

Homecoming & Parents Weekend 2007

Special Events

Friday, February 2

- Registration
- Reunion Group Receptions
- Friday Fiesta
- Campus Tours
- Meet the Prof Social
- Official Ring Ceremony
- Athletic Hall of Honor Dinner
- Islander Revue



Hoe Down



Friday Fiesta

Saturday, February 3

- Registration
- Class Reunion Photos/ Memorabilia Collection
- Islander Alumni and Parents Awards Brunch
- National Alumni Annual Meeting and Elections
- Islander Men's vs. Sam Houston State Basketball Game



Reunions

For more information about Homecoming and alumni events, call (361) 825-5787 or toll free (877) 482-6822 or visit the alumni Web site at www.IslanderNetwork.com.



Islander Revue



Campus Tours

Reflections, investment, confidence

There's plenty of time to dream while you're building fence and doing chores. I had dreams as big as the Lone Star sky growing up on an isolated West Texas ranch. But never did I imagine that one day I would lead such a fine university.

The success of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is dependent upon the support and commitment of those who share its vision. These are the investments in people, programs and facilities that yield high returns. The three words that I ask people to always keep at top-of-mind are excellence, engagement and expansion.

A&M-Corpus Christi is the very definition of excellence and stands boldly as the premier institution of higher education in South Texas.

Our students and faculty are fully engaged in helping the local community as well as the world. Our university is expanding in the number of students, faculty, staff and facilities.

As I walk around the campus, I know there are more than 8,600 great stories — the number of students this fall semester who made A&M-Corpus Christi their choice for higher education.

We provide an excellent educational resource to those throughout the Coastal Bend, and we bring together on this campus a large component of students from throughout the great state of Texas and way beyond its borders.

When we examine the prosperity and physical growth of the campus, we look to 1972, when the Corpus Christi community rallied to pass a \$1.5 million bond initiative for the purchase of Ward Island.

This island will forever shape the future of our greater community. The investment made 34 years ago is now worth almost a half billion dollars. That's a great return.

When we reflect on our near 60-year history, we congratulate the many graduates who have been well-educated from a campus that has held many names, but stands solid in its focus.

Always speak with pride and confidence when you tell others about A&M-Corpus Christi.



Dr. Flavius Killebrew
President/CEO

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the **Islander** is produced two times a year for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Institutional Advancement by the Office of Marketing & Communications. Editorial and visual content in the magazine is designed to enlighten the University's alumni and friends on A&M-Corpus Christi's people, programs and activities. Comments and editorial suggestions should be sent to:

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

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Greetings, alumni.

Thank you to all who have been involved over the last few years. You are the heart that beats for the alumni association, making it a vital organization that accompanies the University toward its goal of becoming nationally recognized. We thank those of you who have been around since the founding of the national organization and clubs. We also thank those of you who have become involved during the last year. We recognize that some of you are becoming more involved immediately after graduation and we especially thank you for your participation!

We'd like to find out more about your interests. Please go to our alumni Web site and give your opinion on our polls. We'd love your input.

Are you plugged in to the Islander Network? Get on the Islander Network E-news mailing list by sending your e-mail address to alumni@island.tamucc.edu. Be sure to surf the alumni Web site at www.IslanderNetwork.com. You will find information regarding programs we have set up for your benefit to save time and money. There you will also find information about our Islander clubs, photos and a calendar of events. Soon you will find an online directory, class notes, business exchange and other areas you can use to interact with your fellow alumni. Go there today!

Best regards,
Evon English

Director of Alumni Relations

6300 Ocean Dr. USC 101

Corpus Christi, TX 78412

(361) 825-5787 or toll free (877) 482-6822

Evon.English@island.tamucc.edu



Evon English

New president has a passion for education

Rosa Valdez '98 is the newly elected president of the National Alumni Association. She graduated from the University's College of Arts and Humanities with a bachelor's degree in sociology. While completing her degree, she worked as the liaison for an international materials management company and then for a non-profit organization.

Soon after, she began work as the regional marketing representative for Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped (TBIH), certifying non-profits that employ the disabled in South Texas.

Rosa's passion for education is apparent in her past involvement with the education committees for both the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. She also raised funds for the National Hispanic Institute Young Leader's Conference. Her strong interest in women's issues led to her position as president of the Businesswomen's Club. After completing Leadership Corpus Christi XXIX, she served on the steering committee for Leadership Corpus Christi XXX.

Rosa has dedicated considerable personal time to the University, serving as a board member and now as president of the National Alumni Association.

"My main focus is to get increased community participation and alumni involvement with events in alignment with the University's mission," says Rosa, who lives in Corpus Christi with her husband, Gilbert.

She can be reached at (361) 985-8899 or rvaldez@tibh.org.



Rosa Valdez, '98

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Keep up with your fellow alumni...

College of Liberal Arts

Carla Daws '86 graduated with a BA in communications and an MBA in general business in 1999. She has been the communications officer for the Texas Water Development Board for five years in Wimberley. Carla also developed an interest in performing, thanks to her first acting role as Mona in the 1986 summer school production of "Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" at Corpus Christi State University. She performs in local theaters and Austin-based films and is a member of a singing group, The Wonder Broads. Professional accomplishments include serving as director of public affairs for the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, director of community relations for Corpus Christi State

School and director of community relations for Austin State School.

Rick Dorn '91 graduated with a BA in communications and English and works as head counselor at Pleasanton High School. Rick is also head of a drug-free program of almost 200 members who participate in talent shows, lock-ins and summer camps.

Michelle Smith '97 graduated with a BA in psychology and recently obtained certification as a Criminal Justice Addictions Professional. She is the outpatient counselor and program director designee with Reality Ranch LLC in Corpus Christi. Also, Michelle was listed in the Empire "Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women" for 2005-06.

Tavara Moss '05 graduated with a BA in communications. She is the volunteer coordinator at the Women's Shelter of South Texas in Corpus Christi. Tavara married Raphfel Moss, a YN2 in the U.S. Navy, earlier this year.

Alan Gomez '94 graduated with a BA in English and history. He furthered his education by getting master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Texas. Alan is an assistant professor of international studies at Ithaca College in New York.

College of Business

Ebony Quintanilla '04 graduated with a BBA in finance and holds a real estate license. She is the finance manager at Coastal Bend Workforce

Nominate your favorite alum for an award at www.IslanderNetwork.org



University President Flavius Killebrew (top center) congratulates winners of the 2006 Alumni Awards. Clockwise from Killebrew's left are: Dr. Andy Piker, faculty; Dr. Ken Maroney, distinguished; Bea Blomquist, young; and John Buckley, outstanding.

HOMEcomings 2007 DEADLINES

Nov. 10: Alumni Award nomination
Nov. 24: Faculty Award nomination
Nov. 24: National Board of Directors nomination
 You can download nomination forms at www.islandernetwork.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 16: Fall Commencement Ceremonies, American Bank Center
Feb. 2, 3: Homecoming & Parents Weekend, University Center

Development Board in Corpus Christi and PTA president at Dawson Elementary.

College of Education

Myra Verneuil '94 graduated with a BSIS in English and lives in Aransas Pass. After teaching, Myra started a home-based business of sewing, alterations and crafts.

Corey Wiegand '01 graduated with a BS in kinesiology and has studied wellness disciplines in more than 10 countries. He has been a personal trainer and a manager at a fitness center in Boulder, Colo., for 5 years. Corey is also a former Golden Gloves boxer.

Susana Garcia '83 graduated with a BS in secondary education and lives in Big Wells, Texas. She is working on her master's in school administration at Sul Ross State University and Rio Grande College.

Dianne Chan '99 graduated with a BS in kinesiology. She is a licensed physical therapist assistant at a non-profit organization in an inpatient facility in San Leandro, Calif.

Julian Tamez '78 graduated with a BS in recreation. He has been head coach of a boys soccer team for three years at LaJoya High School in Mission, Texas. Julian has also been head coach at Harlingen, Carroll, Harlingen South and San Antonio Taft high schools.

Marcia Gray '69 graduated with a BS in elementary education. She currently is a docent at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk, Va.

She provides hands-on science-related experiences to children in the 155-acre garden.

Joy Kraakevik '63 graduated with a BS in elementary education and is now enjoying her retirement as a schoolteacher in Garland, Texas.

Rodolfo Garza '77 graduated with a BS in recreation and is retired in Laredo after teaching for the Laredo Independent School District at Martin High School for 28 years. He is playing golf, doing some substituting, and is enjoying being a grandfather to his 1-year-old grandson, Brandon. His daughter Monica has been a fifth-grade science teacher for the past four years in the Laredo United Independent School District.

Alicia Gallegos-Gomez '05 graduated with an MS in curriculum and instruction. She opened Gallegos and Associates Speech Therapy Services in 1976 in Corpus Christi. Alicia said she is "excited that she was able to get her degree right away to better her life because of the needs of these services in the community." She is extremely proud of her son, Alan, who also graduated from A&M-Corpus Christi and is now teaching at Ithaca College in New York.

College of Science & Technology

Jason Jones '99 graduated with a BS in environmental sciences. He and his wife, Paula, married on June 25 and live in Warrenton, Ore.

Deceased

Robert Kraakevik '71

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Anchor Club President

Petra Martinez
Petra.Martinez@tamucc.edu
 (361) 825-2353

Austin Club President

Jessica Toscano, '00
jessica_toscano@dell.com
 (512) 725-3074

Corpus Christi Club President

Gilda Ramirez, Ph.D. '92
gilda.ramirez@tamucc.edu
 (361) 825-6062

Dallas Club President

Marina Casarez, '92
mcasarez@docucorp.com
 (214) 891-6534

Houston Club President

Chris Sparks, '99
csparks@objectiveadvantage.com
 (337) 246-1771 (cell)

San Antonio Club President

Belinda Dominguez, '04
bsilva@accd.edu
 (210) 663-1401

It's a family affair

Although Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has grown through several name changes, it has continued its positive effect on the well-being of the Coastal Bend.

Alumni Karen Jackson is a special example of how the University has affected four generations, dating to a half-century ago. Jackson is among four successful women in her family who graduated from the Island University.

Karen Jackson's grandmother, Nell Wiggins, graduated with the first class from the University of Corpus Christi in 1951. Wiggins, now deceased, created a family legacy through her desire for a higher education. "A lot of her friends wouldn't even speak to her because she was working on her master's degree," Jackson says. "She really was a pioneer."

This desire seems to have been genetic. Not only did Jackson's grandmother attend the uni-

"My children think that's [A&M-Corpus Christi] where you graduate from. They don't ask, 'Where do I go to college?' They ask, 'When do I go to TAMUCC?' It's just part of our family."

*Karen Jackson,
third of four women in her family to graduate
from the Island University*

Jackson also notes that an aunt, Barbara Wiggins, attended the University as well, and that all of the women, with the exception of Korina, received degrees in elementary education. Korina graduated from A&M-Corpus Christi in August 2006 with a degree in communications. The Corpus Christi natives maintain

where a student changed her mind. She says she noticed that the student, a young boy, was having difficulties in the class. Taking him aside, Mrs. Jackson taught him some lessons on the piano. "A light bulb came [on] and I changed my major because I knew at that time teaching was what I was really called to do," she says.

A&M-Corpus Christi is like a magnet, giving Jackson and her family every reason to keep coming back. "I did attend ... the University of Texas in Austin, around my sophomore and junior year, but I didn't feel like I received the education I did here," she says. "I just believe that this university does a great job with their students, and I felt like this was the place to be."

Jackson credits individual attention given to students by professors for making the University so special. "They are not just knowledgeable in their subject area, they care about their students and can always stop a class and fix a problem that's going on." She especially credits "wonderful" teachers like Dr. Sonny Roell and Dr. Tito Guerrero. She says of Guerrero, "He taught me that 'regardless what goes on, if your student doesn't learn, you're not doing your job.' They all set a bar of excellence so high. It's something I've carried with me."

Karen Jackson highly recommends the University to her relatives and friends.

"My children think that's where you graduate from. They don't ask themselves, 'Where do I go to college?' They ask, 'When do I go to TAMUCC?' It's just part of our family."

She believes A&M-Corpus Christi wants students to be successful and creates a love of learning that will go with them for a lifetime.

"It was built in me by the University to see something in myself that I don't know," she says. "I believe that is a successful goal of this University — to develop lifelong learners. As a teacher, I don't think there is a greater benefit to our community than that."

**Pearl Skrobarczyk
CorpusBeat**



From left: Karen Jackson; her mother, Mary Nell Crowder, with a picture of her mother, Nell Wiggins; and Korina Jackson.

versity, but also her mother, Mary Nell Crowder, and daughter, Korina Jackson.

Why did all four decide to attend what is now known as A&M-Corpus Christi?

"We just felt like it was a wonderful school," Jackson says. "They had a great program for teachers, and it was also a part of the community we lived in. ... [And the] sense of community that we have at the university."

strong ties with the Alumni Association.

Jackson adds that she keeps sending her children to the Island University. "I have one that just graduated," she says, "and two will be in there at the same time. I strongly support our alumni organization."

Karen Jackson didn't have teaching as her career goal. She had been a music major, but an opportunity arose in her mother's classroom,



University President Flavius Killebrew and Izzy head out for a series of shrimp boils.

On the road with Izzy and friends

Four cities, four festive parties — all with one mission: to give a warm Islander welcome to new students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Summer Send-Off, as it has traditionally been known, took a fishy turn this year with the advent of shrimp boils, replete with boiled potatoes, corn on the cob and — you guessed it — mounds and mounds of delicious boiled Gulf Coast shrimp.

Izzy and President Killebrew hit the roads of Texas, joining alumni, current students, and new students and their families in Houston, San Antonio, McAllen and Corpus Christi. Designed to give new incoming students a sense of being part of the A&M-Corpus Christi community, these shrimp boils also encourage families to get involved in their students' university life. And it's a great way for alumni to get involved as well. Judging from the tremendous success of these get-togethers, it's safe to say that Izzy and the President will be hitting the roads of Texas again soon, perhaps bringing a shrimp boil to a city near you!



New AD brings new vision to athletics

“It is my job to take our potential and turn it into a lot of good things for the Islanders.”

— **Brian Teter**

Brian Teter came to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi from the University of Cincinnati as director of Athletics in July. In announcing his appointment, University President Flavius Killebrew said Teter “exemplifies the type of leadership we have been seeking to lead us into this new, exciting era of Islander athletics.” We spoke with Teter about his vision. Here are a few of his comments.

How does athletics fit into the University’s mission?

What makes athletics so exciting is that it is arguably the most visible unit of the university. Islander athletics can serve as a rallying point for the entire University, as well as fit into the plans that President Killebrew has for the institution. Athletics is a way for students, faculty, staff and the community to show school spirit and support for a rising Division I program.

What are your goals for the program?

I want everything to happen quickly. I want to create as much exposure as possible all over the state to show that we have a solid program and that A&M-Corpus Christi is a good place for parents to send their chil-



Brian Teter

dren to school. I want the community to get excited about us competing for league championships and advancing to NCAA tournaments. I want our program to be top-notch in all areas, based on hard work, integrity and accountability.

What is the significance of the University’s joining the Southland Conference?

It was imperative to be affiliated with a league like the Southland Conference. Our teams are now able to develop rivalries that will provide an even more exciting atmosphere because so much more is at stake.

I also believe that the Southland Conference will benefit because we bring a growing university and athletic program to the table, a beautiful city with very good

athletic venues and a good media market.

What attracted you to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi?

I was impressed by the support on campus and in the community for the university, and the athletics program. I was amazed at how much the Islanders had accomplished as an independent. Now it is my job to take our potential and turn it into a lot of good things for the Islanders, both on and off the field.

\$850,000 Chapman gift funds new sports facility

Thanks to a generous \$850,000 gift from longtime University benefactor John O. Chapman and his wife, Louise, Islander Field will soon be the site of a new three-story sports facility. Expected to be completed in time for the 2007 baseball and softball season, the facility will house public restrooms and a concession stand on the first floor, a press box on the second floor and an upper-level suite.

“The Chapmans are among Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s dearest friends,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “It is essential that our student-athletes have quality facilities in which to compete. This support by John and Louise Chapman will increase the visibility of the baseball and softball programs among our



Izzy and Islander athletes show their appreciation for the generosity of longtime benefactor and fan John O. Chapman.

fans, friends and sports media.” President Killebrew said he will make a recommendation to the chancellor and the Board of Regents of

the Texas A&M University System that the area be renamed Chapman Field.

The Chapmans have been consistent benefactors of the University. Established in 1993, the John Chapman Endowed Scholarship has supported the financial needs of more than 50 students. The Chapmans were also leading contributors in the construction of the Math & Science Resource Center dedicated in February. Chapman was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the University’s commencement ceremonies in fall 2002.

Chapman, a Texas native, owns Chapman Ranch, the renowned cotton production operation created from land his father purchased from the King Ranch in 1919.



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students who participate in sports such as baseball, softball, basketball, golf, volleyball, tennis, cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field now, for the first time, are competing against other Southland Conference athletes.

A rewarding step up

SLC membership could reap great dividends for University athletics

While membership in the Southland Conference will give the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi athletics program much-deserved regional and national exposure, it is expected to reap even bigger dividends at home.

Sportswriter Lee Goddard, who covers the Islanders for the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, believes that competition for conference championships and rivalries established with other Southland Conference teams will increase the hometown fan base and keep alumni more inter-

where many outstanding high school athletes have traditionally left the area for more high-profile college programs.

Moody High School baseball coach Corky Gallegos, who led the Trojans to the 2004 Class 5A state championship, says his athletes are already taking a closer look at A&M-Corpus Christi.

“If you’re playing as an independent, it’s hard to get the really outstanding players to come to your school,” Gallegos points out. “The interest of local players is already rising because they like the idea of playing close to home and the possibility of competing for national recognition. More pro scouts come to conference games, which gives players opportunities to show what they can do.”

After a 25-year hiatus, A&M-Corpus Christi revived its athletics program in 1998 as an independent, competing in golf and tennis only. Since then, the *Islander* program has grown to 16 varsity teams, including men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, men’s and women’s tennis, women’s golf, men’s and women’s cross country, and men’s and women’s indoor/outdoor track and field.

“The increased exposure our athletics teams will receive from membership in the Southland Conference will translate into more recognition for our outstanding academic and research programs,” predicts University President Flavius Killebrew. “Athletics also forges a stronger link between the University and the community, and that bond will be strengthened by our conference affiliation.”

In 2004, the *Islander* men’s tennis team began Southland Conference competition as an affiliate member, and it has already twice won the conference championship.

A&M-Corpus Christi’s full membership in the conference coincides with the hiring of Brian Teter as director of athletics, replacing Dan Viola who left earlier this year.

Other Texas schools in the Southland Conference are Lamar University, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas State University, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Louisiana schools are McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University and Southeastern Louisiana University. The University of Central Arkansas entered the league with A&M-Corpus Christi.



ested in their university’s athletic fortunes.

