

# the Islander

Spring 2015



-SHOW BUSINESS  
-NETWORK  
-MUSIC  
-CINEMA  
-BUSINESS/FINANCE  
-WORLD NEWS

NETWORK SEARCH

-PEOPLE  
-FORUMS  
-MAIL  
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-BUY  
-SALE

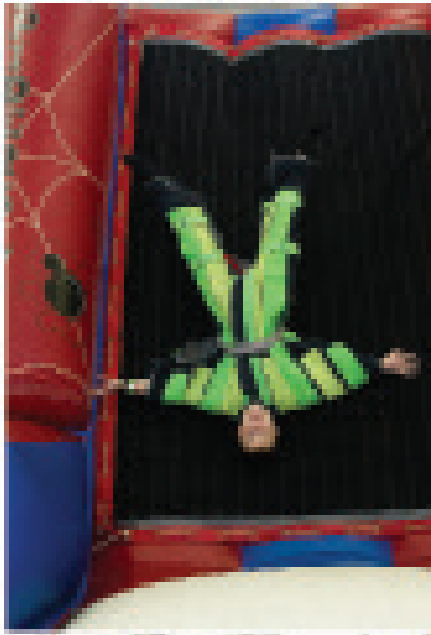
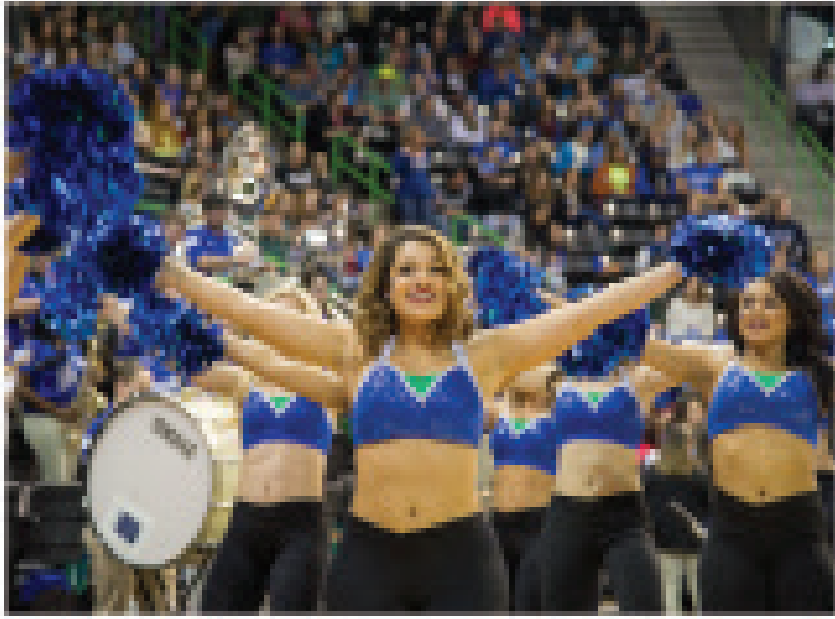
WORLD

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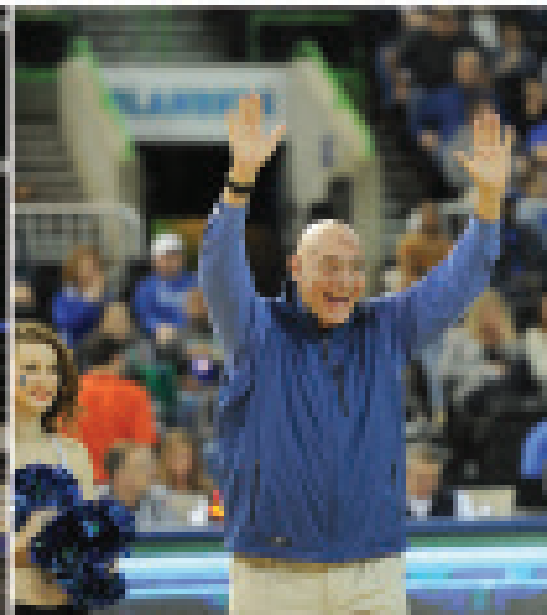
# Island AND Beyond

Thinking Outside THE Classroom

# HOMECOMING 2015







# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Discover Research at the Island University

**F**rom classrooms, labs, theatres and stages, your Island University is diving into research and scholarly activity as professors and students embrace the next step for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

That next step is becoming an emerging research university.

It's a designation from the state that shows the University has a focus on research, scholarship and creative activity across all fields. This focus helps bring in funding dollars and top-notch faculty with game-changing research projects like new designs for unmanned aircraft or improvements to underwater rovers that can search for downed planes.

But don't think this is all happening in classrooms and labs. Our professors in the College of Liberal Arts are extending their reach in international exhibitions in countries such as France, Italy, Estonia, and Malaysia.

We are on our way to emerging research status. One benchmark to show our progress is restricted research expenditures. Emerging research universities typically have more than \$30 million in this category of research expenditures each year. The Island University marked \$13.1 million in 2014, a significant increase from previous years. The trend appears to be continuing as well, with funding on pace to steadily increase in 2015.

It is our pleasure to share with you our research initiatives, outstanding faculty and successful students and alumni in the pages of this magazine.

**Dr. Flavius Killebrew**  
President/CEO  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
@FlaviusKillebre



**DR. FLAVIUS C. KILLEBREW**  
President/CEO



# the Islander

## Spring 2015



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**University  
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the Islander

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# ISLANDER HERO

## Kinesiology Professor Featured as Sport Science Research Expert in Episode of Stan Lee's 'Superhumans'




**A**s a national and international leader in sport science research, Dr. Frank Spaniol has traveled across the nation and around the world to share his expertise. Recently, the Professor of Kinesiology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, to appear in his second episode of Stan Lee's "Superhumans" on H2, an extension of the History Channel brand. The show first aired on Aug. 27, 2014.

During the episode, shot on location in the jungle, Spaniol served as an on-screen sport science expert to analyze the skills of Kie Willis, a renowned free runner and parkour world champion from London, England. Using special biomechanics equipment, Spaniol measured Willis' powerful leap and compared it to those of the leopards in the jungle.

"International research experiences working with world-class athletes such as Kie allow us to collect valuable data that can be utilized for sport science learning opportunities with our kinesiology undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi," said Spaniol.

Spaniol has published numerous articles in national and international journals and has been awarded more than 20 research grants for exercise science and instructional technology. Spaniol and his colleagues have traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, to work with the Portuguese Davis Cup Tennis Team, as well as Shanghai, China, and Amsterdam, Holland, to work at their respective Olympic Training Centers. In July 2009, Spaniol was honored as a National Strength and Conditioning Association Research Fellow for his expansive experience and national and international recognition as a sport performance researcher.

In the third season of "Superhumans," Lee, the legendary co-creator of X-Men, Iron Man, Spiderman and The Avengers, and CCO/Founder of POW! Entertainment, scoured the globe for the real-life counterparts to his comic book icons. The show is co-hosted by Lee and Daniel Browning Smith – who has been dubbed the most flexible man in the world. The show takes viewers across continents over the course of the series to meet real life Superhumans. In each episode of "Superhumans," individuals from all over the world undergo tests that may help to explain their amazing gifts.



**“**International research experiences working with world-class athletes such as Kie allow us to collect valuable data that can be utilized for sport science learning opportunities with our kinesiology undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.**”**

—Dr. Frank Spaniol,  
Professor of Kinesiology





## Kinesiology Students' Poor Body Composition Could Impact Future Job Opportunities

**R**esearch co-authored by faculty in the Department of Kinesiology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi recently discovered that extra weight such as “the freshman 15” could affect more than students’ health: whether they are hired in the future could be at stake.

Researchers investigated the health-related fitness of 227 undergraduate kinesiology students and compared them to the contemporary recommended guidelines set by the American College of Sports Medicine. The research article in the “Journal of Sport Behavior” by Dr. Frank Spaniol, Dr. Randy Bonnette, Dr. Don Melrose and Lindsey Jarrett suggests that undergraduate kinesiology students need to improve their overall health, especially when going into fields where physical fitness can affect credibility and success on the job.

## Record Military Enrollment Reflected at the Island University

**A** record number of active duty military, veterans and their dependents are currently enrolled at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Last fall, a total of 1,223 students, nearly 11 percent of the University’s student population, was categorized as military, which includes students who are enrolled in the ROTC Islander Battalion, active duty service members, veterans, or military dependents.

“The Island University has always been highly committed to supporting student veterans and their families by providing top programs and services to help ensure their success as students and members of our community,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

For the past six years, the University has been designated as a “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs magazine. Colleges,

universities and trade schools named as “Military Friendly” must rank in the top 15 percent nationwide for efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students to increase diversity among the student body, faculty and staff.

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

## Grant Set to Improve Special Education in Coastal Bend

**A** new \$1.15 million grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, will help prepare graduate students in the Master of Science program in Special Education to better serve individuals with low-incidence disabilities, such as autism and brain injuries.

Dr. Karen McCaleb and Dr. Phyllis Robertson, professors in the College of Education, said the grant will support the implementation of a five-year project titled “Future Leaders in Providing Your Low-Incidence Disability Services,” also known as “FLIP Your LIDS,” to establish a special transcript certificate within the existing Master of Science program.



# Surf, Sports and Safety: There's an Islander App for That



## Weather on Wheels

Developed by researchers in the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science with marketing assistance from the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center.

- Tracks road trip weather
- Allows drivers to plan the best route for safest driving conditions



## Texas Coastal Winds

Developed by researchers in the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science.

- Shows real-time wave conditions at Bob Hall Pier
- Also shows air and water temps, wind speed and direction and water level



## Islanders Front Row

Developed by Islander Athletics with PrestoSports for the true Islanders fan.

- Never miss a game with schedules and scores at your finger tips
- Be a part of the action with live score updated stats, audio and video
- Stay in the know with the latest news and notifications





# DOCTORAL GEOSPATIAL COMPUTING SCIENCE PROGRAM ENHANCES

## SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

**P**rofessionals in the field of geospatial computing who are looking for the next great challenge can find it at the Island University. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is now offering a doctoral program in Geospatial Computing Science.

This advanced degree builds on the high-quality curriculum developed by professors and instructors at the College of Science and Engineering.

A&M-Corpus Christi offers the first combined geomatics and GIS-focused Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science (GIS) in the nation that is also accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET.

As a leader in the field of GIS, the program gives students opportunities to collaborate on projects related to land, sea, and air through the Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center of Excellence & Innovation, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science, the Innovation in Computing Research Labs, and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. With the addition of the new Ph.D. program in Geospatial Computing Science, students



“Our students don’t just learn how to use sophisticated programs like ArcGIS, they learn how to develop and create them.”



—Dr. Gary Jeffress,  
Director of the  
Conrad Blucher  
Institute

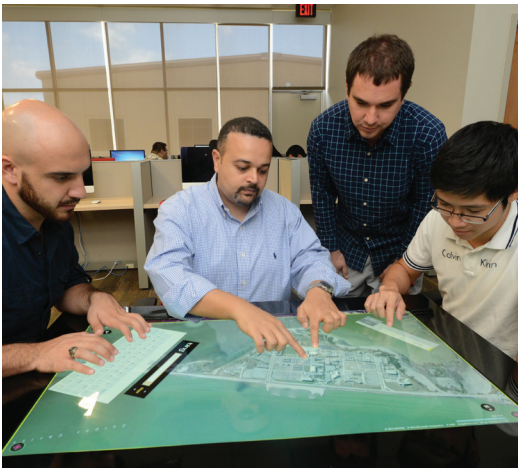
will also learn to apply both scientific and mathematical principles to model the Earth, using the latest computer technologies and sciences to gather geospatial data by land surveying. In one of few existing calculus-based programs, students will actively work on advancing research frontiers in the capture, integration, analysis, and application sectors of geospatial data.

“The geographic computing Ph.D. program will build on the skills students are already learning in the bachelor’s degrees in Computer Science and Geographic Information Science (GIS) and master’s degrees in Computer

Science and Geospatial Surveying Engineering programs,” said Dr. Gary Jeffress, Director of the University’s Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science. “Our graduates go directly into the workforce, many with coveted experience with unmanned aircraft, which are poised to become a major factor in the future of surveying and mapping.”

The first cohort of doctoral students will start classes in fall 2015, working to ultimately join the select few who have the highest degree possible in this high-paying, high-tech field. Graduates of A&M-Corpus Christi’s Geospatial Computing Science Bachelor’s, Master’s, and now Ph.D. programs can expect to be on the cutting edge of their field.

“Our students don’t just learn how to use sophisticated programs like ArcGIS, they learn how to develop and create them,” said Jeffress. “The Geospatial Computing Science programs provide students with the knowledge and research expertise needed to enter either the workforce or become a powerhouse in academia.”





## ELINE MILITARY PROGRAM HELPS FORMER COMBAT MEDIC SUPPORT FAMILY WHILE EARNING DEGREE



In 2011, Nathan and Katie Parks heard the words that every parent dreads – their 6-year-old son Benjamin had a brain tumor that was causing him to have uncontrollable seizures. At the time, Nathan was working on his Bachelor of Science in Nursing through the eLine Military Nursing program (ELM) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

“My son experienced seizures for about a four-month period before he had surgery to remove the tumor,” said Parks. “During this period, my professor, Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, and Jason Saladiner, eLine Military Program Coordinator, gave me extra time to accomplish my schoolwork and would even call just to check up on me.”

The ELM program, a White House-recognized program, is unique in that it gives college credit to active-duty military and veterans for their medical experience during their service, helping them earn their degree and get into the medical field sooner. These students can complete their coursework from anywhere in the world. Parks, who graduated from the ELM program in 2012, says that the program’s flexibility allowed him to care for Benjamin, take classes, have a full-time job, and work clinic hours – all from his hometown of Leonard, Texas, located north of Dallas.

As a former combat medic for the United States Army, Parks

is no stranger to hard work and all the stress that comes with it.

“For the first year in the program, I worked 40 or more hours a week as a pharmacy technician,” said Parks. “Because of this program, I was able to fulfill my role as a parent and active member in my community. There is no other program in the United States where I would have been able to do this.”

Katie and Nathan met in 1998 during their military training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Both were stationed at Fort Hood until 2000, when Nathan was deployed to South Korea for a year. Nathan, who is currently an emergency room nurse at Red River Regional Hospital in Bonham, Texas, wanted to fulfill his duty to help alleviate the shortage of nurses in rural communities. The couple have been married for 15 years and have two sons, Cody, 13, and Benjamin, now 9.

After witnessing her husband’s success and positive experiences, Katie started the eLine Military program in January 2015.

“I was encouraged to start this program because the nurses who took care of Benjamin at the hospital provided us with so much support,” said Katie. “I also knew that eLine Military was a good program because it takes into account my prior military training. And, after I saw all the new things Nathan learned, I had the assurance I needed to start my nursing degree.”





## Nursing Students Develop Skills with New Patient Simulator

**N**ursing students are gaining invaluable training using the newly enhanced and lifelike HAL S3201 Simulator, which gives students the opportunity to be better prepared for clinical experiences. The new simulator has a simpler interface and more advanced mobility than other patient simulators in the nursing lab. Students can connect the simulator to medical equipment such as ventilators, ECG, oxygen saturation monitors, blood pressure cuffs, defibrillators or external cardiac pacemakers to simulate scenarios requiring a range of care from fundamental nursing to intensive care.



See photos of the new simulator in action

## College of Nursing and Health Sciences One of Six in Nation to Receive 2014 Blackstone Veterans Grant



**T**exas A&M University-Corpus Christi was one of only six recipients out of more than 200 submitted proposals from across the nation to receive the 2014 Blackstone Veterans Grant. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been awarded \$50,000 by The Blackstone Charitable Foundation for its support of veterans' employment and business development. The Veterans Grant Program is the latest initiative in a series of programs Blackstone has introduced as part of its Veterans Hiring Initiative and is aligned with the foundation's Entrepreneurship Initiative.



Find out more about the program by watching the video

## From Tiny Tot to Islander Alumna

**E**lizabeth Garza completed a goal she set for herself in the first grade, which was to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Garza, who graduated in December, first stepped foot onto campus in 1996 at age 3, when she was enrolled at the Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) located at A&M-Corpus Christi. During those years, Garza began to develop a love for the Island University. Garza enrolled at the Island University in 2011, and took classes non-stop for three years. She admits to making several sacrifices – such as giving up time with friends and summer vacations – to make her dream of becoming a registered nurse a reality.



3 yr old student at ECDC



A&M-Corpus Christi Grad 2014

## Texas' Home of Unmanned Flight Lone Star UAS Center and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi



Kenedy  
County, but opened

another range at Port Mansfield's regional airport, a convenience for coordinating with piloted planes that must accompany drones.

Another range near Beeville is in the works, putting the center on a clear path to having 11 test ranges across Texas.

"Texas is open for research, development, testing and evaluation, offering diverse geography and climates," said Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Vice President of Research, Commercialization and Outreach at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which operates the Lone Star Center.

Test flights in October included the first paying client, the start of what is expected to be a booming industry.

The Association of Unmanned Vehicles International published an economic impact study projecting, once airspace is opened to UAS, the economic impact over 10 years would be about \$6.5 billion and 8,256 jobs statewide.

**T**he Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Center of Excellence & Innovation has expanded operations, hired employees, and hosted customers for testing, all the beginnings of a leading program that is one of only six federally approved test sites for this new aerospace field.

The test sites are designed to collect data for the FAA concerning the safe integration of UAS into the national airspace, which may happen as early as this year.

Current regulations prohibit UAS flights for commercial use. Companies wishing to test out equipment must work through the FAA test sites or seek waivers through the FAA, a sometimes complicated process that test sites may also help navigate.

The Lone Star UAS Center received the federal test site designation in December 2013.

The Center had been flying out of a ranch in

### UAS Poised to Change Data Gathering

Unmanned aircraft are expected to change the way data is gathered, making it cheaper, easier and faster than using an airplane or satellite imagery.

Uses include:

- Providing images to emergency management officials after disasters or extreme weather
- Monitoring pipelines
- Mapping coastlines and habitats
- Assessing agricultural fields
- Conducting livestock inventory



#### BY THE NUMBERS

LONE STAR UAS

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION



**20** full-time employees **17** hours flight time  
**100** range-operation hours  
**35** business proposals developed from 100 inquiries



Check out video of  
our latest UAS mission



## Understanding Mental Health by Studying Snails

**S**tudying how snails react to aversive stimuli may help scientists understand how fear alters brain activity in humans, research that may ultimately lead to a better understanding of conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Research in the lab of Dr. Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Associate Professor of Neuroscience at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, combines biomedical research, marine biology and neuroscience.

Mozzachiodi and his team are studying the marine snail *Aplysia californica*. Its elementary nervous system operates at a single-cell level in the same way as the human brain, but with only about 20,000 neurons instead of billions.

"We've all heard of dopamine and serotonin," he said. "Those molecules can be found in the brain of

most animals, including *Aplysia*. Humans have more neurons, more circuits, but it is based on the same concepts. In this project, the role of different neurotransmitters in the brain circuits altered by fear will be investigated using cellular and pharmacological approaches."

In the lab, Mozzachiodi's team will observe the changes in behavior – increased defenses and reduced feeding – in the snail when it is in a state of fear, much like it would be following a predator's attack.

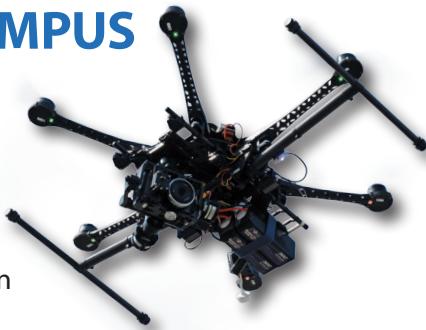
Mozzachiodi said he hopes that

understanding changes in the neural circuits altered by fear will ultimately help achieve a better understanding of forms of mental illness. Mozzachiodi's research recently received \$225,000 for three years of funding from the National Institutes of Health.



## UAS On Campus

**W**hile the Lone Star Center works with companies and businesses, the students and researchers at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi are working on a design that could turn the industry on its side.



Conventional small UAS rotorcrafts, which have helicopter-like rotors, fly in a horizontal mode. The proposed platform, which is in the development stage, has eight rotors that can rotate the UAS into a vertical flying mode, and flies with only half of its rotors working, a precaution against rotor failure.

"This aircraft could be used for search and rescue in environments considered to be too complicated to access by means of conventional UAS," said Dr. Luis Rodolfo Garcia Carrillo, Assistant Professor of Engineering and Director of the Unmanned Systems Laboratory.

Garcia Carrillo and a group of undergraduate researchers from the Mechanical Engineering program hope to have a prototype of the multi-rotorcraft with morphing capabilities this year.



**Liberty Mutual is a proud partner of  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

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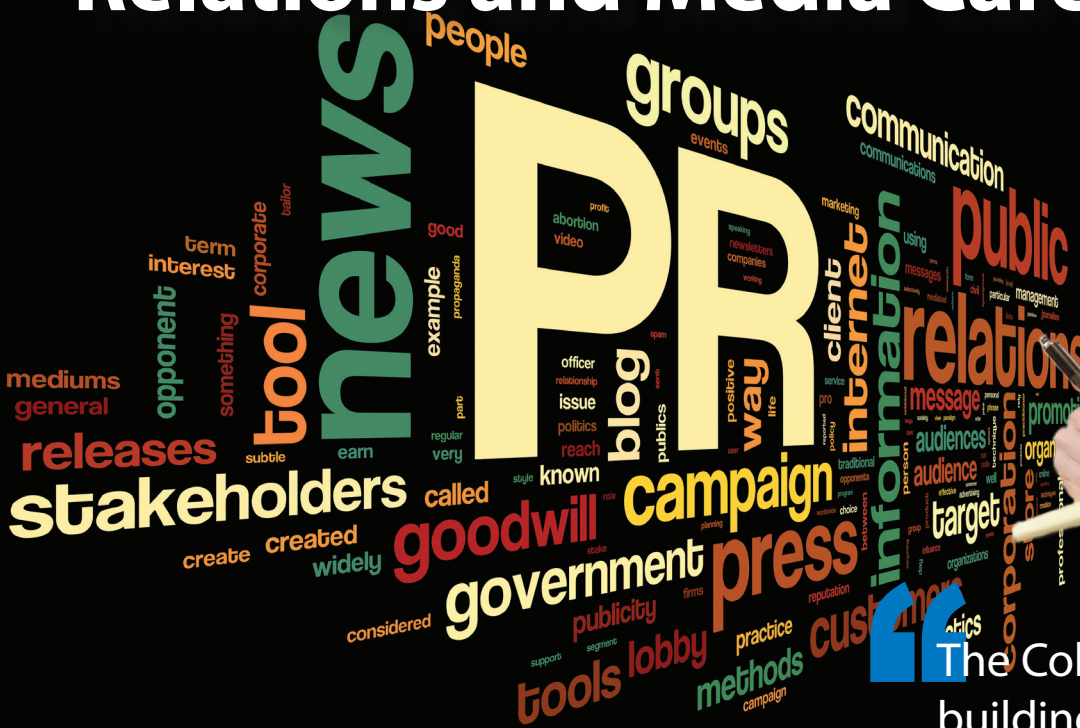
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Mutual**  
INSURANCE

Responsibility. What's your policy?

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# New Offerings in Communication and Media

## Prepare Islanders for Public Relations and Media Careers



**T**he Department of Communication and Media is enhancing its programs by offering new undergraduate and graduate courses, a journalism minor, a revamped media production program and a writing for nonprofits course.

These offerings will benefit students by providing them with advanced knowledge they can utilize in future careers related to communication, journalism, and public relations.

"The College is committed to building a successful path to support our students as they enter these exciting careers," said Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "We strive toward excellence in helping connect our students to their desired professions."

The Department is offering Global Leadership classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to provide students with insights into political struggles and an understanding of current leadership.

The new minor in journalism and the inclusion of the Island Waves student newspaper in the Department of Communication and Media will give students the hands-on experience they need to succeed in journalism and related fields.

The College is committed to building a successful path to support our students as they enter these exciting careers.



—Dr. Kelly Quintanilla,  
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

A revamped media production program is giving students the edge they need to secure competitive careers in film, television, and new media. Students are using professional digital cameras, lighting equipment, and specialized editing software to create documentaries, narrative and experimental short films.

The College of Liberal Arts also launched, with the Office of Community Outreach, "Writing for Nonprofit Agencies," a new nine-week online professional development course.

The course covers a range of professional documents commonly written by nonprofit professionals including internal communications, public information and announcements, newsletter and social writing posts, grant proposals, and fundraising letters.



## Psychology Professor Named Fulbright Specialist

**D**r. Pamela Brouillard, Professor of Psychology, spent two weeks in Kazakhstan as a Fulbright Specialist at the Psychoanalytical Association for Central Asia. Brouillard, a Senior Specialist in Global/Public Health, delivered lectures and provided clinical training to local psychologists and mental health professionals working with both children and adults during her August 2014 travels.



*Dr. Pamela Brouillard*

Brouillard is one of more than 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who traveled abroad last year through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post-secondary academic institutions around the world. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

## Three Students Attend Prestigious Bush School's Public Service Institute

**T**hree political science students were among the 25 students from The Texas A&M University System who were selected as 2014 Bush School Fellows at the Public Service Institute at Texas A&M University-College Station.

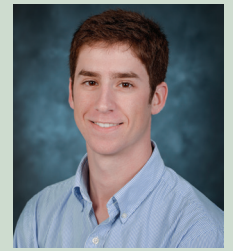
The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students selected were:

Trevor Deason, a senior Political Science major with a minor in Pre-Law, currently an intern at the Office of Congressman Blake Farenthold.

Regina Salinas, a senior Political Science major with minor in Public Relations, a member of the cross country and track teams.

My Thi Ha Bui, a junior Economics and Political Science major with a minor in Pre-Law, an international student from Vietnam.

The Bush School hosts the Institute each year for undergraduate students identified by faculty as future public servants.



*Trevor Deason*



*Regina Salinas*



*My Thi Ha Bui*

## Department of Music Presents Two Operas

**O**pera aficionados enjoyed two separate works, "Dido and Aeneas" and "The Impresario," during the Department of Music's 2014 Spring Opera.

"Dido and Aeneas," written by Henry Purcell and first performed in 1688, was adapted to take place in modern times and be topical in today's society.

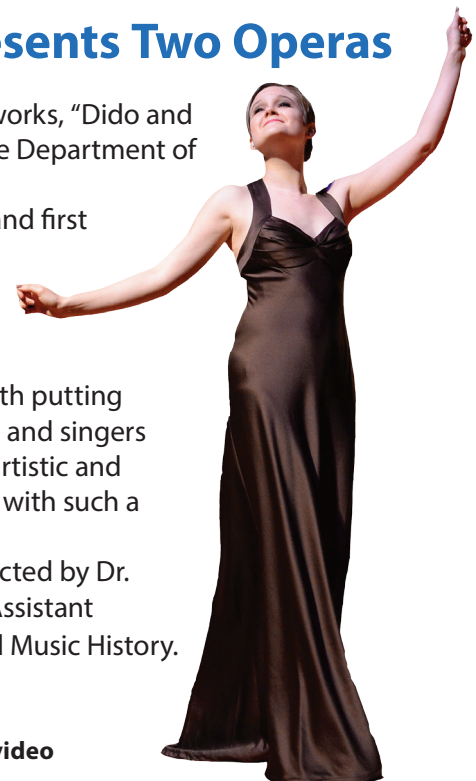
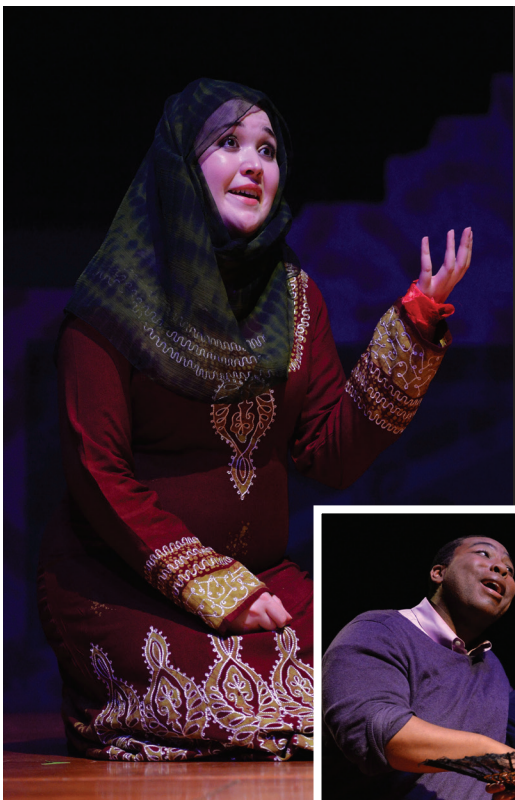
"The Impresario" was originally written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1786, and is the story of Frank, an entrepreneur, who is tasked with putting

together a company of actors and singers while juggling the personal, artistic and financial problems that come with such a task.

The Spring Opera was directed by Dr. Marc Reynolds, Professional Assistant Professor of Voice, Opera, and Music History.



**Did you miss it?  
We captured it on video**



# EXCELLING in Entrepreneurship and Leadership

**F**rom providing vital economic information on South Texas to teaching the ins and outs of owning a business, the College of Business is providing critical support to new entrepreneurs and small businesses.

In September, Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the creation of a new South Texas Economic Development Center that will serve as the hub for assessing and analyzing the area's economic impact.

The center, to be housed in the Michael and Karen O'Connor Building at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, will focus on supporting and advancing sustainable economic and community development throughout South Texas and the Coastal Bend region. Dr. Jim Lee, Regents Professor of Economics, will lead the center as the Director of Research.

"The South Texas Economic Development Center will provide timely economic reports and studies that will be valuable to decision makers in South Texas," said Dr. John Gamble, Dean of the College of Business. "The reports and programs that will be offered by the South Texas Economic Development Center will benefit those who live and work in South Texas."

Last October, as part of the 2014 Distinguished Speaker Series, approximately 1,100 Coastal Bend community members came to campus to hear Daymond John, Founder and CEO of FUBU, and TV Personality on ABC's "Shark Tank," discuss how to get into the goal-setting mindset.

John, a young entrepreneur, an industry pioneer, and a highly regarded marketing expert, has reached new heights of commercial and financial success as he evolved into one of the most sought-after branding experts, and business motivational speakers in the country.

And in the classroom, students are learning about innovative solutions to social problems such as poverty and lack of education through a new Social Entrepreneurship class started in fall 2014. Taught by Dr. Margaret Lucero, Professor of Management, the class provides an overview of this emerging field that uses business principles to solve social issues.

The "Special Topics in Management" course is

“The South Texas Economic Development Center will provide timely economic reports and studies that will be valuable to decision makers in South Texas.”



—Dr. John Gamble,  
Dean of the College  
of Business

Daymond John,  
ABC's "Shark Tank"  
star and entrepreneur  
shared his experiences  
during the Distinguished  
Speaker Series.



See photos from  
Daymond John's visit  
to the Island University





part of a proposed entrepreneurship major. Students have the opportunity to apply the course material through a class project in which they will work closely with a nonprofit organization in the community.

"This growing movement provides an important way to apply the fundamentals of business to social ventures," Lucero said. "And, it gives students a chance to explore the social entrepreneurship approach as a tangible method of making a positive difference in their life and career."

“The Social Entrepreneurship Class gives students a chance to explore the social entrepreneurship approach as a tangible method of making a positive difference in their life and career.”

—Dr. Margaret Lucero,  
Professor of Management



## Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center Hosts Entrepreneur Night

Closer to home, local entrepreneurs were the focus of Entrepreneur Night, an October event in Corpus Christi to highlight available community resources. The event, organized by Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center and Del Mar College's Small Business Development Center, included representatives from area economic development entities that focus on small business.

"These entrepreneurs and small businesses are at the heart of our mission to advise and support innovative, sustainable businesses at every level of development," said Gamble.

One of the available resources is the newly established South Coast Angel Network. Holding its first meeting in July, the group of 22 members facilitates opportunities for early stage and startup businesses to request funding from potential investors.

SCAN members will participate in educational events, entrepreneurial networking event and host pitch events (similar to Shark Tank) for entrepreneurs seeking to acquire funding.



## Latin American Entrepreneurs Learn U.S. Manufacturing Business Practices at Innovation Center

A group of Latin American entrepreneurs interested in establishing manufacturing businesses in Texas visited Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in February for a two-week training program.

The Innovation Center is one of three business incubators in the nation selected to receive a U.S. Agency for International Development grant to host the training, part of the Latin American IDEA Partnership Incubator Program.

The selected entrepreneurs from Chile, Mexico, Colombia and Peru learned about best practices and technology used in U.S. manufacturing companies, international trade, and how to do business in Texas and the United States.

At the end of the session, participants were better equipped to grow their companies and create jobs in their local communities, and gained an understanding of how to access international markets.



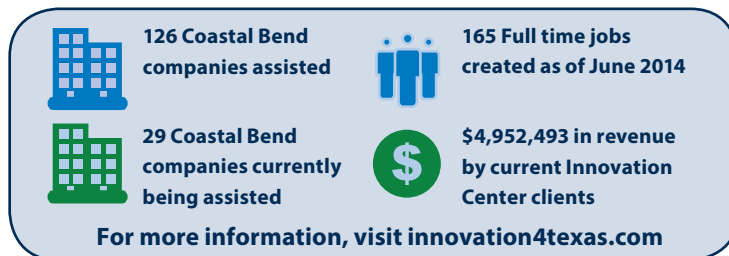
## Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center: Inviting and Inspiring Entrepreneurs around the Globe and At Home

The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is reaching out to entrepreneurs here in Texas and across the globe, touting the benefits and opportunities of locating their businesses in Corpus Christi.

David Fonseca, Incubation Manager for the Center, recently visited with companies from Denmark and Russia that are interested in collaborating and establishing in the Texas market.

"It is exciting to be touting the Innovation Center across the world," he said. "The program-based model we designed and the business climate of South Texas are ripe for this kind of foreign involvement."

The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center has assisted more than 126 companies in the Coastal Bend with 29 companies being currently assisted. There were 165 full time jobs created, and a total of \$4,952,493 in revenue by current clients of the Innovation Center as of February 2015.



The Innovation Center assists clients in cultivating their innovative product processes or services at various stages of the business. Each program offered is designed, through mentoring and coaching, to accelerate the process of commercialization of ideas at different levels of development.



**Learn more about the businesses helped by the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center**



# Mary and Jeff Bell Library: Library Evolves with Students' Needs

**T**he University's Mary and Jeff Bell Library has hired a new director and archivist, and is undergoing a makeover to accommodate students' evolving library needs.

A student survey conducted in the fall confirmed what students have been sharing with librarians for several years,

said Dr. Catherine Rudowsky, Library Director, who joined the Island Campus this summer.

"We need more group study spaces, more outlets to plug in to, and more isolated quiet space for studying," she said. "There's a spectrum of needs for the students."

Over the next several months, library patrons can expect to see fresh, new furnishings, and an updated home page ([rattler.tamucc.edu](http://rattler.tamucc.edu)).

In addition to serving students, the library is the keeper of several important historical collections including the papers of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a Hispanic civil rights advocate.

Both Rudowsky and new University Archivist Ann Hodges were officially welcomed at a reception in October.

Rudowsky joined the Island University this summer with 15 years of experience in research and the digital side of library access. In addition to her library degree and certification, she holds an MBA and a Ph.D. in communications.

Hodges, originally from Refugio, Texas, brings with her an academic background in history and experience as a librarian and archivist with the University of Texas at Austin and UT Arlington.



Ann Hodges



Catherine Rudowsky



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

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



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

### MEMBER BENEFITS

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



### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Platinum Circle	Gold Circle
\$10,000	\$5,000
Silver Circle	Bronze Circle
\$2,500	\$1,000



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Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 • 361.825.3324



## New Study Shows Hurricanes Cause Big ‘Belches’ of Carbon Dioxide

**H**urricanes and tropical storms are known for high winds, heavy rains, and destructive flooding, but now one researcher from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi says they also cause estuaries to “burp” carbon dioxide, contributing to the so-called “greenhouse effect.”

Dr. Michael Wetz, Associate Professor of Marine Biology, discovered the phenomenon with help from scientists from the University of North Carolina and Oregon State University while studying Hurricane Irene, which struck the East Coast in 2011.

“We have shown that passage of large storms like Irene can essentially cause the

estuary to ‘burp’ a big slug of carbon into the atmosphere,” said Wetz. “This is concerning because carbon dioxide levels are increasing rapidly, contributing to global climate change.”

Carbon is stored in estuaries as organic matter in sediments and plant matter, as well as in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> in the sediments and water. For the most part, the carbon stays trapped in the sediments and water, but when a hurricane or tropical storm passes over it churns up sediments with high CO<sub>2</sub> content and can destroy wetland plant communities, causing the carbon dioxide to be vented into the air. The research indicates that a major hurricane can release as

much carbon dioxide into the air, all in one burp, as would normally be stored in these systems over several years.

Also studying climate change and its effect on our planet, Dr. Peter F. Sale, from the Institute for Water, Environment and Health at United Nations University,

was the featured speaker in October at the College of Science and Engineering Distinguished Speaker Series.

He spoke of the changes that humanity can make to wrestle the environmental crisis and adjust the potential outcome for coral reefs and tropical coastal communities.



## Research on ‘Rivers in the Sky’ to Improve Severe Weather Forecasting

**T**orrential downpours, flash flooding, mudslides, and heavy snowfall are all extreme weather conditions that may soon be easier to predict and prepare for as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Associate Professor of Atmospheric Science Toshiaki Shinoda explores the formation of atmospheric rivers.

Shinoda has received a \$513,479 grant from the National Science Foundation to study these erratic weather patterns that resemble a jet stream made out of water vapor instead of wind and are associated with strong winds that force the water vapor

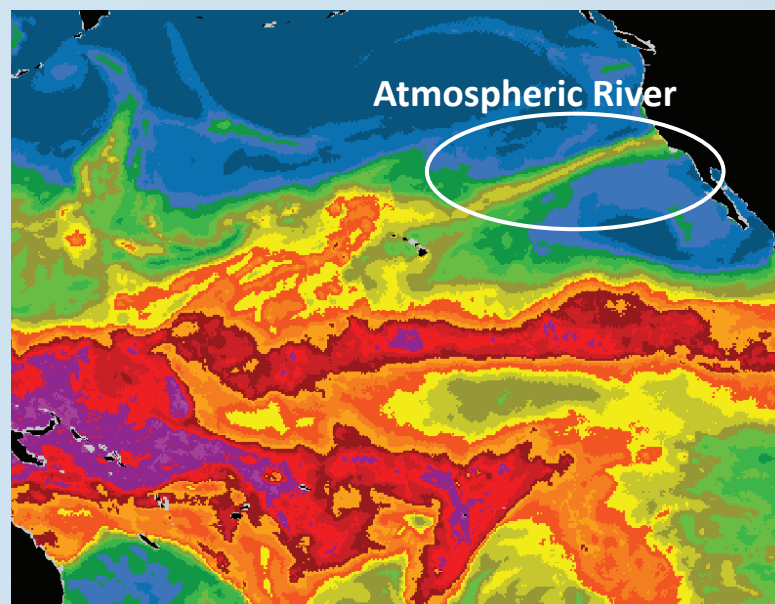
high into the atmosphere.

He will focus on improving the prediction model for these atmospheric phenomena by using satellite observations. Improvement in prediction models will help the public better prepare for extreme weather. This research will not only assist the United States but will allow for greater accuracy when predicting global climate change such as El Niño events.

“Despite the importance of atmospheric rivers on the global water cycle, weather, and water supply in the western United States, it is still a major challenge to predict them,” Shinoda said.

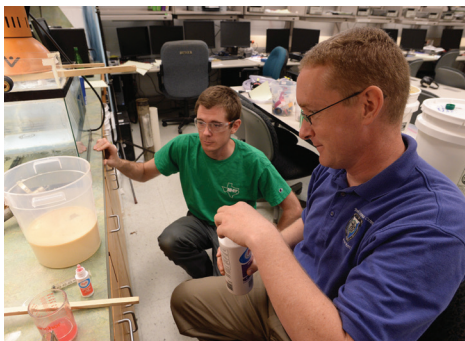
Shinoda’s research will provide insight into specific atmospheric events that create atmospheric rivers and

their impact on precipitation. Such research is expected to improve scientists’ ability to predict severe rain.





## New Technology for Cleaning 'Frac' Water Gets Positive Marks in Water Quality Test



**C**oaxing natural gas out of shale rock takes water, a precious resource for Texas, where droughts are frequent, and the need for water for cities and businesses seems ever-increasing.

This makes recycling this type of water more important than ever, said Dr. Michael Wetz, Associate Professor of Life Sciences and a water quality expert. This is the goal of one company receiving valuable research and business assistance from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"Our patented technologies greatly improve the methodology of removing contaminants from oil field wastewater, and compared with current methods, it is more cost-effective, and can be done onsite," said Jeff Soward, President of ARANA Water Technologies, a business client of the University's Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center.

In a recent round of tests with Wetz, ARANA collected frac water from an Eagle Ford field.

"I watched Mr. Soward's group inject raw frac water into the system, which processed the samples for 26 minutes," said Wetz. "The total petroleum hydrocarbons were reduced by greater than 99 percent."

Wetz said he also saw a reduction of other metals in the water, including arsenic, aluminum, iron, and selenium by as much as 90 percent.



## MAKING A WISH TOWARD YOUR FUTURE



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## Island University Selected as Texas' RESTORE Center of Excellence

**T**he Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will guide the state's restoration research and projects as the lead organization of newly established RESTORE Research Centers of Excellence.

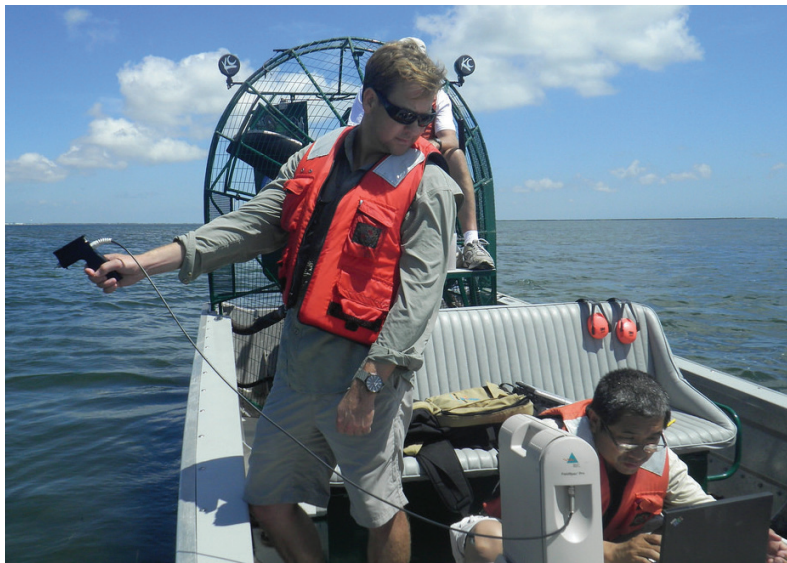
Announced in January, the Center joins others in Gulf states to serve as a hub of study into the effects of man-made and natural disasters to help guide research and restoration efforts.

The Center lead by Harte will be known as the Texas OneGulf Consortium.

The RESTORE Act (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States) resulted from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and directs penalties into a trust fund to support programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region. RESTORE directs 80 percent of all Deepwater Horizon fines and judgments to the Gulf, of which 2.5 percent goes to establish a Center of Excellence in each of the five states bordering the Gulf. Depending on final judgments, that could total from \$10 million to \$40 million available to each center. Of that, \$4 million is expected to be available immediately.

As the only marine science institution dedicated solely to the study of the Gulf of Mexico, HRI's lead role with the Center elevates the robust gulf research being done at A&M-Corpus Christi and the solidifies the University's standing as a leader in Gulf research.

"We are excited to continue the robust Gulf research already underway at the Institute and the University with establishment of this Research Center of Excellence," said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO.



The HRI, an endowed research center, was established in 2000. With a goal of an ecologically and economically sustainable Gulf of Mexico, HRI finds science-driven solutions with an ecosystem approach that includes research on science, economics and marine and public policies.

"All of us at the Harte Research Institute are very gratified and humbled to help lead a statewide effort with this Center of Excellence," said Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director of the HRI. "This gives us opportunities to bring together all the best scientists to focus on Gulf problems that affect Texas.

"It also gives us the opportunity to make our marine research institutes and Texas more competitive in obtaining federal dollars by working together under the Center of Excellence concept."



**Learn more about the Restore Center by watching the video**

Partners in the Center led by  **HARTE** include the following Texas OneGulf Consortium leaders:



**Center for Translational  
Environmental Health Research**

**UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON**



**THE MEADOWS CENTER  
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

**UT  
BROWNSVILLE**



**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY at GALVESTON



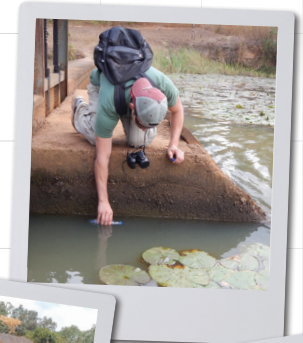
**Health**





A group of 11 students from the Comparative Physiology Laboratory traveled to Riviera Maya, Mexico, last summer where they engaged in dolphin research and hands-on animal care to become effective science communicators.

Research done in partnership with Dolphinaris, an educational and interactive dolphin facility, focused on lung function research and emphasized conservation.

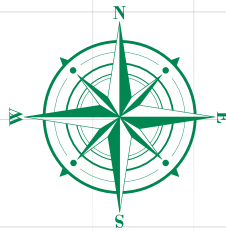
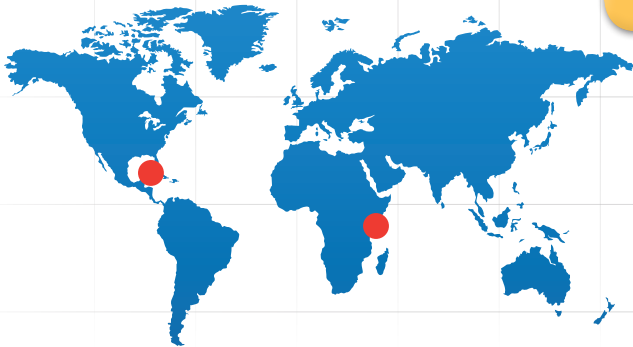


Three Mechanical Engineering students traveled to Hanga, Tanzania, last summer to develop renewable energy solutions. During the trip, students met with villagers and saw up close their energy needs.

Ideas for future projects include using solar energy to heat and treat water, and improve refrigeration, lighting and Internet capabilities.

## Islanders Study Around the World

Islanders are taking their skills around the globe.



See all the pictures from our student's travels

## Species of Crustacean Discovered in Gulf Named After Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Researcher

A newly discovered deep-sea crustacean has been named in honor of Dr. Paul Montagna, Endowed Chair for Ecosystem Studies and Modeling at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, for his long and distinguished career studying marine ecosystem dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico. Postdoctoral student Dr. Hyun Woo Bang and Dr. Jeff Baguley, who is an Assistant Professor

in the Department of Biology at the University of Nevada-Reno and Montagna's former Ph.D. student, recently discovered the crustacean, *Pentacletopsyllus montagnii*.

"It's a great honor and recognition that my colleagues at other universities thought to immortalize me by naming a species after me," Montagna said.



Dr. Paul Montagna



# Island AND Beyond

## Thinking Outside THE Classroom

# Thinking Outside THE Classroom

LOADING 100%



WORLD  
-EUROPE  
-AMERICA  
-ASIA  
-AFRICA







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# And that is just the start of research at the Island University.

- Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan, Assistant Professor of Science and Engineering, is developing a new way to sterilize food such as oysters using cold plasma, a new take on the traditional heated plasma that looks like a colored ray of light found in televisions and fluorescent lights.
- Dr. Jim Lee and his team of economists at the University's South Texas Economic Development Center are keeping watch on fluctuating oil prices and offering insight into how the Coastal Bend economy can remain strong and healthy.
- Inside the kinesiology biomechanics lab, student researchers are working with companies to assess athletes' movements and effectiveness of products that promise improved performance.
- Researchers with the Comparative Physiology Laboratory traveled to Hawaii and Mexico to study the lung function of dolphins, gathering crucial data on one of the most common causes of disease for marine mammals, both under human care and in the wild.
- Research also comes in the form of scholarly and creative activity, like the increased involvement by College of Liberal Arts professors and instructors at prestigious music and creative arts performances, exhibitions, and festivals across the globe, including in France, Italy, Estonia, Malaysia, and Scotland.

"I am excited to see eager professors from all fields of study finding ways to bring in research to their classroom," said Dr. Luis Cifuentes, A&M-Corpus Christi's Vice President for Research, Commercialization & Outreach. "The idea is spreading, taking root in each corner of the Island University. It's bigger than drones. It's bigger than science. It's art and dance and literature. It's

communication and engineering. This is the new culture for A&M-Corpus Christi."

Jack Gron, Professor of Art, immediately saw potential to put UAS to work to improve drab and dull urban landscapes, like vacant buildings and parking lots.

"It's like bringing a laser printer to the site," he said. "We can program a UAS to bring color to these surfaces. Early testing proves this can indeed happen."

Professors are also exploring UAS impact on business management and literature.

A sampling of research Island University professors are currently conducting:

- The psychology of children's lies
- Microplastics from hygiene products that can end up in our oceans
- Causes and solutions to a nursing shortage in rural Texas
- The impact of teachers' knowledge on student learning in science and math fields

## Path to Emerging Research

The Island University's research mindset has grown with the University from its start in 1947 with 300 students through the transition to a four-year university 20 years ago.

Now with 11,000 students pursuing 80 different degrees, the University is poised for the next level: emerging research status.

Emerging research status is a state designation for universities that typically have more than \$30 million in research expenditures annually (Texas A&M-Corpus Christi had \$16.6 for 2013) and a faculty focused on research and scholarly activity.

Emerging research universities bring in needed resources, such as high-

tech labs that help attract in-demand researchers and faculty who help steadily grow research opportunities in every field. Superb faculty conducting cutting-edge research also lures top-of-their-class students to the Island University, and helps the Coastal Bend keep its best and brightest in this area.

These young professionals – professors, instructors and students – attracted to an emerging research university can also impact the quality of life in a community through volunteering and public service, and by serving as the audience needed for additional and more diverse entertainment options.

Emerging research status can have a profound impact on a community through business, public life, infrastructure and the arts.

Texas State Rep. Todd Hunter sees it in terms of economics, too.

"It brings in research and development that brings in new ideas, more students and more jobs – more high-paying jobs," he said. "Pushing research and development for the coastal region through the University is very, very good, and the return is tremendous."

A&M-Corpus Christi researchers like Dr. Michael Starek are embracing this bold research initiative. The University is now offering a doctoral program in geospatial computing, further expanding this high-tech field of research.

Starek, an assistant professor of Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Surveying Engineering, revels in the opportunity to bring more research to the Island University with the advancements of unmanned technology.

"A new door of exploration has opened and revolutionized my ability to collect geospatial data about the world around us," he said. "That leads to a better understanding about changes in our environment, and can create better engineering and science solutions to sustain our environment."

"It's really exciting to be here at A&M-Corpus Christi right now."





# Jessica Berdan

## Soccer Star on the Field and in the Classroom

Senior soccer star Jessica Berdan, shines both on the field and in the classroom, as a perfect example of a student-athlete carrying out the Islander Way mission. Originally from Coppell, Texas, she transferred to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in summer 2013 to become a part of the first Islanders women's soccer team as a starter at center back. She has served as a team captain and battled injuries, playing 13 out of a total 16 games in 2014.

"Jessica has been a leader for this program since she stepped foot on campus," said Shanna Caldwell, Head Coach of the Islanders Women's Soccer Team. "She is always willing to help out on the field or off, whether it's volunteering at the campus beach clean-up or showing recruits around campus."

As a political science major, Berdan holds a cumulative 3.8 GPA. The cumulative Islanders student-athlete GPA is currently 3.1. Berdan's success in the classroom has earned her a spot on the Southland Commissioner's Honor Roll. She says her dedication to her studies is about finding a balance and using her time wisely.



Jessica has been a leader for this program since she stepped foot on campus.

—Shanna Caldwell,  
Head Coach of the Islanders Women's  
Soccer Team



"One of the best parts of being an athlete is that it makes you accountable for your grades and for yourself," she said. "I know that my GPA affects not only me and my team, but our school."

**The Islanders' Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 78 percent is the second highest in the Southland Conference, the eighth year at 75 percent or higher.**

Berdan says the importance of maintaining high marks was something that was instilled in her as a child along with the no-pass-no-play rule.

Aside from her busy schedule, Berdan is active in extra-curricular activities and student organizations on campus. She is the current Vice President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, and has worked as an Islanders Athlete Mentor, where she utilized her experiences and her time as a student-athlete to help incoming freshmen who have not adapted well to college life.

Giving back through community service is something that Berdan says is extremely important to her.

"I know I would not be where I am if I did not have someone in my life who volunteered to help me or gave up some time to mentor me," she said. "Just knowing that – making a difference in one person's life – is good enough for me."





As the advisory council Vice President, she has led the way for the organization to donate more than 2,000 books to the local Driscoll Children's Hospital as part of the Southland Gives Back community service project. This year, the organization partnered with Gloria Hicks Elementary School for a competition between the grade levels to see who could bring in the most books. The winning grade level picked an Islanders athletic team to visit the school.

"Knowing one person can change because of something they saw me do means the world to me," said Berdan. "So I try my best to go out and help in any way that I can."

She has also volunteered her time at Habitat for Humanity and a local nursing home.

"Putting a smile on somebody's face is a lot of fun," she said. "It just makes me feel like I did something special that day."



# BE PART OF THE TEAM...BEHIND THE TEAMS

## ISLANDER



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# Congrats to the Island University

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*The Hispanic Outlook  
in Higher Education*



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*U.S. News & World Report*

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National Council on  
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Programs**

## Top 25 for Best Weather

*Best College Reviews*

**Top 25 in Texas  
for Most Affordable  
Four-Year Online  
Programs**

*OnlineColleges.net*

## Top Online Geographic Information Science Program In the Nation

*By BestOnlineColleges.com*



# Honorees of the Friends of Engineering Award



**D**r. Flavius Killebrew, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi President and CEO (from left), thanked Sam Beecroft, Jim Barnette, and Dan Leyendecker for their support, which has made the Mechanical Engineering program at A&M–Corpus Christi a success. The three honorees were recognized at the “Friends of Engineering” Awards Luncheon held March 3.

Beecroft is President of B. E. Beecroft Co., Inc., a Corpus Christi-based general contractor. Along with his father, B. E. Beecroft, Sam has been a loyal advocate for the creation and growth of the engineering program at A&M–Corpus Christi.

Barnette, a Licensed Professional Consultant Engineer at Lockwood, Andrews, & Newman, served as an Officer in the U.S. Army and has contributed his experience and services to the City of Corpus Christi.

Leyendecker, a Licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and eight other states, is President/Principal of LNV, an engineering, architectural, and construction company headquartered in Corpus Christi.

“Today’s honorees have every reason to celebrate,” said Killebrew. “Their generosity funds scholarships that help bring in strong students who otherwise may not have been able to become the next generation of engineers.”

A&M–Corpus Christi’s first class of students pursuing an electrical engineering degree will begin in fall 2015. The new Bachelor of Science in Engineering has been approved by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

“As soon as the new degree was approved in January, prospective students were inquiring through social media

“ Their generosity funds scholarships that help bring in strong students who otherwise may not have been able to become the next generation of engineers. ”



—Dr. Flavius Killebrew,  
President and CEO

about degree plans and course work,” he said. “And we don’t plan to stop there. The proposals for civil and industrial engineering are already being developed.”

The “Friends of Engineering” Award honors the outstanding achievements of supporters for the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Honorees are chosen for their significant impact on the development and continued excellence of the facilities, faculty, and students.



# IN REMEMBRANCE

## 1950s

Ralph H. Hesse, '51, October 3, 2014  
Jose R. Villarreal, '51, November 11, 2014  
Julio R. Aldape, '59, October 25, 2014

## 1960s

Alvis L. Dowell, '60, January 5, 2014  
Roma J. Merriman, '60, January 11, 2014  
Frances M. Dahl, '61, April 18, 2014  
Frank A. De Angelis, '62, September 16, 2014  
Rose A. Vandergriff, '63, June 24, 2014  
Gregorio O. Gomez, '65, November 3, 2014

## 1970s

Berta C. Chavana, '70, September 11, 2014  
Raymond D. Jordan, '71, August 7, 2014  
Nancy A. Steward, '74 '87, February 17, 2014  
Kirby L. Johnston, '75, February 19, 2014  
Ramon O. Fulton, '75, June 19, 2014  
Frank C. Hearrell, '75, July 24, 2014  
Frances K. Sexton, '75 '79, August 21, 2014  
Jose M. Gamez, '76 '84, July 12, 2014  
Rebecca W. Behrend, '76, February 3, 2015  
Archie R. Siegmund, '76, February 5, 2015  
John R. McCormick, '77, April 30, 2014  
Carole R. Schweizer, '77 '83, June 23, 2014  
Laurel B. Pierson, '77, October 5, 2014

Oscar Soliz, '77, December 15, 2014  
Marjorie E. Goodenough, '77, January 14, 2015  
Gail L. Jaroszewski, '78, October 24, 2014  
Joan P. Howry, '78, January 20, 2015  
James E. Dering, '79, August 1, 2014  
Carolyn I. Rhodes, '79 '82, July 29, 2014

## 1980s

Jennifer L. Gottlich, '80, January 30, 2015  
John M. Leeman, '81, November 30, 2014  
Mark O. Beadle, '82, January 14, 2014  
Mack A. Burditt, '82, July 27, 2014  
Ruth J. Marler, '82 '87, August 22, 2014  
Maria J. Elizondo, '82, January 26, 2015  
Howard B. Brown, '83 '85, February 16, 2014  
Bette R. Langston, '83, February 16, 2014  
Judy J. Ramsay, '84, March 23, 2014  
Walter D. Muller, '84, January 1, 2015  
John D. Washko, '84, January 27, 2015  
Joe G. Medina, '84, February 3, 2015  
Richard R. Lewinski, '85, October 21, 2014  
Harold M. Radloff, '86, April 29, 2014  
Anna M. Seidenberger, '86, October 24, 2014  
Alfonso L. Ramirez, '86, November 2, 2014  
Hector Sanchez, '87, April 18, 2014  
Billie M. Cook, '89, March 19, 2014  
Terri A. Berry, '89, July 18, 2014  
Jay L. Raveling, '89, January 12, 2015

## 1990s

Linda J. Sneed, '92 '94, June 9, 2014  
Paul E. Boehk, '92, August 20, 2014  
Joseph T. Callicott, '92 '93, September 28, 2014  
Richard L. Peltz, '93, March 31, 2014  
Sally R. Burley, '94, February 13, 2014  
Michael A. Pimentel, '94, August 23, 2014  
Larry J. DuBose, '95 '98, September 13, 2014  
Manuel Vela, '95, September 21, 2014  
Elke L. Johnson-Smith, '96, July 6, 2014  
Jose A. Garcia, '97, May 29, 2014  
John C. Hernandez, '98, November 19, 2014  
Bobby C. Forrest, '99, September 6, 2014

## 2000s

Ali M. McKenzie, '07 '09, May 28, 2014  
Nijaz Karacic, '08, January 11, 2014

## 2010s

Dionne L. Oliva, '10, May 28, 2014  
Lydia D. Garcia, '11, January 17, 2015  
Caroline L. Winters, '12, July 8, 2014  
Kaley L. Swallow, '14, October 1, 2014

## CURRENT STUDENTS

Phillip Hartley, July 10, 2014	College of Liberal Arts
Dionne Oliva, May 28, 2014	College of Education
Robert A. West-Warburton, April 9, 2014	College of Business

## FACULTY & STAFF

Joseph T. Callicott (1997–2012)	September 28, 2014
Larry J. DuBose (1996–2010)	September 13, 2014
John M. