

# the Islander

FALL 2010



## INSIDE

*A Stake in the Future  
Oil in a Day's Work  
Sea Of Intrigue*



## 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.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

**Platinum Circle**

\$10,000

**Silver Circle**

\$2,500

**Gold Circle**

\$5,000

**Bronze Circle**

\$1,000





DR. FLAVIUS C. KILLEBREW  
President/CEO

As state funds for higher education shrink, substantial private giving is becoming more critical than ever in maintaining and building upon the excellence Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has already achieved.

Getting a top-quality education that will serve them well is the highest priority of today's college-bound students. For donors and legislators, the highest priority is ensuring our ability to serve the educational research and service needs of Texas through visionary strategic operations, and skillful leveraging of their investments.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is fortunate to have a loyal base of private donors who clearly understand the power of education to transform the lives of people and the community. Recognizing that the University is an economic engine that helps drive the South Texas economy, many have stepped forward to make substantial commitments that have allowed us to build state-of-the-art facilities, offer significant scholarships and to attract the outstanding faculty who are the foundation of our academic success.

In September 2009, the University launched the \$25 million "Momentum Campaign," a comprehensive fundraising drive that will enable us to establish merit-based scholarships to allow us to compete for the best and brightest students, and to hire and retain brilliant faculty who can truly make a difference in the lives of the next generation. Shortly after the campaign was announced, we surpassed our goal and are now well on our way to achieving the challenge goal of \$30 million.

Through the community's generous investment, the Island University is fast becoming the "jewel of higher education" for South Texas. Today, we stand poised to take our commitment to excellence, engagement and expansion to an even higher level, building on the greatness we have achieved and paving the way for an even brighter future.



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## 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:

**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

Students from the five colleges represent the growing graduating classes of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

# New Grant Aimed at Recruiting Teachers

The Sid W. Richardson Foundation awarded a \$95,000 grant to launch Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's College of Education's Teacher Recruitment Initiative for high-need areas in mathematics, science, bilingual education or special education.

The Sid Richardson Scholars: Teacher Recruitment Initiative for High Needs Areas Initiative seeks to inform, recruit and support high school and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and community college students who desire to achieve active engagement in and commitment to one of the professional high-need areas in mathematics, science, bilingual education or special education. The two-year pilot program developed by Dr. Art Hernandez, dean of the College of Education, is being implemented by Dr. Denise Hill and O.B. Garcia.



## ELEVEN PALAPAS DEDICATED AROUND CAMPUS

Around 400 people gathered for the Palapas Dedication Ceremony honoring longtime benefactor Dusty Durrill at "Sam's Place: A Place for Memories," the main palapa site at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Making a wish and pitching gold coins into the fountain are (from left) City Councilman Mark Scott; contractor James Gourley; Gus Cargile, president of Industrial Fabricators of Corpus Christi; Dusty Durrill; University President Flavius Killebrew; University First Lady Kathy Killebrew; Samantha Hernandez, president of the Student Government Association; Bill Durrill; and sculptor H.W. "Buddy" Tatum. The main palapa fountain site includes a bronze sculpture honoring the memory of Shirley "Sam" Durrill who, along with her husband, was an enthusiastic University supporter. Earlier this year, Durrill was inducted into the University's Platinum Inner Circle of Excellence Society for his contributions to the University.



## LC FOUNDATION BUILDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Lena D. Coleman, founder and CEO of the LC Foundation, presented Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President Flavius Killebrew with a \$100,000 check during a luncheon in August. The gift will help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs implemented through the president's office which build on community engagement. The LC Foundation, Inc. is an affiliate of the Ability One Program, a national non-profit agency that has provided jobs for hundreds of people from all walks of life. The organization is committed to hiring and training people with disabilities and finding them permanent jobs.

## ATHLETICS DEBUTS NEW BIG 'I'

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student-athletes are sporting a new look during the 2010-2011 season with the debut of uniforms branded with new marks. The unique branding which features a block "I" and the traditional Islander oval is now the primary identity for all 14 sport teams and will be displayed on jerseys, athletic gear and authentic athletic replicas. The look also promotes the name "Islanders" on all uniforms. The brand created by the University's Office of Marketing and Communications is trademarked through Indianapolis-based Strategic Marketing Affiliates, which represents the licensing interests of more than 165 colleges, universities, conferences, and association properties.

# ISLANDERS



## ATHLETICS FORMS "I ASSOCIATION"

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Department of Athletics is forming an organization of former student-athletes who have earned varsity letters since the Islanders began play in 1998. The letter winners association, called "I Association," provides the opportunity for these alumni to support the growth and spirit of Islanders Athletics as a group. The I Association will hold its first major event during Homecoming on February 5. Nominations are being sought for officers and the call is out for letter winners to join. If you are an Islanders letter winner, please email your contact information, years attended and sport to: [letter.winners@tamucc.edu](mailto:letter.winners@tamucc.edu).

Former athletes got together for a game of baseball at the third annual Blue and Gray Alumni Baseball Game during Parents Weekend held in October. Fans cheered the teams with grey winning 6-5.



**Inspiring "once in a lifetime" performances...  
on the field and in the classroom.**



Your support enables more than 200 athletes excel in the classroom and on the courts, in the fields and over the fairways. Becoming a member of the Islander Athletic Fund 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.

Call **361.825.3237** or visit [giving.tamucc.edu](http://giving.tamucc.edu)



## MOORE NAMED ITA TEXAS CHAIRMAN

Steve Moore, director of the University's tennis program, has been named to a three-year term as chairman of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) Texas Region which comprises of every NCAA Division I school in the state. As chairman of the ITA Texas Region, Moore will be responsible for running the ITA regional tournament, nominating members

of the regional committee and having the committee vote on ITA Regional Rankings at the end of the fall and spring seasons. Moore will also serve on the ITA National Tournament Committee that will help determine the at-large and wild-card selections for the ITA National Tournaments.

## FITZPATRICK APPOINTED TO NCAA COMMITTEE

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Director of Athletics Tim Fitzpatrick will represent the Southland Conference on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee. Fitzpatrick, who begins a three-year term, is part of the 16-member committee which ensures that the viability of women's basketball is maintained, with an emphasis on recruiting activities and development of the public's perception of the sport.

The committee, which also makes recommendations on policy issues unrelated to legislative and playing rules changes, includes senior administrators and head coaches from eight Football Bowl Subdivision conferences, two Football Championship Series conferences, four Division I at-large members and two student-athletes.



# Bring 'Em On

## EARLY SCHEDULE INCLUDES SHOWDOWN WITH TEXAS A&M AGGIES

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi men's basketball fans won't have to wait long to see how their team stacks up against top-quality competition this season as the Islanders play one of the most grueling non-conference schedules in the team's history.

On Nov. 15, the Islanders will host the Texas A&M Aggies at the American Bank Center. The meeting will be just the second between the teams and the first since 2004 when the Islanders pulled off an 82-80 upset in College Station. The teams will also play at Texas A&M in 2011 and 2012.

"This game makes a major statement about the direction we are taking the Islander program," says Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Director of Athletics Tim Fitzpatrick, who has made adding nationally-recognized opponents to the Islanders' non-conference home schedule a top priority. "We are committed to bringing high-quality opponents to Corpus Christi and providing our fans with an exciting brand of college basketball that will pack the stands."

Beating Texas A&M a second time could be a formidable task as the Aggies return 12 players from last year's squad that posted a 24-10 record and placed a strong fourth in the powerful Big 12 Conference. Texas A&M, which finished the season ranked in the top 25 of most national polls, advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament where they fell to the Purdue Boilermakers 63-61 in overtime.

The non-conference road looks just as challenging for the Islanders who will travel to Stillwater, Okla., on Nov. 17, to take on the Oklahoma State Cowboys then, six days later, take on the Kansas Jayhawks, one of the most successful teams in NCAA history. On Dec. 18, the Islanders will face another home court test when they host the resurgent University of Houston Cougars. Last year, Houston upset Texas-El Paso in the Conference USA Tournament championship game to advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in almost 20 years. The Islanders end their swing through the Big 12 when they take on Texas Tech in Lubbock on Jan. 2, 2011.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi opens Southland Conference play on Jan. 8, at McNeese State before returning home to play UTSA. Last year, the Islanders posted a 17-15 record and, for the second straight season, advanced to the semifinals of the Southland Conference Tournament. As the Islanders enter Perry Clark's fourth season at the helm, they return four players who started 25-or-more of the team's 32 contests. Leading the returnees will be the inside tandem of seniors Demond Watt, a third-team All-Southland Conference selection a season ago, and Justin Reynolds, whose 911 career points is tops amongst current players. Also returning are Horace Bond, a senior who started 31 games a season ago, and Terence Jones who started 25 games as a freshman.

## MEET OUR OUTSTANDING ISLANDER ATHLETES

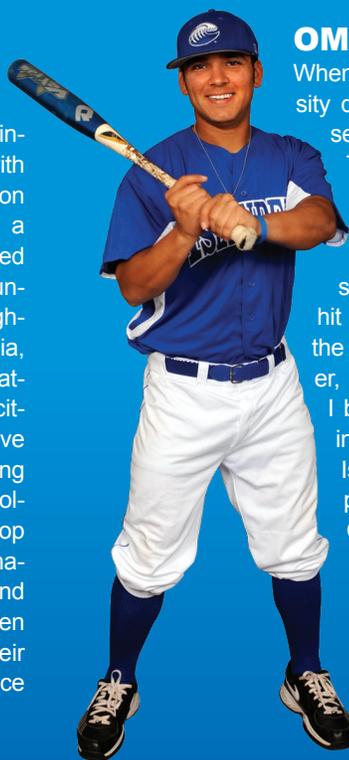
### MIRNA CICAK

As a 5-year-old growing up in Croatia's capital of Zagreb, Mirna Cicak watched tennis pro Monica Seles on television and was inspired to play tennis. Today, the junior with an upbeat personality is the top player on the Islander women's tennis team. As a youngster, Cicak was the second-ranked women's junior tennis player in her country and competed in tournaments throughout Europe including Italy, Romania, Serbia, Hungary and Germany. She was instantly attracted to the Island University and was excited to train with Islanders tennis coach Steve Moore, who had spent a summer traveling with her idol, Seles. In her first University college match, Cicak beat Rice University's top player, who was ranked in the top 25 in the nation. As a freshman, Cicak played singles and doubles matches and helped lead the women to their best season in school history and their first appearance in the Southland Conference Tournament.



### OMAR GARCIA

When Omar Garcia visited the Island University during his senior year in high school, he sensed a close-knit athletic community. That, coupled with the University's location on the Texas Gulf coast, sealed the deal for Garcia, a native of El Paso, Texas, who, in 2008, came here on a baseball scholarship. As a redshirt freshman, Garcia hit .321 in 53 at bats, and earned the job as the Islander's starting catcher. As an Islander, Garcia is excited about playing division I baseball against some of the best teams in the nation. His aspiration is to help the Islanders win a SLC championship and play in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Garcia is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and the Islander Mentoring Program. His current 3.7 grade point average has earned him spots on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll and the Southland Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll.



# Run for the Money

## ISLANDER WOMEN SET SIGHTS ON SLC CHAMPIONSHIP

After winning a school record 24 games last season, the Islander women's basketball team will face a 2010-2011 non-conference schedule that includes seven teams that made it to postseason play a year ago as they prepare for a run at the Southland Conference championship.

