

the Islander

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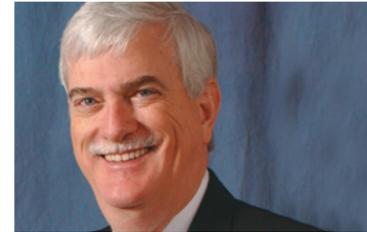


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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dr. Flavius Killebrew
President/CEO

Strengthening Our Growing Community

While the physical expansion of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is essential to the Coastal Bend's future prosperity, it takes much more than a thriving economy to create a cosmopolitan city. That's why, in addition to supplying an educated workforce for businesses both present and prospective, it is also our responsibility to expand the University's influence within the community as a whole.

The seaside charm of Corpus Christi is well known to casual visitors, but the significant contributions to local culture by our thriving art community are less evident. That's changing in large part due to the University's affiliation with the Art Museum of South Texas. With several on and off-campus venues for exhibitions the public can view works by both established artists and University students who are expanding their creative horizons and making their own impact on the Texas art scene.

The shortage of professionals to fill the critical healthcare needs of the Coastal Bend and the nation are being addressed by our College of Nursing and Health Sciences, which has established a highly successful mentoring program that utilizes the skills of faculty, graduate students and a group of ethnically diverse registered nurses. The results have been highly impressive as both the College's graduation rate and the pass rate on the national examination for registered nurses far exceed the state average.

The Blucher Institute's network of 33 Texas Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) stations collects information to establish tidal data and prepare communities for oncoming hurricanes and tropical storms. TCOON information is also used for oil-spill response, oceanic and environmental research, and coastal engineering and construction.

As research affirms that parental involvement is the key to a child's success in school, the University's Pre-Service Teachers Learning to Engage Hispanic Parents in Mathematics and Science (PTEP) initiative is already teaching future teachers how to increase parental involvement in their child's education. When parents participate in their child's education, everybody benefits.

These are several examples of how Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is contributing to the growth and maturation of the Coastal Bend. Each of our five colleges continues to grow in stature and excellence as we achieve the goals stated in the *Momentum 2015* initiative. In turn, the University's reputation will grow and its influence will continue to expand throughout the state and the nation.

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
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INSIDE...

Alumni News	2
Alumni Making a Difference Overseas	2
Have You Heard	3
Mixin' It Up with the Big Boys	6
Maroney's Retirement Marks End of Era at Island University	8
The Human Side of Numbers	9
Pulse!! Serious Research, Serious Game	10
Hitting the R.O.A.D.	12
Lights, Camera, Popcorn	13
University Theatre Makes a Splash with Bloody Poetry	13
Making Art Connections	14
Taking the Tides by Storm	18
The Art of Teaching Science	20
Texas Explorers Project Builds Student Success	22
ECDC Celebrates Ten Years of Learning	23
Armed for Success	24
Visual Software Builds Competitive Advantage	26
Health Screening Education Programs Promote Wellness	27
Student Foundation Paves the Way	28





CALLING ALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

You are the reason we exist. There have been more than 30,000 graduates of this great University since its doors

opened in 1947. All of you have a vital role to play in making membership in our alumni association vital and valuable. Your energy and intelligence when combined with other alumni in your community can create a force to be noticed. Let's come together and show the world that A&M-Corpus Christi alumni are alive, well and making a difference in our communities.

We want to make the connection between you and your alma mater stronger than ever. Did you order your class ring? If you did that's great, and if you did not you can still do so and show yourself true. If you have earned a master's degree and still have your class ring from earning the bachelor's degree, find out how you can upgrade it free of charge by calling Balfour at 1-866-225-3687. Perhaps you could re-order your diploma to frame and put on your wall at the office! Or you could join in your local alumni club activities and let your school spirit show at some of the Islander games. These are ways we hope you will join in and make your alumni association stronger than ever. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Best regards,
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OLIVAREZ HEADS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Larry Olivarez, Jr. '01 is the newly elected president of the National Alumni Association. He is a graduate of

the College of Business with a bachelor's degree in finance. While attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Larry was also a pitcher on the Islander baseball team and served as co-captain in 2001. Upon graduation, he accepted a position as a financial advisor with Durham, Durham & Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial and, in 2006, celebrated his five-year anniversary with the company. Currently, he is in the process of becoming board certified in financial planning as part of earning the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) professional designation.

Through the years, Larry has stayed active in the community by being a member of the Corpus Christi and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. He is currently participating with Leadership Corpus Christi Class XXXV and has volunteered in years past with groups such as Forward Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Hooks, serving as a coach in their 2005 baseball school. In 2006, Larry was honored by being selected as one of the top young professionals by *FYI Magazine* in their "Forty under Forty" issue.

Larry has also served the University as an alumni association board member and 2004-2005 homecoming chairperson. Larry says, "As alumni, we all have a role to play in increasing alumni awareness while supporting our University's mission through staying involved and encouraging others to stay involved." Larry and his wife, Priscilla, have a one-year-old son, Larry III, and reside in Corpus Christi. Larry can be reached at (361) 991-5424 or larry.x.olivarez@ampf.com.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Curtis A. Rock '04 graduated with a B.B.A. in management information systems. Curtis is the business development manager for Rock Engineering and Testing Laboratory, Inc. He oversees business development, marketing, advertising, and client relations, and chairs the Rock Engineering political action committee. Rock Engineering provides geotechnical engineering services and construction materials testing services in the architecture, engineering, construction, and development industry, and has done several projects at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus. Curtis is the current vice president of the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club. He is a graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi XXXIII (33) and serves on the Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is active in the World Affairs Council of South Texas, the Associated Builders and Contractors of the Coastal Bend, the Society of Marketing Professional Services (SMPS), and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He was also appointed by the Corpus Christi City Council to serve on the Coastal Bend Health Facilities Development Corporation and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Kellie (Lashua) Addison '03 graduated with a B.B.A. in marketing and is currently living in Corpus Christi, Texas. She works as a development officer at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is pursuing her master's in business administration. On December 31, 2005, she married Brian Addison '04 and the couple welcomed their first child, William Clayton Addison, on February 18, 2007. Kellie was recently nominated to the National Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Sherry Bowers '03 graduated with a B.B.A. in business administration. She became the director of Development and Communication for the Coastal Bend-Texas Chapter of the American Red Cross and helped raise over \$1.2 million for natural disaster relief efforts. She received the Partnership Award for cooperative work between paid and volunteer staff for the American Red Cross. Sherry is also created and directs the development office for South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind. She is a graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi Class of XXXIV and chaired the sponsorship committee for its "I Love My CC" campaign class project. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals

and serves on the National Philanthropy Day and Youth in Philanthropy committees through the Association's local chapter. She is working on her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification.

Louie Asuncion '01 graduated with an M.B.A. in management and has been teaching Health Occupations and Title V paired/clustered courses at Del Mar College. He is an assistant professor of Health Occupations and is a candidate for promotion to associate professor. Louie is the assistant coordinator for Health Occupations and was appointed chair of the Program Review Committee for Health Sciences for 2006-2007. He has been awarded a certificate of recognition for commitment to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) from the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center for the past three years and has been an active member of the Texas Community College Teachers Association.

Renee Gonzales '00 graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting and will receive her master's in public administration this year. After graduation, Renee accepted a position at the University Bookstore as business coordinator. In 2002, she transferred to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, where she began as an accountant for grants and contracts. In 2003, Renee passed the exam to become a Certified Research Administrator. In 2004, she was promoted to her current position as administrator of Sponsored Programs. Renee, a wife and mother of three children, hopes that she can be an example to others that "where there is a will there is a way!"

Zulema Gonzales '00 graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting and is living in Lakeland, Florida. She is employed by Lockheed Martin Corporation as a senior accountant in the International Accounting Department. Zulema recently started studying for the CPA exam.

Stefanie Delmastro '97 graduated with a B.B.A. in management and is living in Oxford, Mississippi. In April 2006, Stefanie became a certified health education specialist, passing the exam offered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. The CHES designation is an indication of professional competence in health education, and since 1989 approximately 9,000 individuals have been certified.

HAVE YOU HEARD

Gustavo "Gus" Barrera '94 graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting. After 11 years with International Bank of Commerce, Gus was recently promoted from vice president and commercial loan officer to first vice president. Gus commits time to the community through service to several non-profit organizations. He is a board member of the Kiwanis Corpus Christi Bay Club and Del Mar College Foundation. He is board director for the Corpus Christi Community Development Corporation and volunteers coaching with Upward Basketball. He is married to Araceli M. Barrera '95, and they have two sons, Alejandro D. and David A. Barrera.

Patricia Quintana-Perron '94 graduated with an M.B.A. in management. She recently passed the exam to be a certified financial planner. She resides in San Antonio.

ALUMNI CHAPTER CONTACTS

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Alumni Making a Difference Overseas

Larry Thebeau (B.S. Biology 1976; M.S. Biology 1979) is a senior project manager with San Antonio-based TEAM Integrated Engineering, Inc. Currently Larry is on a two-year assignment to the Middle East where he is the environmental program manager (EPM) for a coalition military base in the Middle East. His responsibilities include ensuring that the base meets all U.S. military and host-nation environmental laws and managing hazardous materials and other solid wastes generated by base operations. He also coordinates base recycling programs that reduce costs to the U.S. government.

ACCSU alumnus Tony Wood (B.S. Biology 1979) has been employed by TEAM since 2002. He spent most of 2005 in Iraq where, as an engineer and consultant with the Multi-National Security Transition Command and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, he coordinated more than \$2 billion in U.S. reconstruction projects. Those projects include the building of 800 schools, 200 police stations and dozens of clinics and water treatment facilities as well as numerous other government agency and military facilities.



Larry Thebeau oversees the bioremediation of a 750-gallon fuel spill that will return the contaminated area to its original condition.

Robert William Jetton III '93 graduated with a B.B.A. in management. He has been with Averitt Express, a top-ten transportation company, for the past eight years and has been promoted twice during that time. He is currently the director of the Dallas service center and is responsible for both marketing and operations. He has been married to Melissa Jetton for four years and has a 2-year-old son, Robert William “Will” Jetton IV.

Gil Geddes '81 graduated with a B.B.A. in management and is living in Dallas with wife, Dr. Debra Duffy-Geddes, and their five children. Some of Gil’s accomplishments over the past few years have included completion of The Ballpark in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers in 1993, becoming director of marketing for Flower Mound and Dallas Chambers of Commerce in 1996, the completion of New Frontiers of Flight Museum Complex in 2004, and the completion and opening of his wife’s new building for her dental practice in Flower Mound, Texas.

Rosie G. Vela '79 graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting. She continued her education, receiving her M.B.A. with an emphasis in finance and management. She became the director of finance for the City of San Marcos on October 2, 2006, after serving as the director of finance for the City of Richardson for ten years. She is a CPA and CGFO.

Donald Deis '75 graduated with a B.A. in business administration and is first holder of the Ennis & Virginia Joslin Endowed Chair in Accounting at A&M-Corpus Christi. Previously, Don was the Ernst & Young Endowed Professor and doctoral program director at Louisiana State University and Joseph Silviso Distinguished Director of the School of Accountancy at the University of Missouri. Don’s primary research and teaching interests include auditor independence, audit quality, corporate governance, forensic accounting, and outsourcing by governments, and he is associate editor or editorial board member of five journals. He holds certifications as a CPA and CGFM and is active in the American Accounting Association, having served on its National Council in 2001-2002 and as president of the Government & Nonprofit Section. He is a former board member of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy and the American Institute of CPAs and has affiliations with the Government Performance Accountability Committee, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and Corpus Christi Rotary Club. Don

and his wife, Kathy, who is also a graduate of A&M-Corpus Christi, are founding members of the A&M-Corpus Christi Area Alumni Association. Don was President of the Alumni Association in 1983-84. They are new grandparents, with one grandson, Blake Alexander Deis, and avid golfers, boaters, and beach lovers.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Liza Mucheru-Wisner '04 graduated with a B.S. in computer science. She is currently studying for her master’s degree in Educational Technology while working as a system support specialist in Graduate Studies and Research at A&M-Corpus Christi. Her husband, Denis Wisner '05, graduated with a B.A. in history, cum laude, and is currently pursuing his master’s degree in history. He is a Corpus Christi ISD world geography teacher at Moody High School. They have a new son named Zaleik.

Brenda Samudio '03 graduated with a B.A. in sociology and is currently a principal in the Robstown ISD. She and her family, including husband, Lee Roy, son Leonel, and daughter Lizabelle will be moving to Hawaii this summer.

Maria Bondarenko '01 graduated with an M.S. in computer science. She finished her M.A. degree in energy and mineral resources at UT. She has been working with Dell since 1999. Maria gave birth to a daughter in October 2005 and now says she is “the happiest mom on earth!” She salutes her classmates of '98 and '01 and offers a big heartfelt “Thanks” to all in the Computer Science Department.

Patrick Keller '00 graduated with a B.S. in computer science and a minor in mathematics. He resides in San Antonio and is part of the Southwest Research Institute. His hobbies include teaching recreational diving, scuba diving, golf, mountain biking and fishing. He is currently attending UTSA for GRAD EE.

Cindy Reagan '93 graduated with an M.S. in computer science and was promoted to associate director of Computing and Information Services in September 2006 at Texas A&M University–Kingsville.

O B Garcia '54 graduated with a B.S. in mathematics and retired after 39 years in education, 32 of those years in administration. He is currently the teacher

recruitment coordinator for the College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. During homecoming week 2007 he was named president-elect of the National Alumni Association. During his administrative career he served as state president for the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. He has worked 12 years for Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Patricia Hill '06 graduated with both a B.S. and M.S. in occupational training and development while working full-time at A&M-Corpus Christi. She taught at Gregory-Portland ISD, and upon returning to A&M-Corpus Christi in 2000, took a job working in the Office of Admissions and Records. Patricia is currently the director of the Academic Advising Transition Center. After earning her Ph.D. in counselor education in December 2006, Patricia realized education is a continual process that opens the door to social mobility and economic, personal and professional success. Among the highlights of her life is to meet prospective students and let them know “You can achieve your dreams too!”

Lisa Perez '94 graduated with a B.S. in kinesiology and received her master’s in education at Texas State University-San Marcos in 1996. She married Charles Perez and they have two children, Xavier Amadeo, 4, and Amarilisa Mia, 2. Lisa was employed with CCISD as a reading teacher and coach from 1996 through 2006 and as assistant director of Recreational Sports at A&M-Corpus Christi from 2000 through 2004. She was honored with the young Alumni Award in 2004. Lisa is co-owner of Grand Canyon Equity Partners, LLC, with her husband’s family and is also director of the University Center and Student Activities at A&M-Corpus Christi. Lisa was recently appointed to the Association College Unions International Region 12 Leadership Team.

Candy Hein '87 graduated with an M.S. in occupational education and is currently vice president for Institutional Advancement at Texas A&M International University. Candy is a proud grandmother of three and serves as president of the International Good Neighbor Council. She is also an active member of United Way and the Laredo Boys and Girls Club.

Juan Adame '83 graduated with a B.S. in occupational education. The former Corpus

Christi Fire Chief was appointed Fire Chief for Austin last February.

Marlana Thomas '70 graduated with a B.S. in elementary education and has been teaching tier reading for second and third graders in Brownfield, Texas for the past 10 and a half years. She has been teaching in the field for a total of 37 years.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Jetté Faith Momant '05 graduated with a B.A. in psychology. After college, Jetté moved to Austin and interned with Denise Walpole of Soiree Weddings, where she discovered that one of her fortés is unique event design. She started Décor Jetté Event Design and Decoration, an event planning business with an emphasis on “on the edge” and avant-garde décor. While building up her own business, she assisted Vivian Miller of Fairy Tale Weddings and Special Events. She became the event designer for Austin’s largest monthly business networking luncheon, What Goes Around, and worked as the gallery/event/catering coordinator at Chez Zee American Bistro. Jetté is currently the exclusive event coordinator for Plant Escape Garden/Diaz Art Gallery.

Terri Howe '04 graduated with a B.A. in communications and an M.S. in counseling from A&M-Corpus Christi. She is currently the assistant director of Career Services at A&M-Corpus Christi. She has worked for the University in various roles for a total of ten years.

Margaret Hite '01 graduated with a B.F.A. in art and works in multiple medias, including raku pottery, silkscreen, watercolor and oils. Among her recent endeavors, last year Margaret designed and created an ornament to represent Nelson County (Ky) on the My Old Kentucky Christmas Tree in the state capitol. The ornament depicted

the Federal Hill mansion and old county courthouse together with images of the spirits in “A Christmas Carol.”

Cecilia Gamez '98 graduated with a B.S. in criminal justice and was a member of the first charter class at A&M-Corpus Christi. She works as a police officer and coordinator/supervisor for the Crime Records Bureau of the McAllen Police Department. Cecilia led key initiatives to bring technological advances in the department’s record management system. In collaboration with other divisions, she maintained the McAllen sex offender database and monthly crime reports for the City of McAllen. She also publishes the annual racial profiling report for the McAllen Police Department. You may visit her website at: www.mcallen.net/police.

Giovanna Carrera '97 graduated with a B.S. in criminal justice. After graduating, Giovanna moved west and earned her master’s degree in communication management from the University of Southern California. She is assistant director of the Public Affairs and Special Events Office at the Annenberg School for Communication at USC, where she heads up the special events and marketing efforts. She is married to A&M-Corpus Christi 1996 alumnus Chad Goetz. They reside in Pasadena, California.

Michael Arnold '97 graduated with a B.A. in history and is currently assistant vice president - branch manager of Merrill Lynch in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

George Viada '94 graduated with a B.A. in communications. Since graduating, George has held a number of positions in the fast-food industry in the Corpus Christi area.

James E. Barlow '85 graduated with a B.A. in history. He enrolled at Corpus Christi State University in the early 1980s while working on the city desk of the *Corpus Christi Caller-*

Times. In early 1986 he joined the Houston Chronicle as a reporter. In 1988, Jim married Christine Miller and they moved to Lubbock. Jim joined Texas Tech University as a science writer in 1991 and won an award in medical and scientific feature writing from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In late 1992, Jim was named life sciences editor for the news bureau at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he remained for 14 years. In July 2006, he became director of science and research communications at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Their son Andy graduated from Champaign (Ill.) Central High School in May 1996 and plans to enter the University of Oregon in fall 2007.

Joseph Piegari '70 graduated with a B.A. in history and is currently corporate vice president of Human Resources at B/E Aerospace, Inc. in Wellington, Florida.

Gary Cotter '70 graduated with a B.A. in history and is in his 29th year as a certified financial planner. He and his wife, Shirley, moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1989. Gary has been quoted in The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, local newspapers in Texas and Florida and many financial services industry publications. He has published over 100 articles on estate planning, taxes and investments, and is currently hard at work on a book designed to guide baby boomers through the retirement maze. Gary holds a master’s degree from the State University of New York at Albany and has done further graduate work in business and economics at the University of South Florida.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Mary Nunez '78 graduated with a B.S. and has been working for the State of Texas for the past 19 years at the Health and Human Service Commission in Brownsville, Texas.

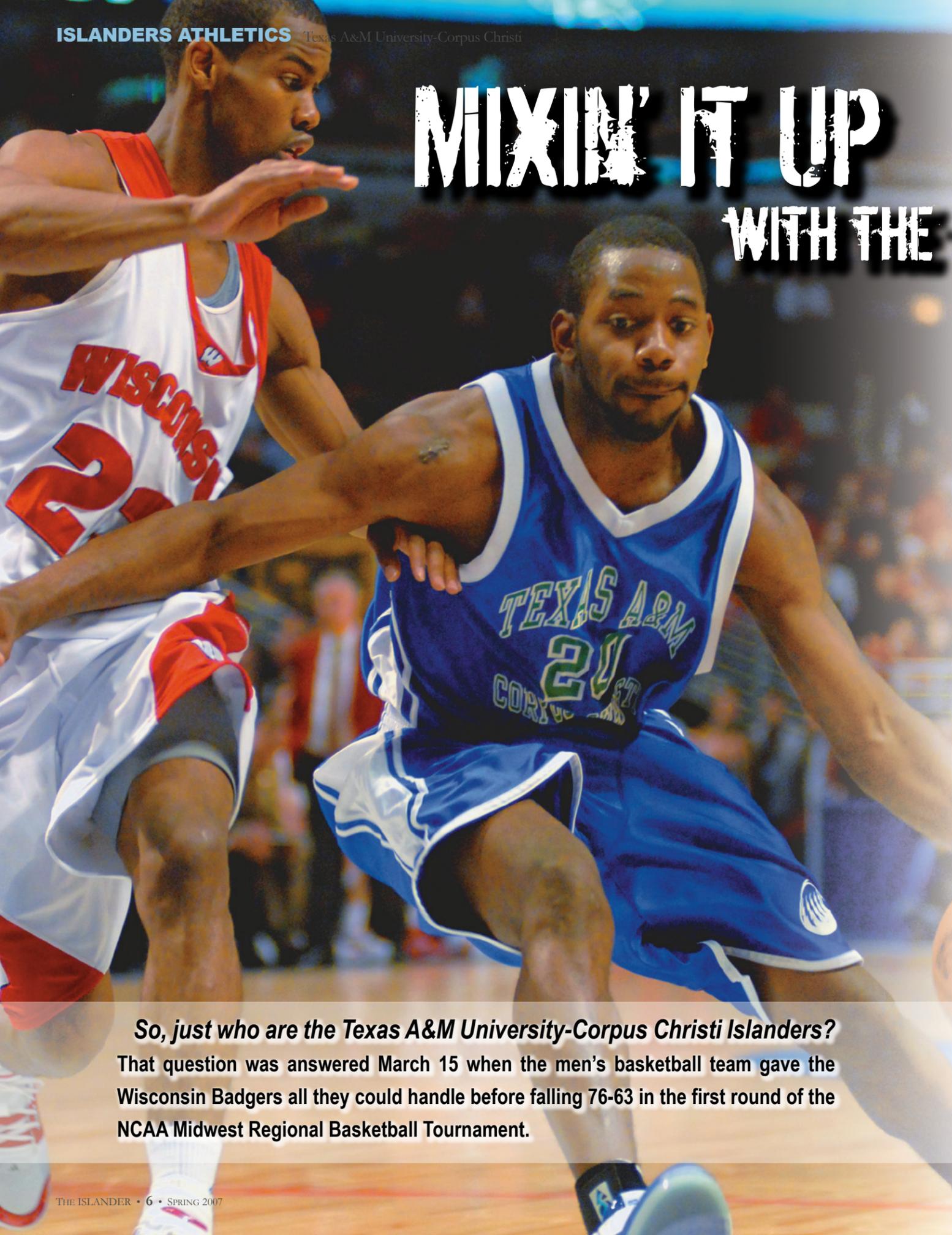
ALUMNI

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www.islandernetwork.com

The *Islander* magazine would like to feature YOU in their next publication.

MIXIN' IT UP WITH THE BIG BOYS



Islander guard Taurean Mitchell goes high to deny the ball to a Wisconsin player.

The Islanders entered the tournament as a virtual unknown, but for much of the game college basketball fans throughout the country were glued to their televisions as the Islanders started the game with a 10-0 run against the Badgers, who were ranked third in the nation and spent a week atop the national polls. A&M-Corpus Christi extended its advantage to 27-6 with less than 10 minutes to play in the first half and held a 27-19 lead before the Badgers mounted their comeback.

"I wish the game would have ended at halftime," head coach Ronnie Arrow says. "I think we represented the conference well and hopefully this will be the first of many trips to the NCAA tournament."

In their first year of Southland Conference play, the Islanders took the regular-season title with a 14-2 record then swept three opponents to win the conference's postseason tournament to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Prior to leaving for the tournament in Chicago, Arrow appeared on several national television shows including ESPN's "Outside the Lines" with Bob Ley and an ESPN News tournament segment. In addition, the Islander coach did radio interviews with stations from across Texas, Wisconsin and other states. A&M-Corpus Christi was also featured in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Sun Times*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and other major newspapers.

The Islanders were the only school from Texas to win both the regular season conference title and a league title, and for the first time in school history they received votes in the Associated Press Top-25 Poll.

"I am very proud of our guys for the way they represented this university. We will be saying goodbye to six seniors that have left their mark on this institution and made history while playing for the Islanders," Arrow says. "To come in the first year and win the conference really says a lot about this program and where it has come in the last eight years."



Forward Seth Engleken splits two Badger defenders and heads to the basket.

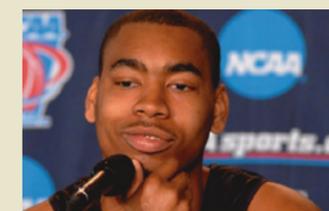
ACCOLADES & UPDATES



Ronnie Arrow was named the Southland Conference Coach of the Year and senior center Chris Daniels grabbed Player of the Year honors after Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi won both the conference

championship and postseason tournament in the Islanders' first year of conference basketball competition.

In Arrow's eighth season at the helm, the Islanders, compiled a 26-6 record and advanced to the NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament in Chicago, where they took on Wisconsin before a national television audience. It was the third straight 20-plus win season for Arrow, who has compiled a 66-22 record over the last three years.



Chris Daniels, a 7-foot, 265-pound center, averaged 15.3 points, 6.7 rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game in his senior season. His 59 percent shooting from the floor (175-295) ranked fifth in the conference. He

also holds the school record with 115 blocked shots in his collegiate career.

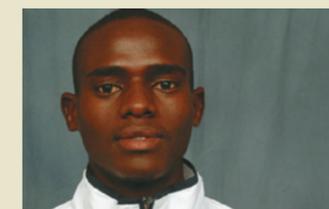


Senior **Josh Washington**, who ranked 12th in the conference with an average of 13 points per game, joined Daniels on the All-SLC first team, making A&M-Corpus Christi the only squad with two first-team selections.



In women's basketball, Senior **Kirbria Lewis** was a first-team All Southland Conference pick and was named Defensive Player of the Year. Lewis finished the season with a league-leading 89 and is the Islanders'

all-time leader in steals and assists. Lewis finished second in steals and was ninth in scoring with 13.8 points a game, pulling down an average of 5.7 rebounds per game.



Already the first All-America in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi history, **Shadrack Songok** became the Islanders' first two-time All-America after he placed 19th with a time of 31:23 in the 10,000 meters at the

NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terre Haute, Ind.

Songok, who last June earned All-America honors in outdoor track with a fifth-place finish, was four seconds off the leader's time at the mid-point with a time of 15:23. The sophomore was the first runner from the Southland Conference to cross the finish line. The top 20 finishers in each event earn All-America honors.

So, just who are the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Islanders?

That question was answered March 15 when the men's basketball team gave the Wisconsin Badgers all they could handle before falling 76-63 in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional Basketball Tournament.

Maroney's Retirement Marks End of Era at Island University



In the nearly half century since Dr. Robert Maroney joined the faculty of the University of Corpus Christi, he has seen it all, from the devastation of the campus by Hurricane Celia in 1970 to its rebirth and evolution into Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, one of nine major universities in the Texas A&M System.

Maroney, 71, retired in January and was honored during halftime of the Islanders' basketball game against Texas State. At that time, the University's College of Education announced the creation of the Bob Maroney Scholarship and presented the first six recipients with \$250 scholarships. The College of Education plans to raise \$10,000 to create an endowment that will provide scholarships to students each year.

"We've gone from having no buildings to the modern campus we have today," says Maroney, whose tenure covered 46 years and three University name changes. "Every time I had an opportunity to go someplace else I didn't because I liked it here better. I liked the administrators, the faculty and the students."

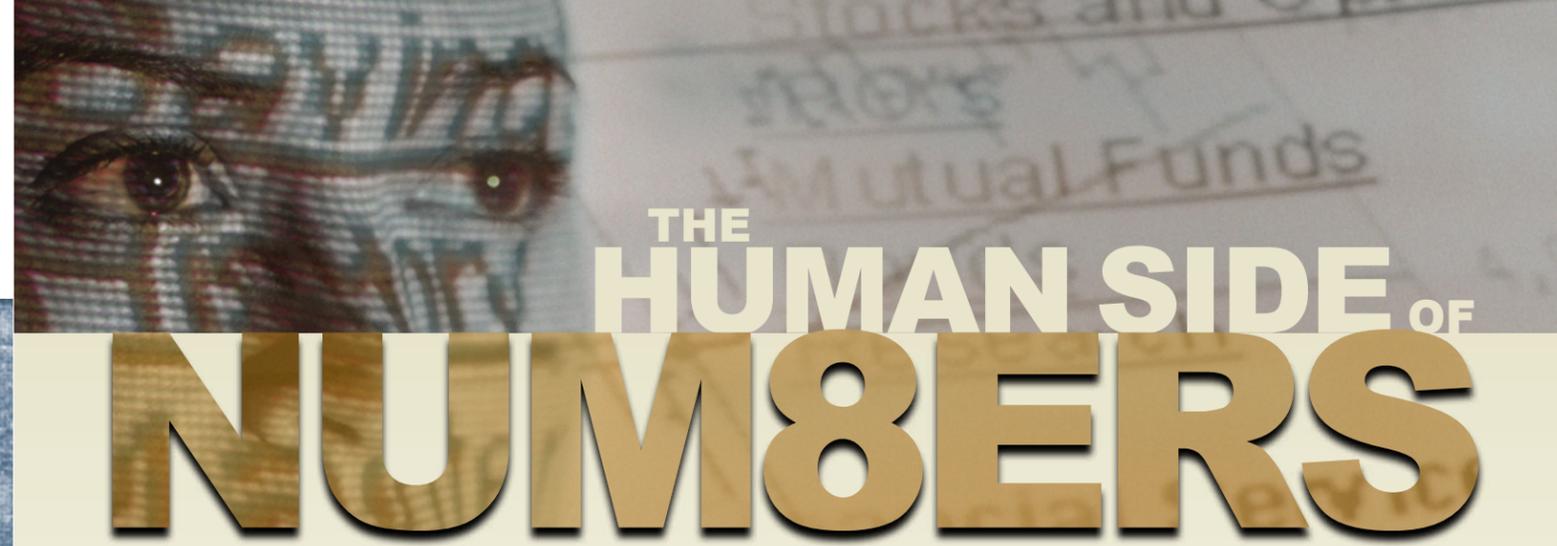
It's fitting that Maroney, who was presented with a rocking chair and lifetime tickets to Islander home games, should be honored during a basketball game. After starting on the court for Austin College in the 1950s, he became head basketball coach at Lipan High School, building a 1A powerhouse before taking a job as assistant basketball coach at the University of Corpus Christi in 1961 at age 25. A year later he was promoted to head basketball coach. During the last nine years of his tenure, he was the faculty athletics representative and, to this day, he is a regular feature at Islander basketball games.

For many years, Maroney split his time between the physical education department and the College of Education. But in 1985 he went to work full time in the College of Education and served as director of teacher certification and as both associate and assistant dean.

To make a donation to the scholarship fund, contact the College of Education at (361) 825-2662.



Bob Maroney works with a student in the gym during the 1970s.



Each spring for the last three years, College of Business graduate student Shelley Knight has participated in the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helping low income individuals and families with their tax returns. And while she's gained valuable accounting experience, her motivation is the satisfaction she gets from helping other people.

"I understand a lot about personal taxes but by working with the VITA program I've learned that things aren't always as they seem," says Knight. "To do the best job possible you have to get to know the client and gain their trust. I deal with all kinds of people, from single parents to college student to senior citizens, and I do my best to make the system work well for them."

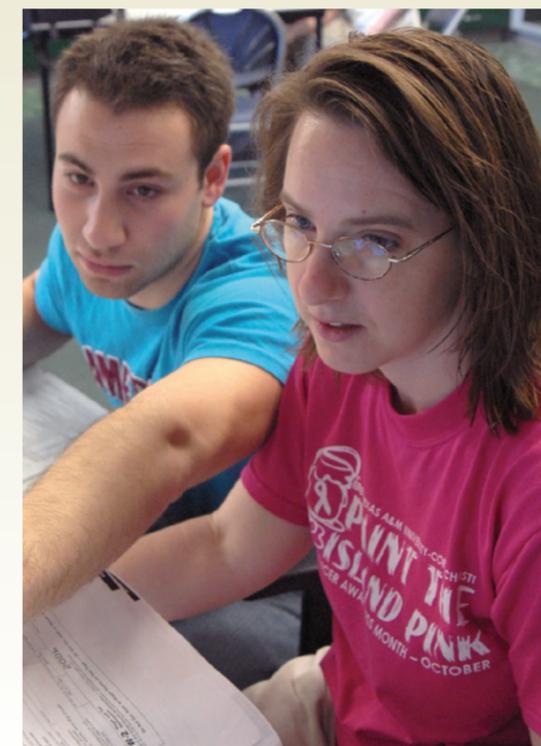
Knight graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a bachelor's degree in business management in 1993. She has worked in the University's Accounting Department for six years and is currently pursuing a certified public accountant license.

"Sometimes a person's information doesn't fit the situation, and I look for things that will

Students like Knight defy the stereotype of the solitary accountant who sits in front of a computer for hours each day, crunching numbers at a desk buried beneath stacks of complicated forms piled high enough to be a danger to low-flying aircraft. According to Jerry Love, chairman of the Texas Society of Public Accountants, today's successful accountants must be more than professional consultants. They must be trusted advisors who know more about their clients than what is revealed on W2 and 1099 forms.

Love brought that point home recently when he spent a day talking with students in the College of Business about the realities of the business world. Being good with numbers, he says, just isn't enough anymore.

"Today an accountant must have people skills," he says. "It is extremely vital that you build relationships with your clients and listen to what they have to say," he says. "Most of the time, when people change accountants it's not due to poor quality work but because of a lack of communication between the accountant and their client. I can look at numbers and they talk to me. But I still must 'drill down' and



Graduate student Shelley Knight helps a fellow student with his tax return.

talk to that person to find out the underlying causes for their financial problems and devise a remedy." But developing interpersonal skills goes beyond helping clients. According to Love, while a student's grade point average will get a foot in the door, networking is the key to future opportunities.

"I always tell students that what you know

"Many people are very thankful because they really needed the help, and that gives me a lot of personal satisfaction." Shelley Knight

help them," she says. "Many people are very thankful because they really needed the help, and that gives me a lot of personal satisfaction."

"I always tell students that what you know

Finding joy in the success of STUDENTS

As a successful entrepreneur Wally DeVille has spent the past years traveling the world, yet her heart remains in Corpus Christi.

"South Texas has been my home for many years, and Corpus Christi offered me the opportunity to grow in my profession and serve others," Ms. DeVille says.

"We must all do our part to create ways to improve where we live. The best and brightest students should be given all the opportunities possible to succeed."

Through her estate plan, Ms. DeVille will provide scholarships for graduate students in math and science.

Learn more about life-long giving opportunities at:

tamucc.giftlegacy.com or
Office of Planned Giving
361.825.2763 or
cathy.hurley@tamucc.edu

PULSE!!

SERIOUS RESEARCH... SERIOUS GAME

“Pulse!! offers an opportunity to change how military physicians learn to treat injuries from the battlefield to the home front. It could, more broadly, change the future face of medical education in our country.”

U.S. Representative Solomon Ortiz

You watch a flight surgeon, nurse and medical technician guide a gurney bearing a wounded soldier and a rack of medical monitoring equipment into the intensive care unit of the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.

The soldier has just arrived from Bagh-

dad, Iraq, via Landstuhl, Germany, where he was wounded by an improvised explosive device. He's taken to Room 10 of the ICU.

The scene fades to black, suddenly you're no longer watching. You're in ICU Room 10, and you've become the attending physician.

The soldier's treatment is in your hands. You hear the sights and sounds of the ICU through your headphones. Use your virtual stethoscope, and the patient's heartbeat throbs in your ears.

Welcome to Pulse!! The Virtual Clinical Learning Lab, a high-tech computer learning platform that replicates in three-dimensional space the sights, sounds, symptoms and synergies of critical care in the real world.

There is nothing like it anywhere else – and it all started at the Island University.

Dr. Claudia L. Johnston, associate vice president for special projects at A&M-Corpus Christi, the originator of and principal investigator for this multimillion-dollar federal research project, says Pulse!! attracts a lot of attention no matter where she demonstrates it, from conventions for

game developers to conferences for researchers devoted to exploring medical applications for cyber-technology.

“I'll start the platform and suddenly I've got a crowd,” says Johnston, a veteran faculty member and administrator at A&M-Corpus Christi.

“There are other medical simulators out there and other projects to develop computer-assisted medical training, but there's nothing like Pulse!!” says Johnston. “We're building something that's never been built before to find out whether clinical thinking and complex medical skill sets can be learned in virtual space.

“It's not a game, but we're using cutting-edge game-based technologies, and we're pushing our private-sector vendor to accomplish things that haven't been attempted before in terms of authentic visual detail and interactive fidelity,” Johnston stresses.

Dr. Flavius Killebrew, president of A&M-Corpus Christi, says Pulse!! dovetails with the university's high academic standards and aspirations.

“The work undertaken by the Pulse!! project's highly-skilled team puts A&M-Corpus Christi further on the technology map because of the ingenuity exercised in developing top-flight methods for medical training,” says Killebrew. “The collaborative efforts on both the project's creation and testing support our academic and research strengths.”

Three prestigious medical institutions have agreed to serve as Pulse!! test sites: Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn.; The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md.; and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Two years of field tests began in January.



Pulse!! up close: Learning platform users may adjust the airway depth of the patient's endotracheal tube (ET). The Pulse!! high-fidelity platform is set in the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.



