United States. His son, Jafet, was married in December and is living with his wife, Lovely Nerius, a reporter for the Armed Forces Network in Germany. In July 2009, Larry was a member of the wedding of good friend and fellow alumnus Bill Dean to Dra. Noemi Sogari of Corrientes, Argentina.

**Henry Rice '88 BM Music** oversees the Fine Arts Department at Seeworth Academy. His oldest daughter majored in business administration at the Agricultural Technical Institute Business School and his two other daughters attend the University of Central Oklahoma. His son just graduated from high school.

**David Calderon '91 BA History** and his wife, Tiffany, live in Corpus Christi and celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary on Oct. 3, 2009. They have three children: Melissa, Roman and Die Dei. He is looking forward to returning to finish his master's degree.

**Candy Holmes '91 BA Psychology** is a supervisor of childcare services for the Neighborhood Centers Inc./Workforce Solutions in Corpus Christi.

**Barbara Greenwood '93 BA History** is an assistant secretary for J. Carroll Weaver, Inc in Sinton, Texas.

**Joe Guerra '93 BA Political Science** is a transportation planning coordinator for College Station, Texas. He is happily married and has three children, two daughters and one stepson.

**Virginia Estes '94 BA English** is a teacher at Driscoll Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD where she has worked for 12 years. She and her husband recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary.

**Lee Floyd '94 BA Sociology** is the Baptist Student Ministry director at Angelo State University. He received his Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1998 and is married to Rhonda Sandoval. They have two children, son Micha, and daughter Megan.

**Paul Perea '95 BA Music** is married and teaches elementary music in the San Antonio, Texas, ISD. He has contributed to the Green Thumb Project, B/R News, Solar Knowledge for kids and parents, and a communication center for projects to produce movies, podcasts, and radio shows to his community and school.

**Rosalind Ware Sobosle '95 BA Communications** is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Eli Lilly and Company in Houston, Texas.

**Sarah Melendez-Pocorobba '97 BA Communications** is a public affairs officer with the Border Patrol and spends her free time supporting her family, and running a local professional baseball team called the "Laredo Broncos." Her son, Rolando III, who recently turned 2, takes up the remainder of her free time.

**Trish Reynolds '97 BA Sociology** is a district behavior specialist for the Katy, Texas, ISD and is enjoying life with her children and grandchildren.

**Karen Skelton '97 BA English** is in her second year at Saint Louis University School of Law. Prior to entering law school, she spent 10 years as a technical writer, primarily in federal government agencies and the Department of Defense programs.

**Carol Renee Weekley '98 BFA Art** is an art specialist teacher at Cabell Elementary School in the Dallas, Texas, ISD. Both her daughters will attend college in fall 2009. Her older daughter attends Texas Tech University in Lubbock and her younger daughter is a student at University of North Texas in Denton.

**Rudy Anderson '99 BA Communications/Technical Report Writing** has transferred from Austin, Texas to the Corpus Christi Field office for Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services- Division for Blind Services. Rudy provides a wide range of vocational and other field services for blind and visually impaired consumers in Nueces and surrounding counties.

**Samuel Elizondo '99 BA Psychology** works for the Education Management Corporation as the senior associate director of high school programs for the central region. He enjoys attending the alumni events held in Austin.

**Rebecca Vela '99 BS Criminal Justice** is a paralegal for the Gutierrez Law Firm. Her older daughter is in the master's program in counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and her younger daughter just started her second year at the Island University.

**Sheryl Alsbury '00 BA Psychology** works for the Conroe, Texas, ISD. Her daughter was married two years ago and her son is about to become engaged. She and her husband travel as much as possible.

**Joyce Hawthorne '00 BA English** has taught English as an adjunct for the last six years at Del Mar College. She and her husband are avid Islander sports fans and basketball season ticket holders.

**Dolores Summers '00 BA Communications** taught high school for eight years before earning her master's degree in library science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She just began a new career as an elementary school librarian.

**Teodoro Aguilar Jr. '01 BA Psychology** is a legal case worker for the Department of Family and Protective Services in San Antonio, Texas. Teodoro has been engaged since Dec. 27, 2008, and plans to marry in October 2010.

**Patricia McKenna '01 BA Studio Arts** is a library assistant at Mary Carroll High School in the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Veronica Ramirez '01 BA Music** teaches singing and piano at her studio, Bella Nota Vocal Studio in Laredo, Texas. She is currently working as vocal coach for "Man of La Mancha," the production that will inaugurate the new theatre building at Texas A&M International University.

**Ryann Cox '02 BA English** is in her sixth year of teaching in the Irving, Texas ISD. She and her husband are expecting their second child in February 2010.

**Fernando Fuentes Jr. '02 BS Criminal Justice** is working on his Ph.D. in counseling at Texas A&M University-Commerce, with an emphasis on diverse popu-

larity through a proactive process that creates and reinforces conditions to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles.

**Michelle Maresh '04 BA Communications** is an assistant professor of communication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. In May 2009, she received the Bruce Kendall Award for excellence in teaching from the University of Nebraska.

**Humberto Cardenas Jr. '05 MA English** is an English instructor at Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas. He recently presented "A Hispanic Curriculum for Students on the Border" as part of a panel at the Con-



Alumna Amber Martin '02 and husband, Derrick, enjoy the San Antonio Freshmen Send-off Party.

lations. He is president of Chi Sigma Lota, International Counseling Honor Society, Epsilon Tau chapter. He also serves on the President's Council on Hispanic Serving Institute and, in July 2009, was awarded the H.M. Lafferty Doctoral Scholarship.

**Kathryn Foster '03 BA Sociology** is a cancer information specialist at the National Cancer Information Center of the American Cancer Society in Austin, Texas, and a substitute teacher for the Austin ISD. As a TV/movie extra, she has appeared in several episodes of the TV series "Friday Night Lights" and the new "Friday the 13th" movie.

**Noelia Perez '03 BS Criminal Justice** is the superintendent at Texas Youth Commission's York Halfway House in Austin, Texas. Her son, Anthony, is a political science major at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. They look forward to his graduation in 2012.

**Audelia Sandoval '03 BA Sociology** works for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Texas, ISD and hopes to retire in 2011. She has two grown sons her live nearby in Dallas, Texas.

**Wendy Williams '03 BFA Art** is an art educator for the Corpus Christi ISD. She plans to pursue her master's degree in counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Joán Alvarez '04 BS English** earned a master's degree in education administration at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is now the principal at Progresso Early College High School.

**Jennifer Catalani '04 BA Psychology** is a resource and external relations specialist for Adult Protective Services in the Corpus Christi region which covers 19 counties. She recently bought a house in the Flour Bluff area located in Corpus Christi.

**Jessica Liska '04 BA Art** is a prevention specialist with the Pleasanton, Texas, ISD where she implements federal grant programs that help students and the com-

munity on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco, Calif.

**Gregory Diehman '05 BS Criminal Justice** received his Master of Science in Criminal Justice in August with a 3.55 GPA from the Kaplan University in Indiana. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in public safety criminal justice.

**Michelle Champagne '06 BA English** is an assistant manager with Walgreens in Corpus Christi. She is married to Bryan Smith, and they are enjoying their life together. They love going to the beach and collecting seashells.

**Audrey Gilpin '06 BA English** is a features reporter with The Mountain Mail newspaper in Salida, Colo. She enjoys the Colorado lifestyle and has participated in raft training on the Arkansas River.

**Eva Guerrero '06 BA English** and her husband, Happy, are designing a home in the Lago Vista subdivision in Corpus Christi. In October, their daughter Leslie will wed Timothy Collins at Becker Vineyards in Fredericksburg, Texas.

**Michelle McDowell '06 BA English** teaches language arts at Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi. On Oct. 10, 2008, she and her husband, Anthony, welcomed a baby boy, Hudson Bryan-Le McDowell.

**Brandon McElveen '06 BA Psychology** is pursuing his master's degree in psychology at the University of Houston-Victoria and after completing an internship, will graduate in 2010. He plans to work as a licensed specialist in school psychology and pursue his Ph.D.

**Ida Montes '06 BA Communications** received her master's degree from St. Mary's University in 2009 and is a pre-kindergarten teacher with the San Antonio, Texas, ISD. She will marry Richard Nunez on June 26, 2010.

*continued page 26*

HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Mark Morales '06 BS Criminal Justice** ran track for four years at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi before graduating in December 2008 with a master's degree in education.