“Those factors alone should generate more excitement and spike the interest of the casual fan,” Goddard says.

“But beyond that, there’s the possibility of *Islander* teams competing in national tournaments and the NCAA playoffs. The day will come when you can see A&M-Corpus Christi highlights on ESPN.”

Increased regional and national exposure will also help athletic recruiting statewide. But the impact will be strongest close to home,

Moms keep in touch by keeping involved

How can parents become more active in their children's education? Islander Moms, a new initiative in the making, is aimed at doing just that.

"What we recognize is that we need to have our parents more active and involved in playing a role at the university," says Robin Ellis, development officer at the University. "Islander Moms is a networking opportunity as well as a way to stay involved in their kids' lives."

Although the club is named Islander Moms, it is open to all parents, male and female. Thus far, Islander Moms consists of 15 parents from San Antonio, 15 from Houston, 10 from McAllen and nine from Corpus Christi.

Islander Moms will take part in several activities throughout the year, some of which are still being developed. Before final examinations, parents plan to put together baskets for their children/students to help them prepare for the exams. The baskets will include necessities such

as coffee, pens, calculators and chocolate, and will serve as a reminder to the students that their parents are thinking about them.

Club members will also serve as event planners for Parents' Weekend and Homecoming, held during the first week of February.

Islander Moms will also work as a parent partnership in a network: When parents are coming to the Island to visit their child, they can let other parents know and deliver items from them to other students.

Currently, there are no officers, but there will be an official structure as the club builds. Since it is in its inaugural year, the first meetings were in September.



From left: Islander Moms Lisa Clark, Corpus Christi; Charlotte Kotzur, San Antonio; Pamela Hall, Corpus Christi; Kathy Steffen, Brenham; Helen Halliburton, Hondo; Robin Ellis, Corpus Christi; Denise Barlow, San Antonio.

"We are really excited about it, and we've gotten a large response," Ellis says. "Parents are looking forward to getting involved."

Any parent interested in joining may contact Robin Ellis by telephone at (361) 825-3165 or by e-mail at Robin.Ellis@tamucc.edu.

Allison Fang
CorpusBeat

Islander Spirit



- ◆ T-SHIRTS
- ◆ POLO SHIRTS
- ◆ CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
- ◆ BALL CAPS
- ◆ ALUMNI MERCHANDISE
- ◆ COFFEE MUGS
- ◆ KEYCHAINS AND TOYS

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Democracy: A primer in participation

After more than two years of University participation in the American Democracy Project (ADP), there's tangible evidence that *The New York Times*-sponsored project is having a positive influence on students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

According to Dr. David Billeaux, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs, the ADP is helping to create a greater intellectual understanding and commitment to civic issues among students by bringing nationally recognized intellectual and business leaders to campus.

"Since the University became involved in the American Democracy Project, students seem to realize that to make a difference you must engage rather than withdraw from society," Billeaux says.

"Instead of just looking over the hood ornament, students are beginning to look further down the road."

During the spring 2006 semester, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism Professor Roger Newman spoke to Dr. Joseph Jozwiak's political science classes on "Civil Liberties and the Patriot Act" and how significantly expanded law enforcement surveillance activities conflict with the constitutional guarantees in the Bill of Rights.

"Whether they agreed or disagreed with what Dr. Newman said, the students felt it was a privilege to hear him speak," Jozwiak says.

"It's important to have experts come in and share the results of their research with students. His ultimate point was that, whatever your views, it is important to be involved in the political process."

An example of ADP-inspired community involvement is the renovation of four Corpus Christi Recreation Department facilities by students in Dr. Karen Middleton's leadership and managerial effectiveness classes.

Although the projects were selected by Middleton, the planning and execution were left to the students, who also raised the necessary funds through donations and gifts-in-kind from local businesses.

"Instead of just looking over the hood ornament, students are beginning to look further down the road."

Dr. David Billeaux,
interim associate VP, Academic Affairs

"I wanted to get the students out of the classroom and have them actually design and lead a project through to fruition," Middleton emphasizes. "The objective was not just for

students to gain experience in managing projects but to also give them the opportunity to meet and associate with members of the business community."

Because there are many other examples of on- and off-campus activities inspired by the American Democracy Project, the University's Office of Academic Affairs is cataloging the list of ADP-related projects.

Topics brought to the forefront on campus by the program include stewardship of public lands, public engagement through voting and political activism, and the function of the individual in a larger society.

"Students who become active participants in a democratic society tend to be more moderate and understanding of other points of view," Billeaux says. "By testing their point of view against others, it helps them realize that compromise is essential in highly diverse, complicated society. As a result, they become better, more productive citizens."



Students involved in the American Democracy Project learn to be more moderate and understanding of other points of view.

PULSE!!!

Federal funding for state-of-the-art simulator reaches \$9.85 million

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will receive \$2.35 million in federal funds in the next fiscal year to continue developing Pulse!!, the virtual clinical learning lab developed by Dr. Claudia L. Johnston, associate vice president for special projects.

Top-notch medical experts and electronic game developers are helping to produce a high-fidelity, immersive learning platform that will provide case-based training for medical personnel similar to flight-simulator training for military pilots. An international team

of Pulse!! advisers includes experts in military medicine and medical education assessment.

The Pulse!! learning platform will enable military doctors to introduce new scenarios for treating unanticipated injuries spawned by continually evolving battlefield conditions.

Out-of-this-world research

Dr. Satyajit Verma would travel into space in a heartbeat. "I can remember Neil Armstrong walking on the moon and feeling absolutely exhilarated," recalls the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi assistant professor from the Department of Computing and Math Sciences.

"To see a big hunk of metal launched into nothingness can change your outlook on your own existence," Verma says. "Imagine looking down at Earth from a spacecraft ... it will put you in a whole new spiritual dimension."

Verma is one of three University professors who participate in NASA Fellowship Programs, allowing them to work at NASA space centers and garner thousands of dollars in grant money from the space program for University projects.

Verma, who worked on NASA-related research during the summer, is in his second year of the program.

His work in monitoring NASA's rocket engine operation is part of an effort to develop a new generation of reusable space shuttles.

"Five to 10 years from now, space shuttles will look very different from what we are used to seeing," Verma says. "Shuttles will no longer be side-mounted, and they will be capable of higher payloads and longer stays on space stations."

Besides collecting a weekly stipend for his work, Verma has received more than \$13,000 in grants from past participation of University engineering technology students in design projects by NASA engineers.

After spending an entire year at the



From left, Drs. Stacey Lyle, Ray Bachnak and Satyajit Verma

Johnson Space Center in Houston, Dr. Ray Bachnak, professor and coordinator of engineering technology, concluded his fellowship in August. As a result of his participation,

Bachnak received a \$50,000 grant for the "Real-Time Laser Position Tracking Device" that continues his research through next year. A second grant of \$15,000, "Communicating the Impact of Space Exploration Programs," will support efforts to attract and recruit Hispanic and other underrepresented students. "We hope to inspire students and increase their interest in science, mathematics and technology," he says.

His work at NASA involves developing a hand-held inspection system for on-orbit, non-destructive evaluation (NDE).

Bachnak says that the project will result in an effective space tool that will greatly enhance NASA's NDE capabilities. It will allow for real-time inspection and assessment of potentially problematic areas.

Dr. Stacey Lyle, assistant professor of geographic information science, has also served as a NASA faculty fellow at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Lyle's work involved a remote sensing and mapping system that evaluated an algorithm for NASA, for which he received a geospatial workforce grant of \$50,000. The algorithm involved putting photo mosaics together without lines showing while maintaining accuracy.

As a new faculty member at the time, Lyle notes that it catapulted him into interesting areas of research while improving the quality of his teaching. "It helped me with my problem-solving skills and gave me real-world experience," Lyle says.

"These projects bring outside money to the University and also bring us international recognition."

For Science & Tech, this has been the 'year of the grant'

Dean's message

It's been a hot summer in Corpus Christi, and especially so in the College of Science and Technology. Faculty members have received more than \$2 million in grants since May of this year. Grants came from a variety of sources, including the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Funded research projects spanned a diversity of topics, including studies involving protein folding, coastal issues and redfish movements through the passes and the development of laser tracking devices. One area of research has concentrated on determining accurate elevations across Texas — an important issue with far-reaching consequences, as the lessons of Hurricane Katrina taught us. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded two grants as well, one to Drs. Nadina Duran-Hutchings and George Tintera, and another to

Dr. Elaine Young in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The grants will be used to provide in-service teacher training in statistics, modeling and problem solving.

Drs. Suzzette Chopin and Eugene Billiot, in cooperation with a number of faculty, received a large grant from the NSF for undergraduate research in the environmental sciences. This will complement other programs supporting undergraduate research already in place in the college. Engaging students in undergraduate research experiences lets them take part in scientific discovery and see firsthand the relevance of all that time spent studying and going to class. And they become an immediate part of the scientific community.

Dr. Billiot was also recently honored as one of 20 recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest award given by the U.S. government for beginning scientists and engineers.

Dr. Billiot and the other recipients met with President George W. Bush at a July 26 ceremony. Dr. Billiot received a five-year, \$400,000 grant for his work in studying ways to separate pharmaceutical drugs from asymmetrical molecules. This research could lead to pure forms of medications and eliminate side effects often associated with these medications. The University recognized Dr. Billiot's accomplishment by bestowing the Silver Wave Award, which honors individuals or groups who bring national recognition to the university.

One last note: If you visit our Web site (www.sci.tamucc.edu) you'll notice there are now four departments in the College — Computing Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physical & Environmental Sciences. We're growing!

**Dr. Frank Pezold, Dean
College of Science and Technology**

Exploring the depths

Internship allows student Adriana Leiva to dive down to 'Deep Slope'

In today's rapidly changing world, many students take a long and winding path in the search to find their life's calling.

And while she was more willing than most to take detours along the road less traveled, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi junior Adriana Leiva never thought her journey would take her to the deepest, darkest depths of the Gulf of Mexico.

In late May, Leiva, an environmental science major and protégé to Professor Ian MacDonald, joined her mentor on a 28-day mission to the "Deep Slope" aboard the research vehicle Atlantis for the first systematic exploration of waters deeper than 1,000 meters.

The team included scientists who have led the exploration, discovery and study of the Gulf's cold seeps for 20 years.

"I've always been mesmerized by the ocean," says Leiva, who was born in Austin but spent most of her formative years in Mexico City.

"Even though we didn't live on the coast, almost all of my family lived in Tampico, and on my visits there I learned to love the sea."

Leiva was so drawn to the ocean that she talked her parents into letting her finish high school in Austin specifically so she could attend A&M-Corpus Christi and study marine biology.

That plan simmered on the back burner for several years after high school while she played drums in a samba band and traveled.

But soon after she enrolled at the University, Leiva approached MacDonald about working for him and soon was cataloging a seemingly endless collection of underwater photographs. It was monotonous, she admits, but her dedication made a strong impression.

"Adriana is a responsible student, a hard worker who is always ready to learn and, as it turns out, she has quite a personal affinity for being out at sea," says MacDonald. "It's a kick to work with students and see them develop. It's invigorating and fun to see the world reflected in young eyes."

Although she knew that her career would somehow involve the ocean, Leiva was at a fork in the road, weighing whether to concentrate on coastal science or deepwater exploration when MacDonald invited her to be part of the "Deep Slope" mission.

The expedition, she says, changed the course of her life.

"I saw the passion Dr. MacDonald has for his work, and I wondered if I have what it takes to be a scientist," she said. "But he showed me that with lots of hard work,



Adriana Leiva (above left) stands beside the submersible vehicle Alvin that took her on a dive more than 2,200 meters below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico. Leiva (at left) sits inside the submersible's cramped quarters.

patience and strong ethics you can accomplish a lot."

The highlight of Leiva's "Deep Slope" experience was her first deep-sea dive in the Alvin, a three-person submersible that took her, the pilot and a port observer on a seven-hour dive more than 2,200 meters below the ocean surface.

When she returned to the Atlantis, she was drenched with ice water by her shipmates, a

ritual suffered by all after making their first deep-sea journey.

"It was amazing, and the crazy thing was that I wasn't even nervous," Leiva recalls.

"It was like a childhood dream, but I had never really imagined that I would be descending to the sea floor.

"Today I realize that everything and anything is possible as long as you keep your dreams alive."



Building bilingual programs for student success

University, TEA collaboration gives Texas school districts a boost

Dr. Frank Lucido believes all children have the potential to attend college and succeed, even those whose first language is not English.

Lucido, an associate professor of bilingual education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, helps ensure that English language learners in Texas have the same opportunities as their English-speaking counterparts through the Institute for Second Language Achievement (ISLA).

This collaborative effort between the University and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was established by Dr. Dee Hopkins, dean of the University's College of Education.

It provides research opportunities and professional development assistance to school districts across the state.

Districts are chosen by TEA to participate through the award of Student Success Initiative grants.

Lucido, who also serves as director of ISLA, has acquired \$2.7 million in grant funding from TEA over the past two years to promote effective teaching practices for English language learners in Texas schools.

An estimated 300,000 Texas students are in bilingual education programs, Lucido notes.

Teaching these students is crucial to getting them to graduate from high school and to pursue college studies. ISLA equips public school teachers with the skills they need to teach these specialized programs.

COE's mission: Improving the classroom experience

Dean's message

"Teacher education right now is the Dodge City of education: unruly and chaotic," says Arthur Levine, former president of Teachers College, Columbia University. His comment reflects recent findings of the Education Schools Project sponsored by several major foundations. This national four-year study found many education schools lacking. Problems cited included: low admission standards, disengaged faculty, outdated curricula, insufficient classroom practice and poor oversight. Levine succinctly points out, "There's a chasm between what goes on in the university and what goes on in the classroom."

Overall, I agree with Dr. Levine's findings;

there are a number of mediocre teacher preparation programs around the country. Thankfully, we aren't one of them. Certainly there is room for improvement; we constantly update curricula and assess program delivery. But when it comes to preparing qualified teachers for tomorrow's classrooms, our field-based program is right on target. Students quickly learn their way around the classroom because they are in schools from the time they begin the program. Having university professors with them all day in the schools every Tuesday and Thursday allows for instruction, observation and action in real classrooms with real children. Upon completion of the field-

based program, students do their student teaching — again, in real schools for a full semester — reinforcing their ability to manage classrooms and deliver instruction.

Another disappointing finding of the Levine study was that nine out of every 10 of the principals polled felt that graduates of teacher education programs around the country were unprepared for what awaits them in the classroom. We are doing everything we can to make sure that is not the case with our future educators.

**Dr. Dee Hopkins, Dean
College of Education**



The Institute for Second Language Achievement helps ensure that English language learners in Texas have the same opportunities as their English-speaking counterparts. School districts are chosen to participate through the award of Student Success Initiative grants. Dr. Frank Lucido (right), an associate professor of bilingual education at A&M University-Corpus Christi, is the director of ISLA.

“We can help teachers succeed by forming the foundation for learning in their student’s first language,” he says.

The program serves 40 school districts, and Lucido says that 25 more are slated to be added.

Lucido says the use of both English and Spanish is essential for instructing English language learners.

“Many people don’t realize that delivering classroom instruction in the student’s primary language helps them learn not only the subject matter, but eventually enhances their overall command of the English language,” he says.

Lucido has also developed a book highlighting best practices for English language learners that bilingual teachers can use in the classroom.

He adds that they’ve already developed an introductory bilingual teacher certification framework complete with nine CDs and a video that will train new teachers for initial teacher certification.

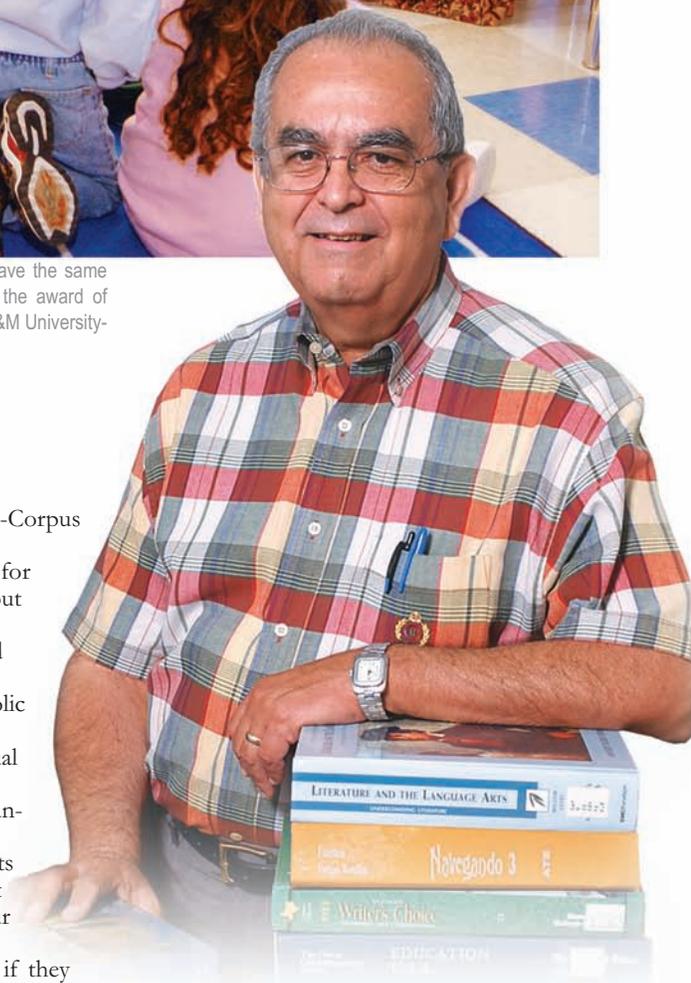
The TEA has designated A&M-Corpus Christi as a research center for the development of effective practices for English language learners throughout the state.

Lucido’s staff does training and develops teachers by working with other university professors and public school personnel.

Sometimes resistance to bilingual education comes from an unlikely source — the parents of English language learners themselves.

“There are thousands of parents who have a misconception of what bilingual education is and refuse our services,” he notes.

“However, research shows that if they don’t participate in this type of program they are more likely to drop out of high school. We work hard to dispel the myths that plague bilingual education and to give teachers the skills they need to be successful in the classroom.”





A Look Back

It was 1947, only two years after World War II ended. Americans were still getting back on their feet, readjusting to lives thrown out of balance for years. A can of pork and beans cost less than 15 cents, 10 pounds of potatoes went for 38 cents, and in some towns a five-room brick house — with furniture — cost about \$7,000.

And a new college was born.

