

# the Islander

FALL 2011



## COVER STORY

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

*Capital Campaign  
exceeds expectations*

## INSIDE

*Men's Basketball Coach Willis  
Wilson vows to return prominence*

*Gulf of Mexico Summit to address  
Deepwater Horizon Spill*

*Provost Markwood gets real about  
today's education*





## BRITTANY HORTON PC SCHOLAR

Helping out freshmen biology majors has recently made me wake up and realize that my undergraduate career is almost over. This past summer, I had the fantastic opportunity to work as a marine mammal training intern at the Vancouver Aquarium in Canada. I got to interact with and help train beluga whales and sea otters as well as learn about the career from the inside out from some of the best trainers in the business. It was, without a doubt, the best summer of my life.

There are so many great memories from my internship but one of my most cherished comes from my last day in Vancouver. I was done with my internship but went to the aquarium one last time. I walked by the underwater viewing area at the sea otter habitat where one of the otters, and my favorite, Milo, was swimming. He saw me and swam over to me at the glass. I moved over to the right, then back over, and all around the glass and he followed me the whole time. That moment, along with so many others, is what strengthened my resolve to become a marine mammal trainer, working with dolphins, whales, seals, or sea otters like Milo.

In this career field, hands-on experience is essential and the internship in Vancouver helped me tremendously. I wouldn't have even thought an internship was possible if it hadn't been for the President's Council Scholarship. Unpaid internships aren't cheap and because of your support of the scholarship, I was able to focus on learning and making memories that will last the rest of my life.



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

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

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

### Gold Circle

\$5,000

### Silver Circle

\$2,500

### Bronze Circle

\$1,000



DR. FLAVIUS C. KILLEBREW  
President/CEO



Last fall, we met a major goal of Momentum 2015 when, for the first time, we welcomed more than 10,000 students to the Island University. One year later, we are celebrating the success of the Momentum Capital Campaign which raised more than \$37 million to fund scholarships, academic programs, and campus-wide programs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

It was gratifying to announce that we had exceeded not only our \$25 million goal but also our \$30 million challenge goal to a packed house at the final State of the University luncheon. These are especially challenging times for higher education in Texas and, with the reduction in state revenue, it is more important than ever that we adhere to the guiding principles for maintaining academic excellence, increasing student enrollment, and expanding external funding for sponsored projects, and research and development.

In 2009, we realized that the state of Texas would soon enter challenging times and launched a campus-wide effort to identify and implement efficiencies that reduce operating costs in light of the anticipated shortfall. Two years later, we are building more energy efficient buildings, moving rapidly to electronic-based documentations, and asking employees to expand their roles so that we can increase our student numbers without adding greatly to our workforce.

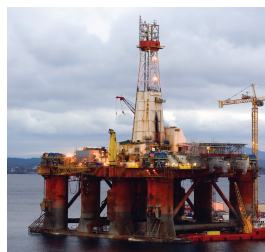
More challenges lie ahead in the coming years including the prospect of additional cuts in state funding during the next legislative session. However, the future success of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is assured thanks to the commitment and perseverance of elected representatives who share our vision, the generosity of private donors who understand clearly the challenges ahead, and faculty and staff who are committed to the vision of the Island University. It is through their unwavering support that the University's academic credentials are being enhanced as we graduate highly-skilled professionals who are equipped to meet the demands and challenges of our complex and rapidly-changing world.

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## Mission Accomplished

Donors meet the challenge of University's Momentum Capital Campaign

## 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 Texas 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

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students, alumni, donors, and friends celebrate the Momentum Capital Campaign goal at the State of the University luncheon on September 14, 2011. The Momentum Capital Campaign chairs joined in as the final numbers were revealed.

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry J. Urban**  
Momentum Campaign Co-Chairs

**Mr. and Mrs. Martin C. Davis**  
Foundations

**Mr. Octavio B. Garcia**  
Alumni-Corpus Christi

**Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Shea**  
Athletics

**Mr. and Mrs. Avinash C. Ahuja**  
President's Council

**Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Deis**  
Faculty

**Mr. and Mrs. Gordon E. Landreth**  
Achieve/Business

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sutton**  
Parents' Council

**Mr. and Mrs. John T. Baker**  
Alumni-Austin

**Dr. Joyce Freeman**  
Retirees

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry R. Mills**  
Alumni-San Antonio

**Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Townsend**  
Alumni-Houston

**Mr. and Mrs. Bruce L. Collins Jr.**  
Fine and Performing Arts

**Dr. Janice R. Freeman**  
Retirees

**Mr. and Mrs. Curtis A. Rock**  
Under 50

## The Islander Goes Green

The Islander Magazine will debut online in November with interactive content, videos, and links to deeper analysis of stories featured in the magazine. Follow us on Facebook for notification or visit [www.tamucc.edu](http://www.tamucc.edu)



This symbol indicates an interactive online feature.



## DOCUMENTS PROVIDE HISTORICALLY-VALUABLE RESEARCH MATERIAL

The **Special Collections and Archives Department** of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library **has received donations of historical documents and materials** this year that will provide valuable primary research materials for students and scholars from a variety of academic disciplines.



Documents spanning the career of **former U.S. Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz** were formally donated to the University in June. The collection documenting Ortiz's more than 25 years in office reflects his contributions to military, transportation, trade, natural resources, border security and other issues, and is the first set of United States congressional papers acquired by the University.

Representatives from the **Camp Fire USA Coastal Bend Chapter** donated documents in April covering the youth organization's nearly 75 years as one of the most successful youth organizations in South Texas. From 1937 through 2010, thousands of girls in grades two through 12 from five Coastal Bend counties participated in Camp Fire USA programs.

**The Hi-Fairnessee Girls Club**, Corpus Christi's oldest social and civic club for Hispanic high school girls, donated 80 years of historical materials to the University in August. The records, which include photographs, newspaper clippings, memoirs, proclamations, correspondence, and books chronicling the club's events, provide a valuable research resource on the history of Mexican-American women in Corpus Christi.



## SCHOLARSHIP HONORS FORMER WATER DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

**ATLEE M. CUNNINGHAM JR.** of Fort Worth, Texas, has donated \$40,000 to establish the **Atlee M. and John W. Cunningham Endowed Scholarship** for students who are either employees of the City of Corpus Christi Water Department or children of employees pursuing an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The endowment was created in memory of Cunningham's father, **Atlee M.**, and grandfather, **John W.**, both of whom were employees of the City of Corpus Christi Water Department. During their lifetimes, they devoted a total of 99 years service to the city.



## Donors Honored for Cumulative Contributions to University

Individuals, businesses and organizations were honored for cumulative contributions made to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi during the **President's Recognition Dinner** held Jan. 21. Awards were: **Estill Foundation** and **Ewing Halsell Foundation**, Platinum Inner Circle of Excellence (gifts of \$1 million to \$9,999,999); **Karen and Larry Urban** and **Port Corpus Christi**, Silver Inner Circle of Excellence (gifts of \$250,000 to \$499,999); **Industrial Fabricators of Corpus Christi**, **The LC Foundation, Inc.**, **Corpus Christi Roadrunners, Inc.**, Bronze Inner Circle of Excellence (gifts of \$100,000 to \$249,999); and **Elizabeth Sefcik**, Ph.D., Heritage Society (planned gifts).



## SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROVIDES MERIT-BASED AWARDS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**Dr. Flavius C. Killebrew**, University president and CEO, and First Lady **Kathy Killebrew** have created a \$30,000 account establishing the **Flavius and Kathy Killebrew Dean's Annual Scholarship Fund** to provide merit-based scholarships to students from each of the University's five colleges. Deans of the colleges may distribute the scholarships without restrictions with the exception of the College of Science and Engineering, which must award one scholarship to a biology major and one scholarship to an engineering major; and the College of Liberal Arts, which must award at least one scholarship to a student who has experience or a passion for dance.



## UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU TO ESTABLISH iWIRE LAB

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Interconnect 365, a San Antonio-based technology company, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to establish an **Innovation in Wireless Research (iWIRE)** laboratory on the University campus. Interconnect 365, which specializes in research and development of wireless, 4G, high bandwidth IP networks, smart grid/home/business and smart service solutions, will fund iWIRE by providing one percent of its annual revenue with a minimum of \$350,000. **Dr. Ahmed Mahdy**, assistant professor of computer science, will serve as director of the lab, which will be staffed with researchers, technicians, and administrative personnel.



## GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY DONATION HELPS ART MUSEUM GO SOLAR

The Art Museum of South Texas “flipped the switch” Aug. 5 for the **new 25-kilowatt solar array** made possible by a \$140,000 donation from **Green Mountain Energy Company’s Sun Club**. The solar array, which consists of 108 large panels, captures and transforms sunlight into energy to help power the Museum, the first art museum in South Texas to employ a solar array to partially supply its energy. Pictured are (from left) **Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, Green Mountain Energy Sun Club Manager Tony Napolillo, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President Flavius Killebrew; and Art Museum of South Texas Director Joe Schenk**. The Art Museum of South Texas is affiliated with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

## FORBES RANKS UNIVERSITY IN TOP 20 PERCENT OF NATION’S UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is ranked among the **top 20 percent of all undergraduate institutions in the United States**, according to **Forbes’ 2011 list of the nation’s Top Colleges**. The annual rankings, which focus on quality of teaching, career prospects, graduation rates and low levels of debt, are exclusively prepared for Forbes by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

## PROGRAM ALLOWS STUDENTS TO EARN MBA ONLINE

The College of Business now offers an online program that allows students with a Bachelor of Business Administration to earn their Master’s of Business Administration degree in as little as one year. Using the most comprehensive technology available, the **Online MBA program** blends high quality text and video with “clickable” materials, links and student assessments; regardless of the students’ location. The Online MBA curriculum requires the same number of credits as the on-campus MBA.

## IN MEMORIAM



### John H. Crutchfield

August 10, 2011

Corpus Christi businessman and civic leader John H. Crutchfield, who helped transform the Island University into a four-year institution of higher learning, passed away on Aug. 10, 2011. He was 92.

In 1971, Crutchfield was chairman of the Upper-Level College Citizens Committee that paved the way for the University of Corpus Christi to become a four-year, state-supported institution and part of the Texas A&M University System.

Crutchfield, an Oklahoma native who lived in Corpus Christi for more than 60 years, also established the Marian and John Crutchfield Scholarship Endowment that provides financial assistance to students attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



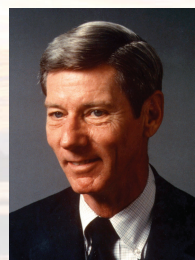
### Miriam Wagenschein

July 23, 2011

Miriam Wagenschein, a longtime professor and leader of the South Texas women’s movement, passed away on July 23, 2011. She was 89.

Wagenschein came to the Island University in 1972 as an academic planning consultant to establish the College of Arts and Humanities, now the College of Liberal Arts. When the college was created, she became dean.

In 1974, Wagenschein helped teach the University’s first course in women’s studies. In 1995, she directed the opening of the Women’s Center for Education and Service. Two professorships were created in her honor, the Dr. Miriam Wagenschein Professorship in Women and Gender Studies and the Dr. Miriam Wagenschein Professorship in Sociology.



### Edward H. Harte

May 18, 2011

Former Corpus Christi-Caller Times publisher Edward H. Harte, whose generosity left a giant footprint on Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, passed away on May 18, 2011. He was 88.

A conservationist as well as a philanthropist, in 2000, Harte donated \$46 million to establish a research center at the Island University that today champions the conservation of the Gulf of Mexico. Today the HRI has six endowed chairs who are dedicated to advancing the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Harte family contributed \$3.5 million to help build the University’s showpiece Performing Arts Center as well as \$1 million in unrestricted gifts to conduct the Wave of the Future Campaign.



# Putting the Southland Conference on Notice

New men's basketball coach seeks to make Islanders  
'class of the league'

After taking over a men's basketball team that's coming off a losing season with only two returning players who have any significant Division I experience, it would be understandable if Willis Wilson mimicked the standard line about how rebuilding takes time and that fans should be patient.

Well he is. But, in this case he's not talking years, he's talking months.

"The team you see in November is not the team you're going to see in January and February," vows Wilson. "We're going to play hard and be competitive from buzzer to buzzer. We're not going to leave anything on the table, and by the last two weeks of the season, these kids can be pretty darned good."

To many, that statement may seem like hyperbole. But Wilson's assessment is backed by 25 years of coaching experience, 16 as head coach of the Rice Owls. His 219 victories and three post-season appearances rank him as the top coach in the University's history and his resume is strengthened by his most recent stint as assistant at the University of Memphis where the team won 49 games over his two seasons and advanced to the

2011 NCAA Tournament.

To get the Islanders to that level, Wilson is banking on the mental toughness of his young players who face a daunting non-conference schedule that includes early road stops at Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston. By the time Sam Houston State comes to the American Bank Center in February, Wilson expects his team to give the three-time defending Southland Conference West Division champion Bearkats all they can handle.

"People are going to see us at our best at the end of the year," Wilson predicts. "This year's non-conference schedule is tougher than we need, but it will be perfect for the coming years. We need to evolve in a hurry. We're laying the foundation for the future."

The building blocks for Wilson's first season are Terence Jones, a junior guard who averaged 8.9 points in 31 games last year, and Chris Mast, who played in 27 games, averaging 5 points and 2.4 rebounds. The 13-man roster also lists six freshmen and two junior college transfers, making it easier to initiate the players into his vision of the future.

Wilson knows that recruiting



Terence Jones, a junior guard who averaged 8.9 points a game, tops Wilson's talented roster.

is the key to winning and the Islanders must attract outstanding athletes to become a powerhouse like Gonzaga and George Mason, non-football universities that make their national mark on the basketball court. To do that, the Islanders must be able to compete for the best high school players in the country. And, with the connections he's made during his many years of experience in Houston, he won't have to look far.

"We've got to do a good job recruiting in Texas," he stresses. "If a kid in this area can help us at a national level then we've got to be in the mix. The metropolitan areas of the state have as much basketball talent as anywhere in the nation and, once we develop a

winning culture, we'll get more of those top players."

To attract those recruits, Wilson and his staff have to sell them on the Island University and its future as a basketball powerhouse. That means having a winning program, outstanding facilities and, most of all, having an enthusiastic fan base that reaches beyond the University and into the Coastal Bend community.

"Our goal is to be the class of the league and to give people something to be proud of and get excited about," he states confidently. "We want to get to the point where if you want to win the Southland Conference you have to go through Corpus Christi."





## On the Rebound

### ISLANDERS WOMEN LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK FROM DISAPPOINTING, INJURY-PLAGUED SEASON

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi women's basketball team is looking to rebound from last year's subpar season when the injury-plagued Islanders won only two games and failed to notch a victory over a Southland Conference opponent.

The 2011-12 team features seven newcomers, three freshmen and four junior college transfers. Head coach Robert Robinson will look to newcomer Verne'qua Taylor to lead the team on offense at the point guard position. Taylor, a junior college

transfer from Blinn Junior College, averaged 9.45 points and 6.1

assists per game while at Blinn. Sophomore Marquesha Anderson-Sparks, who played with Taylor at Blinn, will also provide the Islanders a spark at the shooting guard position.

The Islanders return seven players, including top junior guard Jessica Jammer.