**Tiffany Pawlak '06 BA Communications** married Carson Campbell '06 Management Information Systems on Feb. 24, 2007. The live in Katy, Texas, where Tiffany is a substitute teacher with the Katy ISD. Carson works for Exxon Mobil in the greater Houston area.

**David Robe '06 BA History** is in his final year of law school at the University of Michigan. He recently returned from a trip to Tokyo, Japan, where he received an offer to work in the Houston, Texas, branch of a major law firm.

**Alexander Snowden '06 BA Political Science** earned a master's degree in college student personnel administration from Illinois State University. He is the coordinator of Greek Life and Intramurals at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

**Anna Burke '07 BA History**, and husband, **Andrew Herrera '08 BM Music**, are expecting their first child in March of 2010. Anna will receive her master's degree in public history from the University of Houston in December 2009.

**Angeli Christian '07 BFA Art** is a registered nurse at the Corpus Christi Medical Center- Doctor Regional Hospital Center. She lives in Flour Bluff with her husband, Nick, but after a recent trip to the Philippines, would like to move there within two years.

**Lacey David' 07 BS Criminal Justice** received her master's degree in counseling from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and works for a private psychologist doing play therapy and mental health counseling.

**Maricela Hernandez '07 Communications** teaches first-grade bilingual education in the Corpus Christi ISD. Her 18-year-old daughter recently graduated from high school and is preparing to attend college.

**Dee M. Olivarez '07 BA Psychology** is in her third year teaching resource English Language Arts for sixth through eighth grades in the Zapata County, Texas, ISD. She serves on several program improvement committees for the school district and is the lead teacher for her department. She is building a new home and starting graduate studies in the school and psychology fields.

**Jake Owens '07 BA Communications** is an outside sales representative for Hertz Equipment Rental Company in Lubbock, Texas. He recently became engaged to Amanda Edgmon.

**Joe Perez '07 BA Music** is band director and elementary music teacher in the Sabinal, Texas, ISD.

**Brian Tullis '07 Criminal Justice** is an agent for the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. He loves to spend time with his family, dogs and friends, and he enjoys fishing, boating and hunting and is a diehard Miami Dolphins fan.

**Brandy West '07 BA Communications** is a volunteer with AmeriCorps working with a homeless organization making photo journals and newsletters. Brandy also does service and mission work with school and church groups.

**Somers Dean '08 BA Psychology** works as a barista for Starbucks in Corpus Christi and is pursuing a graduate degree in counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Edith Delgado '08 BA English** is in her second year of the English graduate program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she is a composition and rhetoric teacher in the University's First-Year Writing Program.

**Andrew Dunlap '08 BA Music** is in his second year at Michigan State University College of Law. He recently finished a summer internship at Watts, Guerra & Craft, L.L.P. where he assisted in the preparation of complex litigation ranging from product defect cases to Qui Tam/ False Claims Act cases.

**Brad Hessee '08 BS Criminal Justice** is a service representative with the Social Security Administration in Boulder, Colo.

**Benjamin Hoffman '08 BA History** is in his final year of the master's program in minority and urban education at the University of Maryland. He is also working on a historical writing skills curriculum project for Prince George's County Public Schools.

**Holly Knippa '08 BS Criminal Justice** is a shift manager for On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina in Corpus Christi. She recently became engaged and plans to get married next summer.

**Amber Rokyta '08 BA Communications** is an advertising consultant with the Victoria Advocate newspaper in Victoria, Texas, and loves it. She works with clients from all over the Victoria and Crossroad area.

**Becky Sanchez '08 BA English** works for L-3 Communications as a general clerk III. She has received her teaching certification as an English Language Arts teacher for grades four through eight and is working on her Master of Science in curriculum and instruction.

**Brooke Seyffert '08 BA Psychology** is working on her master's degree in counseling at Michigan State University.

**Ashley Schmitt '08 BA Music** is working as a substitute teacher for the Nacogdoches, Texas, ISD while finishing her master's degree in music education and working on her teacher's certification at Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Newman Wong '08 BA Sociology** plans to finish his master's degree in sociology at the University of Oklahoma. This summer he volunteered in Hunan Province of China to improve the library at a rural elementary school.

**Brent Flack '09 BA Art** and wife, **Laura Lauer Flack '08 BSIS Generalist EC-4**, just had a baby daughter, Avery Rae. He is a teacher at Canyon Lake High School in New Braunfels, Texas.

**Becky Lutzke '09 BA History** is a teacher at William Adams Middle School in the Alice, Texas, ISD. Lisa O'Donnell '09 MA Psychology lives with her family on a farm in Oklahoma, where she is studying for her LPA exam and building a chicken coop. The horses keep her family busy as does the upkeep of the old family farm house. Soon she will have chickens, more kittens, and her LPA license.

**Carlos Martinez '09 BA Theatre** is a store manager with Nashville, Tenn.-based Varsity Brands and travels throughout Texas and surrounding states working at camps for high school cheerleaders.

**Jose Noriega '09 BM Music** is the music librarian and orchestra personnel manager for the Valley Symphony Orchestra in McAllen, Texas. He is also pursuing his

*continued page 28*

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# Alma Mater Memories

## HOWARD AND JULIA TOWNSEND ARE DEVOTED TO THEIR ISLAND UNIVERSITY

The Island University will always hold a special place in the hearts of alumni Howard and Julia Townsend. After all, it's where they met back in the 1950s when it was the University of Corpus Christi (UCC).

The two graduated from the small Baptist University of around 300 students, married in 1955 and made their home in Houston, Texas. Over the years, both have devoted much of their time to their alma mater, serving on the National Alumni Association's board of directors and being honored with the University's Outstanding Alumni Award. They are devoted fans



Alumni Howard and Julia Townsend will always cherish their University of Corpus Christi memories.

of Islander athletics, regularly driving more than three hours to Corpus Christi to cheer on their teams.

"We loved this school when we were students," says Howard. "The UCC campus was small and we knew everyone well. Now, Julia and I appreciate the opportunity to be actively involved in the outstanding progress at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi."

Julia says Howard, who has known many coaches and athletic directors through his association with the Tarpon Foundation, has always been an avid supporter of Islander athletics. The couple holds season tickets in several sports and seldom misses a game.

"If Howard says he's going to Corpus Christi to see one of the games, then I'm coming with him," Julia says. "When we attend sporting events, we enjoy socializing with many of our friends in Corpus Christi and at the University."

Howard, who played intramural sports, graduated in 1951 and earned his bachelor of science in accounting as a member of the first four-year graduating class. After serving four years in the Air Force, he went to work in Houston as an accountant and contact administrator.

Julia, who taught at the University's primary school and participated in several cam-



Over the last 60 years, the University has grown from a small private Baptist college with 312 students to a major institution of higher learning with around 9,500 students.

pus organizations including the State Baptist Student Union, graduated in 1954 with a bachelor of science in education. Over the years, she has taught school in Corpus Christi and the Deer Park ISD in Houston. Currently, she is president of the Women's Ministry Union at Houston's South Main Baptist Church. The couple has two grown children, Glenn and Beverly.

Both Howard and Julia are active in the Houston alumni association, attending Houston Alumni Chapter events and helping recruit UCC alumni to Homecoming events. Howard, a former National Alumni Association president, has also served as Houston Club president.

Each year, the Townsends' financial contributions help provide a scholarship for a Houston student to attend A&M-Corpus Christi. They also support the Tarpon Foundation.

"We don't have a lot, but we can give something to enhance the program for students, who otherwise, would be unable to afford to go to college,"

Howard says. "We're very interested in promoting the Island University. That's where we have many fond memories and wonderful times that continue today."



# HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

master's degree in music at the University of Texas-Pan America on a full scholarship this fall.

**Melva Perez '09 BA Political Science** is a student at the University of Texas School of Law. She previously worked at SERCO of Texas as a quality assurance monitor.

**Rosemary Rodriguez '09 BS Criminal Justice** is engaged and seeking full-time employment in the criminal justice field.

**Eileen Suarez '09 BA Communications** was accepted into the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities internship program and worked in the Department of Veteran Affairs during summer 2009, writing press releases, organizing and coordinating events, and writing newsletters. She plans to attend graduate school.

**Travis Washmon '09 BA English** is in Cologne, Germany, teaching English at a local language institute. He plans to move to Dallas, Texas, in spring 2010 to begin his Master of Arts at the University of Texas-Arlington, while managing an Abercrombie and Fitch store. He plans to study rhetoric and composition and eventually get his Ph.D.

**Danielle Whiteside '09 BM Music** moved to California where her husband is stationed in the military. They are expecting their first baby. Danielle received her teaching certificate and hopes to begin teaching soon.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Kimberly Roeder-Maher '93 BSN Nursing** is a registered nurse at Cy-Fair Surgery Center in Spring, Texas. She has two children, Charles Andrew, 15, and Cayley Amanda, 13.

**Sharon Renee Patterson '06 MSN Nursing** works at a rural health clinic in Henderson, Texas, and enjoys the piney woods and fishing on the lake in the backyard. She and her husband, Ed, have two sons who attend Texas A&M University.

**Betty Rutherford '06 BSN Nursing** is a cardiac ICU nurse at Christus Spohn Health System in Corpus Christi. She precepts new nurses and student nurses that come into the unit and serves as a team leader when required.

**Tammy Gerberding '07 BSN Nursing** has completed extensive post-graduation study and now works with babies with compromised health, either from extreme pre-maturity or illness.

**Danyelle Watts Lewis '08 BSN Nursing** is a rehabilitation and pediatric acute care nurse at a children's hospital in Houston, Texas. She married James Lewis on Dec. 13, 2008.

**Sarah Armendarez '09 BSN Nursing** lives in her hometown, Fort Worth, Texas, and works full time as a registered nurse in the Neurological ICU at Texas Health Harris Fort Worth Hospital. She is active member of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

**Amanda Berger '09 BSN Nursing** is a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in College Station, Texas.

**Lori Cella '09 MSN Nursing** recently passed her boards for family nurse practitioner in June and started her first family nurse practitioner job.

**Tametra Jones '09 MSN Nursing** is a family nurse practitioner for Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas.

**June Ness '09 BSN Nursing** is a registered nurse at Bay Area Women's Services. She plans to wed John Delgado, a history major at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, in fall 2010 and return to the University in 2011 to pursue her master's degree in nursing.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Dinah Bowman '72 BA Biology** was nominated for Texas State Artist and completed a mural that was unveiled in October at the Southwest Library in Corpus Christi. Her daughter, Coral, who is working on her Ph.D., was married in March. Dinah is helping put together the first Biological Illustration Art Show and sale to benefit scholarships which will be held on Dec. 4-5 at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

**Tracy Woody '80 BS Computer Science** is the director of information technology services for the State of Texas Department of Insurance in Austin, Texas. She plans to retire in August 2011 unless something really fun comes up before then.

**Joedy Gray '82 MS Biology** is a program administrator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the Inland and Coastal Fisheries Divisions. Joedy has been married for 24 years and has two sons, Austin and William.

**Gwendolyn Bueton '85 BS Medical Technology** is senior cytotechnologist for Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital. She is anxiously awaiting her son's graduation from Texas A&M, his commission into the Navy, and her daughter's high school graduation. She is currently single and pursuing a new hobby, horseback riding.

**Marcus Mokry '86 BS Computer Science** celebrated his 26th wedding anniversary in July. He and his wife have two sons, Zachary, 18, and Joshua, 14. Marcus has worked on automotive applications since 1989. He takes care of parts systems for Gulf States Toyota, a private distributor for about 150 dealerships.

**Katherine Williams '90 BS Mathematics** is the stay-at-home mom of 9-year-old twin boys who entered the third grade this year. She is also a mixed media artist and works in the office at her husband's cotton gin during the harvest season.

**Mark McNamara '93 BS Biology** is an instructor in the First-Year Learning Communities Program, a GEAR UP STAR faculty fellow, and doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He married Dr. Laura McMurrey in Hawaii on Aug. 10, 2009. Laura is a third-year medical resident at Bay Area Medical Center.

**Corando Gallegos '94 MS Environmental Science** has worked as an analytical chemist for the Department of the Army in Corpus Christi for the past 20 years. He and his wife have been married for 15 years and have a 13-year-old daughter who attends Flour Bluff Junior High School.

**James Davis '95 BS Biology** is a math teacher for the Ingleside, Texas, ISD. His daughter is a senior in high school.

**Danyel Hermes '99 BS Biology** married Matthew Tacker '99 BS Chemistry in 2002. She received her Ph.D. in pathology from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 2004, lived in Germany while on fellowship, became Ochsner Health System's first Ph.D. clinical chemist and obtained her full board certifications in clinical chemistry.

**Stacy Lee '00 BS Biology** is a physician and nurse recruiter with Beck-Field and Associates in Selma, Texas.

**Laurel Montgomery '01 BS Chemistry** works as a quality manager for Nestle Waters North America, a factory that produces water in Calistoga, Calif. She lives in Sonoma County, Calif., with her husband and three cats.

**Larry Morgan '01 BS Environmental Science** is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and has published an article in Technical Communications Quarterly.

**Gilbert De La Rosa '03 BS Environmental Science** is a customer integration manager with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) in Houston, Texas. While working with BNSF, he has lived in Fort Worth, Texas, Kansas City, Mo., and Houston, Texas. He is celebrating his second year as a homeowner.

**Binesh Prabhaker '04 MS Environmental Science** works for authenticLearn, a consulting and training firm that provides consulting services to start-up and midsize biotech and pharmaceutical companies in the United States and India.

**Patrick Krause '05 BS Geographic Information Sciences** is a surveyor in training for Naismith Engineering Inc. in Corpus Christi.

**Lisa Winnett '05 BS Biology** is an intern at the Center for Animal Education and Research, a big cat sanctuary, caring for tigers, lions, leopards and cougars.

**Kristi Gleason '06 BS Biology** completed an internship with the U.S. Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center's Marine Mammal Program in San Diego, Calif., and is now a marine mammal trainer at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.

**Mark Locke '06 BS Biology** works in guest services in the hotel industry. He is lives in Portland, Texas, and spends his free time fishing and going to Hooks baseball games.



Alumni enjoy the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club's Winter Jazz Mixer at the Corpus Christi Art Center.

**Caley Hunter '07 BS Biology** is a life science teacher at Memorial High School Senior Campus in Victoria, Texas. She co-sponsors the Interact Club and assists at the Homework Center and Victoria ISD Science Fair.

**Ali McKenzie '07 BS Geographic Information Sciences** graduated with her Master of Science in geospatial surveying engineering in August 2009. Ali plans to continue working at the Coastal and Marine Geospatial Lab at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico studies and at Yin Yang Fandango restaurant.

**Jessica Montalbo '07 BS Biology** works in the Food Analysis and Diagnostic Lab at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, testing dog sera to make sure they have sufficient antibody levels protecting them from the rabies virus. Previously, she did vaccine research on numerous infectious diseases and bioterrorism agents. Chris Poore '07 BS Biomedical Sciences is a senior pharmacy technician at Walgreens in Corpus Christi.

**Robert Arubuckle '08 BS GIS Geomatics** is a computer-aided drafting technician for Frontier Surveying in Corpus Christi.

**Rachael Bradley '08 Biomedical Sciences** is a full-time mom. She lives in Sugar Land, Texas with her husband, Michael, an applications engineer, and baby Landon, who was born 10 days after Rachael graduated.

**Laura Garza '08 BS Biology** has served as a youth development counselor with AmeriCorps at a foster boarding home in the Bronx, N. Y. She has decided to continue in service for social justice and next hopes to be in South Africa or Peru with the Augustinian volunteers.

**Harley Simms '08 BS Biology** teaches biology in the Galena Park ISD in Houston, Texas.

**Edward Kemei '09 BS Chemistry** has applied for graduate school at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Ashley Myers '09 BS Biomedical Sciences** is studying occupational therapy in graduate school at the University of South Dakota.

**Lacy Roesener '09 BS Biology** recently moved to the Houston, Texas, area where she teaches biology and coaches cross country and soccer at Manvel High School.

**Stephanie Sears '09 BS Chemistry** is married to Jody Ethridge and works for Ethridge Welding Service. She is thinking about becoming a teacher while she pursues her master's degree in chemistry.

**Hongzhi Song '09 BS Mathematics** is pursuing his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



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The Student Foundation Association is a select group of student volunteers who are responsible for the *Walk of Recognition*, and *Islander Revue*. All fundraising efforts go toward the Student Foundation's scholarship fund.