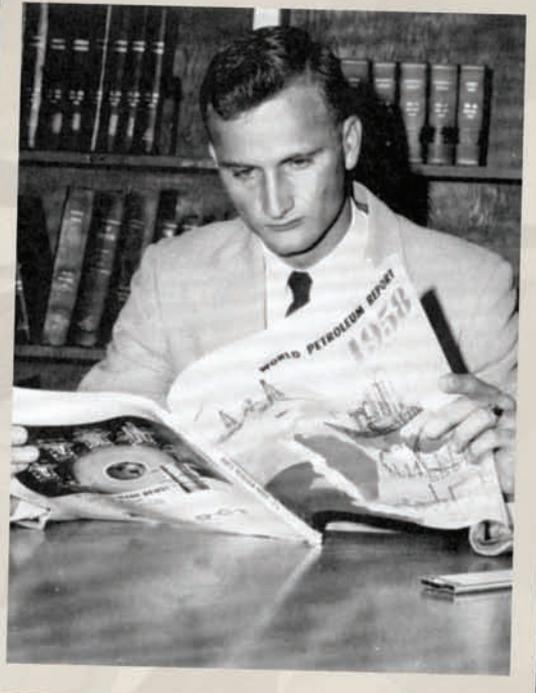
On April 1, 1947, the Baptist General Convention of Texas chartered the Arts and Technological College. Its first campus was at Chase Field, the deactivated Naval Air Station in Beeville, and its second temporary campus was at Cuddihy Field in Corpus Christi.

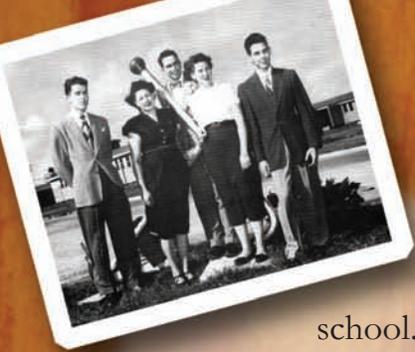
Things were moving quickly, too. By October, the school's name changed to the University of Corpus Christi (UCC), and by December, it had received 240-acre Ward Island from the U.S. Navy. During the war, the Navy had conducted training to operate radar on the island. But by 1947, it had no further use for the facilities and gave the land to the city.

The number of students attending the fledgling school was 556 for the 1949-50 term. In the coming years, the University grew rapidly, gaining six buildings including an administration building, a library, a science building and dormitories by 1965. The University continued to use the old frame buildings formerly occupied by the Navy. By this time, sports programs included football, basketball and tennis.

On August 3, 1970, disaster struck when Hurricane Celia crashed into Corpus Christi and the University. Much of the campus was damaged and, as a result, the Baptist General Convention of







Texas ended its affiliation with the school. Civic leaders concerned about higher education in South Texas were determined to keep the school. In 1971, the Legislature authorized the Texas A&I University Board of Directors to establish an upper-level university (junior, senior and graduate levels). The city of Corpus Christi held a bond election to raise money for the conversion of UCC to a state-supported school; that money subsequently bought the campus, which the city then gave to the state for the new state-supported Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi.

In 1977, when the Texas A&I University System became the University System of South Texas, the school's name changed to Corpus Christi State University (CCSU). In 1989, Corpus Christi residents again were concerned about higher education in South Texas. In response to those concerns, CCSU merged with two other schools into the Texas A&M University System. In 1992, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board allowed the University to offer its first doctoral degree.

The school was renamed Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1993. Also around this time, an organization called "4UCC" (For University of Corpus Christi) — led by Corpus Christi Mayor Luther Jones and other civic and business leaders — worked to make the school a four-year university. Because of their efforts, the school had been allowed, when it joined the A&M System, to become a four-year university, and in 1994 it expanded by welcoming freshmen through seniors. By 1996, more than 5,500 students had enrolled.

In the space of 60 years, the Island University — its physical manifestation — has changed significantly. Its spirit, its community involvement, its mission of bringing exceptional higher education to Corpus Christi, the Coastal Bend and South Texas have not changed.

Rebecca Lyons
CorpusBeat



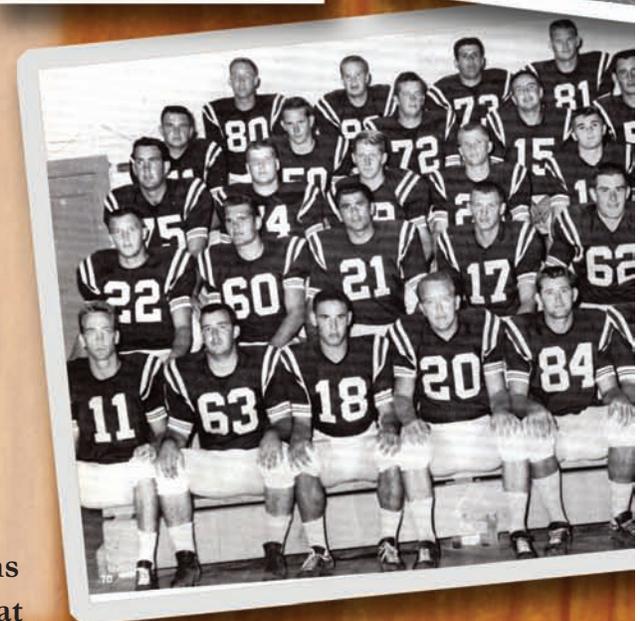
Prices
Car —
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Popular songs of 1947

- “Across the Alley from the Alamo” by the Mills Brothers
- “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby
- “Heartaches” by Ted Weems

Popular songs of 2006

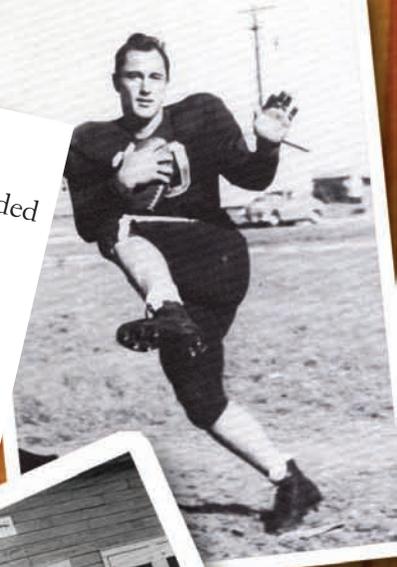
- “Moneymaker” by Ludacris, Pharell
- “Smack That” by Akon, Eminem
- “My Love” by Justin Timberlake





in 2006 (average)
 — \$29,000
 Gasoline — \$2.08/gallon
 Bread — \$1.89/loaf
 Potatoes — 90 cents per pound
 First-class postage stamp — 39 cents
 Average annual salary (U.S.) — \$39,795
 Minimum wage — \$5.15/hour

Fast facts of 1947:
 Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys record “Faded Love” for Columbia Records. Walter Morrison invents the **Frisbee**.
 April 16 — The freighter **Grandcamp** explodes in **Texas City**, setting off explosions and fires that kill more than 570 people and injure 5,000.
 July 7 — What is reported to be a **UFO** crashes near Roswell, N.M.
 And in 1947, about **44,000 television sets** exist in the U.S. compared with **40 million radios**.



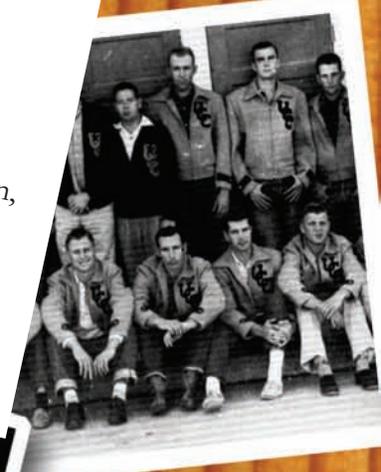
Prices in 1947 (average)

Car — \$1,500
 Gasoline — 23 cents/gallon
 Bread — 12 cents/loaf
 Onions — 49 cents for 10 pounds
 Potatoes — 38 cents for 10 pounds
 First-class postage stamp — 3 cents
 Average annual salary (U.S.) — \$3,500
 Minimum wage — 40 cents/hour



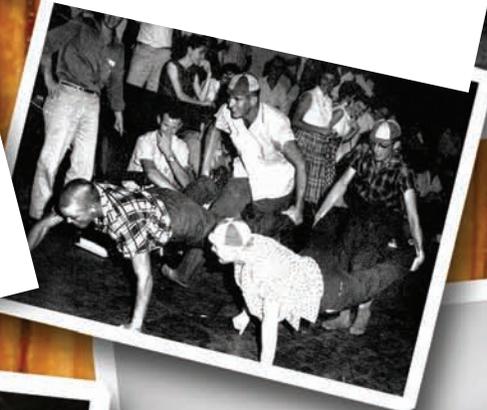
Popular movies of 2006

“The Prestige” starring Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale
 “The Departed” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson
 “Flags of Our Fathers” starring Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford
 “Marie Antoinette” starring Kirsten Dunst



Popular movies of 1947

“Song of the Thin Man” starring William Powell, Myrna Loy
 “Road to Rio” starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour
 “Dark Passage” starring Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
 “Miracle on 34th Street” starring Maureen O’Hara, Natalie Wood, Edmund Gwenn





Marching to our own beat

For nearly 30 years, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has not had its own ROTC battalion on campus. But this year, that changed.



Since its inception in 1978, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) has been a subsidiary Charlie Company of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Javelina Battalion.

But on Sept. 6, Major Kurt Adams, assistant professor of military science, stood by A&M President/CEO Flavius Killibrew and Lt. Col. Evelyn Tirado, professor of military science, as the activation order was read for a new battalion whose time had come.

As each word of the proclamation was uttered, the flag slowly unfurled downward, representing what is known as the presentation of colors.

Finally, after over 50 years as Charlie Company, A&M-Corpus Christi and Del Mar College became part of U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps history as 70 cadets were inducted into the newly established Islander Battalion.