Nurses in the Pulse!! Virtual Learning Platform administer IV fluids and take the patient's temperature while a corpsman stands at the ready. The virtual patient's vital signs are shown in real time in the inset monitor.

A&M-Corpus Christi hired commercial game developer BreakAway Ltd. of Hunt Valley, Md., to help produce the Pulse!! learning platform. The University's Office of Special Projects has created an on-campus production studio for a crew of BreakAway programmers, artists and animators overseen by Executive Producer Ed Fletcher and on-site Producer Ben Hanson.

Doug Whatley, founder and CEO of BreakAway Ltd. calls the Pulse!! project a trail-blazing collaboration.

“We're thrilled to be collaborating with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and these esteemed institutions to validate the tools and technolo-

gies for this first high-fidelity, persistent, 3-D virtual learning environment,” Whatley says.

The project is funded through the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and has been strongly supported through the congressional budget process by U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Readiness and Military Construction. Funding to date is almost \$10 million.

“Pulse!! offers an opportunity to change how military physicians learn to treat injuries from the battlefield to the home front,” Ortiz says. “It could, more broadly, change the future face of medical education in our country.”

The Pulse!! concept has captured the attention of U.S. military officials as a way to train medical personnel quickly and effectively in the intensive care of battle wounds, which continuously evolve with weapons systems and frontline medical techniques.

Cmdr. James R. Dunne, chief of trauma/surgical critical care at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, says he is eager to employ the Pulse!! platform.

“I am very excited to be a part of this project because I can see the tremendous potential it has for just-in-time training as well as sustainment training, in regards to combat casualty care,” says Dunne.

Hitting the R.O.A.D.

After spending eight years as an elementary school teacher in the Ingleside Independent School District, Patricia Durham has seen first-hand how many students lose interest in the written word as they advance through the public school system. Determined to do what she can to help reverse that worrisome trend,

literature appreciation," says Durham. "Through this program we plan to introduce them to high quality fiction and nonfiction for young readers."

Durham, who in 2004 received her master's degree in curriculum instruction with an emphasis in reading, wrote the grant as an assignment for a graduate class. However, the inspiration was born eight years earlier, when she was thinning out the books

"Just by learning why students do or do not read we're going to be successful. We can't lose."

Patricia Durham

the doctoral student in the University's College of Education is taking the fight for literacy on the road armed with a grant from the Verizon-Reads Foundation.

The grant, which is renewable for up to three years, is funding the R.O.A.D. (Read One a Day) literacy outreach program to promote reading comprehension and increase motivation for middle school students. Between March and May of this year, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi undergraduate students are working with more than 200 fifth graders in the Ingleside Independent School District. During their visits, the University students hold literacy sessions, book talks, and reading symposiums.

"By fifth grade many students are becoming less interested in reading, and we need to reverse this decline in

her two young children had on their shelves. Rather than throw them away, Durham donated the books to a local daycare center and was struck by how much the simple gesture meant to other parents. When Chair of Educational Administration Dr. Carol Sherritt assigned a grant-writing project, that experience popped into Durham's head right way.

Durham's first step after receiving the grant was to contact area school libraries to see which fiction and nonfiction books are popular with fourth- and fifth-graders. Once the list was compiled, it was gleaned down to seven high-quality books, and a copy of each was given to 200 students in the Ingleside ISD. Working in pairs, Durham's 14 undergraduate "literacy leaders" then pitched the books to the students, who chose in which order they would read them. Over seven weeks, Durham and her assistants return to the school three times to lead discussion groups. At the end of each session, students fill out a questionnaire.

"Through the questionnaires we hope to see what motivates students to read," says Durham. "Just by learning why students do or do not read, we're going to be successful. We can't lose."

While literacy is a major concern for all school districts, Durham chose to focus on the rural market to strengthen the University's connection to the outlying areas of the Coastal Bend region. Students who complete the program attend a banquet



Patricia Durham (center) accepts a generous grant from the VerizonReads Foundation.

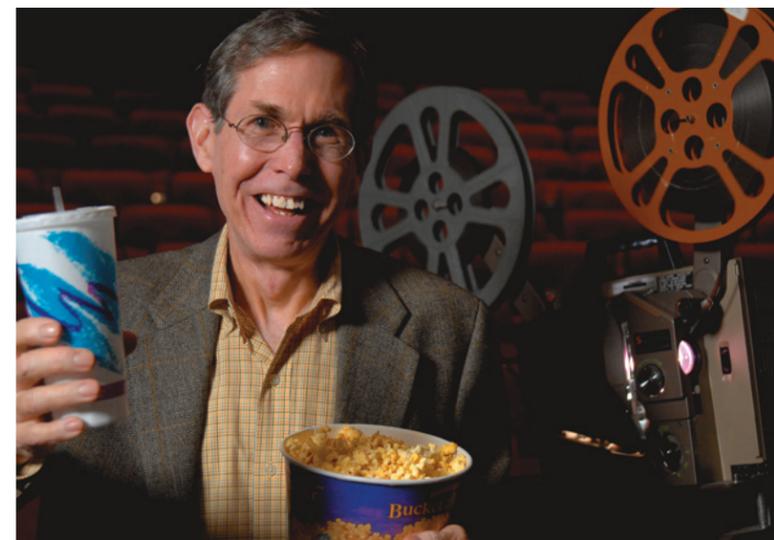
at the University, where they receive a tour of the campus and graduate as R.O.A.D. scholars.

"Literacy is one of the Verizon Foundation's major funding priorities," said Steve Banta, Verizon Southwest Region president. "This program is a wonderful example of serving the community's literacy needs, and Verizon is pleased to partner with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi through this grant."



Patricia Durham discusses a book with a student.

Lights, Camera, Popcorn!



Movie buff Bill Huie's interests range from the Tinseltown classics to cutting-edge independent films.

Talk movies with Bill Huie for even a few minutes and it's easy to imagine him as a young boy sitting in a theater on a Saturday afternoon, popcorn and soft drink in hand, watching a 1960s sci-fi thriller or the latest romantic adventure starring Elvis Presley.

But long before he became a born-again film buff, Huie was an avid reader with no particular interest in the silver screen. In fact, it wasn't until after he'd earned his master's degree in English from the University of Texas that Huie realized telling a story through a camera lens takes as much talent as putting a tale down in words.

and, more than 30 years later, he is arguably the authority on motion pictures in South Texas.

"Cinema is a medium to which we are all receptive and there are analogies to a good story on screen and a great novel or short story," Huie says. "Young people tune in more readily to movies than literary devices in written form, and there are so many films with wonderfully constructed stories that a good movie can also be a learning experience."

But students in Huie's classes don't just "veg out" on celluloid entertainment, educational or not. Each semester his students watch a select series of films based on theme, diver-

"I was never a big fan of movies growing up," admits Huie. "It wasn't until I was teaching and saw that one of my colleagues was using short films as a discussion starter in his classes that the bug bit me."

Huie returned to school and earned his Ph.D. in film and communications from the University of Texas. In 1974, he joined the Corpus Christi University faculty as an assistant professor of film and communications

sity or culture and write papers critiquing the artists' works. Huie goes a step further and each semester hosts the "University Cinema," a public Wednesday night forum featuring notable movies and post-screening discussion.

And while viewers may see such classics as Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion" or John Ford's "How Green Was My Valley," they're just as likely to be treated to the latest offering by the Coen brothers, the makers of several modern cult favorites including "Raising Arizona" and "The Big Lebowski."

For the last 16 years Huie has also collaborated with South Texas Public Broadcasting and the South Texas Institute for the Arts on "The Territory," a five-week series of one-hour television programs featuring screening and discussion of film and video works by independent media artists. The project is also funded in part by the Arts and Cultural Commission of the City of Corpus Christi.

According to Huie, "Territory" is an important vehicle for exposing people to movies that are out of the mainstream. Most of them, he pointed out, will never be aired in theaters because the movies in the big cinemas are what Hollywood expects the public to like based on past experience.

"The films we show by independent filmmakers are important because they push the envelope," Huie says. "They're cutting edge stuff that exposes the viewer to new and different techniques. They broaden the movie experience, and many times people find them a refreshing change from the standard movie fare."

University Theatre Makes a Splash with Bloody Poetry

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's production of "Bloody Poetry," British playwright Howard Brenton's fact-based drama about Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley, received eight awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's (KC/ACTF) Texas Region I competition.

For the second year in a row, the University's production was selected for performances at the Region VI Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In addition to winning the Critic's Choice Award, the cast and crew of "Bloody Poetry" received seven other awards. Winners were: Phil Johnson, Outstanding Set Design and Outstanding Lighting Design; Jeanne Travis, Outstanding Sound Design; Ryan Couch, Outstanding Acting Award; and Will Sessions, Daniel Mirsky and Charissa Granerio, the Irene Ryan Acting Award.

The cast of characters in "Bloody Poetry" includes the famous English Romantic literary celebrities Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary



Islander Thespians perform a scene from 'Bloody Poetry.'

Shelley and Claire Clairemont. Based on the historic meeting of the Shelleys and Byron at Lake Geneva, Switzerland, in 1816, the play follows the characters on a stormy voyage toward radicalism, free love, revolution, politics and a search for the meaning of artistic sacrifice. These virtues and vices are explored in this extraordinary dream play, which begins and ends in Mary Shelley's creation of her literary monster, Frankenstein.



Making ART CONNECTIONS

Since its early days as a haven for smugglers bringing much-needed materials to Confederate rebels battling the Union Army, Corpus Christi has earned a reputation as a rough-and-tumble port where cargo-laden merchant ships sail into a harbor dominated by towering oil refineries, and as a major destination for big-game fishermen looking to battle the coveted Atlantic Tarpon.

But the lush semi-tropical city is also a hidden jewel of art and culture fused from a

unique blend of North American, European and Hispanic influences. Nowhere is that more evident than at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, where for more than 10 years, the University has enriched the community through its affiliation with the South Texas Institute for the Arts, which consists of the Art Museum of South Texas and the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center.

Dr. Elizabeth Reese, who directs the University galleries program and is also a member

of the Board of Governors for the Art Museum of South Texas, says she is keenly aware of the significance of this affiliation. Reese cites that this alliance benefits the entire community by creating opportunities for students to study and work with a renowned art collection. There are also extended collaborations between the Art Museum and the University's Department of Art.

Since 1972, the gleaming white walls of the Art Museum of South Texas have been a

“ Having an off-campus gallery helps the University strengthen its ties to the community by making art easily accessible to the public. At the same time, the students who work on the projects learn how to handle art and hang an exhibition, which is an important part of the curriculum. ”

Elizabeth Reese



Two students at the Islander Art Gallery.



A recent addition to the Art Museum of South Texas features 13 roof-top pyramids.



Artist Jesus Morales explains his work with granite to art students.

landmark along the Corpus Christi Bay. Designed by Philip Johnson, the three-level facility is adorned with expansive windows that provide stunning views of Corpus Christi Bay. In October 2006, the museum added further to the city's skyline with the opening of an additional building designed by modernist architect

Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico City. The expansion, which nearly doubled the museum's size, features 13 roof-top pyramids and stunning use of color and light.

The William B. and Maureen Miller building, named for the lead donors, includes classrooms, galleries, offices, a café, courtyard, fountain and gift shop, a performing arts studio, auditorium, digital studio classroom and two children's galleries. The galleries were created for teaching children about art and giving University students the opportunity to become museum professionals.

On Corpus Christi's west side, the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center at 2021 Agnes St. connects the University to the community by providing after-school programs, art exhibits, meeting places for community organizations, cultural programs, and various educational programs. The Garcia Center houses the Life Enhancement and Academic Direction (LEAD) program, which provides programming for at-risk youth and their parents and seeks to help improve family cohesiveness, parenting skills, and coping skills. Other Garcia Center programs include career fairs, community celebrations, youth leadership academies and seminars.

The center began as the Center for Hispanic Arts in 1993 to showcase works by Hispanic artists and to bring art into the West Side community. It became part of the South Texas Institute for the Arts four years later. In 1998, the center was named the Antonio E. Garcia Arts Education Center. In 2004, the responsi-

bility for the center was shifted to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's College of Education, and offerings at the center were expanded to add educational and counseling programming.

Outside the Islander Art Gallery, at the intersection of Staples and Weber streets in Corpus Christi, the hustle and bustle of everyday life goes on as usual. But inside, patrons were confronted last fall by the stark reality of the war in Iraq as the faces of American soldiers came alive, staring back at the viewer in stark black and white. The first thought to strike most visitors was that these 21st century warriors are so young—young enough to be the kid next door.

Without the Islander Art Gallery, it's doubtful that more than a handful of Corporal Rey Leal's friends would have ever seen the collection of powerful photographs he took while patrolling the Euphrates River with the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines last year. But thanks to a group of A&M-Corpus Christi graduate photography students under the direction of art professor Barbara Riley, "Images of Iraq" became one of the gallery's most successful shows of the year. The students enlarged and mounted the photos, then took great care in hanging and lighting them on the bare white walls that served to make the pictures even more graphic.

"Having an off-campus gallery helps the University strengthen its ties to the community by making art easily accessible to the public," says Reese. "At the same time, the students who work on the projects learn how to handle art

and hang an exhibition, which is an important part of the curriculum."

Like the Islander Art Gallery, the Weil Gallery in the University's Center for the Arts exhibits the work of both students and nationally renowned artists. Each showing is kicked off by an opening reception where students can interact with the artists and learn more about their medium, whether it's sculpting, painting, chiseling or printmaking.

Reese's primary goal is to build a bridge between the art department and the other colleges on campus. During a recent photo exhibition of homeless children in Eastern Europe, she invited criminal justice professor Dorothy McClellan to speak. Dr. McClellan, who spent much of 2002 through 2004 in Croatia

and other Eastern European countries on a Fulbright Senior Lectureship, was the driving force behind the creation of the "International Conference on Children's Rights for the 21st Century." When the Weil Gallery featured Jesus Bautista Morales' "Musical Granite Dreamscapes" exhibition, geology students wrote papers interpreting his art.

"Art should be seen through a prism from all perspectives" Reese says. "For instance, when we featured the exhibition of art carved in granite, we used geology as a point of departure for the interpretation of those works."

While the Weil Gallery is located on campus, there is still a strong connection forged with the community through programs that bring both students and educators to the Uni-

versity for special events and continuing education. These programs benefit the University and give faculty the information needed to make art come alive in the classroom. Reese is also writing grant requests that would finance trips for high school and middle school students in financially strapped school districts.

"So many school districts are having to cut back on field trips," says Reese. "If we can bring students onto campus, in addition to learning about art, they can experience the academic environment one finds at a university."

The museum's expansive windows provide a scenic view of Corpus Christi Bay.





TAKING THE TIDES BY STORM

Navigating the Gulf of Mexico's ever-changing coastline has been a challenge for sea-faring explorers since Amerigo Vespucci sailed into Campeche Bay in the late 15th century. But today, the Texas Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) provides critical data to help sea captains chart a safe course for vessels entering the 350-mile stretch of coastline along the Gulf's northwest rim.

In 1989, researchers at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Conrad Blucher Institute for Survey and Science installed a state-of-the-art water-level measurement system along the Texas coast. Two years later, the network of more than 40 water-level gauges became TCOON, which operates under the direction of the Texas General Land Office in cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board, the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"The TCOON stations along the Texas coast make up the densest tide network in the world," says Dr. Gary Jeffress, director of the Blucher Institute. "Unlike NOAA's cal-

culations, which rely strictly on the change in water level based on the gravitational forces of the sun and moon, TCOON stations take wind, current and other factors into account to provide a real-time navigational system available by voice to all ship captains."

The system of 33 active stations collects information at six-minute intervals to establish tidal data, provide high-quality water level information, and prepare affected communities for oncoming hurricanes and tropical storms. TCOON information is also used for oil-spill preparation and response, oceanic and environmental research, and coastal engineering and construction. In addition, the Corps of Engineers has utilized TCOON data for dredging operations and management of the state's coastal waterways.

The TCOON network includes 26 Sutron tide monitoring stations that provide tide-related data to merchant ships navigating through ports and along coastlines. The stations consist of a data logger, a modem, a satellite transmitter, I/O modules and termination boards that are connected to an array

of sensors for measuring weather and related data. Water-level data and other environmental parameters are made available in near-real time via packet radio, cellular telephone and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite.

TCOON also has seven long-term stations established by NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) as part of its National Water Level Observation Network. In addition to water level data, most stations provide supplemental data on wind speed and direction, air temperature and water temperature. Additional stations provide data on water current, salinity, pH and dissolved oxygen.

Each station contains sensors to measure various environmental parameters; a data collection computer for controlling the sensors and temporarily storing data on-site; one or more telemetry devices for retrieving and transmitting data, including satellite, spread-spectrum packet radio, and telephone modem; and solar panels and batteries for power. Each station's instrument configuration is determined by the purpose of the station and

local conditions.

"This real-time water current data helps petroleum-laden ships avoid shallow waters as they depart port," says Jeffress. "With a maximum depth of 45 feet, the ship channel can be difficult to navigate and, even at high tide, winds can prevent the waters from reaching their maximum depth."

According to Jeffress, data collected on channel conditions is converted to voice and made accessible to ships by mobile telephone. TCOON is also developing software to predict surges from tropical storms that could affect the channel. The data is also posted on the NOAA Web site and charted on a graph along with NOAA's calculations.

To manage the large volume of information collected, TCOON has developed a database management system that supplies data to sponsors and the public via the internet. The information is available on the A&M-Corpus Christi's Division of Nearshore Research Web site <http://lighthouse.tamucc.edu> and through telephone response systems.

The Safe Escape

Having achieved success with the TCOON network, researchers and surveyors at the Blucher Institute are now reevaluating the sea levels along the coast as part of a larger project to update elevation markers throughout Texas. Thousands of ground points marking elevations above sea level have deteriorated or disappeared since being put in place more than 50 years ago.

The problem is complicated by other factors such as subsidence, the sinking of land due to extraction of water, oil and natural gas, and the rise of sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice cap. These circumstances have increased the probability that a category four or five hurricane would quickly flood the highways marked as escape routes for people fleeing inland.

Blucher Institute Director Dr. Gary Jeffress provides a worst-case scenario. If a category four hurricane came ashore on North Padre Island, a 20-foot storm surge could cover that part of the island and flood major portions of Corpus Christi much like the 1919 storm did. That storm killed around 600 people and destroyed the city's North Beach and much of the downtown area, leading to the construction of the city's sea wall. A category five hurricane could flatten many buildings and result in a significant number of fatalities.

"To accurately predict what effect a hurricane will have, you have to factor in both the storm surge and the amount of rain that falls," Jeffress says. "Add in the fact that a category five storm will spawn tornado-like winds throughout the area, and you've got the potential for a serious loss of life."

The lack of up-to-date elevation data is also a problem for developers who must rely on topographical maps based on data compiled in the 1950s. A prime example is Ward Island, home of A&M-Corpus Christi, where the elevation is actually a foot lower than the 18 feet listed on the maps. The discrepancy is even greater near Rockport, where tide gauge records indicate the coastal elevation has dropped a full 18 inches since 1948.



Dr. Gary Jeffress (right) and students measure an elevation marker near the Oso Pier.

Above: The Port of Corpus Christi, the sixth busiest in the United States, is a vital catalyst to the region's economic development.

Left: TCOON stations monitor water levels along the Texas Coast.

The Art of Teaching Science



As a pre-service science teacher, Jennifer Vega looks forward to the day she will have her own classroom full of students. But her excitement has always been tempered by trepidation that her young charges would be bored by the subject she loves so much.

However, after spending an evening visiting and conducting science experiments with students and parents during “Family Science Night” at West Oso Elementary School in Corpus Christi, her fears were alleviated. Even

more important, the experience changed the way she looks at science and instilled confidence that she can make it interesting and relevant to many of the young children who lose interest in the subject before they reach high school. All it took was the look of wonder on a child’s face and the intense interest shown by the parents who dream of seeing their child going to college someday.

“The experience greatly changed my perceptions of teaching science,” says Vega, one

of approximately 50 pre-service teachers participating in the College of Science and Technology’s project to engage Hispanic students and parents in science and mathematics.

“I used to think that science was all textbook learning but now I know that it doesn’t have to be that way. Because I see that science can be fun and creative, I am not so afraid to teach science to young students.”

The Pre-Service Teachers Learning to Engage Hispanic Parents in Mathematics and

Science (PTEP) initiative is a two-year program funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation that teaches future teachers ways to reach students by increasing parental involvement. According to Dr. Cherie McCollough, a professor of life sciences at A&M-Corpus Christi, research indicates that when parents take a greater interest in their child’s education there is a direct positive impact on student achievement.

“Research shows that when parents are involved in their child’s education there are great benefits in both academics and school attendance,” says McCollough. “Sometimes cultural barriers preclude students from even considering college. But when you bridge the gap by having parents participate in their child’s education, everybody benefits.”

Before taking their show on the road, pre-service teachers participating in the project created simple science activities that students and parents could do together. In addition, materials and handouts were developed in both English and Spanish for students to take home. The activities are relatively simple and can generally be performed with common household materials but, according to McCollough, the science and math techniques employed in performing the activities become relevant, ameliorating math and science with the student’s everyday experience. On the first Family Science Night, even McCollough was surprised by the enthusiasm and interests the displays and materials generated.

“I saw my students interacting with the children and their parents, and I was blown away,” says McCollough. The excitement was palpable as the children did the experiments, and from that moment I was sold on the program.”

Topics explored on Family Science Nights include magnetism, chemical reactions, physics and simple engineering. At the evening, evalu-

ations that were collected included comments that mentioned the importance and value of learning together, of spending time together, and of seeing how much fun science could be.

“Students loved the activities and so did the parents,” McCollough says. “From the professor’s perspective, I witnessed my students take on a teacher persona wherein they became instructors and mentors, talking the talk and explaining important scientific concepts to parents and students.”

The Engaging Hispanic Parents in Mathematics and Science program is aimed at elementary and middle schools because research shows that is when students decide whether or not they like those subjects. That same research also shows that when parents become involved students lose their aversion to science and math, resulting in increased attendance and better grades.

Future elementary teacher Loni Osegueda remembers being one of the few Hispanics at her elementary school who participated in programs like Family Science Night. That, he stressed, is changing.

“I was really proud to see such a big turnout from the Hispanic population,” he says after taking part in his first event at West Oso Elementary. “Both my parents are from Mexico and I remember them making me go to school events like Family Science Night while all my friends stayed home and played hide-and-seek. When I saw so many Hispanic families, it made me happy to know that there are teachers out there who make a difference in a child’s education. These children not only learn to believe in themselves, but their parents begin to believe in them, too.”



West Oso Elementary School became a living laboratory during “Family Science Night.”



Pre-service teachers demonstrate science experiments that students and their parents can perform at home.



Texas Explorers Project Builds Student Success

When third-grader Lauren Hall and her classmates made a mold of an animal's footprint during a recent field trip, she didn't know it, but she was studying for a test, and not just any exam but the state-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) test that determines a child's ability to succeed at the next educational level.

Lauren is one of the more than 40 second- and third-grade students from the University's Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center who participated in the "Texas Explorers," a six-week program to learn more about the animal and plant life that thrive along the Texas coast. After making the mold, the students went back to the classroom and compared the impression with those shown in a nature book to determine what animal left the print.

"At home we have a book called 'Animal Tracks of Texas' and getting to see the tracks and look at the pictures to see what animal made them is a lot of fun," Lauren says. "But the best thing is getting to explore different places and seeing all the wildlife."

At the beginning of the "Texas Explorers" program, team teachers Lina Lopez and Gina Reynolds divided the students into 11 groups, each named after an indigenous Texas animal. In the ensuing weeks they explored the beaches along Corpus Christi Bay as well as the waters of Oso Bay, learning about and compar-

ing the ecosystems.

"Essentially, we turned Ward Island into a classroom," said Lopez. "By exploring the beach on one side of the island and the wetlands on the other side, we were able to give the students the big picture of what ecosystems are and how they work together for their mutual benefit."

All the experiments and exercises performed by the students were designed to prepare them for the TEKS test by merging math, science and social studies into one project. But the "Texas Explorers" project went beyond the state requirements by giving them an opportunity that goes further than what can be taught in the classroom. According to Reynolds, the project was especially rewarding for students who come from homes where English is not the first language.

"As a bilingual teacher, I see how hands-on learning helps those students make connections more quickly," Reynolds says. "And,



Explorer students receive a visit from a dolphin at the University beach.

while they may already have the vocabulary to describe what they've seen in their primary language, it helps them transfer what they've seen into English."

There were particularly exciting days for the students, like the day a dolphin dropped in for an unexpected visit as the children combed the shore for beach treasure. Other days they saw examples of man's abuse of his environment in the trash washed up by the tide and the litter strewn throughout the wetlands that fish, birds and other animals call home. The children were so upset about the man-made filth the animals have to live with that they spent an entire class period picking up the trash left by environmental abusers.

While exploring the different ecosystems, students were encouraged to record interesting observations and write down any questions they had. Later, the class compiled a list of inquiries and submitted it to researchers at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. In another exercise, the children sat quietly, listening to the environment and recording what they heard, saw, smelled and felt.

"This project brings education out of the classroom and makes it real-world to the students," says Dr. Christine Marroquin, principal of the ECDC. "While the goal is to prepare them for the TEKS test, we take it beyond that by using our unique location to give them hands-on/minds-on learning that students in other parts of the state don't have the opportunity to experience."



Students from the University's Early Childhood Development Center learn about animal and plant life along the Gulf Coast through the Texas Explorers Program.

ECDC Celebrates 10 Years of Learning

This year Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its award-winning Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center.

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is the only school in the Corpus Christi Independent School District that presents its entire curriculum via dual-language education. All students' instruction is split evenly between Spanish and English every day.

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



Students perform a traditional Mexican dance during the ECDC's anniversary celebration.



A young violinist displays her skills along with other ECDC students.

Last year, the school was expanded to include a new center to help address the shortage of certified math and science teachers in Texas. The Center houses classrooms, science and math labs, a wet lab, a children's discovery lab and exhibit areas. Outside laboratory "nodes" are planned to provide K-16 students with hands-on experiences dealing with air, soil and water.

All of the activities and programs in the Early Childhood Development Center are directly connected to the academic programs at the University. Supervision of all activities and facilities is provided by university faculty.

MORE ABOUT THE BLANCHE DAVIS MOORE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- School colors: rainbow
- School motto: Where two languages meet
Dónde se encuenan dos idiomas
- The ECDC was TEA recognized in 1998-1999, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.
- The ECDC earned TEA exemplary designation in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004.
- The ECDC serves children in grades pre-K3 (three-year-olds) through fifth grade.
- Each grade of students consists of one class (maximum 22 students).
- 172 students are currently enrolled. This year, 282 children applied for the 22 available slots in the pre-K3 class.
- Enrollment at the ECDC is by application only, and students are chosen by lottery. The only students given preference are those who already have a sibling attending the ECDC.
- The student demographics of the ECDC are designed to represent the demographics of the larger South Texas region (in terms of socioeconomic status and native language fluency).
- Students do not need to be bilingual to be admitted to the ECDC.
- ECDC classrooms have adjoining rooms and ceiling views that allow researchers to observe students and teaching methods without being observed themselves (although elementary students have all been told in advance that they might be observed).
- TAMUCC students at the baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral level work with ECDC students in many capacities.
- Research shows that dual language instruction benefits ECDC students' skills in both English and Spanish, regardless of which language they were dominant in before enrolling.

ARRIVED FOR SUCCESSES



A program established by faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences has greatly increased retention and graduation rates while bringing national attention to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Concerned with the trends they saw in junior students entering the nursing program, Dean Mary Jane Hamilton and Dr. Judith Sutherland applied for a grant in fall 1998 to address poor academic performance and low graduation rates, especially among minority and disadvantaged students. The "Affirming At-Risk Minorities for Success," or ARMS, project outlined a plan to increase enrollment, graduation rates and student success on national licensing examinations.

With a three-year \$475,000 grant, the two professors established a comprehensive database that included risk indicators, demographics, academic performance, external exams and success on the National Council Licensure

Examination (NCLEX). A mentoring program was also established utilizing the skills of faculty, graduate students and a group of ethnically diverse registered nurses. Anyone who wished to participate was included, but special emphasis was placed on minority students, students from rural areas and students who received two or more Cs in clinical courses.

Procedures were also put in place to provide support for incoming freshmen and transfer students. After meeting with an academic advisor, the students are assigned a nursing faculty mentor who reviews any courses the students may have already taken, helps them with future course choices and outlines the best sequence in which to take them.

Results of the ARMS program have been so impressive that Hamilton was only one of 10 nursing professionals from throughout the nation invited to participate in the Sullivan Alliance National Leadership Symposium on

Health Professions Diversity in Washington, D.C., this spring. In all, just 40 educators representing successful university programs were invited to the Sullivan Alliance-sponsored conference based on the success of their programs in recruiting and retaining diverse populations.

Hamilton, the only nurse educator from Texas invited to the conference, was specifically chosen because of the University's exemplary results in student diversity recruitment, retention and graduation rates. A recent study commissioned by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board found that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's two-year graduation rate of 79 percent far exceeds the state-wide average of 59 percent.

In addition, the pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses stands at 99 percent and, since 1999, the ethnically diverse student population has increased from 38 percent to 51 percent.

"The teaching skills of the faculty are amazing. They teach classes in ways that make them so easy to understand. I'm very glad that I came here, and I feel very prepared to start practicing as a registered nurse."

Gina Smolik

Jessica Johnson, a senior from Beeville, attended Coastal Bend Community College for two years before transferring the A&M-Corpus Christi. Without the guidance provided by faculty, she says, the transition to a four-year university would have been much harder.

"All you need to bring is good study habits," Johnson says. "Everyone is more than willing to help whenever you need it, and if you study and stick to the plan you've mapped out, you'll make it."

Gina Smolik, a senior from Mathis, is al-

ready working at Spohn Shoreline's Padre Inter-ventional Unit and has been offered a permanent position when she graduates in May. Like Johnson, she admits to being overwhelmed when she started taking nursing courses and gives much of the credit for her success to the nursing faculty.

"The teaching skills of the faculty are amazing," Smolik says. "They teach classes in ways that make them so easy to understand. I'm very glad that I came here, and I feel very prepared to start practicing as a registered nurse."

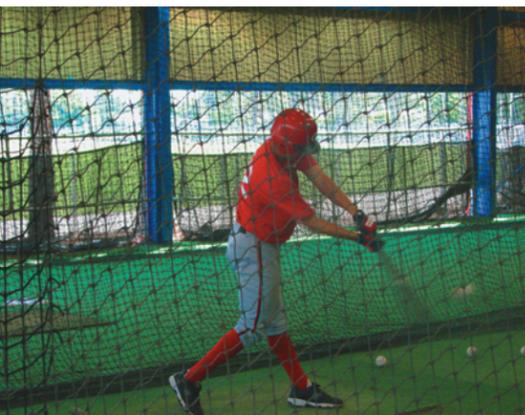
Left: Assistant Professor Yolanda Keys (standing) helps nursing student Jamie Darden plan her course load. Below: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences' two-year graduation rate far exceeds the state average.



Visual Software Builds Competitive Advantage

Like the vast majority of red-blooded American boys who grow up dreaming of playing Major League Baseball, Academy-Award winning actor Kevin Costner and President George W. Bush had to settle for other, less glamorous jobs in the real grown-up world. But, unlike the aspiring ballplayers of today, they didn't have the "edge" to help them develop their athletic potential to its fullest.

Dr. Frank Spaniol, a professor in the College of Education's Kinesiology Department, knows what it takes to play "America's game"



College and professional baseball players use Vizual Edge Performance Technology to improve their performance at the plate.

at a highly competitive level. A former Division I baseball player and head coach at Morehead State University (1981-1995), he's seen many players with an abundance of raw athletic talent fail because they didn't train in a fashion that science says is necessary to make it to the top of their game. However, through a partnership with the Illinois-based Visual Fitness Institute (VFI), Spaniol is attempting to connect

athletes with science to help them reach their full potential.

VFI, a company directed by ophthalmologist Dr. Barry Seiller, provides athletes with technologically advanced vision training techniques and equipment to improve their visual skills. The software, Vizual Edge Performance Training (VEPT), is the most recent sports technology being developed by VFI. VEPT is the only software system designed to measure and train an athlete's depth perception, eye flexibility, visual recognition, visual memory, visual tracking and eye-hand-body coordination.

The company believes using VEPT software improves athletes' visual skill levels and thus their specific sport performance can be enhanced. Though the software is developed and provided by Seiller and VFI, the job of evaluating it falls to Spaniol and Dr. Randy Bonnette, head of the University's Kinesiology program.

"Athletes are constantly searching for a competitive advantage because the rewards of improved performance are so great, especially in professional sports," says Spaniol. "Does vision training work? Well, the players we have tested believe it works, and from a research standpoint it looks very promising, but we're still trying to determine how much it can enhance a player's performance."

In a study conducted last year with 23 players from the Cincinnati Reds Instructional League team, VEPT was a hit. As a group, 65 percent believed the software improved their concentration and ability to focus while 62 percent said the training increased their ability to



Kinesiology Professor Randy Bonnette evaluates a student's foot speed and agility.

see the ball. The success with the Reds spurred interest from the Milwaukee Brewers and they were later tested as well. With this group of athletes the researchers found similar, positive results.

Based on the initial success of these studies Spaniol and Bonnette believe the door may be open for future collaborations with additional Major League Baseball teams as well as other professional sports. Bonnette further adds "if we garner the respect of these organizations Dr. Spaniol and I aspire to create a sports performance research center at A&M-Corpus Christi where amateur and professional sports teams of all kinds can send their athletes or potential prospects to be tested and trained. Obviously, if this transpires, the University will be vaulted into the national/international sports scene."

Professors Randy Bonnette and Frank Spaniol (left) are evaluating VEPT technology.



Health Screening, Education Programs Promote Wellness

As the nation's health-care costs continue to skyrocket and government funding for health-related programs are slashed, more people are finding that they need to accept responsibility for living a lifestyle that promotes personal health.

At Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Recreational Sports Department is taking a proactive stance with free health-care screenings for students, staff and faculty. Screenings such as the non-fasting glucose test for diabetes are performed by volunteer students from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The Recreational Sports staff also take part in school career fairs and nutrition and exercise programs at local elementary schools. Participants receive valuable information on how to prevent diabetes and other debilitating diseases and how to provide a healthier lifestyle for their families.

Ninfa De La Cruz is very familiar with the effects of diabetes. She grew up watching both of her grandparents deal with the disease and is painfully aware of its effects on the human body. That's why, although she's only 20, the junior biomedical sciences major takes the potentially devastating disorder extremely seriously. She was 17 when she was first tested for diabetes and makes it a point to get rechecked periodically.

"My grandparents have always had to watch everything they eat," says De La Cruz. "They love sweets but they're not really allowed to have them."

"This initiative is particularly important for people on campus who do not have health insurance," says Recreational Sports Assistant Director Marjorie Droppa. "Student health center records show that of the estimated

2,400 students who used the health center last school year, only 4 percent supplied health insurance information."

According to Student Health Center Director Deanna Mazzocco, an estimated 27 to 30 percent of students throughout the nation are uninsured. American College Health Association records show that young adults ages 18 to 24 are less likely than any other age group to have health insurance. Although the University offers optional health insurance through an endorsed provider, for many students the cost is prohibitive.

Junior Chris Rodriguez is one of those vulnerable students. He was dropped from his parents' health insurance when he turned 25. For this reason Rodriguez says he would definitely take advantage of campus wellness screenings such as the diabetes one offered recently.

"If I was in a life or death situation I could get hospital care but I'd have a huge bill at the end of it" Rodriguez says. "It's a tough call from a student perspective. We're expected to pay for health insurance at a time when we're not making much money."

According to the American Diabetes Association 45,000 people in Nueces County have diabetes and one in every three children born in Texas since the year 2000 will develop the disease. By educating students, faculty and staff about the disease and other preventable health problems the University is creating a domino effect



The University's annual Wellness Expo gives students an opportunity to receive free health screenings. This year's expo was attended by several hundred students, staff and faculty.

that will pay off for the entire community.

The seminars and screenings are a useful way to spread the message of health and wellness among the local community. Recognizing the importance of this ripple effect, Recreational Sports encourages participants to take educational materials home to help educate their families as well as organizations to which they belong.

"We're role models," says Maria Lenhart, who attended a recent diabetes seminar for Human Resources employees. "What we do, our children do. The information I learned is something I can pass along to my family. It's so important, too, that we take what we learn out into the community. The message has got to get out."



A student has blood drawn for glucose analysis during a diabetes awareness program.

Student Foundation Paves the Way



Shanelle Hill
Student Foundation President

What an exciting time to be involved with A&M-Corpus Christi! 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.

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.

Endowed Scholarship Council



PLATINUM WAVE
\$500,000 OR MORE

GOLD WAVE
\$250,000 - \$499,000

SILVER WAVE
\$150,000 - \$249,000

GREEN WAVE
\$100,000 - \$149,000

BLUE WAVE
\$50,000 - \$99,000

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

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.



\$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.

			SEAL									

Please check one official Seal for center of your brick:

- University of Corpus Christi Seal
- Texas A&I University Seal
- Corpus Christi State University Seal
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Seal
- Alumni Association Seal

What is the IslanderFund

Give the Gift of Opportunity!
Support the Islander Fund Today...

Simply put, The Islander Fund allows caring members of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community 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 effect it has had on your life—all while changing the lives of others.

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