The Islanders ended last season with a loss to Memphis in the semifinals of the Women's Basketball Invitation. This year, Head Coach Robert Robinson has the nucleus for another strong team in seniors Jade Davis, Lauren Smith, Adrienne Scott, Louvinia Robinson, Anitra Jeffery and Myeisha Myles who all logged significant playing time last year.

The Islanders Tip-Off Tournament at the American Bank Center on Nov. 12, and Nov. 13, will feature the Iowa Hawkeyes, a team that finished fourth in the Big 10 and posted a 21-14 record in advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Rounding out the field are the Southern Jaguars, who won the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament championship before losing to top-ranked Connecticut in post-season, and the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

Following the season-opening tournament, the Islanders will take a five-game road trip that begins on Nov. 17, with a stop at historic "Phog" Allen Field House to take on the Kansas Jayhawks who narrowly lost to South Florida in last season's Women's NIT (National Invitation Tournament) championship game.

"These early tests are a way to get us ready for Southland Conference play," says Robert Robinson. "Playing good quality teams and having to compete at a high level against those teams will make us better and, with the upper classmen we have returning, we should be up to the challenge."

The Islanders' non-conference schedule also includes three major tournaments including the Coors Rocky Mountain Invitational on Thanksgiving weekend, and the Gator Holiday Classic where the field includes Florida and Robert Morris, teams that made it to the Women's NIT last year. The final preseason tournament comes just before the New Year when the Islanders play North Dakota and Utah Valley on Dec. 28-29 in Missoula, Mont., at the Lady Griz Holiday Classic.

The Islanders, who finished second in the Southland Conference West last year, open league play on Jan. 8, when they take on McNeese State at the American Bank Center.

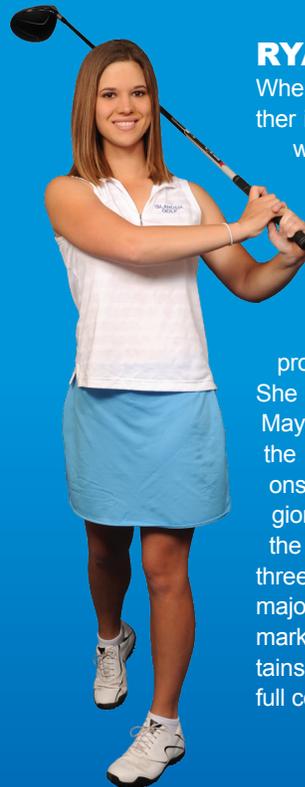
They will also play four games on campus at the Dugan Wellness Center, including Southland contests against UT-Arlington (Jan. 19), Texas State (Jan. 26) and Lamar (Feb. 19).

"We really enjoy playing in the Dugan Wellness Center," says Robinson. "Our fan support is amazing and the environment was really outstanding last season. I'm looking forward to playing more games on campus this year."



### DANIELA 'DANI' PRADO

Islander cross country student-athlete Daniela "Dani" Prado has her heart set on a career as a cardiac rehab specialist in a human performance lab. The Laredo, Texas, native joined the women's cross country team in fall 2007 and is in the right place to fulfill her career aspirations. Prado is earning her bachelor's degree in exercise science and plans to pursue a Master of Science in Kinesiology at the Island University. During her first season, the Women's Cross Country team placed first at the Southland Conference Championships. Despite a femoral neck stress fracture which required surgery in April 2008, Prado is in training to make a full force comeback on the track. Last fall, she returned to her sport, but during the 2010 fall season she emphasized distance running. Her stellar stats date back to Nixon High School when she was the 3,200 meter champion in 2005 for Region 4.



### RYANN WHITE

When she was 15, Ryann White's grandfather introduced her to golf and before long she was playing for the team at Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas. She heard about the Islander women's golf program through a high school coach and during a visit to the Island University during her senior year in high school, White was instantly attracted to the golf program and the warm campus atmosphere. She joined the University's golf team and, in May, 2009, during her sophomore season, the Islanders won their first SLC golf championship and advanced to the NCAA West Regional in Tempe Ariz., where she shot a 77 in the second round and came in at 242 over the three-round tournament. White, now a junior, is majoring in sports management with a minor in marketing. She is on the Dean's List and maintains a 3.9 grade point average while taking a full course load.



## NEW BUILDING RECEIVES TOP BEAM

University President Flavius Killebrew (left), Kathy Killebrew (center), Karen O'Connor Urban (right) and other Islanders put their signatures on the beam that was hoisted atop the new Michael and Karen O'Connor building that will be home to the University's College of Business during a "Topping Out" ceremony July 8. The \$25 million, 75,000-square foot facility made possible in large part to a \$6 million gift from the late Corpus Christi businessman Michael A. O'Connor and his wife, Karen O'Connor Urban, will house a Center for Economic Research, offices, classrooms and two computer labs.

## HISPANIC ENROLLMENT EXCEEDS STATE AVERAGE

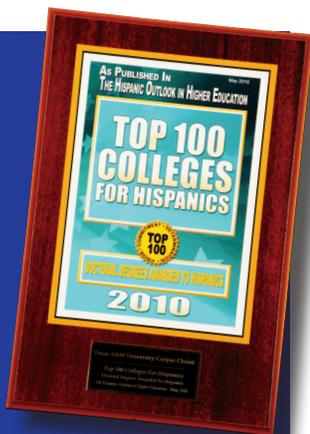
As a Hispanic Serving Institution, the University's Title V and Trio "Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps" program is nationally-recognized for creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment for Hispanics on campus, especially those from underserved and first generation families. Due largely to the University's commitment to closing the gaps in student participation, student success, excellence and research our Hispanic enrollment of 38 percent far exceeds the state average of 24 percent. This year Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was rated 29th in Hispanic Outlook magazine's annual listing of Top 100 Universities awarding doctorates to Hispanics. Recently, the University was selected as an "Institution Dedicated to Diversity" by Minority Access, a non-profit organization that supports the diversification of campuses by improving the recruitment, retention and enhancement of minorities.

## UNIVERSITY RECEIVES ACCOLADES IN TOP HISPANIC EDUCATION PUBLICATION

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is ranked 29th in the nation in awarding doctorate degrees to Hispanics by Hispanic Outlook, the only magazine for the higher learning community that focuses on Hispanic education.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was third among Texas schools in the magazine's annual listing of Top 100 Universities for Hispanics, ranking behind the University of Houston (12) and the University of Texas-Pan American (19). Nova Southeastern University topped the list followed by the University of Southern California, University of California-Berkeley and UCLA. The list was compiled with information provided by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service through programs that support underprepared and/or low-income, first-generation Hispanics and other minority students in South Texas. The University is also dedicated to closing the historical educational gap within the strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America.



## Art Museum Touts Prestigious Accreditation

The Art Museum of South Texas has achieved accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. Of the nation's estimated 17,500 museums, 775 are currently accredited. The Art Museum of South Texas (AMST) is one of only 39 accredited museums in Texas. Located in downtown Corpus Christi, the Art Museum of South Texas is a world-class facility affiliated with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi showcasing a colorful variety of art collected from throughout the South Texas region.

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH RECEIVES TCEQ ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was third among Texas schools in the The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has honored the University's Office of Community Outreach with a 2010 Environmental Excellence Award. The awards were presented in eight categories with, Community Outreach winning in the Civic/Nonprofit Organization category for its diversity of programs including:

- The kayak-based environmental education program that includes exploration of the Padre Island National Seashore, fishing with Texas Parks & Wildlife's Kidfish Program, trips aboard the University of Texas' Marine Research Vessel "Katy", the Texas State Aquarium, and a surf day for the Advanced Campers.
- The Pollution Prevention Partnership's Autocheck program that identifies vehicles that are discharging harmful pollutants into the air and schedules the vehicle for repairs at a participating garage, typically with no cost to the owner.
- The stormwater outreach program for small businesses and municipalities to increase awareness of stormwater issues protect and improve the water quality of Coastal Bend streams, bays, estuaries and the Gulf by reducing storm water pollution.
- The design and installation of oil and oily water bilge water pump-outs system in area harbors that provide boat operators with a non-polluting way to discharge their waste oil and oily bilge water. This reduces discharges to area waters and the impact of that pollution.

This marks the second time that the Office of Community Outreach has won the award which honors individuals, organizations and businesses that protect the state's human and natural resources while ensuring clean air and water and the safe management of waste. In addition to winning in 2000, Community Outreach was a finalist for the award in 1999 and 2009.



## YOUR NAME IS ON THE DIPLOMA... NOW LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE ISLAND.



A paver in the Walk of Recognition is the perfect way to commemorate your time spent at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Proceeds of a Paver on the Walk of Recognition directly support scholarships for students who are active on their high school campuses or in their communities.

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.

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



Larry J. Urban, the 2010 G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor, meets with students at the reception following his presentation.



## ERIC ROHNE

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Eric Rohne, finance major in the College of Business, to a one-year term as student representative to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. At the University, Rohne serves on the Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy, the Committee on Closing the Gaps, and the Committee on Agency Operations with the State of Texas. He is a past president of the University's Beta Theta Pi chapter, a former President's Ambassador and a member of the Campus Activities Board, Student Accounting Society and the Student Finance Association.



## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HONORS URBAN WITH KIRKLAND AWARD

Larry J. Urban, chief project engineer and co-founder of Urban Engineering, is the recipient of the 2010 G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award presented by the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"Mr. Urban is a successful, self-made businessman who is devoted to the community and possesses many outstanding personal qualities that make him a model for aspiring students," says Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the University's College of Business. "He has been involved in many programs to enhance the quality of life for the youth and citizens of Coastal Bend. He is very supportive of the University and the College of Business and is a special friend that we can call on when the need arises."

After earning his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1959, Urban joined the U.S. Army. Following completion of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Officers Basic Course, Lt. Urban was posted in Korea. When he returned to the United States, he served at Fort Hood, Texas, as commanding officer, Headquarters Company and, subsequently, assistant battalion operations officer until discharged in 1962.

Urban was licensed to practice engineering in January 1965, and soon after, he and his brother Eugene co-founded Corpus Christi-based Urban Engineering. Of special interest to Urban has been the planning, design and construction supervision of planned community developments, especially recreation oriented developments containing golf courses, marinas, tennis facilities, etc.

Urban is a member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. He holds licenses as a registered professional engineer and registered professional surveyor in the State of Texas.

His engagement in the community includes serving as director, Youth City; director, American National Bank; curriculum advisor, Del Mar College; curriculum advisor, Texas A&M University; member of the Business Advisory Council of the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; director, Mustangs; chairman of the board, Ada Wilson Children's Rehabilitation Hospital; and board member, Texas State Aquarium.

The G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award was created to honor Kirkland's distinguished service to the University, Corpus Christi, and South Texas. Recipients are chosen for their personal accomplishments and contribution to the success of students, faculty, the University and the Corpus Christi community. Kirkland was the University's vice president for development from 1975 through 1978. Prior to joining the University, he was associated with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, Inc. for 35 years.

# Stars Shine on PAC Stage

**FROM COWBOY TO CLASSICAL, PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BRINGS BEST TO COASTAL BEND**

In the five years since the University's Performing Arts Center celebrated its opening with a sold-out performance by Tejano legend Freddy Fender, the "PAC" has established itself as the premier cultural arts and entertainment venue for both Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend community.

The world-class acoustically-superb PAC features a 1,500-seat concert hall with state-of-the-art acoustics, and a striking 50-foot glass-

walled lobby with a beautiful view of Corpus Christi Bay and the downtown skyline. Entering its sixth season, the PAC has already hosted performances by many world-renowned artists including violinists Itzhak Perlman and Joshua Bell, mezzo soprano Frederica Von Stade, and Van Cliburn, winner of the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958 and a 2003 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The PAC also shines the spotlight on the University's many artistic performances and productions, serving as the stage for musical recitals by faculty and student groups as well as the hugely-popular "Islander Revue," the yearly musical variety show showcasing student groups and organizations. Through an annual grant administered by the College of Liberal Arts' Community Arts Advisory Council, the PAC is also available to non-profit performing groups and is now the principle performing venue for the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, Corpus Christi Live! and the Corpus Christi Chorale.

Perhaps the most anticipated PAC event each year is the return of "Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas" which plays to a sold-out house every holiday season. The annual concert, part of the Robert and Gloria Furgason Bravo! Series for the Performing Arts, will kick off



the sixth season of the Bravo! Series on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The 2010-2011 season also includes concerts by the world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra and Steinway artist Jeffrey Swann.

The Furgason Bravo! Series is named in honor of the retired University president and his wife who chaired the fund-raising drive that made the \$18 million facility a reality. Among the community leaders to step forward were former Corpus Christi-Caller Times publisher Ed Harte and his wife, Janet, who provided \$3.5 million, and Samuel Fresch, a financial consultant and supporter of the arts who contributed \$1 million to the campaign.



*A simple gift... A lasting memory.*

When you dedicate a chair in the Performing Arts Center to an individual or organization, you have the opportunity to warm the heart of the music lover before the performance ever begins.

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

This plaque was made by friends of the University, Terry and Andrea Hajek and Linda and Gordon Landreth.

In Memory of  
Irene M. Hajek

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.

\*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.

**UNIVERSITY RANKED AMONG TOP SCHOOLS FOR RECRUITING AND RETAINING VETERAN STUDENTS**

For the second year in a row, Texas A&M University-Corpus has been designated as a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine. Colleges, universities and trade schools named as "Military Friendly" must rank in the top 15 percent nationwide for efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students to increase diversity among the student body, faculty and staff.

To assist veterans and their dependents attending the Island University, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has adopted the Military Student Bill of Rights and is participating in the Service-members Opportunity Colleges, a consortium dedicated to helping servicemembers and their families obtain college degrees. In 2008-2009, the United Student Veterans Organization (USVO), which helps veterans in the transition from military to academic life, was named the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Organization of the Year.

In addition, the University's Department of Veterans Affairs assists the newest generation of veterans with applying for educational benefits granted by the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the largest investment in veterans' education since World War II, which covers the full cost of an undergraduate education at any public university or college and many private schools.

For more information about the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 and assistance with applying for benefits, call the Veterans Affairs Office at 361.825.2331; or go to <http://vets.tamucc.edu/>

# 'Islander Appreciation' Day Serves Veterans Who Served Their Country



Veterans from all branches of the United States military received free information on educational benefits and other state and federal programs available to those who have served their country at the "Islander Veterans Appreciation Day" in August. During the free event open to all area veterans, representatives from the University's Financial Aid, Admissions and Veterans Affairs offices answered questions for prospective and current students and provided information on the "Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008" and many other important benefits including the "Texas Hazlewood Legacy Program" which allows veterans to transfer some of their educational benefits to their children. In addition, a representative from the TVLB provided information on low-term housing, land and home improvement loans. Military recruiters were also on hand with information about opportunities in all five branches of the U.S. armed forces.

**CORONADO NAMED COORDINATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Capt. Rene Coronado, a Corpus Christi native, has been named coordinator of the University's Office of Veterans Affairs. In his position, Coronado oversees the day-to-day operations of the office which currently serves more than 500 veterans and dependents of veterans attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Coronado joined the Texas Army National Guard in 1991 and, after graduating from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 1997, was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. He served on active duty until December 2007 when he enrolled at the University of Texas at Brownsville. He will graduate in fall 2010 with a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in sociology.

**DIAZ ELECTED STATE VET REP**

Anthony Diaz, president of the United Student Veterans Organization (USVO) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, has been elected 2010 director of the Texas chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) a coalition of student veterans groups from college campuses across the United States. As state director, Diaz, a former U.S. Marine, will meet with elected state leaders to discuss veterans issues and proposed legislation that will help students make the transition from military to college life. Founded in January 2008, the SVA develops new student groups, coordinates between existing student groups, and advocates on behalf of student veterans at the local, state, and national level.



# Endowed Scholarship Council



*The Estill Foundation recently endowed the scholarship fund honoring Jeannette Holloway, a graduate and longtime benefactor of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. This generous gift will allow more than 20 students a year the opportunity to realize their dreams of a college degree.*

*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. To learn more about ways you can help the students through Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation, please call 361.825.2420.*

# a **STAKE** in the **FUTURE**

CREATING THE  
BEST UNIVERSITY  
TO ATTRACT THE  
BRIGHTEST  
STUDENTS



Kourtney Hopkins

# UTURE

believe in our future to be our stakeholders. That is especially true of our students whose top priority is to receive a top-quality education that will serve them well throughout their careers."

## IMPACTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

With more than 1,400 undergraduate and more than 200 graduate students pursuing degrees, the University's College of Business is providing a strong foundation in the principles of accounting, marketing and business administration.

Programs are designed to help students further their careers, and pursue advanced studies within a changing global environment. Undergraduate programs offer selected specializations built on a foundation of general education and a broad business core. The college promotes a high code of ethics, special concern for student learning, and the effective use of technology.

Within the community, the College of Business offers resources to foster economic growth. In 2009, the college launched The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center which, through its Business Incubator program, helps accelerate the growth of emerging innovative companies for the purpose of creating jobs, promoting entrepreneurial economic development endeavors and providing executive level education to the greater south Texas Coastal Bend area.

"This is an exciting time to be a business entrepreneur and, with the free enterprise way of doing business thriving, the demand for business graduates will continue to increase," says Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the College of Business. "Change is accelerated and survival and growth are assured only to those who are agile, innovative, and constantly learning new skills and unlearning obsolete ones. Global advances in technology are aiding the changing business environment and providing great opportunities in all areas of the economy."

At a time when the practice of sound economic principles is essential to the financial stability of the United States and the rest of the world, it is more critical than ever for investors to carefully manage their resources to ensure the best-possible return on investments. In higher education, that means creating a win-win situation for students and those in both public and private sectors who support and depend on the viability of our colleges and universities and the quality of graduates.

The bottom line for students, parents, donors and legislators is the return on their investment. Students deserve the best possible faculty, facilities and curricula, and donors and legislators expect universities to maximize their investment by providing students with a high-quality education while, at the same time, preparing for a challenging future through strategic planning and implementation.

Although a campus located on its own lush subtropical island makes Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi unique among American universities, it is the academic excellence of the faculty and programs, and the University's exceptional facilities that are attracting some of the best and brightest young people from throughout Texas and, increasingly, across the nation. And with a 20-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, our students experience a close teaching relationship from superior faculty who explore the cutting edge.

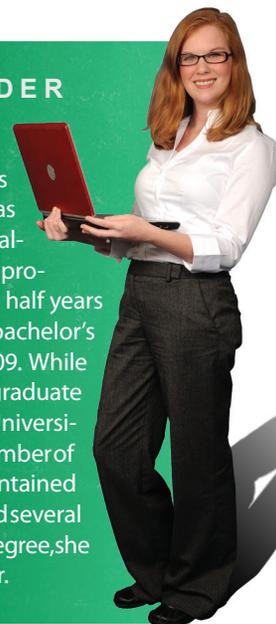
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's success-oriented professors, challenging degree programs, groundbreaking research programs and diverse student population make the Island University a logical choice for high school graduates and graduate students looking to further their education.

The implementation of the University's mechanical engineering program along with the cooperative Ph.D. in Nursing and the Ph.D. in Marine Biology are enhancing the University's Academic credentials, and with professors, students and graduates from our colleges of Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Science and Technology earning local, state, national and even international recognition, the excitement of excellence continues to build at the Island University.

"The University has an ambitious agenda and through the hard work of many dedicated people, these goals are being met," says Dr. Flavius Killebrew, president and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "While we don't sell shares, we do consider all who have generously supported our growth and

## OUTSTANDING ISLANDER LAUREN LOVELESS

As a high school senior, Lauren Loveless received numerous scholarships but was drawn to the Island University by the quality of its marketing and management programs. It only took Loveless two and a half years to graduate summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in marketing in December 2009. While still a senior, she began taking post-graduate classes and is currently enrolled in the University's MBA program. Loveless, who is a member of the Honor Student Association, has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and has earned several scholarships. After earning her master's degree, she plans to become a marketing manager.



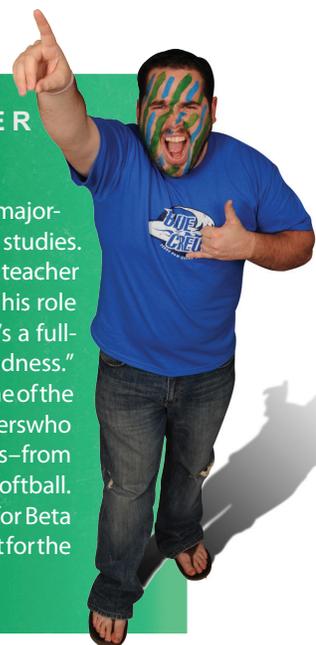
## PREPARING QUALITY EDUCATORS

The demand for a well-educated workforce to compete in a global economy is creating an increasing need for more highly-qualified teachers. The College of Education is helping meet that demand through a program that enables students to earn an accredited degree while taking the necessary state teacher training courses concurrently.

"Preparing effective novice teachers involves more than equipping them with a core set of competencies and skills," says College of Education Dean Art Hernandez. "We prepare educators to think critically, analyze effectively, and use data to make decisions impacting their students' success. Our investment for the future is to prepare graduates to meet the particular educational needs of their students and the evolving expectations of our community, state and nation."

## OUTSTANDING ISLANDER JUSTIN MILNER

Justin Milner, a native of Bedford, Texas, is majoring in kinesiology with a minor in social studies. After graduating, Milner plans to become a teacher and coach, but when he's painted up for his role as leader of the University's Blue Crew, it's a full-time job of "Mischief, Mayhem and Madness." The enthusiastic student organization is one of the fastest-growing campus groups with members who attend and promote Islander Athletic games—from basketball and baseball to volleyball and softball. Milner also serves on the executive board for Beta Theta Pi and is vice president of recruitment for the Interfraternity Council.



# Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies



Since the April 20, 2010, explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform off the Louisiana shore, scientists with the University's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) have made numerous trips to the coast and are continuing to provide vital knowledge and information about the consequences and long-term effects of the largest peacetime oil spill in history. In June, the HRI sponsored four panels to update the public and discuss the long-term impact of the catastrophe.

Within the next year, the HRI, which in just 10 years has already established itself as a world leader in the protection and conservation of the world's ninth-largest body of water, will host the second "State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit" to bring international experts together to assess the long-term damage from the Deepwater Horizon oil catastrophe. The summit will focus on the ecological and economic issues that will plague the affected waters and ecosystems for many years and build on the relationships created by the first "State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit" in 2006, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Since 1995, the College of Education has awarded 3,130 bachelor's degrees, 3,158 graduate and 193 doctoral degrees. These degrees, certifications and specializations prepare students for a wide variety of careers in professional education. Each year more than 130 independent school districts from across Texas attend the University's Teacher Job Fair to recruit graduates.

Undergraduate students spend a significant portion of their professional development courses working alongside experienced teachers, moving from observation and cooperative teaching to taking full responsibility for a class. Graduate students prepare to become educators and leaders in their fields, working closely with faculty and enjoying opportunities for field experience and collaborative research.

## DEVELOPING SCHOLARLY OPPORTUNITIES

The College of Liberal Arts serves the largest number of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students, accounting for 75 percent of the core curriculum instruction and offering 15 undergraduate degrees, six graduate degrees and six minors. The College also provides learning experiences outside the classroom, with students and faculty working with more than 180 community organizations, both as interns and participants in service learning projects that benefit the student and the community.

"Our faculty members are more than outstanding teachers, they are scholars who are engaged in creative and scholarly activity," stresses Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Their work as scholars creates opportunities for students to participate in academic competitions, music and theatre performances, art exhibits, filmmaking and research projects across disciplines."

In addition to offering a full range of traditional liberal arts degrees, the college is implementing new programs to meet the changing needs of society. This year, the Master's in Public Administration program began offering a 15-credit graduate certificate in Homeland Security designed to meet the complex, contemporary needs of homeland security specialists, law enforcement professionals and other security professionals.

The flexible on-line learning format for many of the classes accommodates their regular and unpredictable schedules of busy professionals. And, the Music Department is now offering a minor in Music Industry that blends the core study areas of technology and business to help students learn the skills to succeed in the rapidly-changing field of music.

## ENSURING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Today, the United States faces an ever-increasing lack of nursing professionals. While some of the problem can be attributed to the aging baby-boom generation, the national shortage of nurses is intricately linked to a lack of state-of-the-art training facilities at universities across the nation. This fall, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi took a major step toward addressing those needs with the opening of Island Hall, the \$45 million, 148,000-square-foot building that is home to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the College of Education's kinesiology program.

"Due to the shortages of trained professionals in the workplace, there could not be a better time to become a nurse," points out Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "Despite steep job losses in many other sectors of the economy, hospitals, long-term care facilities and other ambulatory care providers are aggressively seeking highly-skilled nurses to fill the thousands of new jobs being added in the health-care industry."

With almost 1,000 students and a graduation rate of 93 percent, the college is supplying hospitals throughout the country with top-notch nurses equipped with the skills essential to meet the demands of the health care industry.

## OUTSTANDING ISLANDER ARTURO CORONA

When there's family distress, education specialist Arturo Corona strives to come up with an optimal solution for everyone. A 2003 graduate of Premont High School, Corona received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2007 and is currently maintaining a 3.9 grade point average while working on his master's degree in counseling with an emphasis in family and marriage therapy. Corona counsels impoverished families at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center and works at the Early Childhood Development Center Counseling and Training Clinic. He plans to pursue his dream of going to law school to study family law.



In addition to being recognized for the second year for its "Programs and Best Practices" by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the University's nursing students have a first-time NCLEX pass rate of 92 percent on the Texas Board of Nursing examination.

## SUPPORTING CRITICAL RESEARCH

The College of Science and Technology offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in basic and applied

sciences essential to a vibrant modern society. The college also provides specialized courses and degree sequences for students seeking science and mathematics teaching certifications. Two new marine Ph.D. programs, Coastal and Marine System Science and Marine Biology have generated exciting new programs of faculty and student research. A new BS in Mechanical Engineering is taking the college into yet another key area of education and research critical to the community.

"There has never been a more critical time for scientific training and research in our nation's history," says Dr. Frank Pezold, Dean of the College of Science and Technology. "The shortage of scientists and engineers forces us to look abroad to meet our needs whether in the classroom or industry, and that need is growing. The faculty and I are here to engage the children of our communities in basic and applied scientific training, inform the public of significant discovery and understanding, and meet the challenges of research in new frontiers."

The college is home to the National Spill Control School, the Center for Coastal Studies, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science, the Center for Water Supply Studies, and is supported by affiliated faculty in the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

## OUTSTANDING ISLANDER LAURA VILLALOBOS

Laura Villalobos has always had a tremendous respect for nurses. During her summers as a high school student, she volunteered at Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Shoreline shadowing nurses in the emergency room and the pharmacy. Now, a senior with a 3.65 grade point average, she entered the nursing program in fall 2009. She is on the Dean's List, is a member of the Honors Student Association, has served as a representative for the College, and is part of the University's Honors Program to enrich plans of study to highly motivated students who have the ability to excel academically and the desire to develop global perspectives.



## A SHARED VISION OF GREATNESS

The success of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has been made possible by the commitment and perseverance of elected representatives who share our vision, and the generosity of private donors who understand clearly the challenges ahead. It is through their unwavering support that innovative degree programs have been established; much-needed buildings constructed, and land for expansion acquired.

"Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's investment in growth and dedication to a high-quality education has brought us to the threshold of a new era, beams Killebrew. "With our continued commitment to providing students with a challenging and rewarding college experience that will prepare them for success, the accomplishments of today are just a glimpse into our future greatness.

## OUTSTANDING ISLANDER NICOLE ASTON

When Nicole Aston moved to the Island University campus housing in fall 2006 she found a lasting friend in her roommate, a Chinese international student, who shared customs and sparked Aston's desire to experience China. Last year, the senior biomedical sciences major spent a semester in Beijing studying the Mandarin language, Beijing history, and participating in a medical/health internship as the University's first recipient of the National Security Education Program's Boren Scholarship. Aston has also worked as a tutor for the 21st Century After School Program at Hamlin Middle School and worked in the Department of Life Sciences media prep lab.



# Istanbul Travel Abroad Program

During summer 2010, students in the University's "Core Curriculum Abroad" program traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, for an international learning adventure that included interdisciplinary courses and visits to the city's markets, palaces, civic centers, parks, museums, mosques and tea gardens to provide exciting, open-air classrooms for classes taught by faculty members Don Luna, public speaking; Joseph Jozwiak, political science; Pamela Meyer, sociology; Tania Anders, geology; and Mary Beth Davis, literature. Students received six hours credit for each course taken.

The group also took a 10-day tour through Turkey, visiting prehistoric sites including the ancient centers of Troy and Hierapolis, and the excavated cities of Ephesus and Aphrodisias. More than half of the 25 participating students were first-year college students with no previous international travel experience.



Core Curriculum students Barbara Rodriguez, Tiffany Currie, Katherine Timberlake, Katilyn Andreas and Alma Flores write papers for the World Literature class in the tranquil setting of Istanbul's Kucuk Aua Sophia Mosque.

# Oil in a Day's Work

## NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL TRAINS RESPONDERS FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

While the causes of the Deepwater Horizon explosion are still being debated months after the oil rig burned and sank on April 20, 2010, causing about 206 million gallons of oil to gush into the waters 40 miles off the Louisiana coast, one fact is clear to the vast majority of experts charged with protecting the health of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The technology for deep-water oil drilling has outpaced the industry's ability to respond to catastrophic events and to accurately assess the natural resource damages," says Tony Wood, director of the National Spill Control School (NSCS) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. "That may be the most critical lesson learned from the BP disaster. It's important to be able to prevent future occurrences like this, but when they do happen, we need to be able to be there with adequate technologies and enough qualified responders to limit the effects on the environment."

The industry and government response to the oil spill was well underway when Wood became the NSCS director at the end of May 2010. The need for an army of trained workers and volunteers was already evident and David Jensen, the retired former director of the NSCS, had already left for Alabama to help with the crisis. Wood, who has more than 30 years experience in the environmental industry related to hazardous waste, environmental sustainability, and environmental business developments since graduating from Corpus Christi State University in 1979 with a degree in Marine Biology, increased the school's course offerings and trained a group of qualified response workers with the one-week "Oil Spill Response and Inland

Waterways" course taught by the NSCS. The class consisting of University students, members of the U.S. Coast Guard and state agency and industry workers, received critical 40-hour HAZWOPER training, FIS/GPS, Incident Command training, and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team training required to work with hazardous materials such as are encountered in oil spill situations.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires anyone working with oil spills to receive 40 hours of classroom instruction and the Coast Guard, port authorities and private companies are looking for places for their workers to be trained. To meet this increased demand, Wood doubled the number of class offerings for the fall 2010 semester.

"Advances in drilling technologies permit drilling in deepwater or otherwise remote sites, and increasingly large vessels carry potentially farmore damaging cargos than in the past," points out Wood. "However, institutions that train for such occurrences have been left with limited resources for updating their training programs. It is critical that any new legislation related to improved prevention and control of spills reverse this waning attention and include additional resources for planning and training."

The University's National Spill Control School was established in 1974 as a joint project with the Corpus Christi Area Oil Spill Control Association to provide training in the safe and effective handling of oil and hazardous material spills. The first oil spill classes were taught in 1977 and, in 1980, Hazmat/waste classes were initiated. In addition



to teaching courses throughout the United States, NSCS has taught classes in Korea, Nigeria, Mexico, Canada, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 named the NSCS as "a training and research resource" for the National Response Team. In 1998, the NSCS was recognized by the Texas General Land Office for its "leadership in protecting the environmental quality of Texas coastal waters."

Today, the NSCS offers a wide range of courses in oil spill planning, management, assessment, response and safety. Oiled Wildlife Rehabilitation, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), Hazardous Materials Transportation, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, and Spill Information Management Systems are some of the more specialized courses. Additional services in contingency planning and field exercise development are also offered.



# Island Hall Opens Doors to Students

## NEW FACILITY MEETS THE NEEDS OF NURSING SHORTAGE



Island Hall, The \$45 million, 140,000-square-foot building that opened at the beginning of the fall 2010 semester, is home to the University's 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 includes classrooms, computer labs, gymnasium space, large meetings spaces, cardiovascular training space and specialized labs for exercise physiology, biomechanics, and motor evaluation and development.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been awarded three grants totaling more than \$1.6 million from the Health Resources



Dr. Michael McKinney and Dr. Bunny Forgione look on as nursing students demonstrate some of the new features in the Island Hall laboratories.

and Services Administration (HRSA). The grants totaling \$1,601,093 to address goals in diversity, retention and training.

**DIVERSITY-** Dr. Bunny Forgione, associate professor, received an \$898,263 grant for the CAREER program (Contratación Ayudando Retención Estudiante Enfermera Recurso: recruiting, helping, retaining nursing student resources) to increase nursing educational opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including minorities underrepresented among registered nurses through targeted activities that will increase recruitment, retention and graduation rates.

**RETENTION-** In response to the dramatic shortage of nurses in Texas and across the nation, Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, received \$635,187 to offer an eLine Military program (ELM) for Texas residents serving in the military or veterans with prior medical experience.

Beginning in spring 2011, ELM will be available entirely online and will facilitate access to a full curriculum for a bachelor's degree in nursing and RN license. It will allow military personnel to seamlessly process through the curriculum without repeating prior content, which will accelerate their completion and allow for college credit based on medical experience in the field while serving the military.

The program, which focuses on minority students who are underrepresented in the field of nursing, rural students, and those who are from disadvantaged backgrounds, will employ a case manager who will provide the key support, guidance and expertise to students so that they may access other mainstream resources.



University President Flavius Killebrew was joined by Texas A&M University System representatives and state officials at the grand opening celebration for Island Hall on June 29. Speakers included Texas State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Chairman Fred Heldenfels IV, Texas A&M University System Regent Jim Wilson, Texas A&M University System Chancellor Michael McKinney and Dr. Killebrew.

**TRAINING-** Dr. Eve Layman, associate professor, received a \$67,643 grant to support the Professional Nurse Traineeship Program to prepare registered nurses for advanced nursing positions in primary care and administration in Texas. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences will allocate funds from the Advanced Education in Nursing Traineeship program to Family Nurse Practitioner or nursing administration students in their last 12 months of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.



The kinesiology labs include a heated pool with underwater video feedback.



**YOUNG RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM TCTM**

Dr. Elaine Young, an associate professor of mathematics, has received the 2010 Leadership Award



from the Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (TCTM). The award, is presented to an outstanding leader in mathematics education who supports teachers at the local and state level, Young was recognized for her work in the Corpus Christi area, including her role as a teacher of teachers at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is a founding leader of the Coastal Council of Teachers of Mathematics and serves as the advisor for the student affiliate CTM. She was also cited for her work as co-chair of the "ME by the Sea" conference that emphasizes curriculum alignment and mathematics engagement for students from pre-kindergarten through college.

**CIFUENTES NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

Dr. Luis A. Cifuentes became the University's new associate vice president for Research and dean of Graduate Studies on Sept. 1.



Cifuentes has been a scientist and faculty member in the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University for more than 20 years. He has been with the College of Geosciences administration since January 2003 and served in several positions, most recently as the College's executive associate dean and associate dean for research. In his position, Cifuentes chairs the Research and Scholarly Activity Council and is a member the Graduate Council. He leads both the research office with its responsibilities for research development, research administration, and research compliance as well as the

office of graduate studies with its responsibilities for supporting and growing graduate programs. Cifuentes replaces Dr. Harvey Knull who retired this summer after 10 years at the University.

**SMITH INDUCTED AS AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION FELLOW**

Dr. Robert L. Smith, professor and chair in the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department, has been inducted as a Fellow by the American Counseling Association (ACA), the world's largest private, not-for-profit organization for professional counselors. The designation, which is the highest honor awarded by the 42,000 member association, recognizes ACA members who have made significant and unique contributions in professional practice, scientific achievement and governance, or teaching and training, and have made important contributions to the counseling profession. Smith has served as president of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, and the National Career Development Association. He has been a leader in developing graduate masters' and doctoral programs in counseling within the United States and other countries including Venezuela, Mexico and Nicaragua.



**VOKURKA APPOINTED TO BALDRIGE AWARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Robert Vokurka, chair of the Department of Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, has been appointed to the 2010 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 11th year that Vokurka has been named to the board composed of approximately 500 leading experts from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and health-care organizations and government.

**TUNNELL HONORED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

Dr. Wes Tunnell, associate director of the University's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, recently received two recognitions for his work in the field of environmental conservation.



The Rotary Club of Corpus Christi presented Tunnell with the Harvey Weil Professional Conserver of the Year award. Each year, the award is presented to an individual who has dedicated their career to educational, research and informational activities in support of wildlife conservation.

The "Loggerhead Challenge, a regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl, created the Dr. Wes Tunnell Sportsmanship Award that will be presented to the team that embodies the spirit of earnest competition during the annual event held in Corpus Christi. The honor was bestowed in recognition of Tunnell's leadership and dedication in educating others about ocean and coastal environments.

**DRUM ELECTED PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION**

Dr. Amanda Drum, director of University Housing, has been elected to a one-year term as president of the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administration, the state organization for Student Affairs. Membership includes professionals at all levels and in all positions in student development fields. Counselors,

deans, student activities, residence life, vice presidents, faculty members in preparation programs and many other fields are represented in this organization.

**ZEBDA NAMED 2010 PIPER FOUNDATION PROFESSOR**

Dr. Awni Zebda, a professor of Accounting, has been selected as a Piper Professor for 2010 by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Each academic year, the nonprofit, charitable corporation honors 15 professors from across Texas for their dedication to the teaching profession and for their outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievement. Each Piper Professor receives a certificate of merit, a gold pin and a \$5,000 honorarium.

Over the past 16 years, Zebda has developed and taught several undergraduate and graduate courses, including cost accounting, managerial accounting, controllership, and strategic cost management. He has received numerous awards for his teaching, service, and research, including the Accounting Society Outstanding Professor Award, Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award given by the University's Alumni Association, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Outstanding Educator, and Texas A&M University System Regents Professor.



# Sea of Intrigue

## PROFESSOR'S ADVENTURES INSPIRE FORMER STUDENT TO BECOME RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Sandra Arismendez was fascinated by ocean life at an early age. But it wasn't until she viewed photos of coral reefs, barrel sponges, brightly-colored fish and sea anemones taken from Dr. Wes Tunnell's Coral Reef Ecology class trips to the Caribbean that she realized she wanted to become a scientist.

In the 1990s, the University undergraduate student worked for Tunnell, a Texas coastal and coral reef ecologist who joined the faculty in 1974. Over the last 17 years, the Island University has outfitted Arismendez with unlimited access to field experience and mentoring from Tunnell.

"He saw potential in me and he nurtured that potential," says Arismendez, a post doctoral research associate with the University's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. "He opened doors for me and always had research projects that provided me with invaluable experience. In the end, taking on these projects made me a more marketable graduate."

Raised in Skidmore, Texas, Arismendez was one of nine children and the first of her siblings to earn a four-

year degree. In May, she received her Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science and was selected as a spring commencement speaker. In the audience was her daughter, Krystal Alvarado, who graduated that same day with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and started her master's degree in education this fall.

Arismendez earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1993 from Corpus Christi State University and her Master of Science in Biology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1996. While a graduate student, she conducted thesis research in Veracruz, Mexico, and was on the University's scientific dive team that participated in research in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

But after receiving her master's degree, Arismendez, as a single parent, decided to focus on her career and raising her child. In 1996, she became a natural resource coastal planner for the Corpus Christi Bay National Estuary Program and, three years later, she joined the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin, Texas, as an aquatic scientist and project manager, where she

worked for seven years.

In spring 2006, Tunnell informed Arismendez that he had received funding to support a Ph.D. student, so she applied to the Coastal and Marine System Science Ph.D. Program. She was accepted and returned to the University that fall.

"Coming back as an experienced professional played a huge role in my ability to finish the program in less than four years," Arismendez says. "I was more disciplined and focused. My research was driven by my professional experiences and I had a clear idea of the research I wanted to conduct."

With her expertise in land-water nutrient coupling processes, Arismendez examines the effect land uses have on nutrient water quality and biogeochemical cycling on coastal watersheds and estuaries. She has received many awards and scholarships, including the NOAA Environmental Cooperative Sci-



ence Center Doctoral Fellowship and the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Association's Young Alumni Award. She was winner of the fourth annual Graduate Student Scholarly Works Symposium held in spring 2010.

With three degrees from the Island University, she is optimistic about the future.

"The ideal scenario would be to become a professor at a coastal university like Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, continue to do research and inspire students through teaching in much the same way I have been inspired by my mentors," she says.



# HAVE YOU HEARD?

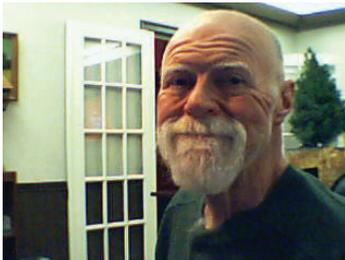
## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



**Shirald Dean Hendrix '60 BBA General Business** owned a marketing consulting firm for 10 years since retiring from Chevron. He and his wife, Suzy, split their time between their home in The Woodlands, Texas, and their property in Polk County, Texas. They enjoy four grandchildren, traveling, gardening, and collecting Gulf Oil company memorabilia.



**James M. Billings '62 BS Accounting** and his wife, Pearl, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19. James and Pearl are both retired and have spent most of their vacations over the years traveling to all 50 states, plus France, England, Belgium and Holland. They have completed their family genealogy quest and have it in print.



**Leonard Allen Schlueter '68 BS Business Administration** had gastric bypass surgery in May 2009. He no longer has to take his diabetic or blood pressure medicines. He has also lost 150 pounds and in July 2010, he had a successful hip replacement surgery. He keeps busy doing work on his house in Austin, Texas.



**Janice "Jan" Richards '80 BBA General Business** has been employed by Texas A&M University for more than 20 years. She and her husband, Jimmy, a residential framer in College Station, are both avid, competitive skydivers and met in 1983 at the Aggies over Texas Drop Zone in Bryan, Texas. She wants to reconnect with former Corpus Christi State University friends.

**David Leon Spencer '80 BBA Banking and Finance** is an auditor at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He loves to take cruises to the Caribbean and hopes to retire soon.

**Jeffrey Getchell '82 BBA Marketing** is with the Regis University in Denver, Colo., as the director of learning technologies at the Rueckert-Hartman College of Health.

**Diana D. Bigler McGrew '85 BBA Accounting** is a special projects manager at Pape-Dawson Engineers Incorporated in San Antonio, Texas.

**David James Wright '87 BBA General Business** is a science teacher at King High School in the Corpus Christi Independent School District. After serving for 27 years, he retired from the United States Army and the Air Force Reserves.

**Susan Tinsley Mazzanti '88 MBA Management** is working on her house in McGehee, Ark.

**Keith A. Ibrum '90 BBA Accounting** is proud to announce that his son, Christopher, was accepted into the Texas A&M University-College Station petroleum engineering program with a departmental scholarship beginning in fall 2010. He, his wife, Jennifer, and his younger son Justin wish him the best.

**William Eric Vauter '90 BBA Marketing** is a sales engineer for Schlumberger Drilling and Measurements in Houston, Texas. He recently relocated within the city of Houston.

**Samuel F. Ramirez '91 BBA General Business** is the state compensatory education evaluator for the Corpus Christi ISD.

**William E. Allen '92 BBA Accounting** and his bowling partner won the doubles event in the 2010 Texas State Bowling Tournament and set a new record score. William completed his MBA and anticipates teaching part-time at a community college.

**Meliza Iliana Perez-Guajardo '93 BBA Management** is an estimator for McMillin Homes in San Antonio, Texas. Her son, a second grader, and her daughter, a kindergartener, are doing well.

**Jay A. Nesbit '95 MBA Management** is a pharmacy manager at Genoa Healthcare. The newest

additions to his family are grandchildren numbers nine and 10, Tessa and Laila. Both arrived in May.

**Irma Garcia Valverde '97 BBA Management** is a senior paralegal for the Celanese Corporation.

**Brigitte Mairi Wendland Willott '98 BBA Accounting** is chief financial officer for Affiliated Therapy Group Practice Incorporated in Corpus Christi.

**Caricia Blanco '04 BBA Marketing** is a payroll assistant for Del Mar College in Corpus Christi.

**Nicole Monk Nolen '04 BBA Management** lives in her hometown of Portland, Texas, with husband, Michael, and two daughters, Makayla, 7, and Rebekah, 4. They are active in their church and have taken on the roles of youth pastors and leaders. They are excited to see what God has in store for them personally, professionally and as a community.



**Cassandra Leann Self '05 BBA Management** relocated to Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, and is currently working on her MBA. She is part of the provider relations team at the University of Texas-Southwestern campus. She has a 4-year-old son.



**Robert Stephen Harbolovic '06 BBA Accounting** was accepted into medical school at the University Automona de Guadalajara. He hopes to complete the "servicio social" and become a licensed and practicing doctor in both Mexico and the United States.

**Christie Michele Garza Roberts '06 BBA Marketing** married Daryl E. Roberts on May 22. An executive assistant in the registrar's office, she and Daryl, a computer maintenance technician in computer and media services, met at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and recently purchased their first home.

**Sheryl Kay Driskill '07 BBA Accounting** mar-

ried Mark Behr in Flour Bluff, Texas, on Aug. 7.

**Monica Marie Castaneda '07 BBA Marketing** is a sales coordinator for Cricket Communications in Corpus Christi.

**Jennifer Cole '07 BBA Accounting** graduated from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in May with a Master of Accountancy. She was hired by the Treasury Office of the Comptroller of Currency as an assistant national bank examiner and will be in her new location of San Francisco, Calif., in March 2011 after training in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Leah Faye Kowald '07 BBA Management, Marketing** is living in San Antonio, Texas, and works as a legal department consultant for Tesoro. She is currently looking at schools to begin a paralegal certification program.

**Carmen Lynnette McCollum '07 BBA Management** is a training information administrator for the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

**Natalie Farmer Werkhoven '07 BBA Marketing** married **Matthew Werkhoven '04 BBA Management**, her college sweetheart, in November 2008. She works with him at their family dealership as the finance manager. They look forward to growing their family this year.

**Jacob Whitley '07 BBA Management** married **Sarah Nicole Bayer '07 BS Biology** on beautiful Orcas Island, Wash. They enjoy Washington and look forward to more traveling after Sarah completes school.



**Marcos R. Gonzalez '08 BBA Management** attended The Coastal Bend Rural Health Partnership's second annual "Together We Stand" a mental health conference, October 8-9, in Kingsville, Texas.

**Johnny Reyes Jr. '08 BBA Management & Human Resource Management** accepted a position with the University of Texas at Austin-Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, Texas.

**Crystal Ann Russell '08 BBA Marketing** is an account representative for Russell Medical in Corpus Christi. She recently purchased her first home and will graduate with her MBA from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in December 2010.

**Erik Burciaga '09 BBA Management** is a sales coordinator for Cup Graphics in Corpus Christi. He hopes to win the Harbor Half and Corpus Christi Half Marathon. Erik welcomed two puppies to his family.

*continued page 22*

# This is CNN

## ALUM'S ORDINARY DAY OFTEN INCLUDES EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

Working for CNN for 22 years, Mark Brachowski has played an integral part in broadcasting historic milestones and breaking news to millions of viewers all over the world.

Brachowski worked tirelessly behind the scenes as the Berlin Wall came down, and during the first and second Gulf Wars and the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In the last decade, he has witnessed the death and devastation caused by natural disasters including the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, which claimed around 200,000 lives, and

Hurricane Katrina which a year later devastated the Gulf Coast.

"When you have such extraordinary events, it changes your day-to-day work," says Brachowski, director for CNN Technical Operations in Atlanta, Ga. "These events become the main focus of your shows. You get an adrenaline rush when you're trying to sort out everything that's happened, and things happen fast."

Brachowski, who is a 1982 graduate of Corpus Christi's Carroll High School, is a multi-network director for several sister networks including HLN and truTV. He oversees

anchors, camera operators, floor directors and technical personnel, and directs all live news programs including "Morning Express with Robin Meade," "Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell," "HLN Prime News," "CNN Newsroom," and many other shows. In addition, he has received the duPont award and two Peabody awards for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Brachowski received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications in Television/Film in December 1986 from Corpus Christi State University. He took classes with Dr. Bill Huie and worked for two years as Huie's student liaison on the "CCSU Today" cable access show.

"What I liked about the TV/Film program was the hands-on experience," Brachowski says. "You could always get in the studio, check out the equipment and take it home on the weekends. The environment was conducive for learning."

Reflecting on his film history class, Brachowski says he learned the importance of lighting, camera angles and other elements such as shadows and music. Today he utilizes that knowledge in the studio.

"It's not just like you're turning a camera on and acting," he says. "Editing can change your whole story. Huie taught me the many elements that can change the outcome and meaning of a film. All of that transfers into television. I'm working with audio, camera and graphics. How we present it affects the outcome and it's up to me to bring all those elements together."

After graduation, Brachowski did freelance work for television commercials and low budget films in Austin, Texas. Since work was seasonal, he began looking for more regular work. In 1988, was hired by CNN and moved to Atlanta, Ga., where he met his wife Gabriela. As a video journalist, he worked his way through the ranks running cameras and teleprompters.

"I love what I do," says Brachowski. "CNN is on the forefront of all the technologies and is always changing. There are a lot of talented people here and you never get bored because no two days are the same. The big news days are the most exciting. It's a challenge to do live news because there are not a take-tos and everybody is watching."



## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 10 Alumni Awards Nominations Due**  
*Nominate an alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society and is a great representative of this University.*
- Nov. 15 A&M-CC vs. A&M-College Station Men's Basketball Game**  
*Watch the Islanders men's basketball team take on the A&M Aggies at the American Bank Center.*
- Dec. 7 Michael Martin Murphey Cowboy Christmas Concert**  
*Always a sold out concert!*
- Feb. 3 Alumni Winter Jazz Mixer**  
*Meet up with alumni, faculty and friends, sponsored by the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club.*
- Feb. 4 Homecoming 2011 Alumni Meet & Greet**  
*Kick off Homecoming and enjoy refreshments with former classmates and friends at the new alumni center.*
- Feb. 5 Homecoming Alumni Awards Breakfast**  
*Witness the honoring of several distinguished alumni at this annual event.*

- Feb. 5 Homecoming Alumni Shrimp Boil**  
*Tailgate with alumni in this big pre-game event featuring shrimp and all the fixin's.*
- Feb. 5 Homecoming Basketball Game**  
*Islanders men's take on Northwestern State.*
- Feb. 12 Glenn Miller Orchestra**  
*Enjoy the big band sounds of swing just in time for Valentine's Day.*
- April 1 Jeffrey Swann**  
*A night of beautiful piano music from the award-winning Steinway artist.*
- March 11 Rally @ Southland Conference Tourney**  
*Join our caravan in Katy, Texas as we cheer on the Islanders to victory.*



Follow us on Facebook by becoming a fan of the Islander Alumni at [www.facebook.com/islanderalumni](http://www.facebook.com/islanderalumni) or call the Alumni Office at 1-877-482-682 or 1-361-825-5787.

*Dates subject to change*

## ALUMNI NEWS HAVE YOU HEARD *continued*

**Dianna Doebbler '09 BBA Accounting** will receive her Master of Accountancy in December. She is an accountant at the Oasis Home Healthcare.



**Margaret E. Thompson '10 BBA Accounting** completed the degree she began 36 years ago at the University of Corpus Christi. She finished her coursework in her first summer session and welcomed her first grandchild that same month.

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Elma D. Holden '65 BS Elementary Education** proudly announces that the last of her four grandchildren graduated from Texas State University on Aug. 13. She recalls being the first in her family to go to college. She received her master's degree after her husband's death and served as an elementary school counselor for many years. She had cancer surgery, retired and remarried all within a year's time.

**Jamye Lynn Johnston Aldape '73 BS English** celebrated 37 years of marriage to her husband, Robert, an engineer for AT&T in June 2010. She has three grandchildren. Her oldest son, David, is a Houston fireman and Aaron, her youngest, is in his final year of residency. She teaches English as a Second Language (ESOL) in high school and anticipates retiring in two years.

**Theus Joseph Sheil '79 MA Interdisciplinary Study** is a life and financial services agent for Farmers Insurance Group.

**Rosemary H. Lara '80 BS Education** received her librarian certification from Sam Houston State University after 30 years in the classroom. She is a librarian for Smith Elementary in the Victoria Independent School District in Victoria, Texas. Her daughter, Annalisa, attends Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, majoring in special education with an emphasis on deaf education.

**David Guel '81 MS Educational Administration** has retired from his education career after 32 years and has embarked on a new career as an independent insurance agent. His primary focus is working with retirees and investment plans. His sons attend Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, and Texas A&M in College Station.

**Carol Denise Ziegler '85 BS Secondary Education** began her 19th year of teaching at Doerre

Intermediate School at the Klein ISD in Spring, Texas, where she is the head volleyball coach and assistant track coach. She has two daughters, Ashley, 26, and Jenna, 23. Her grandson Easton is 3.

**Patricia J. Castaneda '94 BS Occupational Training and Development** is a childcare consultant for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. She has two grandsons, Micah, 17, and Nathan, 3.

**Pamela Neven '97 BS Kinesiology** is an instructional technologist with Keller Independent School District in Keller, Texas. She assists teachers in using technology as a tool to teach their students.

**Cindy Ann Ybanez '97 BS Occupational Training and Development** has been working for the United States Army for the past two years as a school liaison officer. She works with military families and all school districts in the San Antonio, Texas, area to ease the transition of the military students.

**Jami Lea Spacek '02 BSIS Early Childhood Education** married Brandon Bryce on Aug. 28, 2009. They had their first child, Tanner James, on June 29. Jami is an instructional technology specialist at North East ISD in Bexar County, Texas.

**David L. Garcia '03 BS Occupational Training and Development** is an industrial specialist for the Corpus Christi Army Depot. David became a proud grandpa on Nov. 24, 2009, when his daughter, Victoria, gave birth to Mia Gabriella Garza.

**Tiffany Gunter Tenpenny '03 BSIS Early Childhood Education** welcomed a baby girl on June 16.

**Margaret Pantoja '05 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** is excited to announce that her son, Matthew, will begin his high school years at King High School in Corpus Christi. Her son attended the Boy Scout National Jamboree held in Fort Ambrose Powell Hill, Va., and has begun his Eagle Scout project for Troop 255.

**Marci Claire Oncale '06 BS Kinesiology** is working as a graduate assistant at Middle Tennessee University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. She is working on her Master of Science in recreation and plans to graduate in May 2011.



**Chris Casarez '07 BS Kinesiology** has a son, Jakobi, who is seven months old. Chris is in his second year as a special education science teacher at Putnam City High School in Warr Acres, Okla.



**Criselda Cavazos '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Studies** will celebrate her husband's birthday and their second anniversary in Las Vegas, Nev.

**John Willis Portier '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, with a master's degree in educational administration. He welcomed a son in October 2009.

**Sandra Jacoby '08 BSIS Generalist EC-4** teaches pre-K inclusion for Fredericksburg ISD in Fredericksburg, Texas. She is looking forward to her new teaching career. She also started a photography business called "Photography by Sandra."

**Andrea Johnson '08 MS Elementary Education** is a part of the math team that designed the new scope and sequence for the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Jessica B. West '08 BS Kinesiology** moved back to the Coastal Bend area in February and began a new job in August. She is excited to start a new chapter in her life.

**Samantha Chase '09 MS Elementary Education** is an electronic learning assessment resource eighth grade teacher with the Corpus Christi ISD.

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Joseph A. Piegari '70 BS History** retired from B/E Aerospace in 2007 after working as the corporate vice president of human resources for 26 years. Prior to that, Joseph was a teacher for 11 years.

**Oscar N. Hernandez '79 BS Criminal Justice** is amazed at how beautiful the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus has become since he graduated. He remembers when there were only two or three buildings. He never imagined such a massive expansion and promises to keep visiting and admiring the new additions.



**Diane Goforth Bray '86 BA Art** moved from the beach in Galveston, Texas, to the "Cowboy Capitol of the World," Bandera, Texas, and is closer to her first grandchild. Diane opened a shop called "Cowgirl's Corner" with a fellow teacher in the city's historic Eleventh Street Mercantile Building where 37 of her paintings are exhibited in this gallery and western treasures shop.

**Larry Bruce Varley '86 BA Psychology** and wife, Veronica, visited their son and daughter-in-law in Bitburg, Germany, in July. The highlight of the trip was seeing their first grandchild, Solanna Alicia. He understands why grandparents generally sport silly grins.



**Linda Jo Hotcave '91 BA Communication** is in her 20th year teaching with the Brownsville, Texas ISD. She received her English as a Second Language certification and is teaching English Composition II. After a five-year absence, she has returned to coaching volleyball. Her children are now 10 and 13.

**Gilda E. Ramirez '92 BA Communication** is the director of Student Services for the College of Education and a member of the College Finances & GEAR UP/STAR Faculty Fellows at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She enjoys de-stressing by spending play time with her four grandchildren ages 2, 3, 4 and 9.

**Jan Grimes Simmacher '92 BA Psychology** is an evening and weekend supervisor at Texas Tech University Law School Library in Lubbock, Texas, and plans to stay there until she retires. Her children are grown and her husband is retired.

**Jose R. Guerra Jr. '93 BA Political Science** is a transportation planning coordinator for the city of College Station Planning and Development Services in College Station, Texas.

**Lee M. Floyd '94 BA Sociology** is a Baptist student ministry director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He resides in San Angelo, Texas.

**Rosalind W. Sobosle '95 BA Communication** has been married to Mark Sobosle, an air traffic controller at Hobby Airport, for 17 years. They have two kids, Haley, 13, who plays on a traveling volleyball team, and Peyton, 9, who plays lacrosse and was selected for the all-star baseball team this spring. Between work and sports they are really busy, but love every minute of it.

**Lydia Blanco '97 BA Communication** finished production on "The Untitled Ivan Reitman Project" starring Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher due in theaters in early 2011. She also worked on "Little Birds," starring Kate Bosworth and Leslie Mann, due this year and "Sympathy for Delicious," and "Aaseahmah's Journey," shot entirely in Iowa.

*continued page 23*

## HAVE YOU HEARD *continued*

**Herlinda Rojas Sweeney '97 BA English** is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Norfolk, Va.



**Armando Valdez '97 BA History** celebrated the second birthday of Arianna Clara Valdez, his daughter, in San Antonio, Texas, where he resides and attends graduate school. Armando recently completed his first marathon.

**Edith Z. Cahlik '98 BA Communication, '00 MS Counseling Psychology and Guidance** is married to her beloved husband of 16 years, Mark Cahlik. They moved back to Corpus Christi from Ohio.



**Rosa M. Valdez '98 BA Sociology** is a marketing sales representative for the Texas Industry for the Blind and Handicap in Corpus Christi. Her grandson, Jason H. Valdez, is preparing to be a Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student by cramming for his high school finals in his Texas A&M-Corpus Christi T-shirt.

**Rudy Anderson '99 BA Communication** is part of the division for blind services staff in Corpus Christi. He works in partnership with Texans who are blind or visually impaired to get high quality jobs and live independently, and helps children receive the training needed to be successful in school.



**Velma Sanchez '99 BA Psychology** has a daughter who is now two years old. Velma is a human resources and training manager at URS Washington Division in Austin, Texas.

**Rebecca Ramirez Vela '99 BS Criminal Justice** is a paralegal for the Gutierrez Law Firm in Alice, Texas. Her daughter, Jennifer Denise Vela, graduated from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in August with a Master of Science in counseling with dual concentration in mental health and family and marriage counseling.

**Jennifer A. Wenger '99 BS Criminal Justice** has a daughter, Courtney, who just graduated high school and will be following her mother's footsteps by majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

**Roger A. Fortner '00 BA Political Science** is selling alarm systems for ADT Home Security, an award-winning home security system, in Fountain Valley, Calif.

**Edgar Rivera '00 MPA Public Administration** is a supervisory border patrol agent for the U.S. Border Patrol. He and his wife, Karry, moved back to Texas after nine years living in San Diego, Calif.

**Veronica D. Ramirez '01 BM Music** while performing in "Last Lists of My Mad Mother," Veronica was cast in the Laredo Theater Guild International's summer production of "The Sound of Music," in the role of Mother Abbess. During her rehearsals, she planned the year-end student recital for her students of her music studio, Bella Nota Vocal Studio.

**Tara M. Hall '02 BA Communication** received her Master of Arts from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, in 2008 where she was an adjunct faculty member before moving to New York in October 2009. She is job coach at The Center for Employment Opportunities, a non-profit agency providing employment service to men and women with recent criminal convictions. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her boyfriend.

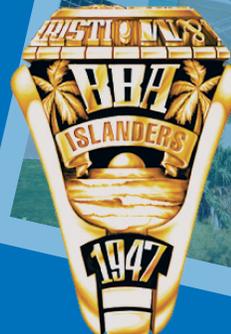
**Elsa Garcia '03 BA Psychology** is a financial aid advisor at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is working on her third master's degree, this one in counseling.

**Jessica Lynne Hills '03 BA Psychology** is a budget analyst for the Department of State Health Services in Austin, Texas.

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## THE OFFICIAL RING OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

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# The Road Less Traveled

## UNIVERSITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI GRADUATE SPENDS 29 YEARS PREACHING GOSPEL IN AFRICA

As a teenager growing up in Houston, Texas, Ernest Sibley felt the call of the pulpit. But, when he moved to Corpus Christi to go to college and preach part-time at a small church in Aransas Pass, little did he know that the path he had chosen would lead him to the small African nation of Malawi, one of the least developed and most densely populated countries in the world.

Sibley enrolled at the University

of Corpus Christi and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Bible in 1961. After graduation, Sibley moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he met his future wife, Auttie, and earned a master's degree in Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1972, after seven years as a pastor in Houston the International Mission Board appointed him to serve in Malawi. By then, he and Auttie were married with two children, Samuel, 8, and Alicia, 3. A third child, Anastacia, was born in 1979.

chairs in the village. Then one by one, they would welcome me personally." Sibley traveled from village to village, staying overnight in one of the mud brick homes of his parishioners. Worship services were joyous events filled with the sounds of clapping, dancing and the singing of traditional hymns. Many times, baptisms were held at a nearby river and followed by a feast of cornmeal and chicken, grains or beans.

Sibley was surrounded by mountains and lakes, including Lake Malawi, one of the largest bodies of freshwater in the world. He and his family climbed mountains, fished, picked raspberries, enjoyed the lake, read and played dominoes and many board games.

"It was a peaceful place to raise a family," says Sibley. "I enjoyed my time in the villages because it's was like camping out. But, it was also an adventure. At the river, we'd see crocodiles and hippos."

But there was also the threat of



Ernest Sibley met his wife, Auttie, in Fort Worth after his graduation in 1961.

yellow fever, malaria, and cholera, which claimed the lives of many people, including missionaries. His own family members came down with malaria more than once and had occasional bouts with dysentery. Drought was also a constant concern and the Malawians were always just a dry spell away from hunger.

"I helped start many new churches in different villages," says Sibley, who lived in Blantyre, Malawi's largest city. "The people of Malawi were friendly and hospitable. When I arrived to preach, I was provided with one of the few



During 29 years as a missionary in Malawi, Ernest Sibley traveled throughout the country, trained new pastors and preached in the native Chichewa language.



Ernest Sibley (pictured above) was a representative of the Miller Hall Dorm Council in 1960 at the University of Corpus Christi.



"The society completely depended on crops," he says. "We were always praying for rain. If we didn't receive enough, we had to get corn from outside the country. Clean water was a big issue so we oversaw many well projects."

During his 29 years as a mis-

sionary, Sibley managed around 35 churches, trained new pastors and preached in the native Chichewa language. He retired in 2001 and today is a part-time data processor in Bryan-College Station, Texas. He and Auttie have four grandchildren.

In February, Sibley returned to campus to participate in the University's Homecoming festivities. It was the first time he had seen the Island University in almost 50 years.

"I have many fond memories of the University," says Sibley. "When I was student, I spent many hours sitting at the edge of the bay. That was leisure time for me."

## HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Vanessa Ballmer '04 BA English** and husband **Luis Castillo '07 MBA Business Administration** live in Houston, Texas. She returned to the classroom in fall 2010 as adjunct instructor of English in the Lone Star College System.

**Amando Raul Cantu '04 BA Communication, '06 MS Secondary Education** is a site coordinator for the GEAR UP III "Creating a Vision" Program for the Office of Special Programs at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas.

**Jennifer Catalani '04 BA Psychology** has worked as a resource and external relations specialist for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Adult Protective Services division in Corpus Christi since November 2008.

**Marie D. Metting-Boles '04 BFA Art** is a designer at Main Flower & Gift Shop in Yorktown, Texas. She is also developing an art program with her local museum.

**Catherine "Katie" Killeen '04 BA Psychology** and husband **Chris Storey '04 BS Mathematics** are expecting their second boy, Rylan, in November. Katie is a full-time mom and Chris is a research engineer at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

**Gregory Lee Diehlman '05 BS Criminal Justice** is seeking his doctorate in public safety, with a concentration in criminal justice.

**Niomi Jean Fuentes '05 BA Psychology** has enjoyed summer with her nephews running around and having lazy days and fun outings. Her work is busy and she is helping get her company ready for AAS certification. She and her boyfriend learn more about each other all the time and everyday she finds a new reason to love and admire him.

**Geneva Gonzales '05 BS Criminal Justice** is a stay at home mom. She has three beautiful children, girls ages 2 and 12, and a boy, 15.

**Janice Audra Hale '05 BA Theatre** moved back home to continue her education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she is pursuing her Master of Science in secondary education.



**Reed Allen Hewitt '05 BA Communication** started his own media business in Corpus Christi, Reed Hewitt Media, specializing in video production and Web site design. He credits his awesome communication professors at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with inspiring him to achieve his professional goals.

**Jason Pruett '05 BA Communication** relocated to San Antonio, Texas, after accepting the position of video marketing specialist with NewTek, in April.

**Michelle Renee Brauchle McDowell '06 BA English** is pursuing her doctorate in education with a reading and literacy specialization.



**Angelica Rivera '06 BS Criminal Justice** is an executive assistant to the president at RGA Galen Incorporated in Corpus Christi. She has a one-year-old daughter.

**Shannon Shackelford '06 BA Psychology** celebrated 20 years in the United States Army. "HOOAH!" With God all things are possible. He thanks his family and friends; Pamela, Tyla and Tyra, for their prayers and thoughts over the years. He knows he wouldn't have made it without them. He has met a lot of good people during his career.

**Jessica Shirley '06 BA Psychology** is self-employed.

**Lacey Beth David '07 BS Criminal Justice** has worked for Dr. Kathryn Soward, a private psychologist, since January 2009. She does play therapy with children mostly ages 3 to 5 at the surrounding Head Starts. Her job is amazing and she loves making a difference in children's lives.

**Yadira C. Gonzales '07 BA Communication** is pursuing a master's degree at Texas A&M University.

**Gavarae Vashad Jones '07 BS Criminal Justice** is a discharge and resource specialist for United HealthCare. He has been there for three years and each year he has been graciously promoted. In the near future, he plans to attend graduate school to further his education in the field of psychology.

**Jamie Laine Lashua '07 BA English** married James Maldonado and began her career at Sinton High School in Sinton, Texas, in August 2009. She teaches inclusion with the special education department and is also the new cheerleading sponsor.

**Angela Perryman '07 BS Criminal Justice** is going to school to become a medical laboratory technician and loves the program. Her children are fuzzy and have four legs.

**Brian Tullis '07 BS Criminal Justice** works in the Special Investigative Unit of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. He coaches little league football and is an avid fisherman. He is in the master's in public administration program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Jacquelin W. Bouldin '08 BA Communication** works for the Gemini Ambulance Service.

**Somers Dean '08 BA Psychology** is a full-time shift supervisor at Starbucks. She is working on her master's in counseling.

**Ann Marie Godines '08 BA Psychology** is in her last semester as a graduate student in marriage and family counseling. She is proud to announce that her 17-year-old daughter, Krissy will attend Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



**Holly Knippa '08 BS Criminal Justice** had a wonderful wedding with family and friends June 12, and hopes to add to the family soon. She is also getting her second bachelor's in psychology and hopes to pursue a master's degree.

**Christina JoAnn Martinez '08 BA English** has started her second year as an English teacher at Zapata High School and is the school's cheerleading coach.

**Brooke Seyffert '08 BA Psychology** is a second year graduate student at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., working on her master's degree in counseling. She received the M.A. Counseling Scholastic Achievement Award and the Excellence in Diversity Award in the spring. Brooke is also a certified child life specialist.

**Wayne Smith '08 BA Psychology, '08 BA Sociology** is working on his master's in clinical psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He is a supervisor at Avail Solutions and instructs others to become successful crisis workers. He began working as a teaching assistant for experimental psychology this fall and instructs the lab section for the course. He is deeply in love with Niomi Fuentes.

**Don Patrick Trahan, Jr. '08 BA Psychology** is pursuing a Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision with a minor in family studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M.

**Jessica R. Viar '08 BA Communication** plans to return to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in spring 2011 to pursue her master's of science in secondary education.

**Nikte Flores '09 BA Communication** is a photographer for Portrait Innovations in McAllen, Texas. Although her job is a lot of fun, she hopes to find a career closer to her field in a bigger city.

**Carlos Jaime Martinez '09 BA Theatre** is an English language acquisition teacher at Zapata Middle School in Zapata, Texas. She has completed one year of teaching and is looking forward to many more.

**Roxanna Rodriguez-Johnson '09 BA Criminal Justice, '09 BA Political Science** married **Kevin Johnson '10 BS Criminal Justice** on July 18, 2009. She is an adult probation officer for Nueces County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Corpus Christi.

**John James Shaw '09 BA History** owns a comic book store, "Midnight Comics & Games," on the west side of Houston, Texas, and is living the American dream of being a small business owner.

**Travis James Washmon '09 BA English** is an English teacher at Arlington High School in Arlington, Texas, where he is also the junior varsity baseball coach.

**Danielle Whiteside '09 BM Music** moved to Denton, Texas, to begin a master's program in musicology. Her son is growing faster than she could ever have imagined and is already trying to walk.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Jolee M. Reinke '90 MSN Nursing** retired from the U.S. Navy in 1994. She worked in international public health management in developing countries until she retired again in 2005. Jolee tried to relax in Wisconsin but has been enticed to work for Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in curriculum and training development in quality improvement.

**Sammie Knebel Drehr '00 MSN Nursing** is the Chief Nursing Officer at DeTar Healthcare System in Victoria, Texas.

**Carsten Wiemken '00 BSHS Health Sciences** is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Scott and White Hospital.

**Melissa Bubela Howell '05 BSN Nursing** is expecting her second child with **Jonathan Howell '04 Accounting** in November. They have a 2-year-old named Madison. Melissa is a staff nurse on a med-surg unit specializing in pulmonary, endocrine, and gastrointestinal care. Jonathan is a deputy for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office in Fort Bend, Texas.

**Christina Michelle Lodowski '05 BSN Nursing** married Zach Stanley on Oct. 30. Since getting her nursing license she has been certified as a nurse in obstetrics. She is a mentor to a fellow nursing student.

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HAVE YOU HEARD? *continued*

**Sharon R. Patterson '06 MSN Nursing – Family Nursing Practitioner** works part time at her local hospital in the rural health clinic. Her husband Ed is working for Anadarko. Her oldest son, Lucas, graduated from Texas A&M in College Station and will play his last season of Aggie football this year. Their youngest, Lane, is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.



**Jamie Lynn Gilley '07 BSN Nursing** married the man of her dreams in 2009 in Houston, Texas. Her husband is a Marine Corps CH-53E pilot and they live in San Diego, Calif. Jamie is a registered nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit and loves it. She is obtaining her Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

**Brenda Krause '07 MSN Nursing Practitioner** is teaching the second semester maternity course for Central Texas Associate Degree Nursing program and teaches the Hurst National Council Licensure Examination review course. Her husband of 10 years is a lieutenant for fire services. Her oldest son joined the United States Air Force and her youngest stays very busy with sports.

**Linda Belle Park '07 BSN Nursing** is a nurse for Seton in the operating room at Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas.

**Tametra L. Jones '09 MSN Nursing** is a nurse practitioner in the geriatric internal medicine department at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas.

**Ali Kruger '09 BSN Nursing** was the maid of honor for **Christina Lodowski '05 BSN Nursing**, who married Zach Stanley on Oct. 30.

**Destiny Naquin '09 BSN Nursing** is a school nurse for the Victoria, Texas ISD. Her daughter started kindergarten.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**John M. Saenz '69 BS Biology** is senior vice president for CPS energy in San Antonio, Texas.



**Bill Schoolfield '90 BS Computer Science** is a programmer and analyst for M&M Computer Services in San Antonio, Texas. He took a trip to England in May where he visited London, Salisbury and 11 other cities.

**James R. Davis '95 BS Biology** is a teacher at Leon Taylor Junior High School in the Ingleside, Texas ISD.

**Suzanne Raph '97 BS Computer Science** is a self-employed data warehouse consultant.

**Erik G. Rasch '97 BS Environmental Science** is an environmental health and safety manager at Parker Hannifin in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Kathleen Nolan-Niebo '98 MS Environmental Science** is a park naturalist for the Monmouth County Park System in Middle Town, N.J.

**Joey Edwards '99 BS Mathematics** and his family reside in the suburbs of San Antonio, Texas. Joey and his wife, Jennifer, have an 18-month-old daughter named Avery Rose. He works at USAA as a senior systems administrator, overseeing their Active Directory Infrastructure.

**Nikolay T. Todorov '99 MS Computer Science** had an awesome vacation driving up the Pacific Coast Highway; beach-bumming in Morro Bay, Cambria, Big Sur and San Francisco, Calif. He visited friends who have a horse ranch in Oregon. On his way back, he spent two days in Yosemite and hiked the Vernal Fall, up to the Emerald Pool.



**Patricia M. Reiber '02 BS Biology** married George Reiber, an airline captain, with Trans States Airline, in Richmond, Va. on Oct. 17, 2009, at a converted dairy farm. Patricia works as a forensic scientist for the Department of Forensic Science in the Digital & Multimedia section.

**Hannah Louise Towne '02 BS Environmental Science** is a marketing services technician with the United States Department of Agriculture Marketing Services Dairy Program.

**Bethany Crouse-Pepper '03 BS Biology** teaches biology at W.B. Ray High School and is department chair for the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Cara Leslie Williams '03 BS Geographic Information Sciences** is a surveyor associate for Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in Austin, Texas. She is a volunteer coach for an all girls tee ball team and volunteers for the Project EverGreen, helping military families in need of yard maintenance.

**Chris Storey '04 BS Mathematics** and wife, Catherine "Katie" Killeen '04 BA Psychology, are expecting their second son, Rylan, in November 2010. Chris is a research engineer at Southwest Research Institute and Katie is a full-time mom.

**Matthew Priesmeyer '05 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** is a design engineer, working on the Orion Program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is married and enjoys running, spending time with his wife, playing golf, traveling, working on his home and walking his new puppy, Lucy. He is pursuing a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Houston.



**Alessandra C. Perez Oquendo '05 BS Computer Science** gave birth to a daughter on March 23.

**Lisa Michelle Winnett '05 BS Biology** is living in Hawaii for a year caring for over 70 species of new world primates.

**Stephanie Rose Salinas-Ramos '06 BS Biology, '08 MS Counseling** applied to the nursing program at Texas A&M University and hopes to be accepted for the spring 2011 semester.

**David "Matthew" Schweitzer '06 BS Biology** enjoys teaching biology at Coastal Bend College in Kingsville, Texas. He was accepted to the learning academy that is teaching him about online course development and new instructional techniques. David is happily engaged and looking forward to getting married within the next three years.

**Desiree Kathleen Edwards '06 BS Environmental Science** is a regularity specialist for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in Corpus Christi.

**Nabil Allata Nasseri '06 BS Biology** received her Master of Science in Biology in May 2009 and taught at Georgia Southern University. She is currently the resident director of the study abroad program for Drexel University and works in Equatorial Guinea, West Africa, coordinating U.S. and Equatorial Guinea students while teaching at the local university.

**Sarah Nicole Bayer '07 BS Biology** married **Jacob Whitley '07 BBA Management** during the summer on beautiful Orcas Island, Wash., and is now pursuing her master's degree in environmental science at Washington State University-Vancouver in Vancouver, Wash. They looking forward to travel after Sarah graduates.



**John Michael Bradley '07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** has a son who is 2 years old. His wife **Rachael C. Devos '08 BS Biomedical Sciences**

graduated from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2008.

**Brandon Castle '07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** moved back to Texas in April, got married and changed jobs from diving commercially offshore to one where he actually uses his degree. In October he took the fundamentals of engineering exam to get his engineer in training license.

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**HAVE YOU HEARD?** *continued*

**Cassandra "Cassie" Zinke '07 BS Biology Psychology** returned from singing in New York City where she had backstage access on Broadway. She is now a Texas A&M University graduate student.

**Tony Brannon '08 BS Computer Science** is a project RIO specialist for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Beeville, Texas. He and wife, Carrie, had their first child, a son, Benjamin Riley Brannon, on Oct. 28, 2009.

**Nicholas Huffeldt 'BS Biology** recently returned from a remote island off Greenland where he worked on a project that dealt with cliff-nesting seabirds.



**Maria Luisa Doyle '08 BS Chemistry** has been a substitute teacher for the past 12 years, but is looking for a job in her field. She has dual citizenship in Mexico and the United States and loves doing research in Mexico where she was involved in an experiment determining proteins in an insect called chichatana, which some people in Veracruz consume as their source of protein.

**Daniel Cooper '09 BS Biomedical Sciences** is entering his second year in his cell and molecular biology Ph.D. program at the University of Texas-San Antonio. He is working on his initial dissertation research and project proposal, which focuses on DNA repair activation in stem cells compared to somatic cells.

**James Heath Gammon 'BS Environmental Science** is a water quality specialist for the city of Corpus Christi.

**Susan Magdalene Moczygemba '09 BS Environmental Science** completed her first year of graduate school at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is currently taking a break and looking for a full-time position in environmental science in the Corpus Christi area.

**Sergio Servando Villarreal '09 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** is an engineer for the Mission Automation Group. He is getting married on Feb. 19, 2011.

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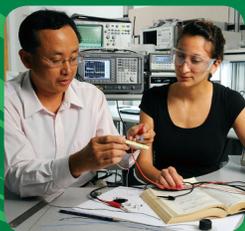
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