Last season, Jammer averaged 8.1 points a game and collected 117 rebounds while starting 23 out of the 29 games.

Senior Myeisha Myles, who was sidelined last season with an injury, will also give the Islanders a boost on offense. As a junior, Myles played



The Islanders women's basketball team will open their season Nov. 12 against Missouri.

in 34 of the 35 games and led the team in scoring three times during the season. Along with Jammer and Myles, the Islanders return guards Ashley Darley, Imani Dunn and Taryn Gregory, and forwards Brandi Huff and Zoey Vega-Vega.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what we have," says Robinson. "There are a lot of new faces this year, and I think it helps us address some key issues that hurt us last year. On paper, what we have is going to work for us, and it will be exciting to actually see it come to fruition."

The Islanders will play a tough schedule this season, opening the season at home against Big 12 opponent Missouri on Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Dugan Wellness Center, then, four days later, facing Colorado at the American Bank Center. They will also participate in the Houston Baptist and Rice Tournaments. The Islanders open Southland Conference play on the road at McNeese State on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, before returning to the American Bank Center to host UTSA.

### LAZENBY TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS THROUGH 2011-2012 SEASON



Scott Lazenby, senior associate athletic director, assumed the role of director of Islanders athletics on an interim basis in September following the resignation of Tim Fitzpatrick to

take the same position at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Lazenby, who joined the Islanders staff in 2008, will serve as athletic director through the 2011-2012 academic year. As senior associate athletic director, he was in charge of overseeing the University's compliance with all NCAA and Southland Conference rules and regulations, and assisted with the oversight of Islanders sports programs. He stresses that nothing will change under his leadership.

"Tim and I are extremely similar in the way we go about business, so there won't be any big changes at all," he says. "We're going to keep moving forward and heading in the right direction."

Before joining Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Lazenby served as the assistant athletic director for compliance at Texas State

University in San Marcos for seven years. Previously Lazenby, who earned both his bachelor's of science and master's degrees in Sport Management from Texas A&M University, spent two years at College Station as a compliance assistant and an advisor in the athletic academic offices.

"While we are sorry to see Tim go, we are extremely fortunate that Scott has agreed to step in and assist with a seamless transition for our athletic programs," says University President Flavius Killebrew. "Islanders Athletics is a strong and thriving program and I am confident that we will continue to experience significant growth and success as we move through this transition."



## Advantage Islanders: Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center Provides Showcase Venue

The new \$2.4 million Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center on the Momentum Campus provides a top-notch venue for the Islanders to host major tournaments and attract talented student athletes. The center, which was made possible in part by a \$500,000 gift from Corpus Christi attorney Thomas J. Henry, includes 12 tennis courts built to NCAA specifications that are illuminated by a top-of-the-line Musco lighting system.

Henry is a long-time supporter of the Islanders athletic programs, which competed as an independent from 1998 until the University joined the Southland Conference (SLC) in 2006. Since

then, the Islanders men's tennis team has dominated the SLC, winning four-straight conference championships and three of the last four conference tournaments.

"Since the start of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's NCAA sport's program, I have been involved in helping them progress their vision," says Henry. "Our community benefits from a university that believes in growth, and through the University's leadership, I have seen them expand at an exceptional rate."

Last season, the Islanders men's tennis team became the first team to sweep the SLC postseason honors, winning "Player of the Year," "Newcomer of the Year,"



Thomas J. Henry and family with President and Mrs. Flavius C. Kilbrew at the grand opening of the Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center on the Momentum Campus.

and "Freshman of the Year" awards. In addition, Coach Steve Moore was named the "Coach of the Year" for the fifth straight time. Since joining the SLC, the women's team is also on the rise.

Last year, the Islanders posted a 7-4 record for a best-ever fourth-place showing and finished the season with 10-or-more wins for the fourth straight year.



## ISLANDERS EARN HIGH MARKS



Outfielder **Matt Holland** was chosen by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 22nd round of the Major League Baseball Draft in June. Just two years after an arm injury ended his pitching career, Holland became the eighth Islander player to hit 10 home runs in a season and matched the school record with 20 doubles. A First Team All-Southland Conference honoree, Holland was second in the league with a .391 batting average. His 53 RBI were sixth in the conference.



Islanders softball outfielder **Hannah Schwarz** was a member of the Canadian National Team that competed in the XVI Pan American Games Oct. 17-23 in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is the first Islanders softball player to play in the Pan American Games, in which thousands of athletes from nations across the Americas participate in a variety of competitions. In 2010 Schwarz, a native of Kerrville, Texas, led the Southland Conference with a .410 batting average with 73 hits and 21 stolen bases.



**Stephanie Hughes**, a former standout player and assistant coach at UTSA, has been named head coach of the Islanders softball team. Hughes spent eight years at UTSA, the last as the Roadrunners interim coach. She takes over an Islanders squad that returns 11 players from a team that posted a 41-19 last season and won its first Southland Conference regular-season championship. Hughes succeeds former head coach Jake Schumann, who was recently named head coach at Florida International.



Left-handed pitcher **Todd Simko**, who won a team record 10 games for the Islanders in 2010, was selected by the Washington Nationals in the 21st round of the Major League Baseball Draft in June. Simko posted a 10-6 record with a 4.31 ERA while holding opposing hitters to a .249 batting average. The southpaw was dominating down the stretch in conference play, going 5-0 with a 1.99 ERA and surrendering just 25 hits in 45 1/3 innings of work.



# OVER AND UNDER

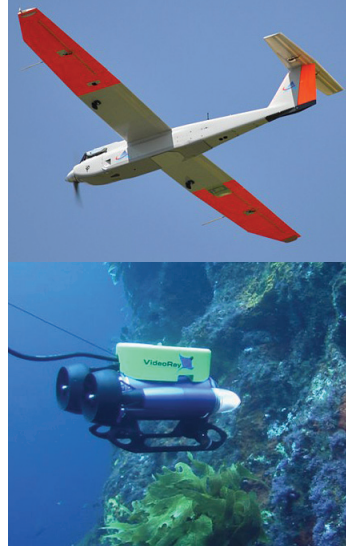
Unmanned Systems Initiative increases University's research, teaching opportunities

Two new projects being developed by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi scientists under the Unmanned Systems Initiative (USI) are catapulting the Island University to the forefront of unmanned exploration both in the air and on the seas.

In July, the University's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) project received authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly remote controlled aircraft into federal air space, one of only 15 authorizations held by universities in the United States. The air space, which encompasses approximately 500 square miles, is unprecedented in size and versatility, reaching several miles into the Gulf of Mexico and covering 39 miles of the Padre Island National Seashore and a substantial portion of the Laguna Madre intra-coastal waterway.

the onset of harmful algal blooms.

"We are committed to advancing our science and engineering base that supports sustainable growth of the Gulf of Mexico and coastal communities," says Dr. Lea Der Chen, associate dean for research, director of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and director of the Unmanned Systems Initiative. "Given the complexity of the Gulf of Mexico, the new UAS and ROV provide a safe, efficient, and cost effective means to acquire data to study the complex processes of the



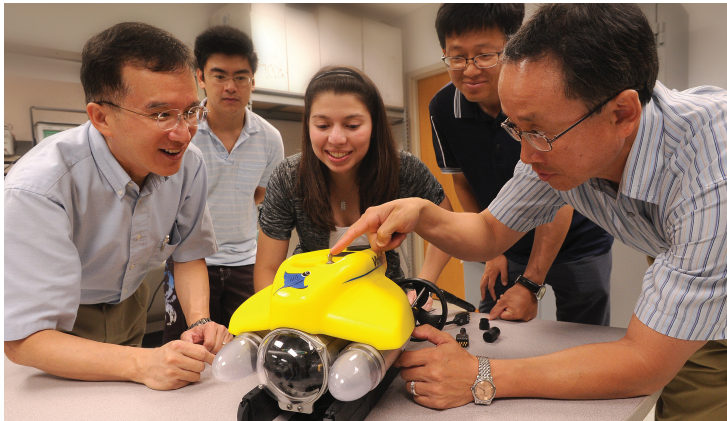
the Korea Institute of Science and Technology supported Frontier project.

To conduct the underwater research, the College of Science and Engineering has acquired a VideoRay P4 ROV with a depth rating of 1,000 feet and a maximum speed of 4.2 knots, or 4.8 miles per hour. Using this type of vehicle, scientists around the world have documented both endangered and invasive fish species, identified polluted habitats, and discovered new fish species.

"The ROV can be used in both onshore and offshore environments for surveying, inspection, and surveillance that is important to the oil and gas industry, offshore wind farms, fish farms and can even be employed to find and explore sunken ships," points out Um. "Faculty, staff and students are learning the ROV operation, working to augment the sensing capabilities and developing algorithms to track motion of marine species."

According to Chen, the USI capabilities will make it easier and safer to gather data on the complex systems within the world's ninth-largest body of water. In addition, the UAS and ROV technology will advance the scientific and engineering base that supports the economic and ecological health of the Gulf of Mexico and provides new research and teaching opportunities for students and faculty.

"The Unmanned Systems Initiative is an example of our commitments to support sustainable growth of the coastal communities, to enlarge the research enterprise, and to enhance the students' learning experience," stresses Chen. "These capabilities directly benefit our research endeavors by providing students, faculty, and staff with excellent opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary research in the Gulf Coast region."



Faculty demonstrates to students the basic underwater observation tasks performed by the University's newly-acquired ROV.

The College of Science and Engineering has also acquired a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that has been specifically configured for engineers and scientists to quickly and effectively perform a variety of basic underwater observation tasks. The undersea robotic vehicle is equipped with sensors and instruments for measurement and observation for marine species, ocean acidification, dissolved oxygen level, circulation current, plankton community change, and

Gulf in the Coastal Bend region."

Dr. Stacey Lyle, associate professor of science and engineering, is the team leader for the UAS component of the project. A professional surveyor who has worked with private industries, Lyle developed GPS and aerial photogrammetry products and the ASCOT aerial survey control tool, a GPS-based management system for aerial survey flights.

"The UAS initiative directly benefits the University's academic

programs and increases the College of Science and Engineering's competitiveness for externally-funded research," says Lyle. "In addition, this capability will enable Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to become a leader in UAS technology training and education at both the state and national levels."

The UAS flights, which are approved for both day and night campaigns, will be made using RS-16 unmanned Tier II systems with 13-foot wingspans that are capable of staying aloft for 12-16 hours. Their data collection capabilities include video, mapping, communications relay, and advanced video telemetry. The aircraft will be provided by American Aerospace Advisors Incorporated, a UAS operator and leader in developing processes for the use of unmanned aircraft.

Dr. Dugan Um, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is team leader on the ROV component of the project. Over the past several years, Um has conducted several national and international research projects including the National Science Foundation supported Research Experience for Undergraduate Students and Teachers project; and



## FEATURES

### University Receives Grant to Research Deepwater Horizon Disaster

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been awarded an \$800,000 grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) to support research that will investigate the fate of petroleum in the environment from the BP Deepwater Horizon. The University is a member of a consortium of 12 national research institutions that will investigate the dispersion of petroleum in sea water.

Dr. Darek Bogucki, recipient of the grant and an assistant professor in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, says his research will address the surface and near-surface processes that affect oil movement, dispersion, mixing and sinking. Using the University's remotely-operated vehicle (ROV), Bogucki will study the role of surface waves, currents and wind stresses in the turbulent flow of sea water. This will lead to insights on the dispersion of oil in the ocean.

## The Price of Oil

### GULF OF MEXICO SUMMIT WILL ADDRESS DAMAGE FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL

The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) will bring together elected officials, environmental experts, and industry and business leaders from the Gulf states at the second "State of the Gulf of Mexico" summit from Sunday, Dec. 4, through Thursday, Dec. 8, in Houston, Texas.

Around 400 representatives from universities; state and federal agencies; private businesses; and nongovernmental organizations from the United States, Mexico, and Cuba will address damage to the world's ninth-largest body of water caused by the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform on April 20, 2010. According to HRI Director Larry McKinney, the goal is to define what a healthy gulf should be, chart a course to that end, and prescribe the means to assess progress to that goal.

"There remains significant debate in the scientific community about the ecological effects of the spill and even about the fate of the oil itself," says McKinney. "How the spill will ultimately impact the open ocean,

deep bottoms and perhaps the shallow continental shelf portions of the Gulf ecosystem, we just do not know. Regardless of what we learn from this oil spill, we must move forward in assuring a healthy Gulf of Mexico for the future."

Eleven workers were killed in the blowout of the platform located off the southeast coast of Louisiana. Before the spill was brought under control, an estimated 4.9 million gallons of oil escaped into the environment, threatening the entire ecosystem of the Northern Gulf of Mexico. McKinney and many other leading scientists believe that the effects of the spill will extend a significant distance from the site, affecting the unseen bottom communities of the Gulf.

"More than a year later, we are now in a position to put this massive insult to the Gulf into perspective," says McKinney. "What was the damage? Has the Gulf recovered and if not, when will it recover?"

The summit will also evaluate the state of research efforts initiated during and after the spill and provide a basis to evaluate the ability to respond to future disasters, both man-made and natural. One of the tools employed will be BioGoMx, a Web portal on Gulf of Mexico research that represents a comprehensive biodiversity baseline prior to the oil spill. The information is based on the HRI's Gulf of Mexico Biodiversity Project, a collaborative project involving 140 experts from 80 institutions in 15 countries that allows scientists to determine the impact of the oil spill and assess recovery of the affected species.

For more information on the 2011 "State of the Gulf of Mexico" Summit, go to <http://www.sgmsummit.org/>.

### CONSERVATION GROUPS SUBMIT BLUEPRINT FOR GULF RESTORATION



The Harte Research Institute (HRI) has joined with six other national conservation groups to submit a blueprint for restoration of the natural systems of the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the devastation cause by last year's Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The plan submitted to the Presidential Task Force on Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration includes recommendations made by the HRI, Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, Ocean Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

On Aug. 1, the groups delivered their recommendations titled a "Strategy for Restoring the Gulf of Mexico" to the task force to develop a comprehensive plan to effectively address the Gulf's longstanding ecological decline and the damage caused by the worst marine oil spill in history.

The groups' recommendations were released in advance of a vote by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on legislation that would provide funding to implement the Presidential Task Force's restoration plans. Under current law, most of the fines will be used for general government spending, rather than being directed toward the Gulf. The Senate bill, the RESTORE Gulf Coast States Act, would dedicate 80 percent of the oil spill fines to restoring the Gulf's communities, economies, and environments.

"The Gulf is a national treasure and restoring it must be an urgent priority," says Dr. Wes Tunnell, associate director of the HRI. "Too much time has already passed. We cannot miss this important opportunity to rebuild the Gulf and ensure it continues to support our nation's economy, communities, and wildlife."



## HRI SCIENTISTS HONORED WITH 'PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OF THE SILVER WAVE'

Dr. Flavius Killebrew presented the "Presidential Order of the Silver Wave" to the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies during the May 4 Spring Faculty/Staff Meeting.

The award created by Dr. Killebrew in 2005 honors individuals or groups that bring national and international recognition to the University. In the year following the explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, the expertise of HRI scientists has been highly sought by organizations and media throughout the world due to their extensive knowledge of the world's ninth-largest body of water and their vast experience in oil spill research.