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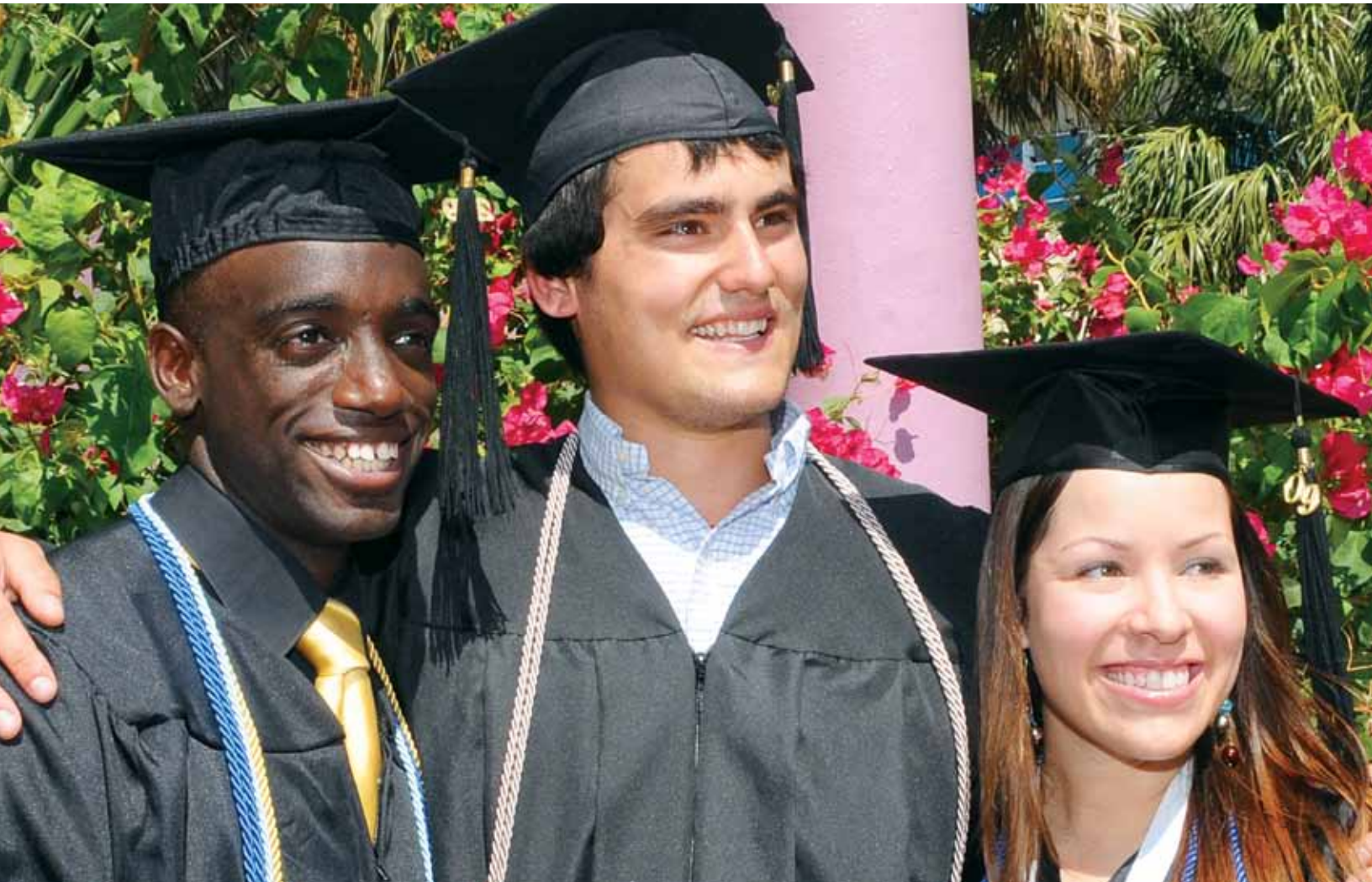
The Achieve Partnership program offers an excellent venue for supporting our youth who aspire to become leaders within many industries during their careers. Please consider how your gift today can develop the future of a student who one day may improve the quality of your life.



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## GIVING GIFTS OF OPPORTUNITY

There should be no limit to how great a student's future can become after graduation. Your support of the annual Islander Fund puts essential dollars into numerous initiatives throughout Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi which shape student experiences. Funds provide the needed support to place students into national academic competition, engage conference participation among their brightest peers, and undertake groundbreaking research.

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