"It was a decision by the Army in cooperation with the University," says Adams, referring to the decision that took three years to become final. "[Our program] had to show constant growth, support and success."

Since its genesis in the late 1970s, when the University was commissioning — if it was a good year — two lieutenants per year, things have changed.

At the end of the spring 2006 semester, the ROTC had commissioned 7 new lieutenants, making 139 cadets commissioned since an ROTC program was first established under A&M-Kingsville.

According to Adams, most change occurred in the last 10 years, when individuals like Dr. Dee Hopkins, Dean of Education, showed increased support, and a general interest in ROTC was restored.

"Previously, people would go to Del Mar, do their first two years, then go to [the] Island and do their last two years," Adams says.

"In 1994, A&M-Corpus, which was an upper division only school, was turned into a four-year program. When that happened, it had a positive impact on the ROTC program."

The University began to incorporate ROTC as an extracurricular activity that students may want to participate in while getting a degree. "They began to allow us to promote ourselves, similar to athletics," Adams adds. "We were allowed to do it before; now, there was just an increased emphasis on it."

Much as the current Islander battalion was a subsidiary of A&M-Kingsville, the Island University has had its own subsidiary of about 25 cadets since 1989 at Del Mar College.

"We wanted to demonstrate to everybody, to the community and University, that they could start [ROTC] at Del Mar to do their first two years, and could transfer over; they weren't limited to staying at A&M-CC for all four years," Adams says.

Military science is open to anyone as an elective course. However, when students reach junior- and senior-level classes, they must be contracted, meaning these students are willing to serve as military officers after graduation.

"There are those who like it in the end, and then there are the others who benefit from the experience even if they decided not to go on," Adams says.

"It's really a win-win situation for everybody. But what we found out is that after taking one or two semesters, they decide they want to continue. We don't have to ask them; they come to us. We don't have to recruit; we just let people know about the opportunity."

Adams says that the primary goal of the ROTC is to teach leadership.



Among those ushering in the new Islander Battalion were (above, clockwise from left) Del Mar College Vice President of Student Development Jose R. Rivera; Col. James House, commander, 12th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command; University President Flavius Killebrew; Master Sgt. Tyrone Spratt; Lt. Col. Evelyn Tirado; Dr. Dee Hopkins, dean of the College of Education; and Maj. Kurt Adams. At left, Drs. Killebrew and Rivera sign proclamations establishing the Islander Battalion on the A&M-Corpus Christi campus.

Every Wednesday, cadets from A&M-Corpus Christi and Del Mar meet for a leadership lab. Their attendance is taken as a grade; however, their performance is graded through written criticism of their leadership qualities.

"It translates into an overall leadership assessment so they can improve," Adams says. "In order to grow as a leader, it takes progress over time. And that's the strength of the ROTC program."

**Roman Gonzalez
CorpusBeat**

White-collar crime

College puts emphasis on ethics, fraud, scandals



Nancy Rapoport, author of *Enron: Corporate Fiascos and Their Implications*

On Sept. 21, Nancy Rapoport, former dean of the University of Houston Law School, discussed the infamous Enron debacle in which thousands of investors, including company employees who were left holding worthless stock, lost their life savings.

Rapoport, author of *Enron: Corporate Fiascos and Their Implications*, is also one of the featured experts in the Academy Award-nominated documentary, "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room."

"We're bringing more realism into the curriculum by giving students an opportunity to interact with people who possess firsthand knowledge of white-collar crime."

Dr. Don Deis, Joslin Endowed Chair of Accounting

Several of Enron's top officers, including founder Ken Lay and former CEO Jeffrey Skilling, were convicted of conspiracy and fraud. Lay died of a heart attack in July before sentencing. After a 56-day trial, Skilling was found guilty of 19 out of 28 counts against him and faces a long prison term.

In addition to educating students about white-collar crime, the college encourages them to consider careers in combating fraud with its annual "Who-Done-It" exercise conducted with agents from the Internal Revenue Service.

The mock investigations are similar to a dinner theater mystery but with financial crimes rather than murder.

After a briefing, aspiring student-detectives interview witnesses, use computer information and go "Dumpster-diving" to gather evidence.

The program was recently awarded the Bobby G. Bizzell Innovative Achievement Award by the Southwestern Business Deans' Association.

"Because most crimes involve money, there is a demand for investigators with a financial background," says Professor Valrie Chambers, who heads the program.

"The students learn that being an accountant doesn't mean that their careers have to be spent working at a desk, and that people with a knowledge of accounting enhance the investigative skills of law enforcement agencies."

In the wake of recent corporate scandals that have racked the business world, the University's College of Business is making a strong commitment to stressing that business without ethics invariably leads to crime.

In September, that message was brought home by experts from both sides of the law during the college's Fraud Awareness Week.

According to Dr. Don Deis, Joslin Endowed Chair of Accounting, the college plans to make the observance a recurring event.

"We teach the textbook courses, but the lesson never seems to be learned; still every 10 years or so a major scandal comes along," Deis says.

"Now we're bringing more realism into the curriculum by giving students an opportunity to interact with people who possess firsthand knowledge of white-collar crime."

Sam E. Antar, former chief financial officer of the Crazy Eddie's retail electronics chain, was the featured speaker during "Meet the Criminal" night on Sept. 19.

Along with his uncle Sam and cousin Eddie, Antar masterminded one of the largest securities frauds of the 20th century, bilking investors of more than \$120 million during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Facing 20 years in prison, Antar became the government's key witness in the civil and criminal prosecutions against his fellow co-conspirators.



Sam E. Antar, former CFO of the Crazy Eddie's retail electronics chain and mastermind of a massive securities fraud, talks at "Meet the Criminal" night, sponsored by the College of Business.

'Who-Done-It'

Students portraying criminals get caught with the goods (below and at right) during the annual College of Business "Who-Done-It" exercise conducted with Internal Revenue Service agents. The mock investigations are similar to dinner theater mysteries but feature financial crimes instead of murders. The innovative program has been recognized by the Southwestern Business Deans' Association.



Dean's message

Promoting business ethics, teaching responsibility

We are excited about the new academic year 2006-2007. After the first full week of classes this fall, our enrollment has increased in both the undergraduate and master's programs by an overall 8 percent.

The mission of our College is to maintain a high standard of ethics. Accordingly, we are doing many things this fall to stress ethics and to highlight their importance. One important step in that direction has been our decision to adopt a Code of Ethics for our students and faculty.

Dr. Adolfo Benavides, the College's assistant dean, has been working with a special faculty task force and other faculty to implement an online module to educate our business majors on the Code of Ethics and the issue of plagiarism. A WebCT course shell has been created and a syllabus for this seminar has

been loaded into the shell. It contains a link to the College of Business website so students can readily access the Code of Ethics as well as another link to turnitin.com's educational materials on plagiarism. We have made it a requirement that all students successfully complete this module.

Meanwhile, Dr. Valrie Chambers and Dr. Don Deis and the Departments of Accounting and Business Law organized efforts for the College of Business hosted "Meet the Criminal: How to Prevent White Collar Crime" in mid-September. Sam Antar, former CFO and CPA of Crazy Eddie Inc. and mastermind of one of the largest white-collar crimes in history, was on hand to participate in a no-holds-barred discussion of his crime and talk about how to prevent such crimes from recurring. Antar also discussed

the role education can play in deterring white-collar crimes.

Also this fall was an appearance by Dr. Nancy Rapoport, former dean of the University of Houston Law School and author of "Enron: Corporate Fiascos and Their Implications" (Foundation Press 2004). Her address focused on the question, "What did we learn from Enron?" Dr. Rapoport's discussion was immediately followed by excerpts from the Oscar-nominated documentary, "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," in which she is a featured expert.

As we continue our efforts to improve all aspects of our operations, as always, your suggestions and comments are welcome.

**Dr. Moustafah Abdelsamad, Dean
College of Business**

Art of the vision

Almost 500 years after the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico, scholars and historians still study her manifestation as the most revered symbol of Mexican culture.

Also known as *La Reina de Mexico* or “The Queen of Mexico,” the vision of the Virgin of Guadalupe by Juan Diego on Dec. 12, 1531, is said to have bridged the gap between native Aztecs and Spanish conquerors, fusing the two cultures.

Although much has been written about the Virgin of Guadalupe from a historical perspective, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi research assistant John Watson realizes that little has been written about the art of the image itself.

Watson was doing research for Dr. Carey Rote’s art history classes as a master’s candidate and discovered that there is a great deal of information about the theology, sociology and anthropology surrounding the Virgin of Guadalupe, but little from the visual arts side, he says.

He proposed that following graduation he would co-author a book on the subject with Rote.

What began as a simple idea soon blossomed into a full-fledged research project between Watson, now a recent master of fine arts graduate, and Rote.

Last fall they applied for a Texas Research Development Grant and were awarded \$25,000 to further pursue the project.



La Virgen de Guadalupe, Reina de Mexico

The money was used to attract other grants as well, Watson says. He has personally been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Pan American Roundtable to travel to Mexico City to photograph and research the events

surrounding the Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe this December.

Watson and Rote also are sharing a Humanities Texas Grant written by Dr. Elizabeth Reese. The grant will help pay for the staging of the exhibitions, says Watson.

Invited to join the project is Dr. George Vargas, an art historian at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Watson is busy writing an outline of the book, searching for more funds and arranging a series of art exhibits of regional artwork to be featured in the book. The exhibit “Visioning the Virgin: The Virgin of Guadalupe in the Contemporary Art of South Texas” is scheduled for A&M-Corpus Christi’s Weil Gallery in spring 2007.

Rote, who is in Macedonia pursuing another research grant opportunity, says she has received interest from Texas A&M University Press to publish the book, which she thinks will eventually comprise three volumes.

“I was drawn to this project by my lifelong interest in Mexican art and extensive study of Mexican as well as Chicano art,” Rote adds.

“I have long been interested in establishing a Center for Hispanic Art Research in Corpus Christi, so this is a nice opportunity for me to seek additional funding for broader research.”

Liberal arts majors now have a clear home and identity

Dean's message

I am pleased to announce that our College has received board approval to change its name from the College of Arts and Humanities to the College of Liberal Arts. The new name now gives a clear home and identity to the departments and programs in psychology and the social science disciplines.

These programs service 880 majors, or 41 percent of the majors in the college.

Also, the new name fits well with a new unit in the College that was approved last year by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, that is, the School of Visual and Performing Arts. The school houses the Departments of Art,

Communication/Theatre and Music and will report to my office.

I look forward to helping the arts become even stronger at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

In other news, the College was honored when Dr. Robert Wooster (history) was selected to be the speaker at this summer’s commencement. Those who remember Dr. Wooster will not be surprised that his talk was greeted with great enthusiasm.

We have had other good news as well. Our development office has created a “Dean’s Scholarship Challenge,” where it matched dollar for dollar any money that the faculty and

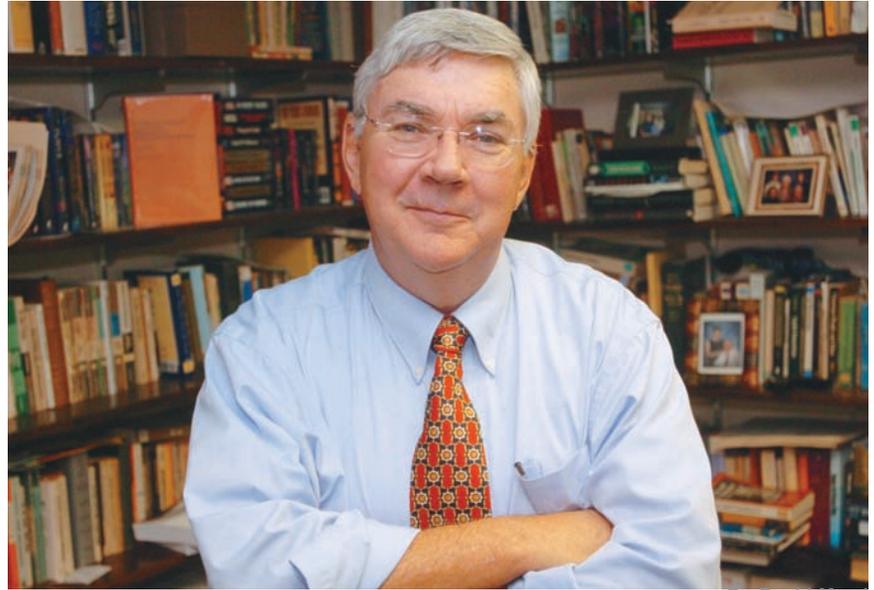
my office raised for student scholarships.

We were successful, and many new students received support to study in our College. If you are planning to support your department, please consider designating it for this scholarship challenge, and your impact will be doubled.

I want to remind you that Homecoming Weekend is the first weekend in February, and we plan to have a reception where I will be able to meet all the attending alumni from our College. I hope I will see you then.

**Dr. Richard Gigliotti, Dean
College of Liberal Arts**

Stories take readers on futuristic journey

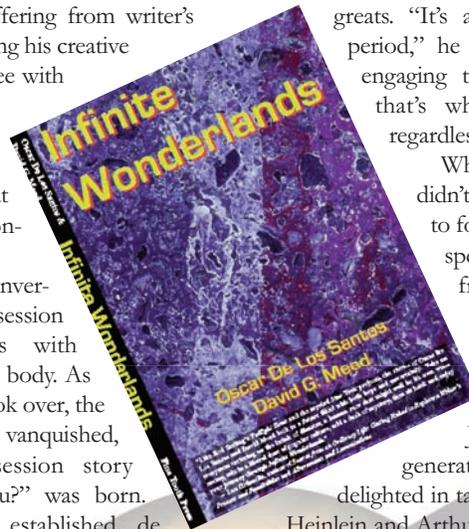


Dr. David Mead

In the long-distant future on a planet in a galaxy far away, a 21st century space warrior battles the apocalyptic demon that threatens to annihilate him, the last defender of the human race and all mankind. Just when the day seems lost, the intergalactic hero evokes the name of his long-ago mentor who, riding an energy beam through a time warp at

encounter between Mead and de Los Santos at a conference of science fiction writers almost 20 years after they parted ways. De Los Santos, who was under contract to write a multi-volume collection of stories for the publisher of his previous book, was suffering from writer's block. While discussing his creative frustration over coffee with Mead, the two noticed a stream of people going in and out of a store that specialized in nutritional supplements. That led to a conversation about the obsession of some humans with obtaining the perfect body. As their imaginations took over, the "writer's block" was vanquished, and the alien-possession story "May We Help You?" was born. Their collaboration established, de Los Santos and Mead penned eight or nine short stories over the next six months and *Infinite Wonderlands* was completed. In June, it was published by the Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press in China and Fine Tooth Press in the United States.

"It's really been a nice collaboration," said Mead, who is serving his second two-year term as president of the Science Fiction Research Association. "The book contains stories that speak to people outside the constraints of prejudice, bias and preconceived notions. We don't focus so much on the trappings of science as we do on getting the characters into an interesting story."



De Los Santos believes the best of science fiction deserves a place alongside the best of mainstream literature. He is encouraged that science fiction, fantasy and horror writers are taking their place with acknowledged literary greats. "It's all about good storytelling, engaging themes and some conflict, that's what makes a good story, regardless of genre."

While de Los Santos and Mead didn't have to travel through time to form a literary team, their perspectives of the genre come from different generations. As a youngster in the 1950s, Mead whetted his appetite on the stories of sci-fi pioneers Jack Vance and Jack Williams. Nearly a generation later, De Los Santos delighted in tales by Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke. His passion was also fueled by TV programs such as "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea," the satirical "Lost in Space" and the "Star Trek" series.

"I've been in love with science fiction since I was a kid," de Los Santos says. "Of course, back then I was more interested in the cheesier sci-fi offerings of network television. But when I was about 10, I read a collection of Bradbury short stories called 'R is for Rocket' that turned me on to the real wonder at the heart of the best science fiction stories. It's been more than 20 years since David Mead was my teacher, but he's the one who showed me that you don't have to give up your love of genre stories like science fiction once you get into academe."

At least that's the spin Steven Spielberg might put on the literary collaboration between A&M-Corpus Christi English Professor David Mead and his former student Oscar De Los Santos, a professor of English at Western Connecticut University and a 1987 graduate of the University of Corpus Christi. Their book *Infinite Wonderlands* is a collection of tales in the tradition of Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" stories, where the future is "filled with both hope and uncertainty" and "the human race is its own worst enemy."

Infinite Wonderlands was the result of a chance



Nursing students face good prospects for employment as the nation continues to experience a shortfall in qualified health care workers.

Nurses' station

College looks to future with plans for new building

The University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences is looking to the future with construction of its own state-of-the-art home. In May, the Texas Legislature authorized \$45 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRB) for A&M University-Corpus Christi to construct a 165,000-square-foot building to house the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as space for kinesiology and wellness activities. While the project has been approved conceptually, the completion date is contingent on legislative appropriation of the TRB.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the University's fastest growing college. In four years, it has grown from 400 students to more than 850 and is projected to enroll 1,300 nursing majors by 2010. The program is currently located in several buildings.

According to University President Flavius Killebrew, the need for consolidation made the tuition bond request a top priority.

The well-documented shortage of nurses is one factor that makes the building extremely urgent, he says. The Bureau of Labor Statistics 10-year prediction sees 1 million new nursing jobs by 2010.

The nursing facilities will consist of offices, classrooms, computer labs, a simulated hospital ward, patient simulator laboratories and other specialized research spaces.

"The College of Nursing and Health Sciences will allow for growth and development of new programs and expansion of existing nursing programs," says Dean Mary Jane Hamilton.

Another factor making the project of high importance is a need for upgrading labs used by the College of Education's kinesiology classes and athletic training programs to meet the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs' criteria. The kinesiology area will include classrooms, computer labs, gym and meeting spaces, cardiovascular training areas and specialized labs for exercise physiology, biomechanics, and motor evaluation and development.

"The kinesiology department plans to develop a research program that will include state-of-the-art movement labs to assess athletic performance using various modes of testing, including high-speed video capture technology," says Dr. Randy Bonnette, education professor.

College grows to meet the public need for more nurses

Dean's message

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has completed its second year as a college, and it has been an exciting one marked by rapid change and growth. In April, the College was awarded accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for 10 years in both undergraduate and graduate nursing. The NCLEX pass rate for the class of 2005 was 100 percent. The Texas Board of Nurse Examiners granted full approval to the undergraduate program with commendations based on the State Board report and the NCLEX scores that were submitted in October 2005.

The College also proposed and established a BSN distance education program collaboratively with the Health Science Center for post-baccalaureate students in College Station. Twenty post-baccalaureate students were

admitted in August 2005 and will graduate in December 2006, along with the post-baccalaureate students in Corpus Christi. Growth in both the undergraduate and graduate programs has increased by approximately 12 percent. Three endowed scholarships were added to the existing nursing student scholarships.

Faculty accomplishments for the past year include those of Dr. Liz Sefcik and Diane Dewbre, who achieved national certification as geriatric nurse practitioners, and Dr. Bunny Forgione, who was selected for the AACN Leadership Fellows program. Drs. Sutherland and Cook, assisted by Carmen Hernandez, received Texas Research Development funds for their study "Women in Substance Abuse Recovery: Measures of Resilience and Self-differentiation." Dr. Mary Kay Mortimer was

awarded start-up funds for her study, "A Brief Intervention to Improve Illness Representation and Medication Adherence in Hypertensive Middle-aged Black Females: A Pilot Study."

Students and faculty from both Corpus Christi and College Station were engaged in the relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina last fall. They helped by providing health care, collecting articles for the victims and directing health-related activities within each city. The volunteer spirit continues to live among our student nurses association members, who are now engaged in community activities such as MHMR, the March of Dimes and the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.

**Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean
College of Nursing & Health Sciences**

The American Bank Scholarship Endowment



"We have been involved with the University since it was only a dream."
**Al Jones, President
American Bank**

In 2000, American Bank established a \$100,000 scholarship endowment benefiting College of Business students. Jones believes in the importance of "creating an enduring endowment to support students of A&M-Corpus Christi." Scholarship endowments are perpetual gifts that defray tuition costs, helping students to focus on their education and to reach their full potential.

"Scholarships are the reason I graduated on time,"
**Benjamin Hill
BBA '05**

The recent graduate was afforded the opportunity to study full-time to earn his accounting degree. Hill realized that fulfilling his dream of achieving a college education was vital to his future and the future of his family.

With approximately 70 percent of students requiring financial assistance to attend college, donors like American Bank have a vital role in helping students realize their dreams.



For more information on ways you can support scholarships or establish an endowed scholarship fund, please contact Heather Guerrero at (361) 825-3320.

Island campus is going international

The University has seen a recent rise in international students, mainly due to the English as a Second Language International (ESLI) program. About 140 international students, representing 30 to 40 countries, are enrolled — up 20 students from last year — and about 120 are waiting to be accepted into ESLI.

“ESLI is a separate organization altogether,” says Karin Griffith, international adviser and transfer counselor. “The students have to reach a certain level of English to be admitted in our program.”

Although these students are a relatively small number within the total student body — only about 2 percent — the enrollment of international students is expected to continuously increase in coming years.

“They are coming to our campus to study English and then to join our program,” Griffith says. “Every year, we will grow because of the ESLI.” She expects that ESLI may add 75 to 80 students each year over the next two years. The figures would then level off as students



graduate.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the University suffered a loss in enrollment of international students. “It was very difficult for foreigners to come here, but it is getting easier,” Griffith says. “We encourage international students to come to the United States.”

Business is the top field of study among international students, followed by computer

science. The University also expects to attract more students as graduate programs, such as marine studies, grow in the future.

“They like the island setting,” Griffith says. “It’s a very beautiful campus. The students we have enjoy the programs, so they tell their friends. Word of mouth helps.”

Allison Fang
CorpusBeat

Will you need ALL of YOUR IRA?

Hopefully, you’ve planned well for your future years. Perhaps you’ve wisely invested to where your retirement funds create options for supporting others. A new ruling now allows those over 70-1/2 years old to make a charitable gift up to \$100,000 a year from their IRAs and not have the withdrawal taxed as income. Yes, it’s important to ensure that your loved ones will be taken care of in the future, but you also have a tax-free opportunity today to establish a legacy with **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi** through your gift. Please call and discover how your current IRA can guide A&M-Corpus Christi’s future.

Cathy Hurley, JD
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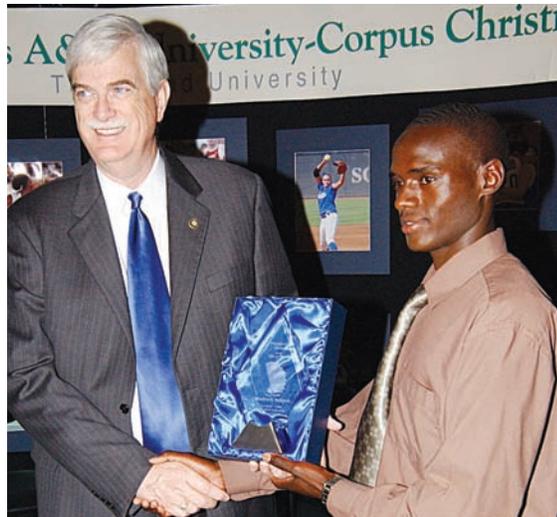
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President/CEO Flavius Killebrew recently presented the University's coveted "Silver Wave" award to distance runner Shadrack Songok and to Dr. Eugene Billiot, an associate professor in the College of Science and Technology.

Last spring, Songok became the first Islander athlete to earn NCAA All-America honors.

As a sophomore, Songok placed fifth in the finals of the 5,000-meter run at the NCAA Championship in California. The Kenya native advanced to his second straight NCAA Championship meet by winning the 5,000-meter run at the South Central Region track and field meet.

Billiot was honored by the White House with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

The award, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, is the highest honor



President Flavius Killebrew presents "Silver Waves" to Shadrack Songok (left) and Dr. Eugene Billiot.

bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers early in their careers. Twenty professors were honored from approximately 400 who received NSF grants.

Billiot was recognized for his work to separate pharmaceutical drugs from their asymmetrical molecules.

This could lead to the development of

pure forms of medications that eliminate potentially dangerous side effects.

"Dr. Billiot is an innovative, industrious professor, and his passion for research translates to the classroom.

"He actively encourages students to become involved in science and research," Killebrew says.



Marshall Collins



Frank Pezold



Margaret Dechant



Virginia Wheelless

New people on campus

University welcomes provost, S&T dean and others

A number of new faces can be seen on campus in departments ranging from the provost to athletics to student affairs, marketing and the Harte Research Institute.

New Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs **Virginia Wheelless** was on hand to greet students this fall semester.

Among other new arrivals are:

Stephanie Box, assistant director-student activities, Student Affairs

Marshall Collins, Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Communications

Margaret Dechant, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Kimberly Dowell, assistant women's basketball coach

Marjorie Droppa, assistant director for recreational sports, Student Affairs

Michael Floyd, assistant men's bas-

ketball coach

Eric Lazowski, assistant volleyball coach

Kimberly Martinez, head women's volleyball coach

Ralph McFarland, assistant director-disability, Student Affairs

Paul Montagna, research chair, Harte Research Institute

Stephen Moore, head men's tennis coach

Frank Pezold III, Dean, College of Science & Technology

Mary K. Sherwood, Special Assistant, Office of the President

Brian Teter, Director of Athletics

Jessica Thomas, outreach admissions counselor, Admissions & Records

Kemberly Wedgeworth, assistant comptroller, Fiscal Affairs

Student Foundation paves way for students



Shanelle Hill, Student Foundation President

What an exciting time to be involved with A & M - C o r p u s C h r i s t i ! Our University is growing, and each day brings promising opportunities. More students are flowing in, resulting in more need for support and funding.

The Student Foundation helps pave the way for students. Through fundraising, the Foundation awards five \$1,000 scholarships to incoming freshmen who represent leadership. One of the Foundation's primary fundraisers is the Walk of Recognition. This is a great way to commemorate a graduation or to honor a loved one. The pavers are placed in the Center for Instruction courtyard and can be bought anytime during the year.

Two other Foundation fundraisers are the Tuition Chance raffle and the Islander Revue. Tuition Chance is a drawing for free tuition; a student could win twice: free tuition and a leadership scholarship, as mentioned previously. Islander Revue, a show put on during Homecoming by student organizations, lets students showcase their talents through song and dance. (For more about Homecoming events, look on the inside front cover of this issue.)

Through raising money to support other students, Student Foundation members learn a valuable lesson in giving back.

YOUR NAME IS ON THE DIPLOMA...

NOW LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE ISLAND.



A paver in the Walk of Recognition is the perfect way to commemorate your time spent at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Purchasing a paver is not only a great gift idea, but all the money raised provides scholarships for University students.

For information about Student Foundation activities or Walk of Recognition bricks, please call Shanelle Hill, SFA President, at (361) 825-5558 or visit our website at: http://kanga.tamucc.edu/development/alumni/stu_foundation/index.html.

Walk of Recognition

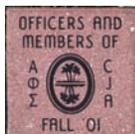
Please fill in the blocks EXACTLY as you would like to see on your paver. Leave a space before and after "&". Each space counts as a character. Omit punctuation marks. Orders received together will be laid together; brick location will be determined by architectural design. A&M-Corpus Christi Student Foundation reserves the right for copy approval or refusal. For questions about your copy call (361)825-5558.

Special guidelines: If line and space permit, bricks may include: (a) "In Memory of" or "In Honor of"; (b) class year; or (c) group, club, military, honors, social club or Greek affiliation.

alumni



\$100
4 x 8 Brick
Two lines of 12 characters per line



\$250
8 x 8 Brick
Top two lines have 12 characters per line; center will contain one official seal and may have up to three letters as character abbreviations on either side of seal; Bottom line contains degree and class year.

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- Please check one official Seal for center of your brick:
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 - Texas A&I University Seal
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What is the Islander Fund?

Simply put, The Islander Fund allows caring members of the A&M-Corpus Christi community like you to enhance educational opportunities for students. It's your opportunity to demonstrate the value you place on the experience you had at the Island University and the effects it has had on your life—all while changing the lives of others.



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