"The more than 150 years of combined experience our HRI's endowed chairs have in assessing the long-term environmental and economic impacts of oil spills has been invaluable to the scientific community in the wake of one of the greatest natural disasters in our nation's history," said Killebrew in making the presentation. "In addition, the countless hours they have spent working with the media has brought worldwide attention to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the HRI's critical role as protector and conservator of the Gulf of Mexico."



## University Develops the Texas Coastal Bend's First Oyster Shell Recycling Program

An innovative project to recycle oyster shells back into the Gulf of Mexico waters is creating habitat where young oysters can attach and grow, ensuring an abundance of the mollusks for future commercial harvests.

Larval oysters are tiny, free-swimming plankton that depend upon the hard shells of previous generations for attachment and growth. In 2009, Dr. Jennifer Beseres Pollack, assistant professor in the Department of Life Sciences, developed the first oyster shell recycling program for the Texas Coastal Bend. Working with Water Street Restaurants and Niko's Steakhouse, two local establishments that previously discarded tons of shucked oyster shells in area landfills, the program has already reclaimed more than 90,000 pounds of oyster shells and returned them to bay waters to maintain existing reefs and restore degraded habitats.

"Although more than 2.6 million pounds of oysters were harvested from Texas bays in 2008, no statewide mechanism exists for shucked shells to be returned to bay waters," points out Pollack, who established the program in collaboration with the Harte Research Institute (HRI) and Port of Corpus Christi. "Instead, large quantities are simply thrown in the trash. This disposal of oyster shell in landfills disrupts the natural process of oyster reef growth and regeneration and deprives reefs of their most fundamental building blocks."

Each week since the program began, University students have transported bins of oyster shells from the restaurants to a stockpile location at the Port, where they are dried in the sun and later reintroduced into the ecosystem. During the past year, recycled shells have been used to restore a 3.8 acre reef in Copano Bay, and plans are in development to build an educational oyster reef near Goose Island State Park that will be easily accessible to Corpus Christi Independent School District students for use in their aquatic science curriculum.

"Oyster reefs are one of the most threatened marine habitats on the planet," says Pol-

lack. "In addition to creating fish habitat, they filter and clean bay waters, and protect shorelines from erosion. There is a critical need to expand this oyster shell recycling program to provide new opportunities for marine resource conservation all along the Texas coast."



**University scientists oversee the building of a 3.8 acre habitation reef composed of recycled oyster shells from Coastal Bend restaurants.**

As part of her master's research, HRI Assistant Director Gail Sutton conducted an economic analysis to quantify the benefits of the oyster shell recycling initiative. This information will be shared with marine conservation groups and with other potential restaurant partners to encourage expansion of shell recycling efforts. "Oysters are an important ecological and economic resource and an important and valued component of the commercial fishing industry," says Sutton. "We'll take what we learn from this project and share it with key stakeholders to encourage them to take advantage of recycling."

Corpus Christi businessman Brad Lomax, owner of Water Street Restaurants, has worked closely with the University on several previous projects and, in 2008, was named an Honorary Alumnus of the Island University. He is already convinced that the program is beneficial to the environment, both in the water and onshore.

"I am excited about this project," says Lomax. "We will easily recycle 60 to 70 tons annually, or about the equivalent of 20 Shamu-sized killer whales. Not only do the young oysters win, but the landfills do as well."

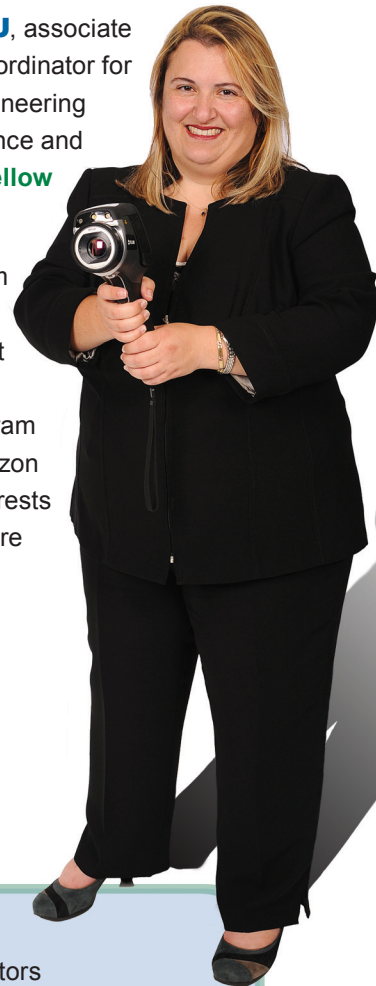


## FACULTY UPDATE

**DR. BUNNY FORGIONE**, associate dean in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has been appointed to the **Healthy Texas Babies Expert Panel**. The panel, which was developed by the Texas Department of State Health Services in partnership with the March of Dimes, is addressing the “Texas Healthy Babies Initiative” with activities and interventions based on current research; and the March of Dimes’ “Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait Initiative.”



**DR. RUBY MEHRUBEOGLU**, associate professor and former program coordinator for Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Technology in the College of Science and Engineering, was selected as a **fellow for the 2011 Office of Naval Research Summer Faculty Research Program**. The program allows faculty members to participate in research of mutual interest with professional researchers at U.S. Navy laboratories. The program also broadens the scope and horizon of faculty members’ research interests and provides a foundation for future research collaboration.



**DR. CHERIE MCCOLLOUGH**, assistant professor of Science Education, was one of the first six educators inducted into **The Texas A&M University System’s Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators**, on March 24. The Academy recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of teacher education and highlights the role of the A&M System in producing K-12 teachers for the state of Texas.

**DR. COLBY STOEVER** has been named director of the **University’s Office of Planning and Institutional Research**. Stoever, who previously worked on statewide higher education projects as a senior research specialist with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, took over for Dr. Paul Orser who

retired in August after 37 years at the University. Stoever earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and communication from the University of Texas, and his master’s degree and doctorate in experimental psychology from the University of Texas-El Paso.

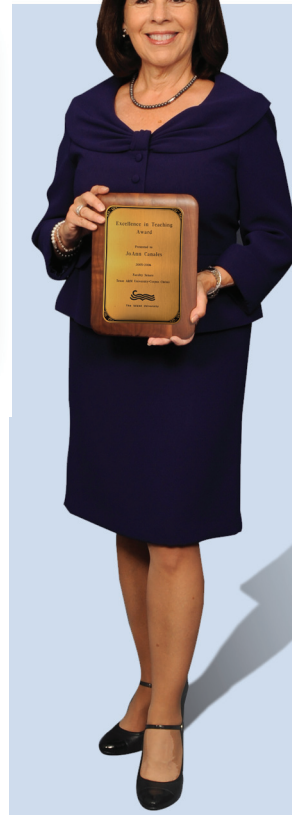


**FLICKA RAHN**, associate professor of music, received a **Fulbright Specialist Grant** to teach “American Art Song” courses in Spanish at the Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro in Mexico from May 6-22. The Fulbright Specialist Program promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at overseas universities with education focused short-term collaborative projects in more than 100 countries worldwide.



**UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR**

**MICHAEL RENDON** has been elected **president of the Texas Hispanic-Serving Institution Consortium** an organization dedicated to increasing the access, retention and success of students attending consortium member institutions. Rendon, who began serving his one-year term in January, was previously vice president of the consortium v nism for Hispanic-Serving Institutions to establish collaborations, and share resources such as facilities, equipment and personnel between member institutions.



**DR. JOANN CANALES**, associate dean of Graduate Studies and professor in the College of Education, has been appointed to the **board of Communities in Schools (CIS)**, the largest stay-in-school network in the nation. CIS is funded by the Texas legislature to help young people stay in school and prepare for life by coordinating the connection of community resources in school settings. Canales has more than 25 years experience working with school districts, regional, state, national and international organizations, and institutions of higher education.



**DR. YOLANDA KEYS**, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was one of several area educators and professionals invited to take a ride with the "Blue Angels," the U.S. Navy's elite flight demonstration team, prior to the squadron's exhibition at the NAS Corpus Christi Air Show in April. Each year, the Blue Angels take

around 100 civilians for a ride aboard their F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets to emphasize career opportunities in the military.



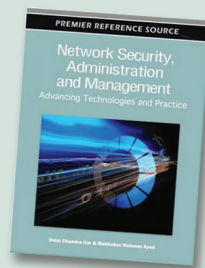
**DR. MAGESH THIYAGARAJAN**, assistant professor of engineering and director of the Plasma Engineering Research Lab, has been elected as the **University's representative to the Texas Space Grant Consortium**, a group of 47 universities, industrial organizations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies that work to ensure that the benefits of space research and technology are available to all Texans. The consortium is part of the National Space Grant Program which consists of 52 Space Grant Consortia nationwide.



**KATHRYN FUNK-BAXTER** has been named **executive vice president for Finance and Administration**. Funk-Baxter, the University's senior associate vice president for Finance and Administration since 2009, joined the University staff in 1994 as comptroller. In 1996, she was promoted to assistant vice president and comptroller, overseeing a department with more than 50 employees. In 2004, she was named interim vice president for Finance and Administration and served as associate vice president in that department for five years.



**DR. DULAL CHANDRA KAR**, associate professor of computer sciences, was **lead editor for "Network Security, Administration and Management: Advancing Technology and Practice,"** released by **IGI Global**. The book is a collection of current research and practices in network security and administration that identifies the latest technological solutions, practices and principles on network security while exposing possible security threats and vulnerabilities of contemporary software, hardware and networked systems.





# The Times They Are a-Changin’

## A NEW GENERATION OF STUDENTS, BUDGET CONSTRAINTS CHALLENGING PUBLIC EDUCATION

Shortly after taking over as provost last spring, Dr. Christopher Markwood made it a point to meet with each major department on campus to gain a clear understanding of the issues and opportunities facing Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He also had a message to deliver.

“It is an exciting but challenging time for faculty,” stresses Markwood. “Today’s students are unlike past students. This generation processes and utilizes information differently

and faculty must be up to speed on students’ ways of learning.”

Markwood points out that technology has changed how people do business and interact. Students entering college today are among the first generation to grow up using computers, cell phones, video cameras, computer games, and other digital technology. That environment has caused a fundamental shift in the way students think and process information.

“We didn’t grow up with these things, but the fact is that pedagogy and technology now go hand-in-hand,” says Markwood. “Students now think, act, socialize, and learn differently.”

And student evolution is just one component of change facing universities. Spending cuts in funding for education have created a “new norm” in which institutions of higher learning must get by with fewer resources while facing increased accountability for those that are allocated. That demand for justification extends to the students and their families who are paying more for a college degree, and to donors who want to see their investment maximized.

“The burden for paying for

a college education is increasingly falling to students and their families,” he points out. “This is a major investment for them and it is up to the University to develop and craft new degree offerings to meet future demands, especially in growing areas like engineering and marine science that take advantage of the University’s unique location.”



While Markwood’s focus is now on South Texas, his perspective is national. His educational and professional experience has taken him all across the United States, from the most northern points to most southern regions, with several stops in America’s heartland. Markwood earned his bachelor’s degrees in political science and history from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

During his career, he has held teaching positions at Lamar University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia College and Southwest Baptist University. At the University of Central Oklahoma, he started as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and moved upward through the faculty ranks, becoming the inaugural dean of the College of Arts, Media and Design in 2001. Prior to joining Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Markwood spent five years at the University of Wisconsin-Superior where he served as provost and interim chancellor.

“We’re not alone here at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,” adds Markwood. “All across the country, public institutions of higher learning are being asked



Provost Christopher Markwood takes time out to talk to students about technology and how students learn on one of his recent walks around campus.

to do more with less contribution from the states. We as a campus community must rethink a number of policies, practices, and priorities in the face of these limitations. But our highest priority must still be to provide students with the skill sets

they need to meet the challenges of a 21st century, knowledge-based economy.”

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



# Wind Turbines Supply Renewable Energy that Lower Utility Costs

Eleven vertical wind turbines that are being installed at three Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi locations will increase the University's ability to take advantage of renewable energy, saving an estimated \$37,000 to \$52,000 a year in utility costs.

The turbines provided by Urban Green Energy are being



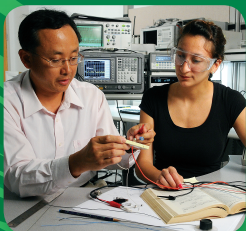
The Corpus Christi Water Department currently employs 13 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi graduates, many who fill critical positions as water quality managers, microbiologists, laboratory technicians, water quality specialists, chemists, project managers, senior system specialists and GIS interns.

placed on the main campus, the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in Flour Bluff, and the Momentum Campus at the intersection of Ennis Joslin Road and Nile Drive. The turbines will allow the University to increase the renewable energy in the Corpus Christi area; provide energy savings for the sites selected; reduce the carbon footprint; and engage in active institutional learning from the project. The power from the turbines, which will produce an estimated 217,945 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, is considered renewable energy because it comes from a non-diminishing supply at no additional cost.

The initiative was made possible by a \$955,000 Renewable Energy Technology Stimulus Grant from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The University will provide \$265,000 matching funds for a total of \$1.2 million.

## IT STARTS WITH A GIFT...

Universities throughout our nation are continually becoming more dependent upon the generosity of private donors to provide the essential dollars required to reach new levels of excellence. It is the nature of an institution growing stronger to require support beyond what can be procured through appropriations and tuition.



Just as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to the well-being of its greater community, many businesses and professionals see the University as an investment toward the growth of a quality, global-minded workforce.

The Achieve Partnership program provides the opportunity for many to support students first-hand through scholarships which help defray the costs of tuition and fees.

The Achieve Partnership program offers an excellent venue for supporting our youth who aspire to become leaders within many industries during their careers.

Please consider how your gift today can develop the future of a student who one day may improve the quality of your life.



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THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER  
SUFFERED, OUR MOMENTUM  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NOT  
ONLY MET THE GOAL, IT  
EXCEEDED IT.

President Flavius Killebrew

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



## Capital Campaign Exceeds Expectations as Donors Step Up to Meet Challenge

Trent Hill will never forget the day he met Lawrence Atkins.

As vice president for Institutional Advancement, Dr. Hill keeps a full schedule. But on that day in 1998, when his secretary informed him that a salesman had dropped by unannounced, Hill decided to see him.

Drawing on his experiences as a banker earlier in his career, Hill took

time to chat with Atkins and learned that after serving in the Pacific theatre in World War II then trying his hand at a couple of jobs in civilian life, in 1968 the Alice, Texas, native had started his own specialty business among other endeavors. It was a one-man operation at the start, with Atkins driving across South Texas in a car loaded with office supplies, stopping at promising businesses along the way.

During the course of their talk, Hill answered Atkins' questions about Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, telling him that with all its potential for growth, the University's biggest challenge in competing with the state's top schools for highly-qualified students was finding the money to provide scholarships to students whose families could not afford to send them to college.

Before Atkins left, Hill placed an order for some office supplies and the two parted amicably. Atkins had just made a sale and, although he didn't know it at the time, Hill had just made one of the best investments of his career.

"We never became what you

would call fast friends, but over the years he would call occasionally and we'd talk about what was going on at the University," remembers Hill. "Then one day in 2006, I got a call from his attorney informing me that Mr. Atkins had passed away and that the University was in his will."

Atkins, it turned out, had done well over the years. Atkins Advertising and Associates was successful, he had purchased a ranch in Orange Grove, Texas, where he raised Beefmaster cattle while overseeing his advertising company and several oil interests. In his will, Atkins had bequeathed more than \$5 million to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the largest single private gift given toward scholarships in the school's history.

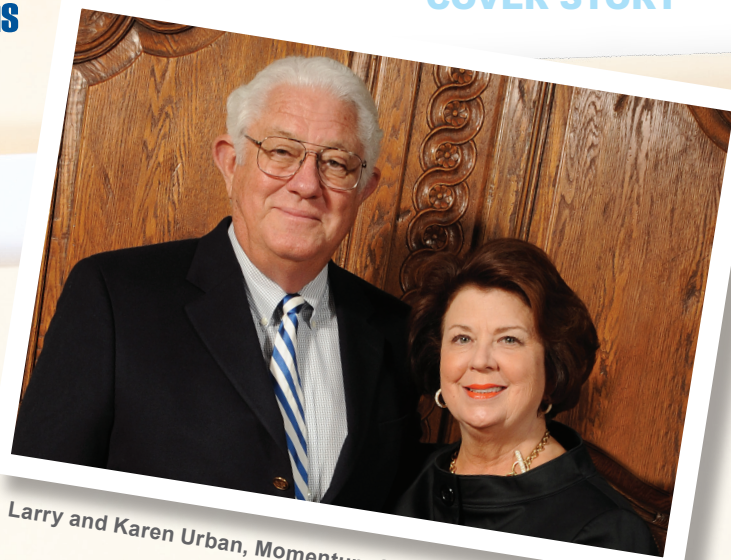
"I've learned from my banking career that you can't judge a book by its cover," says Hill. "I treat all people like potential donors, one because it's the right thing to do. And two, because you never know. It turned

out that Mr. Atkins wasn't interested in buying real estate. He believed in investing in the potential of students."

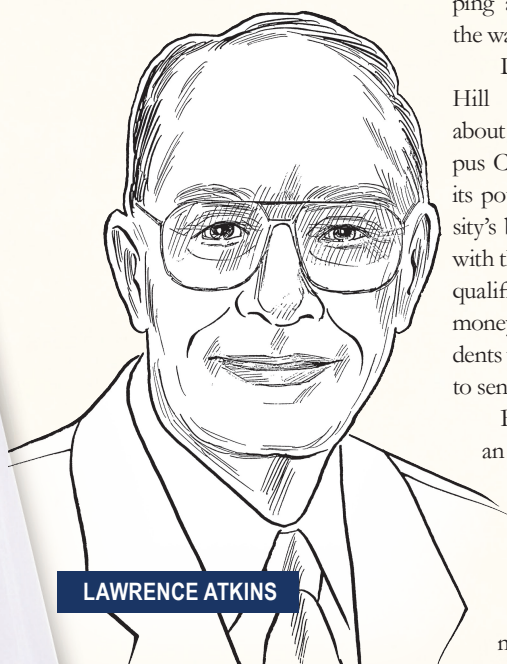
When Larry and Karen Urban were asked to serve as chairs of the University's \$25 million Momentum Campaign, they brought that same type of enthusiasm to the task. They challenged the campaign committee to exceed its goal and led the way in calling upon individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the area spreading the message that "now is the time to act." The future of the University is in the hands of the community.

"Over the years, we had watched as the campus grew in its student body, academic programs, and buildings, and that made us very proud," says Larry Urban. "The University has woven itself into the fabric of the greater community, creating an economic boost,

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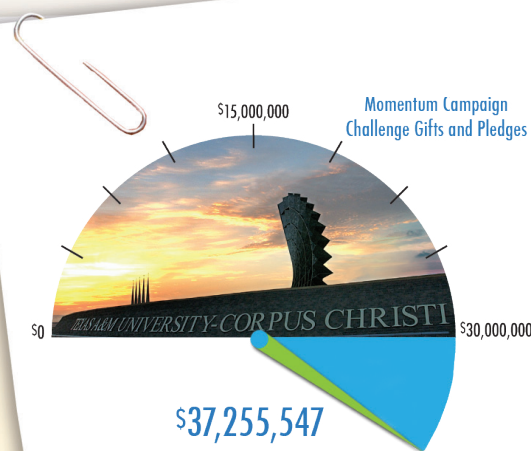
Larry and Karen Urban, Momentum Campaign Co-Chairs



LAWRENCE ATKINS

### TOP 20 MOMENTUM CAMPAIGN GIFTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Estate of Lawrence M. Atkins- <b>\$5.1 million</b> | <b>11</b> Edward H. Harte- <b>\$750,000</b>                |
| <b>2</b> City of Corpus Christi- <b>\$3.6 million</b>       | <b>12</b> Woo Sung Lee- <b>\$718,199</b>                   |
| <b>3</b> City of Corpus Christi- <b>\$1.5 million</b>       | <b>13</b> Law Offices of Thomas J. Henry- <b>\$500,000</b> |
| <b>4</b> Estill Foundation- <b>\$1.2 million</b>            | <b>14</b> Durrill Foundation- <b>\$485,041</b>             |
| <b>5</b> Siemens- <b>\$1.1 million</b>                      | <b>15</b> Flint Hills Resources- <b>\$400,000</b>          |
| <b>6</b> Dr. John T. Dugan II- <b>\$1.03 million</b>        | <b>16</b> AEP, Texas- <b>\$250,000</b>                     |
| <b>7</b> Ewing Halsell Foundation- <b>\$1 million</b>       | <b>17</b> HEB Tournament of Champions- <b>\$250,000</b>    |
| <b>8</b> City of Corpus Christi- <b>\$1 million</b>         | <b>18</b> ARGUS Software- <b>\$204,000</b>                 |
| <b>9</b> John and Louise Chapman- <b>\$856,800</b>          | <b>19</b> The LC Foundation- <b>\$200,000</b>              |
| <b>10</b> Jonathan M. Hornblower- <b>\$771,135</b>          | <b>20</b> Larry and Karen Urban- <b>\$200,000</b>          |





and raising cultural awareness and educational strength. Now, with the University moving away from reliance on state appropriations, it is more important than ever that we continue to foster the growth of the University, in both academic success and national stature.”

Not only was the Momentum Campaign successful during a time of national economic insecurity, it far surpassed expectations. During the final “State of the University” luncheon in September, President Flavius Killebrew announced that the final total for the campaign had topped the additional \$5 million challenge goal with a grand total of \$37,255,547.74 million being raised, the majority to support student scholarships.

“In one of the worst economic downturns this country has ever suffered, our Momentum Capital Campaign not only met the goal, it exceeded

it,” Killebrew says. “That is the kind of passionate support from the community that has helped the University thrive in the past and, in the future, will continue to allow us to provide students with a high-quality, affordable education that will help them achieve their career and personal goals.”

Still, there is the reality of the \$17.4 million in state revenues that the Texas Legislature cut from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s budget over the next two years and the concerns about more cuts looming in the future. With that in mind, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is working proactively and, in November, will host a Higher Education Summit with State Rep. Todd Hunter that will bring the business community, parents, students, and educators to campus to discuss and find solutions

to the issues facing higher education, especially in South Texas where education cuts were 19 percent, 10 percent higher than the rest of the state.

“South Texas is just beginning to redress many decades of educational neglect,” points out Killebrew. “We survived the cuts this year with careful planning, but our momentum is in danger of grinding to a halt if we receive another round of similar cuts next biennium. We’ve gotten to where we are today because 20 years ago people spoke up and said ‘the time has come for South Texas.’ The future of the Island University and

the economic and cultural growth of the Coastal Bend community depend on that same spirit of self-reliance and dedication to higher education.”

**President Flavius C. Killebrew unveils the new Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi flag at the ‘State of the University’ luncheon on Sept. 14.**



## Scholarship Gives ‘Hope’ to Deserving Students

Lena Coleman-Wilson has always believed in “pay it forward.” “My Mother taught me that you can do anything you set your mind to,” Coleman-Wilson says. “All you need to do is trust in God and treat people right. And remember, blessings are received to be passed on.”

Throughout her life, Coleman-Wilson has followed that credo. The latest example of her commitment is the initial \$200,000 gift she presented to the Island University in May to establish the Lena Coleman-Wilson Hope Scholarship for deserving students who are pursuing a degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. To be eligible, students must meet admission requirements. However, the awarding is also based on potential.

“We created the Hope Scholarship to help students who don’t have the highest GPA but do have the ability and drive to improve academically,” says Coleman-Wilson. “There are so many exceptionally bright students applying for scholarships that something needed to be done to help qualified students who aren’t getting the top scholarships but who need financial help to get their foot in the door.”

The Hope Scholarship is just Coleman-Wilson’s most recent gift to the University. In 1996, she created the non-profit LC Foundation and set aside a percentage of the money for scholarships for Coastal Bend high school graduates to attend Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In August 2010, she presented University President Flavius Killebrew with \$100,000 to help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs which build on community engagement. And she believes that the Momentum Campaign launched by Dr. Killebrew will allow more talented, bright students to attend the University.

“I advise young people to attend Texas A&M-Corpus Christi because of the excellent education it provides,” says Coleman-Wilson. “I have seen the results. When young people graduate, they are equipped with the tools for a successful career.”







**O'Connor Building Dedication**  
 The Michael and Karen O'Connor Building, home to the College of Business, opened with a ceremonial 'ringing of the bell' on May 13.

### O'CONNOR CONFERENCE ROOMS DEDICATED

The **John Buckley Conference Room** is named in memory of the College of Business graduate who, until his death in 2008, was head of the accounting firm of Buckley and Associates. In 2007, Buckley was the recipient of the G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration award. In 2006, he received the University's Outstanding Alumni Award.

The **Melvin Klein Conference Room** honors the Corpus Christi entrepreneur, who has served on the President's Council, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, and established a scholarship for Writing and Communication. In 2006, Klein, who also served as an adjunct in the College of Business, received the G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration award.

The **Dr. Robert R. Furgason Conference Room** recognizes the achievements of the former University president who, during his 14-year tenure from 1990 to 2004 engineered the University's transition from an independent upper-level university to a four-year institution. From 2005 to 2007, Furgason served as the first executive director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

### FACULTY AND STAFF ENDOWMENTS

- Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad ..... Mervat M. Abdelsamad Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Business
- Dr. Joann Canales..... Sí Se Puede Teaching Scholarship Endowment
- Dr. Eliot Chenaux ..... Eliot and Merita Chenaux Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Donald R. Deis ..... Donald R. Deis Endowed Scholarship in Accounting
- Kathy A. Deis ..... Kathy Ann Deis, M.S.N., R.N., Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Dr. John D. Fernandez..... John D. Fernandez Endowed Scholarship in Computer Science
- Dr. Frances H. Forgione ..... Dr. Bunny and Greg Forgione Nursing Faculty Development Endowment
- Kathryn G. Funk-Baxter..... Momentum Campaign Athletics Scholarship Endowment
- Octavio B. Garcia..... Corpus Christi Alumni Endowed Scholarship
- Nancy T. Goodman ..... Nancy T. Goodman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton ..... Mary Jane Hamilton, Founding Dean's Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Dr. Jacqueline R. Hamilton..... Recreational Sports Student Employee Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. S. Trent Hill ..... John W. Hill Endowed Author Guest Lecture Series
- Dr. Denise Hill ..... John W. Hill Endowed Author Guest Lecture Series
- Mr. Claude J. Hutchings, Jr. .... Nadina Duran Hutchings Ph.D. Scholarship in Mathematics
- Dr. and Mrs. Flavius C. Killebrew.... Flavius and Kathy Killebrew Scholarship Endowment
- Dr. Eve L. Layman ..... Dr. Eve Layman Nursing Faculty Development Endowment
- Cathy L. Miller..... Dr. Glenn and Cathy Miller Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Dr. Elizabeth Sefcik ..... Elizabeth F. Sefcik Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Mary Sherwood..... Kathleen Williams Sherwood Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Gail Sutton ..... William and Lyell Snyder Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Marine Science
- Flicka Rahn ..... Flicka Rahn Endowed Music Scholarship



## Alumni Beat the Heat at Summer Mixer



Caitlin Johnson (from left), Jonas Chupe and Kimberly McNierney pose for a photo at the 'Summer Taste of Texas' mixer held Aug. 4.

The Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi held its annual "Summer Taste of Texas" mixer on Aug. 4 at the K Space Contemporary in downtown Corpus Christi. The event, which was attended by more than 100 guests including University President Flavius Killebrew and Islander men's basketball coach Willis Wilson, included a wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, music by DJ Johnny Hotcakes, and a silent auction.

## University Establishes Distinguished Speaker Series

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Distinguished Speaker Series will feature nationally and internationally-prominent experts who have changed the world and influenced the lives of millions of people. All proceeds from the annual event will support scholarships for students at the Island University.

The University is honored to inaugurate the series on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, by presenting former Secretary of State Robert Gates, the only person to have served two presidents in that position. Gates will share his candid insights on global politics and world affairs, U.S. intelligence and defense strategies, leadership, and the global challenges of the 21st century.

Dr. Gates is considered "The Soldier's Secretary" for making the well-being of the men and women in uniform his top priority. He is a three-time recipient of the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the CIA's highest award, and is the only career officer in the CIA's history to rise from entry-level employee to director. He has earned the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal.



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
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CHRISTI

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

DR. ROBERT M.  
**GATES**

*Secretary of Defense  
(2006-2011)*

**FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11**

**6:30 p.m. VIP Reception  
8 p.m. Remarks**

**Performing Arts Center**  
*at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*



Purchase tickets at <http://tamucc.tix.com>  
or call (361) 825-ARTS.



The Islander ROTC Battalion held a combat training exercise on the Momentum Campus during the spring semester with the objective of capturing a cache of weapons and disabling an anti-aircraft gun site defended by local military veterans and volunteers. Around 40 ROTC cadets using airsoft rifles that fire plastic pellets took part in the mock attack which was designed to expose cadets to detailed planning, training and execution of an assault.

## University Once Again Ranked Among 'Top Military Friendly Schools'

For the third consecutive year, 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 20 percent nationwide for efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students to increase diversity among the student body, faculty, and staff.

For this year's rankings, G.I. Jobs, the leading magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, incorporated a survey of student veterans. The feedback was gathered and studied to help provide prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews from current students.

To assist the more than 700 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 Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, a consortium dedicated to helping service members and their families obtain college degrees. 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. For more information, go to <http://vets.tamucc.edu/>.



## eLine Military Program

**eLine Military Nursing Program Awards College Credit Based on Experience**

The eLine Military program (ELM) being offered by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences allows Texas residents who are serving in the military or who are veterans to receive college credit based on medical experience in the field.

Available entirely online, the program gives participants access to distance learning technologies to earn a bachelor's of nursing degree, be eligible to take the NCLEX, become a registered nurse and enter the health care workforce. The ELM program is modular, articulated, and competency based, allowing military personnel to seamlessly process through the program without repeating prior content.

The ELM program will increase access to quality health care in Texas by developing a qualified, culturally competent health workforce. The nursing ELM will employ a program coordinator who will provide the key support, guidance, and expertise to students so that they may access other mainstream resources.

## Veterans Information Fair

Former members of the U.S. military received information on educational benefits and state and federal programs available to those who have served their country at the University's second Veterans Information Fair held in August.

Representatives from the University's Financial Aid, Admissions and Veterans Affairs offices answered questions for prospective and current students and provided information about the "Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008" and many other 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 Texas Veterans Land Board offered information on low-term housing, land and home improvement loans, and military recruiters were on hand with information about opportunities in all five branches of the U.S. armed forces.

For the last two years, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has been designated as a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine for its efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students. As of spring 2011, more than 700 veteran students or their family members attending the University were receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration and the Texas Hazlewood Act.

## Ed Rachal Foundation Scholarships

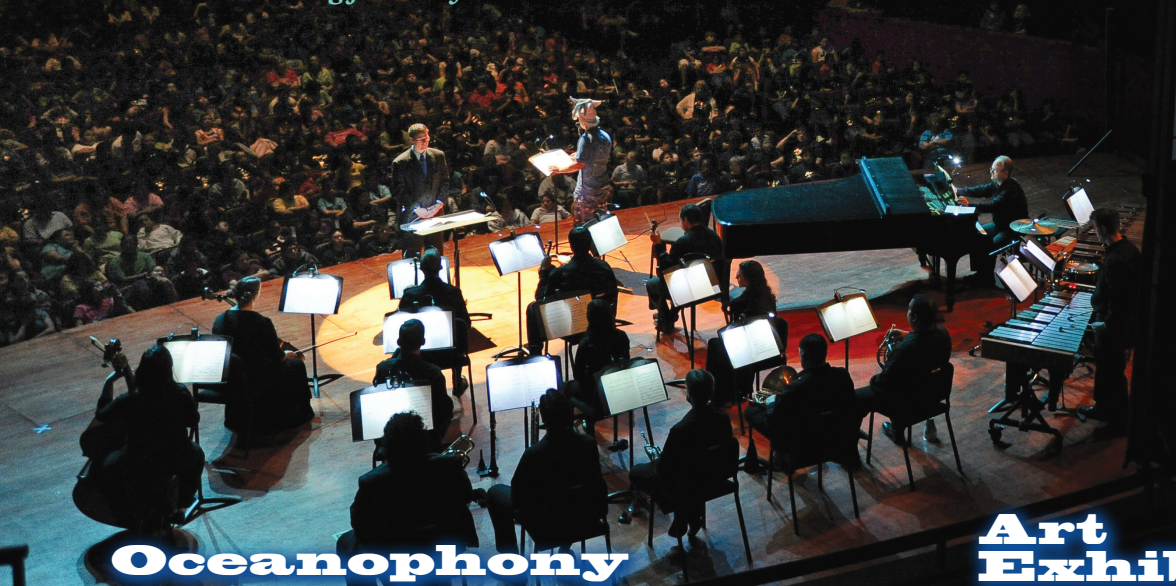
The Islander Battalion has received a \$100,000 grant from the Ed Rachal Foundation to award merit-based scholarships to ROTC students. The two-year grant, which provides funds based on a combination of academic and physical training performance, will help undergraduate ROTC students with tuition and fees, or room and board expenses not covered by financial aid. In 2010, the foundation provided \$60,000 to the Islander Battalion for construction of the ROTC Field Leadership Reaction Course on the University's Momentum Campus.



# It's All Here at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi!

Whether the Island University is sponsoring educational events for area students or presenting our visitors with art exhibits, cultural programs, theatrical productions, and music concerts, the community has numerous opportunities to experience everything the Island University has to offer.

*There's something for everyone!*



## Oceanophony

Nearly 1,200 area elementary students were treated to a performance of Bruce Adolphe's "Oceanophony" in the Performing Arts Center on May 17. The educational piece, which combined music, poetry, narration and a slide presentation to teach children about ocean creatures, included a chamber orchestra consisting of faculty and top University music students.

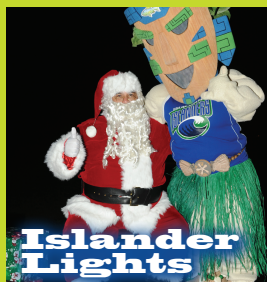
## Art Exhibit

The community is always invited to view the University's many art exhibits throughout the year. In April, an opening reception for the "Herencia Chicana" (Chicano Heritage) exhibition by graduate students Grace Barraza-Vega and Sandra Gonzalez in the Master of Arts Painting Program was held at the Islander Art Gallery.



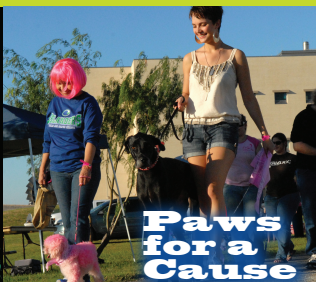
## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 3-5: University Theatre: Bailando Dance Festival Workshops. 361.825.5800.
- Nov. 11: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Dr. Robert Gates. 361.825.2787
- Nov. 12: Islander Cultural Alliance and affiliate organizations: "Culture Fest." 361.825.5778.
- Nov. 15-20: University Theatre: "Spring Awakening the Musical." 361.825.5800.
- Nov. 25 - Dec. 21: The Art Museum of South Texas: Christmas Tree Forest, "Christmas Around the World." 361.825.3500
- Nov. 29: University Theatre: Islander Dance Demo. 361.825.5800.
- Dec. 1-17: University Galleries: Annual Gallery Fundraiser, 100 pieces of art at \$100 or less. 361.825.3756.
- Nov. 10, 2011-Jan. 31, 2012: Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center: Heart Gallery of South Texas. 361.882.7837.



## Islander Lights

Children of all ages rang in the holidays during the "Islander Lights" celebration Dec. 3 at the Performing Arts Center plaza. The evening featured a visit from Santa Claus, traditional holiday music, games, and family activities. The highlight of the festivities was the illumination of campus buildings along Ocean Drive in Islanders' blue and green lights.



## Paws for a Cause

Dogs and their owners took a stroll down the University's hike-and-bike trail to fight breast cancer during the "Paws for a Cause" dog walk in October. Proceeds from the Breast Cancer Awareness Month event benefit First Friday; a non-profit program that underwrites free mammograms for South Texas women.



## Hispanic Heritage Month

A kick-off party in Hector P. Garcia Plaza included live music, ballet folklorico performances, and salsa dance lessons. Students got involved with an Immigration panel discussion, a film screening of "The Longoria Affair," and a Read-A-Thon of Hispanic authors as part of the month long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on campus.





## Float-a-Boat

Groups of students in the GATE Summer Education Program attempted to sail a teammate across a swimming pool in boats constructed from cardboard and duct tape during the "Float-a-Boat" contest at the Moody Sustainers Field House. The team-building exercise challenged the ingenuity of high school students from across Texas who are interested in teaching mathematics and/or science at the elementary or secondary levels.



## FEATURES

## Battle of the Bands

Music lovers flocked to campus for the Battle of the Bands XII held last December. Ten local groups were judged on technical skill, creativity, stage presence, vocal skill and audience reaction with the winner taking the title of "Top Rockers on Campus."



## Alice in Wonderland

The timeless children's fantasy "Alice in Wonderland" with its far-out cast of talking animals, wicked knights and queens, and other characters came to life on the Performing Arts Center stage Aug. 4-6. Every year, the University Theatre presents a broad-range of musicals, comedies, and dramas for the entertainment of the Coastal Bend community.



## GIS Technology is Changing Our World

More than 600 students took part in "GIS Technology is Changing our World," a Geography Awareness Week event at the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science. Participants watched demonstrations of GIS, Global Positioning System and Remote Sensing-Satellite technology, and received hand-on instruction from GIS professionals and experts.

**Dec. 2:** Art Museum of South Texas and the Department of Communication and Theatre: South Texas Cinémathèque film series.

361.825.2296.

**Dec. 2:** Islander Lights Celebration.

361.825.2231.

**Dec. 2:** Campus Activities Board: Battle of the Bands. 361.825.5778.

**Dec. 3:** Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center: Navidad de Los Niños. 361.882.7837.

**Dec. 6:** Furgason Bravo! Series: Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas Concert. 361.825.ARTS.

**Dec. 7-11:** University Theatre: 10-Minute Play Festival. 361.825.5800.

**Dec. 10:** Art Museum of South Texas: Community Open House. 361.825.3500.

**Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: American Western Art from the Mary Grace and Frank Horlock Collection fine art exhibition. 361.825.3500.

**Through Jan. 17, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: "The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography." 361.825.3500

**Jan. 20 – Feb. 18, 2012:** University Galleries: Lisa Qualls Exhibit. 361.825.3756

**Jan. 20 – March 11, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: Art of the Dive/ Portraits of the Deep fine art exhibition. 361.825.3500.

**Jan. 23 – Jan. 28, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week. 361.825.5855.

**Jan. 26, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week: Alumni Winter Jazz Mixer. 361.825.3895

**Jan. 27, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week: Alumni Reunion Meet and Greet. 361.825.3895

**Jan. 28, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week: Alumni Awards Breakfast. 361.825.3895

**Jan. 28, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week: Alumni Shrimp Boil. 361.825.3895

**Jan. 28, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Parade. 361.825.5855.

**Jan. 28, 2012:** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2012 Homecoming Week: Islanders Men's Basketball Game Against Stephen F. Austin. 361.825.BALL (2255).

**Jan. 29, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: Family Free Day. 361.825.3500

**Jan. 29 – Feb. 25, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: Visionarios Youth Art Exhibition. 361.825.3500

**Feb. 3, 2012:** Furgason Bravo! Series: The Alley Cats and The Perfect Gentlemen. 361.825.ARTS

**Feb. 21-26, 2012:** University Theatre: "William Shakespeare's Henry V." 361.825.5800.

**March 1-2, 2012:** Department of Art: OSO Bay Biennial XVII. 361.825.3756

**March 9- June 3, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas: Michael Scott: Buffalo Bulbs Wild West Show fine art exhibition. 361.825.3500

**March 30-31, 2012:** University Theatre: Corpus Christi Idol Fundraiser.

361.825.2316.

**April 2, 2012:** Office of International Education: Parade of Nations.

361.825.3922

**April 17-22, 2012:** University Theatre: Six Degrees of Separation. 361.825.5800.

**April 27, 2012:** Art Museum of South Texas and the Department of Communication and Theatre: South Texas Cinémathèque film series. 361.825.2296

**May 1, 2012:** University Theatre: Islander Dance Demo. 361.825.5800.

**May 2-6, 2012:** University Theatre: Short Play Festival. 361.825.5800.



# A Bright Green Idea

## TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI ALUMNUS MARKETS THE COINCADDIE FOR GOLFERS

It's a timeworn cliché that businessmen do their best thinking on the golf course. But University alumnus John Valls was literally on the green when he came up with the bright idea to develop and market a practical device that golfers could easily carry with them.

Tired of misplacing his golf ball marker, in 2008, he created the CoinCaddie, a ball marker with a slide out coin that golfers could wear on their belt loop for quick and easy access. After successfully introducing his product into local and regional markets, Valls exhibited the CoinCaddie in August at the PGA Fall Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., where it received the 2011 New Product Award.



"I'm an avid golfer with an entrepreneurial mindset," says Valls, who received his MBA from the Island University in 1995.

"I'm always looking to solve problems and figure out how the solutions might translate into a viable product."

Valls sells his products to several corporations and holds a collegiate license with the University's Islanders Athletics. His next step will be to pursue more collegiate licenses, target major retailers and sporting goods stores, and redesign the product packaging.

That's where his MBA comes into play. The entrepreneur has his own consulting firm, Valls Consulting Group, handling public

affairs, public administration, and business development for numerous clients.

"What I enjoy most is the variety," Valls explains. "I have an opportunity to work on different projects for many different industries. I like the challenge. I believe if you do good work, treat people with respect, and have high standards, then the clients will come."

Before launching Valls Consulting Group last fall, the 2008 Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni of the Year was marketing manager for the Port of Corpus Christi for more than five years. He has served as an adjunct professor of marketing and management at Del Mar College,

the University of the Incarnate Word, and Park University-NAS. He and his wife, Crystal, a family practice doctor, recently welcomed a son, Joseph Jacob, into the world.

Valls has served his

community on several boards to include the Corpus Christi Literacy Council, the American Red Cross-Coastal Bend Chapter, the Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Association, the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, and the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He currently serves

on boards for the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority, the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Leadership Corpus Christi Board of Governors.



JOHN VALLS

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**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Alumni Association**

[www.IslanderNetwork.com](http://www.IslanderNetwork.com) • 866.482.6822 or 361.825.5787



# Teaching Future Teachers

Dr. Denise Hill schools students on use of integrated technology, manipulatives in classroom



For Dr. Denise Hill, few things are more satisfying than watching the transformation of pre-service teachers into educators who are equipped with the skills to prepare youngsters for a challenging future.

Hill, associate professor and chair of Teacher Education, stresses the utilization of integrated technology and hands-on manipulative instruction in the classroom. By linking mathematics and science, she says, teachers are able to integrate experiments and activities that provide students with real-world examples of the importance of both skills. Her greatest challenge is to ensure that today's teachers refrain from the same methods that were the norm decades ago.

"Lecturing and memorization are not ways to reach students who have technology at their fingertips," says Hill. "If we're not integrating multiple media, we're going to lose them. It is my responsibility to show college students that they need to incorporate many tools every time they teach."

For instance, she says, teachers can use manipulatives such as match-box cars, rulers, and books stacked

at varying heights to explain Newton's Laws of Motion. Not only do they learn about science forces and motion, using ratios and proportions and linear graphs created with the data collected, they can predict how far the car will travel after being released from different heights or on different types of surfaces.

"Mathematics is the language of science, and science enriches real-world mathematics problem-solving and fosters the fun of learning," points out Hill. "Communication is crucial to the success of each student, and the efficient use of technology allows the communication pathways to be immediate, timely, and effective. Social networking systems such as Wiki pages and blogs can be utilized to support communication between students, teachers, and parents."

Hill speaks from experience. Before earning her Doctorate in

Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2002, she spent 19 years in Texas public schools where she taught math and science integrated curriculums to gifted and talented, and struggling students. In 2001, she was named the Corpus Christi ISD Teacher of the Year. The following year she joined the faculty at her alma mater where she passes on her knowledge to the next generation of educators.

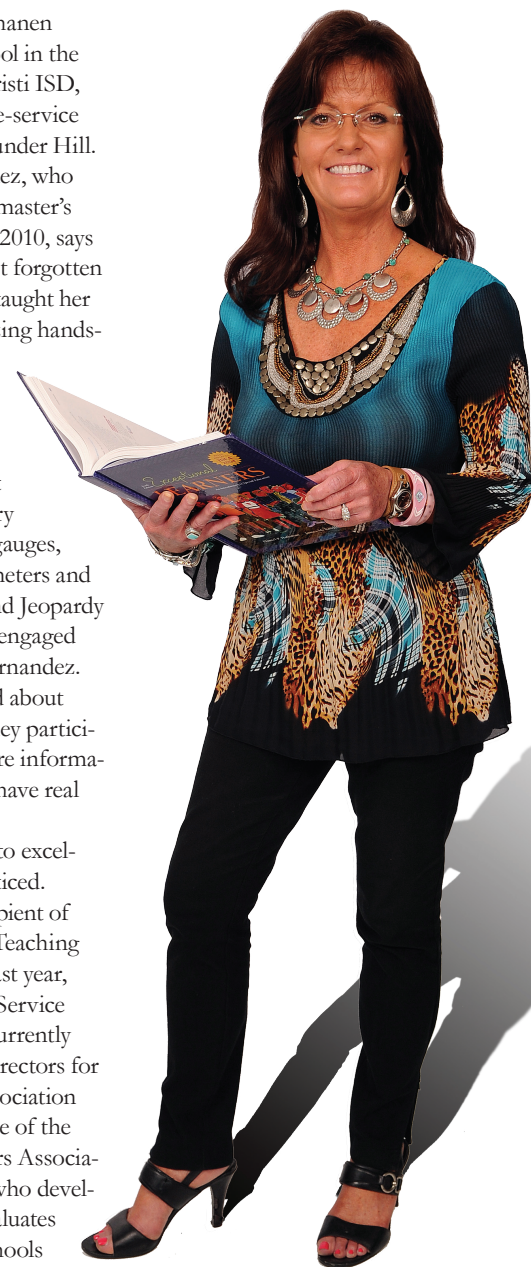
Robyn Hernandez, who teaches third grade at Schanen Estates Elementary School in the Corpus Christi ISD, was a pre-service teacher under Hill. Hernandez, who earned a master's degree in 2010, says she has not forgotten what Hill taught her about utilizing hands-on lessons in the classroom.

"I learned about using discovery scopes, binoculars, rain gauges, compasses, and thermometers and even games like bingo and Jeopardy to get my students more engaged in their lessons," says Hernandez. "The children get excited about what they're learning. They participate more and retain more information because the lessons have real meaning for them."

Hill's commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed. In 2009, she was the recipient of the University's Faculty Teaching Excellence Award and, last year, she received the Faculty Service Excellence Award. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Science Teachers Association of Texas, the state affiliate of the National Science Teachers Association. As a site professor who develops, implements, and evaluates coursework at several schools

including the University's Early Childhood Development Center, Hill encourages clinical teachers to assume multiple roles in the classroom.

"Over the course of a year, I see pre-service teachers develop a passion for reaching their students and ultimately come to realize that they are the ones responsible for impacting their students' lives," she says.





# HAVE YOU HEARD?

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### Bruce Amdur '69 BBA Business

**Administration** retired from Goodyear in March 2010 after 40 years of service and moved from Ohio to Las Vegas, Nev., to get away from the cold and snow. He has been married for 38 years and has two children; a boy and a girl.

### Danny E. Johnson '69 BS Business

**Administration** has been married 41 years to Jane Raines. They have two sons, Danny and Eric, and four grandchildren, Davin, 9, Sarah Grace, 7, Tyler, 5, and Brayden, 2. Danny enjoys golfing and traveling.

### Richard "Dick" Runyan, Jr. '74 BBA

**Management** was single for 62 years then met his wife, Donna, at a Hooks baseball game on July 4, 2005. They were married Dec. 2, 2006. They are both retired and like to travel. Donna has helped get the Zeta Tau Alpha Chapter started at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and still works with them.

### Edward M. Cantu '81 BBA General Business

is the owner of Ed Cantu Insurance Agency. His passion is his wife, Pam, his family, and Islanders Athletics. He currently serves as a board member for the Islander Athletic Fund. Proceeds directly benefit more than 200 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student athletes.

### Oralia Morales Tamez '82 BBA Management

enjoys riding her first bike, a Yamaha '04 650 V-Star, and wants to get a Harley Davidson. She works for the University of Texas during football games and enjoys watching the Longhorns play.

**William N. Harry '83 Management** spent the last 20 years working with Chrysler. He has two children in college.

**Jeffrey Getchell '83 BBA Marketing** and his family moved to their new home in Colorado in March. They also welcomed two new grandchildren, Brooklyn, born August 2010, and Alexander, born July 2011.

### Janice A. Bain Reddick '87 BBA Finance

has worked for an architectural firm in south Texas for 17 years. She and her husband, James, recently celebrated their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They enjoy traveling, camping, and visiting their daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters in McAllen, Texas.

**Susan T. Mazzanti '88 Management** was retired, but plans to begin a master's program in education next summer. She wants to teach junior high math. She plans to be in front of a classroom next fall and carry a full load of graduate classes.

**Linda R. Benavides '92 MBA Management** is a volunteer and community advocate in Corpus Christi.

**Toss Stubbs '92 BBA Accounting** is vice president of United States Operations for RPS, a UK-based consultancy business with more than 5,000 employees serving energy, environmental, and planning and development industries.

**Meliza I. Perez '93 BBA Management** has children in the first and third grades. Her husband is enrolled in school pursuing his MBA.

**Shirley M. Homan '96 BBA Accounting** is a certified public accountant and lives in Katy, Texas. She has worked for a small accounting firm for the last 11 years.

**Anna M. Major '97 BBA Management** works in the payroll office at Jackson State Community College. She and her husband have an 11-year-old daughter.

### Carla Daws '99 MBA Business

**Administration** teaches yoga in Austin and Wimberley, Texas. This year, she had roles in three feature films and co-wrote the screenplay for one of them. She did her first print modeling ad and is about to appear in her first music video. She celebrated her 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2010.

**Angela Links '02 BBA Marketing** works remotely from home and loves her job. Her husband has taken a new position in Ohio, so they are in the process of moving from Tennessee to Ohio.

**Dustin Z. McLendon '02 BBA Finance** works for a land broker, marketing and selling land and ranches in the Texas hill country. He lives in Boerne, Texas, with his wife, Megan, and their 18-month-old son, Cash.

### Stacey Neer Nash '02 BBA Management

works at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Mary and Jeff Bell Library as a library information specialist helping students, faculty and staff with their business research.

### Marty W. Gerstenberger '03 BBA

**Management Information Systems** moved from Houston, Texas, to Seattle, Wash., in January 2011. He is investing in a startup business and is collaborating and investing with a colleague on a Web-based startup.

### Maria O. Yzaguirre Ramirez '04 BBA Accounting and Management Information Systems

is an independent contractor in Wylie, Texas, and works on various projects from tax returns to bookkeeping. She has been married for four years and has a 1-year-old son.

### Alisha M. Robertson '04 BBA Management

travels the world working on volunteer projects pertaining to children's education, human rights issues, and microfinance. The volunteer work has taken her to South America, Africa, Europe, India, Indonesia, and New Zealand.

**Bryan K. White '04 BBA Marketing** works for Austin Ribbon & Computer in Austin, Texas. He plays baseball in the Central Texas Baseball League, loves Austin, and visits his family four times a year.

### Jerret A. Krouse '04 BBA Finance

is married to Janell G. Estrada '03 BSIS Early Childhood Education. Janell is a stay-at-home mom to three children ages 5, 3 and the newest, 1, who was recently baptized.

**Sarah Michalczak '05 MBA** moved to Louisiana from Ohio.

**Denise S. Morales '05 BBA Management, '07 MBA General Business** is a training sergeant with the Edmundo Mireles Training Academy for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She also teaches business as an adjunct professor for Coastal Bend College prison program.



**Cassandra L. Self '05 BBA Management** is working on her Six Sigma Black Belt and finishing up her master's degree in healthcare administration and human resources at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, Texas.

### Thomas J. Trost Jr. '05 BBA Management

works in the Fort Worth, Texas, area. He is married and has a 3-year-old son who will become a big brother in February.

### Camillia "Cammy" Simone '06 BBA Finance

is an auditor in the Compliance Department at American Bank in Corpus Christi.

### Jennifer D. Russell '07 BBA Finance

is a financial advisor with an office in downtown Houston, Texas.

### Damon Cook '08 MBA Business

**Administration** is the officer in charge of a U.S. Navy fixed wing squadron in Djibouti, Africa. He was previously stationed at a NATO base in Europe conducting missions in support of Operation Unified Protector. He looks forward to coming home to his wife and two boys.

### Marcos R. Gonzalez '08 BBA Business Management

works at the Community Action Corporation of South Texas.



**Erik Burciaga '09 BBA Management** is training to run his second marathon and is volunteering to help put on the Harbor Half Marathon and Relay.

**Onnica Ekworamas '11 MBA** is looking for a job in accounting or finance. She is working at Einstein Bros Bagels while waiting for a job offer.

### Julian Gelvez '10 MBA Business

**Administration** works for Southwest Airlines.

### Patricia E. Kieschnick '11 BBA Finance

is a production analyst with Dewbre Petroleum Corp. She started graduate school at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi this fall and is pursuing a master's degree in business administration.

### Teera Teerawechawong '11 MBA Business

**Administration** is looking forward to getting a good job in Thailand.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



**Yolanda Barrera LeMaster '67 BS Physical Education and History** lives in Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked

in the Anchorage School District until retiring in 2009. She has two adult children, Katherine and Joseph, and awaits her husband Arthur's retirement to begin traveling and visiting friends.

### Patricia Ann McGehee Utterback '72 BS

**Health and Physical Education** has a Facebook group called "I Attended UCC – University of Corpus Christi."

**Jayne L. Aldape '73 BS English, Health, Physical Education and Recreation** is a retired teacher. She is looking forward to relaxing and having fun with her kids and grandkids.

**Craig Pearsall '69 BS Counseling, '82 MS Counseling and Guidance** is retired from hospital administration. As executive director he was

responsible for the human resources, facility management, physician recruiting, customer services, physician credentialing, and medical records departments.



### Marlane S. Thomas Beatley '70 BS

**Elementary Education** retired from Brownfield, Texas, ISD two years ago as a reading interventionist and coach. She returned to the school district as a half time reading coach a year ago.

**Mary L. Ramirez '77 BS English** is enjoying retirement with her husband in Corpus Christi. They have spent the last eight months remodeling their new home. Mary also plans to travel and volunteer in the community.

### David Guel '81 MS Educational

**Administration** retired after 32 years as an educator and is a licensed producer for Horace Mann Insurance Companies in McAllen, Texas. He has two sons, David Aaron, in his third year of medical school at UT Southwestern Medical and Sammy who, is a senior at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

### Brenda L. Velazquez Sanudio '83 BS Secondary Education, '89 MA

**Interdisciplinary Study, '91 MS Educational Administration** and her family have moved to El Paso, Texas, after living in Hawaii for four years. She is principal of the Da Vinci School for Science and the Arts.

### Yvonne Orozco Castillo '90 BS Secondary Education, '01 MS Counseling and Guidance, '06 Ph.D. Counselor Education

works in the Counseling Department at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

### Janet Lynn Johnson '94 MS Counseling and Guidance

volunteers with her local school district and the athletic booster club. She has seven grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 16.

### Justin B. Moore '96 BS Kinesiology

works in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He examines the causes and solutions of childhood obesity in rural and disadvantaged youth.

### Audra L. Munoz Luis '97 Mathematics, '01 MS Curriculum and Instruction

is a teacher for the Corpus Christi ISD. Her oldest child is a junior in high school and is enrolled in his first college course.

### Misty Y. Pierce Houston '99 BS Kinesiology

teaches family and consumer science and technology in the Holland, Texas, ISD. Her daughter is in the third grad and her husband is a teacher and coach at Lorena High School, also in Holland.

### Sonia A. Noyola '99 MS Education, '00 MPA

**Public Administration** works at Collegiate High School on the Del Mar East College Campus, where she teaches dual credit government courses. She is finishing up her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Claudia A. Ayala '02 MS Counseling and Guidance** is assistant director of the University Counseling Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she is a counselor and coordinator for the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Program.

**Juan J. Gonzalez '02 MS Curriculum and Instruction** assists Medicare recipients in Houston, Texas, with their medical and social needs. He previously worked as an educator for the Houston and Cypress, Texas, school districts and spent two years in the Middle East as an instructor for ARAMCO Oil Co. in Saudi Arabia.

**Dr. Bridgette Everhart Hardin '02 MS Occupational Training and Development, '07 Ed.D. Educational Leadership** is director of Assessment and Continuous Improvement in the Department of Planning and Institutional Advancement at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**David L. Garcia '03 BS Occupational Training and Development** has been an industrial specialist with the Corpus Christi Army Depot for 30 years.



Recently, he and his wife, Nelda, who is a field director for the Brain Attack Surveillance Project in Corpus Christi, celebrated 27 years of marriage.

**Lorinda A. Benavidez '04 BA Communications, '06 MS Secondary Education, '08 MS Counseling and Guidance** is an elementary school counselor at Rose Shaw Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD. She has two sons and a husband.

**Lisa L. Brumit '04 BM Music Education, '09 MS Counseling and Guidance** is married to Michael Brumit, who is also a music graduate. She is enjoying her work as a therapist at a psychiatric hospital in Corpus Christi.

**Courtney N. Gardoni Melbourne '05 BSIS**

lives in Richmond, Texas, with her husband and baby girl. Courtney recently became certified in special education but decided to change her career path by going into applied behavior analysis therapy practice.



**Kimberly Y. Jones '05 BSIS '09 Special Education** spent the summer with her daughter and 2-year-old grandchild in North Carolina. In South Carolina, Kimberly and her family experienced the Boone-Hall Plantation where they learned the history of the Gullah people.

**Maria C. Fernandez '06 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** teaches fourth grade in the Corpus Christi Independent School District. She also became a grandmother for the first time.

**Nancy McDonald '06 MS Counseling and Guidance** lives in North Carolina where her husband serves in the U.S. Army. Their kids are going into the second grade and kindergarten.

**Pedro Moreno IV '06 BS Kinesiology** is a physical education teacher, assistant head football coach, and head softball coach. He is married with two children and has an older son who attends Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Frank O'Conner '06 BS Kinesiology** is a base athletics director for the youth sports program at the Naval Station in Rota, Spain. He decided to continue his education and has applied for his

master's degree in sports management.



**Marci Oncale '06 BS Kinesiology** lives with her partner in Johnson County, Tenn.,

where she is working on her master's degree in recreation from Middle Tennessee State University.

**Maria C. Fernandez '06 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** teaches fourth grade in the Corpus Christi ISD. She also became a grandmother for the first time.

**Stephanie Rose Salinas-Ramos '06 BS Biology, '08 MS Counseling and Educational Psychology, '09 Ph.D. Certificate in Healthcare Administration** completed her second semester in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi nursing program in summer 2011. She and her husband celebrated by taking a Disney Dream Cruise to the Bahamas.

**Teresa Alaniz '06 BS Kinesiology and '11 MS Instructional Technology** enjoys spending time with her granddaughter, Jordyn, and watching her grow into a toddler.

**Casey Walters '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Studies EC-4** is the program manager for the academic reading program at Sylvan Learning Center. He has been married for four years and has two daughters, Addison, 4, and Audree, 1.

**Donna Lynn Ramirez '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Study** moved from teaching second grade to teaching fourth grade in the Del Valle, Texas, ISD.

**Sylvia A. Sanchez '07 BS Occupational Training and Development**

is working on her master's degree in library science at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She recently took a trip to Paris, France, and Rome, Italy, with her son, Dylan.



**Casey Walters '07 BSIS Interdisciplinary Studies EC-4** is the program manager for the academic reading program at Sylvan Learning Center. He has been married for four years and has two daughters, Addison, 4, and Audree, 1.

**Estella Camacho '08 BSIS Generalist EC-4, '11 MS Reading** is a second grade teacher at the School of Science & Technology, a charter school in Corpus Christi.

**Andrea Johnson '08 MS Elementary Education** works at Baker Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Rebecca M. Mitchell '08 BSIS Generalist EC-4** manages a local disaster restoration company, where she has worked more than 15 years.

**Jessie B. West '08 BS Kinesiology** is in her second year teaching and coaching in Ingleside, Texas.



**Jamie Eppler '10 BA Occupational Training and Development** is author of "Suzy and the Sewing Room Mystery," a book for children ages 3 to 9, which was published on Feb. 1, 2011. She has had several book signings in the South Texas area, including three Barnes & Noble bookstores.



## Engagements & Marriages

**Craig J. Gonzales '00 BBA Finance** married **Liza Ann Flores Gonzales '02 BSIS Early Childhood Education '08 MS Counseling and Educational Psychology** on June 18, 2011. They went to St. Lucia on their honeymoon. They reside in Lewisville, Texas, where Craig manages a group of analysts who report financials to investors, at Nationstar Mortgage.

**Dawn D. Davison '08 BS Occupational Training and Development** plans to marry Norris L. Marshall on Aug. 11, 2012. She completed her master's degree in special education in December 2011.

**Amber 'Rokyt' Hughes '08 BA Communications** married Lucian B. Hughes on July 2, 2011, in Plain Dealing, La. She is the Red River Mom's advertising representative for The Times Media Network.



**Megan C. Voltz '09 BSN Nursing** and **Karl A. Schneider '08 BSN Nursing** are now Mr. and Mrs. Schneider. They were married at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nev., on Feb. 26, 2011. Megan is in the family nursing practitioner graduate program and Karl works in the emergency department at West Houston Medical Center.

**Desiree Wilson '09 MS Environmental Science** married Derek Wilson, a falcon pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard on a beach near Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Matthew 'Matt' Ezell '10 MBA General Business** is corporate secretary and treasurer for Ewing Construction Company, Inc., and has served as project executive on several projects. He graduated from Leadership Corpus Christi class 39 in June 2011 and married Michelle Freeman of Corpus Christi at First Baptist Church this fall.



**Kelsey R. Fowler '10 MS Educational Administration** married Stephen Lemke and they are building a house in Portland, Texas. She is a fourth grade teacher with the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Sara B. Rodriguez '10 BA English** married Nicholas Guajardo on Oct. 1, 2011. She is an administrative associate with the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. She hopes to teach junior high school English after she receives her English Language Arts for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade teaching certificate.

**Thomas A. Mathews '11 BS Kinesiology** married Celina Cumpian on Sept. 4, 2011. He works for Daktronics Sports Marketing in advertising and sports sponsorship sales and plans to begin working on a master's degree within the next couple of years.

**Jason Pruett '05 BA Communications and Media Studies** is the video marketing specialist for NewTek in San Antonio, Texas. In April, he became engaged to Katie Richardson. They are planning a December 2011 wedding.

**Ida Olivarez '97 BA English and History** is an academic advisor in the College of Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She has two children, ages 5 and 9. She is engaged to be married in the spring of 2012 to her high school sweetheart with whom she was reunited with after 17 years apart.

**Efford C. Hamman '11 BS Geology** works for Halliburton as a drilling fluids engineer in South Texas. He got married on Oct. 8, 2011.





## ALUMNI NEWS

**Lindsey Johnston '10 BS Kinesiology** works with junior high students to improve their math scores.

**Elita D. Perez '10 BSIS Early Childhood Education** is a teacher at Dr. M.L. Garza-Gonzalez Charter School in Corpus Christi. She will complete her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in math and science in May 2012.

**Nelissa M. Perez '10 MS Special Education** is a speech therapist for the San Diego, Texas,



**Amy Sandoval '10 BSIS Reading** is a fourth grade teacher and section leader at Woodlawn Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD. She is a certified

reading specialist K-12 and a master reading teacher K-12.

**Lindsey N. Schindler '10 BS Kinesiology** teaches seventh grade math in the Columbus, Texas, ISD.

**Vicky L. Spitzer '10 BSIS Early Childhood Education** has a 9-year-old son who is making significant progress in his reading abilities due to the techniques she has learned in her master's reading classes.

**Elizabeth N. Hils '11 BSIS Early Childhood Education** works part-time with a personal dog trainer, gaining experience training animals and learning the theories and techniques of training dogs.

**Alison Trammel '11 BSIS Early Childhood Education** will start graduate school in January 2012 at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She plans to specialize in speech and language pathology.

**Azhar M. Zafar '11 MS Curriculum and Instruction** is busy preparing for upcoming interviews for the Ph.D. program and is hopeful of being accepted. He has the strong support of his family, especially his wife and daughter, who have always motivated him to do the extraordinary.

**Melissa Zapata '11 BSIS Early Childhood Education** is extremely optimistic in what the

future holds for her and is grateful to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for giving her the skills needed to do well in her chosen profession.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Ralph "Allan" Cox '59 BA Music** is a church pianist at Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas. He has been in the church music ministry for 53 years and is a retired faculty member of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. He and his wife, Linda, have four children and seven grandchildren.

**Gary W. Cotter '70 BA History** and his wife, Shirley, moved into their new home in Apollo Beach, Fla., in January.

**Oscar N. Hernandez '79 BS Criminal Justice** owns and operates L & O Enterprises and Logistics Hot Shot/Delivery Service with his wife.

**Manuel Chica Jr. '80 BA Political Science** is retired but continues to work. His son, Jose, is a junior computer science major at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and has made the Dean's List every year.

**John J. Morales '82 BA Communications** is president and CEO of Electromagnetics, Inc. and has designed a magnetic engine to power generators. He has also designed a magnetic field to operate vehicles with no wheels.

**Karen Y. Gibson '87 BA Communications** is the president and owner of KYG Associates, LLC; a company that provides service in the areas of discrimination complaints, investigations, counseling, mediations, writing final decisions, and training in equal employment opportunity.

**Brandon Bourg '88 BA History** teaches world history at W.B. Ray High School in the Corpus Christi ISD. He also coaches boys' basketball.

**Cindy H. Ems '88 BS Criminal Justice** volunteers with the Life Gift Organ Donation promoting advocacy and sells Beijo hand bags on the side. Her oldest daughter, Megan, is a freshman at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Linda J. Hotcaveg '91 BA Communications** is an English teacher and head volleyball coach at Porter High School in the Brownsville, Texas, ISD.

**Nelida S. Ortiz '93 BA Spanish** is a volunteer with the Columbus Sailing Association which is restoring the "La Nina" in the Corpus Christi Marina. The members are planning to repair the "La Pinta," which located in the educational attraction area of the marina.

**Paul "Mystro" Perea '95 BA Music** is a music teacher for the San Antonio, Texas, ISD. He and his wife recently took a cruise to the Bahamas.

**Yvette Castillo-Martinez '97 BA Psychology, '99 MA Psychology, '01 MS Counseling and Guidance, '08 Ph.D. Counseling and Educational Psychology** has received both the Helen Piehl Professor of Education, and a Teaching Excellence Award.

**Patricia G. Trish '97 BA Sociology** is a district behavior specialist for the Katy, Texas, ISD. She has four grandchildren.

**Edith Z. Chahlik '98 BA Communications** and her husband, Mark, are back in Corpus Christi after 10 years out of Texas. She plans to continue her education in the psychology field.

**Rosa M. Valdez '98 BA Sociology** markets and creates jobs for people with disabilities from LaGrange to Brownsville and all of South Texas.

**Carol R. Weekley '98 BFA Art** has a daughter attending cosmetology school, and a daughter attending the University of North Texas in Denton.

**Karisa L. Davidson '00 BA in Psychology** is clear of any cancer reoccurrences, and has a son in the second grade at Robert Wilson Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD. Karisa worked on Brookdale's Senior Living dementia floor, which uses the Clare Bridge program for seniors suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia, but is now back on one on the assisted living floors.

**Chad W. Rodney '00 BA Psychology** works at the Corpus Christi Army Depot as a program manager for the Black Hawk aircraft.

**Patricia McKenna '01 BA Art** is an assistant librarian at Carroll High School in the Corpus Christi ISD. She volunteers at the Art Center of Corpus Christi and is also a catechist teacher at St. Pius Elementary School.

**Diane Salinas '01 BA English** is pursuing a degree at Del Mar College in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. She has a 2-year-old daughter, Karina, and 5-year old son, Diego.

**Veronica D. Ramirez '01 BM Music** was the vocal coach for the summer musical "Annie," presented by the Laredo Theater Guild International in Laredo, Texas. She is currently the musical director and conductor for the Diocesan-wide 10th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving Celebration for the Diocese of Laredo.

**Manuel C. Cruz '02 BA Communications** appeared in an indie film by Fanny Veliz titled "Homebound," as the character Jim. The project was shot in El Campo, Texas, and the surrounding area.

**Violeta C. Garza-Guerra '03 BA Political Science, '10 MS Educational Administration** graduated with her Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in December 2010. She has been married for seven years and is in her sixth year with the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Lawrence E. Morgan '03 MA English** teaches in the English Department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The courses he teaches include professional and technical writing, business writing, writing proposals and grants, outdoor writing, and freshman English.

**Vanessa R. Ballmer '04 BA English, '06 MA Rhetoric and Composition** lives in a suburb of Houston, Texas, and teaches first year writing with the Lone Star College System.

**Allison M. Langenwalter '04 BA Political Science** works for the Washington County Probation supervising a low risk caseload. She previously worked as a corrections officer in a high security prison.

**Gregory L. Diehlman '05 BS Criminal Justice** is working on his Doctorate in Public Safety with a concentration in Criminal Justice. He plans to attend law school.

## Welcome to Our Islander Family

**Patricia Yanez '99 BBA Management** and her husband welcomed their baby girl, Marisa. Since 2007, Patricia has worked for the Nueces County Department of Human Services, but decided to stay home and watch her baby grow.

**Lindsey R. Lester '04 BS Kinesiology** and her husband, Kyle, had their second child in April 2011. Landon Noah joins his big sister, Kodi Morgan, who turned 2 in July. They're enjoying their two children who always keep them busy.

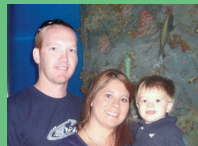


**Geneva Gonzales '05 BS Criminal Justice** is a stay-at-home mother, taking care of her four children Amanda, 16, Jordan, 13, Jesse James, 3, and a newborn boy who was born Nov. 2, 2011.

**Nicholas Carrejo '06 BS Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies** celebrated his two-year anniversary and has added a very special addition to his family, Aiden James Carrejo, who celebrated his first birthday on Sept. 5, 2011.

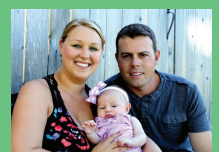


**Cassie A. Eyring '06 BA Communications and Cody Eyring '06 BS Biology** welcomed their first baby, Hunter, in July 2010. They celebrated his first birthday and their second wedding anniversary. She has returned to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to obtain her master's degree in business.



**Keleigh Tuttle '10 BA Art** and her husband are looking forward to celebrating their daughter Allie's first birthday.

**Jennifer Tajchman-Patrick '08 BA Psychology** celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Easter and welcomed their first child, Brooke Elizabeth Pleasants, on May 19, 2011.



**Katie Hoover '06 BBA Marketing** and husband **Brad Hoover '09 BBA Accounting and '11 MAcc Accounting** welcomed their first child,

Robinson Blake, on June 24, 2010, and will welcome their second child in early 2012.

**Amy Jacobs Castillo '00 BBA Marketing** and her husband, Rolando, have a 9-month-old son, Jake. Jake recently took his first trip to Corpus Christi and loved the beach. She hopes he will be a future Islander.





**Niomi J. Fuentes '05 BA Psychology** treated herself to a summer vacation and is excited to see what job now awaits her.

**Brandon McElveen '06 BA Psychology** is a licensed specialist in school psychology with the Knowledge is Power Program network of public charter schools.

**Daniel R. Owen '06 MS Clinical Psychology** has welcomed his new grandson, Peyton Cress, into his family in May. Peyton joins Daniel's first grandson, Kolton Ray Owen.

**Teresa Razo '06 BA Secondary Education, '08 MS Educational Technology and Educational Administration** is a second year doctoral student, studying curriculum and instruction in literacy studies. Last August, she relocated her family to Austin, Texas.

**Alex Snowden '06 BA Communications, '06 BA Political Science** is the coordinator of Student Engagement and Greek Affairs at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

**Dee M. Olivarez '07 BA Psychology** and her husband, Mario, celebrated the birth of their first child, a boy named Jax, on Sept. 22, 2011. Dee will begin her fifth year of teaching students with special needs at Zapata County Independent School District.

**Vanessa E. Barrera '07 BA Arts** was recently married and is employed as a caseworker with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. She is also a sociology adjunct for Texas A&M University-Kingsville where she received her Master's Degree in Sociology in May 2011.

**Maricela P. Hernandez '07 Communications** is an elementary school teacher with the Corpus Christi ISD. She is pursuing her Master's Degree in Educational Counseling.

**Michelle N. Gonzales '08 BA English** married JP Cano in 2008. They visited Disney World and are expecting a new baby early 2012.

**Gavarae V. Jones '07 BS Criminal Justice** volunteered and sung in several church activities this past summer. She is looking forward to taking her vacation in Lake Tahoe, Nev., to kick off the fall season. She is excited about doing outdoor activities that she has never done before.

**Jack Owens '07 BA Communications** sells Komatsu brand heavy equipment for Kirby-Smith Machinery. He and his wife, Amanda, built their first house last year.

**KimAne L. Petrillose '07 BBA Marketing** has four children. Tony, who is in the Navy and married in May; Alison, who is a physical therapy major at Newman University in Wichita, Kan.; Nick who is a computer science major in Austin, Texas; and Kaitlin, who is a pre-med major at the University of South Dakota.

**Brian R. Tullis '07 BS Criminal Justice** is enrolled in the Public Administration Master's Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Liza Mucheru-Wisner '04 BS Computer Science, '07 MS Educational Technology**

was the 2011 Young Alumnus award recipient, is excited for her first born son, Zaleik, who just graduated from pre-kindergarten



and is enrolled in elementary school.

**Sylvia M. Hernandez '08 BA English** teaches eighth and ninth grade English at the Young Women's Leadership Academy in the San Antonio, Texas, ISD.

**Christina J. Martinez '08 BA English** teaches at Zapata High School in Zapata, Texas. She is also the sponsor for the Zapata High School cheerleaders



**Ashley Schmitt '08 BA Music** completed her Masters of Arts in Music and works in the Office of High Impact Practices at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

**Wayne D. Smith '08 BA Psychology, '11 MA Clinical Psychology** obtained his master's degree in August and started the doctoral program for counselor education this semester. He is a teaching assistant and fellow at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and works as a supervisor at the crisis line.

**Eric McDonald '08 BA Sociology** and his wife **Nancy McDonald '06 MS Counseling and Guidance** moved to North Carolina where Eric serves in the U.S. Army. They have two children, Enid, 6, and Wyatt, 3.

**Helen Dillon '08 BA Sociology** will graduate with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in December 2011. Her capstone project is a qualitative study to determine how satisfied customers of the Corpus Christi bus system are with the fixed route system.

**Veronica Miles '08 Psychology, '11 MS Counseling and Guidance** has been accepted into the doctoral program for counseling education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is working as a graduate assistant co-counseling in the Early Childhood Development Center.

**Don P. Trahan, Jr. '08 BA Psychology, '10 MA Psychology** is a doctoral student in the counselor education program at the University of New Mexico and expects to graduate in May 2013. He looks forward to returning to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi this fall to join in celebrating his sister's accomplishment of becoming an Islander alumni.

**Jessica R. Viar '08 BA Communications** is a case manager with foster children and is going back to school for her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

**Tori Fitzsimmons '09 BA Communication** is working on a feature film project in Corpus Christi that is set to start shooting in November.

**Robert F. Mac Donald '09 BS Criminal Justice** is working on a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, and expects to graduate by spring 2012. He has been married to his wife, Frances, for 27 years. They have two grown children. He loves the challenges that police management has provided him.

**Carlos J. Martinez '09 BA Theatre** is the theater arts teacher at Gus Garcia Middle School in San Antonio, Texas. He has loved teaching reading these past few years, but his heart has always been in the theatre. He's ready to begin this new career move with a positive attitude and a true passion for his craft.

**Kailee Neumann '09 BA Art** is pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Relations from the

University of Houston in Houston, Texas. She will graduate in December 2012.

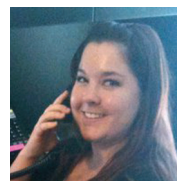
**Jose L. Noriega '09 BM Music** obtained his Master's Degree in Music from the University of Texas Pan American in May 2011. He plans to pursue a doctoral degree in music at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and plans on teaching in the Clark County school district, and performing in the casino show bands.

**Danielle Whiteside '09 BM Music** is in her second year as a master of musicology student at the University of North Texas in Denton. Her son is almost 2. Her husband, who just got out of the U.S. Navy, will attend the University of North Texas this fall.

**Robert "Rowdy" Tidwell '09 BA Theatre** works in Houston, Texas, as an independent theatre artist and creative consultant.

**Jessica Aniol '10 BA Art** is working on her Master's Degree in Art and plans to graduate in December 2012. She works at the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center and will work there until she graduates. Afterward, she hopes to pursue a graphic designer position in the San Antonio area near her hometown of La Vernia, Texas.

**Laura A. Bierstedt '10 BA Psychology** is enrolled in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's psychology master's program. She has been busy with her new apartment, new cats, new friends, and new family.



**Stephanie E. Cude '10 BA English** is in the communications graduate program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

She was an intern with Kailo Communications Studio from November 2010 through June 2011, where she won the James W. Heart Intern of the Year award. She was also a research assistant for Dr. Stephanie Rolie.

**Brittany M. De Clercq '10 BA Communications and Media Studies** is employed by Aflac where she has been one of the most successful new agents in the region, winning every award with the company along the way. She feels fortunate to have found a career that allows her to help people, make good money, and make her own hours.

**Megan B. Figueroa '10 BA Psychology** works in the screening and crisis response department at the Gulf Bend Mental Health and Mental Retardation. She learns something new every day at her job, and is excited about her future.

**Caroline C. Hall '10 BA Psychology** is the "Rattler," the school's mascot at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, where she is working on her Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

**Linda R. Reed '10 MA Studio Art** spent three months in Europe and Nepal studying ancient art.

**Charles Riss '10 BA English** is writing a "how to" book with two professors, titled "Grant Writing for Sciences." He did a panel presentation in March on a paper he wrote. He also teaches a first year science learning community, and is a writing coach.

**Latisha P. Roland '10 BA Psychology** is a resident advocate at the Women's Shelter of South Texas. She is also pursuing her Master's Degree in Counseling.

**Becky L. Sanchez '10 BA English** works at L-3 Vertex Aerospace. She is also seeking a second Master's Degree in Library Science; an online program through Texas Woman's University, and is still hoping to get a teaching position or job with the government.

**Keleigh Tuttle '10 BA Art** and her husband are looking forward to celebrating their daughter Allie's first birthday.

**Joseph T. Urick '10 BA Theatre** is a second year Masters of Fine Arts graduate student, teacher of Oral Interpretations of Literature, a full time assistant to the director of operations, and a poster designer at the University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance.

**Jennifer M. Valadez '10 BA Political Science** returned to school and got her minor in criminal justice. She has two children, Desirae, who is in third grade, and Cassidy, who is in kindergarten. She plans to take the LSAT in December and apply for law school.

**Amy B. Anderson '11 MA Psychology** is in the Ph.D. program in clinical psychology at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. She is considering a track in clinical health psychology and plans to practice in support of military families.

**Casey Cooper '11 MFA Studio Art** is a professional artist living in San Antonio, Texas, where he is making and showing art. He plans to continue to make and produce art and submit proposals for public art commissions.

**Stasa Dinsmore '11 BA Psychology**

moved to George West, Texas, from Kerrville, Texas, after being away from home for a year because of school and work. Her daughter, Piper, has had the best experience of moving and she loves that her family will finally be under one roof again.



**Manuel E. Saenz '11 BFA Art** is working on his master's degree in the College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Jeremy A. Sirio '11 BA Communications** is working on his Master's Degree in Communication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. During the summer, he was a research assistant under Dr. Ethan Thompson. In the fall, he will be working with Cheryl Spaniol as a graduate assistant for public speaking.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Mary A. Heinaman '88 BSN '95, MSN** is in her 36th year of nursing and has enjoyed every bit of it. She has had the privilege of working with some of the best and most dedicated nurses. She feels that many people don't realize how many lives nurses have touched over the years.

**Ronald G. Dewees '99 BSN Nursing** returned to Japan from a nine-month deployment at a trauma center in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where he served as team leader in the Trauma Intensive Care Unit. His unit was recognized for having the highest survivability rating of any U.S. military facility within the country and around the world.



## ALUMNI NEWS

**Shelley A. Dinkens '02 MSN Nursing Administration** is a full-time faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. While raising her two children, she earned her Master's Degree in Nursing Administration and worked as a school nurse in the Corpus Christi ISD.

**Wanda Pruett '04 MSN Nursing** is a home-based full-time clinical trial manager for a mid-size contract research organization. She manages global clinical research trials in the oncology therapeutic area.

**Carmelita Bush-Turner '07 BSN Nursing** moved back to Salinas, Calif., and is working part time at a methadone clinic in Salinas, Calif. She has 12 grandchildren, and just returned from a 14-day cruise in Alaska with her husband.

**Patricia M. Branton-Lefeld '07 BSN Nursing** married Matt Lefeld in September 2010. They live in Atlanta, Ga., where Matt works at Owen Corning Company. Patricia works at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as a registered nurse on a neurosurgery and plastics acute care unit.

**Dinorah Martinez-Anderson '10 MSN Nursing Practitioner** is a licensed family nurse practitioner and director of health services at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

**Thomas Tran '10 BSN Nursing** has been working in the nursing field for almost a year and is trying to join the military nursing corps to see the world. He misses his Corpus Christi friends, the beach, and fishing.

**Damilola C. Akinsipe '11 BSN Nursing** is a registered nurse intern on the surgical unit at Ben Taub General Hospital for Harris County, Texas, Hospital District. She is applying to graduate programs, so she can earn her degree as a women's health nurse practitioner and doctor of nursing practice.

**Robert J. Doheny Jr. '11 BSN Nursing** was commissioned an ensign in the United States Navy Nurse Corps upon graduating from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He will be transferring to the naval hospital in Pensacola, Fla., for his first assignment as a nurse.

**Johnny M. Hasserodt '11 MSN Nursing Practitioner** is a family nurse practitioner thanks to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Evette Gonzales Silvas '11 BSN** is employed at Christus Spohn Hospital in Corpus Christi. She enjoys her new job and spent the summer with her 3-year-old daughter, Evette.

**Jordan Kelsi Mahan '11 MSN Nursing Practitioner** is a family nurse practitioner in a multi-physician family practice clinic in Greenville, Texas.

**Cendy S. Brister-Antley '11 MSN Nursing Practitioner** earned her family nurse practitioner certification and works in the emergency department at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland, Texas.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**Lloyd C. Lindeburg '58 BS Engineering** has a grandson who graduated from Texas A&M College Station in nuclear engineering and went on to receive a master's degree from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Patricia M. Adams '73 BS Mathematics** moved from Brownsville, Texas, back to Corpus Christi in September 2011. Her son lives in Houston, Texas, and is a manager of an oil field sales company. Her grandson lives in Friendswood, Tenn., and has his own law firm, and her granddaughter is governor of the Mayflower Descendants of Texas.

**Richard Wheat '73 BA Chemistry** is sailing the Caribbean and looking for the perfect piña colada.



**Howard "Tony" Wood '79 BS Biology** has returned to Corpus Christi after 31 years as an environmental and safety consultant throughout the world. He is now the director of the National Spill Control School at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, mentoring Islanders with internships and helping them find employment opportunities.

**William B. Schoofield '90 BS Computer Science** went to Scotland and visited Edinburgh, Blair Castle, Loch Ness, Inverness, Castle of Mey, the Isle of Skye, Loch Lomond, and Glasgow. He also went to Dublin, Ireland, and San Francisco, Calif.

**Ronald R. Smith '96 MS Biology** is a program specialist with the Texas Parks & Wild Life Department. He directs the angler recognition program, and works with public access to public water areas, creating paddling trails, and public outreach.

**Marie A. Lammers '99 BS Environmental Science** has worked as an inspector for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years. She has two children, Victoria, 7, and Dominic, 3.

**Richard L. Shelton '00 BS Computer Science** joined the Army and served as a medical officer for five years. He now works for Baylor College of Medicine at the Human Genome Sequencing Center as a software engineer. In his spare time, he writes Android applications and likes to work out and jog.

**Scott C. Green '02 BS Computer Science** joined the CT Networks to spearhead the ISO-20000 initiative for managed services, in May 2011. Scott says this is a major cultural undertaking for the company.

**Ryan Fikes '04 BS Biology, '08 MS Biology** is the deputy director for the Gulf of Mexico



Foundation. He recently traveled to New York City where he was presented with a 2011 Environmental Quality Award from the EPA for contributing significant habitat conservation and restoration in the U.S. Caribbean Territories.

**William A. Mills III '04 BS Biology** is a stay-at-home dad. His wife is a pediatric anesthesiologist at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi. They have three boys ages 3, 4, and 6. Drawing on his degree in biology, he and his boys find creatures in the backyard and the beach and check out the identification and physiology.

**Krista J. Coons '06 BS Environmental Science** achieved her dream of working as a marine mammal trainer at the Virginia Aquarium. She moved to Jackson Beach, Fla., made a career change, and is now working in finance.

**Megan C. Hagewood Gross '06 BS**

**Biology** is enjoying staying at home, raising her son, Jude, spending time with her husband and taking care of several animals at their little house in the big woods of Tennessee.

**Nabil Nasser**

**'06 BS Biology** began his Ph.D. in biology at the University of Vermont. He hopes to research the interaction of plants and insects and the role that chemical defenses play.



**John "Mike" Bradley '07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** is a senior applications engineer but plans to move into outside sales. He has a son, 3, who started pre-kindergarten.

**Jennifer Beattie '08 BS Biomedical Sciences** will graduate from Ross University School of veterinary medicine in January 2012 with a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine. She will return to Corpus Christi in January to work at a small animal hospital until she starts an internship in June 2012.

**Laura E. Garza '08 BS Biology** is an Augustinian volunteer in Chulucanas, Peru, where she has immersed herself into Peruvian culture. She chose to volunteer thousands of miles away because of a desire to serve underprivileged people abroad while living a simple life before settling into a career or graduate school.



**Miranda E. DeBord '09 BS Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy** is engaged to

**Christopher B. Willette '09 BS Biology.** She will graduate from the Baylor College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program in December.

**Ryan M. Egger '09 BS Computer Science and Geology** is the secretary of the Corpus Christi Geology Society, and treasurer and secretary of the Coastal Bend Geophysical Society.



**Isabel C. Hemby '09 BS Environmental Science** is a Peace Corps volunteer in Middle East and North Africa, serving as an environmental educator.

**Edward Kemei '09 BS Chemistry** has started attending college to be a nurse.

**Maribell Martinez '09 BS Chemistry** returned to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi this fall to work toward another bachelor of science, this time in biomedical sciences.

**Russell W. Raab '09 BS Biology** is an ironworker apprentice at the South Texas Nuclear Project, the first nuclear power plant in Texas. The two nuclear units which produce power were in the top 20 electricity-generating units worldwide in 1996.

**David Boseto '10 MS Environmental Science** completed his master's program in the spring of 2010 and has started his Ph.D. in marine biology in the fall of 2010.

**Ashley Burkhart '10 BS Biomedical Science** will return to school in 2012 at Barnes Jewish

College of Nursing in St. Louis, Mo. to get her second Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. She then plans to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

**Rakesh Tatiparthi '10 MS Computer Science** is an ETL consultant at Pfizer.

**Gilbert Guerrero '11 BS Computer Information Systems** is an information technologist at Hewlett Packard.

**Efford C. Hamman '11 BS Geology** works for Halliburton as a drilling fluids engineer in South Texas. He will be getting married on Oct. 8, 2011.

**Stephanie Jez '11 BS Biology** is earning a Master's Degree in Genetic Counseling at the University of Utah Graduate School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Ron Redman '11 MS Geospatial Surveying Engineering** completed work on two mitigation banks to offset impacts to streams and wetlands and finished an endangered bat survey in Arkansas to assess the number of bats and monitor for the presence of White Nose Syndrome. He plans to take the professional surveys exam in spring 2012.

## GET ENGAGED

*Our alumni are getting engaged!  
Connect today.*

### Alumni Board and Chapter Information

**Texas A&M-Corpus Christi National Alumni Association**  
President Alma Garcia, PhD, '90, '96 & '07  
361.537.5276  
lety119@yahoo.com

**Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club**  
President Lee White '95  
361.548.3141  
lwhite01@stx.rr.com

**Anchor Alumni Club**  
President Elizabeth Benson-Landau '08  
361.825.3699  
elizabeth.benson-landau@tamucc.edu

**Greater Houston Club**  
President-Roy Ford '71  
281.528.7306  
RFord2222@earthlink.net

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3 National Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting  
Nov. 15 Deadline for Nominations for Alumnus Awards  
Nov. 17 National Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting  
Dec. 2&5 Fall Senior Receptions  
Dec. 8 Alumni Association Nominating Committee Meeting  
Dec. 17 Fall Commencement Alumni Events  
Jan. 19 Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting  
Jan. 26 Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club Winter Mixer  
Jan. 27 Homecoming - Alumni Reunion Meet & Greet  
Jan. 28 Homecoming - Alumni Awards Breakfast  
Jan. 28 Homecoming - Alumni Shrimp Boil

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## Endowed Scholarship Council

*Lena D. Coleman, founder and CEO of The L C Foundation, Inc., recently established an endowment to help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs implemented through the president's office.*

*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.*



**For more information about the Endowed Scholarship Council or other giving opportunities contact**

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

**Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 • (361) 825-2420**





(Seated) Dakotah Hicock, Sandy Esquivel and Brianna Holden  
(Standing) Kayla Perez, Jaimie Cano and Kaylyn Perez

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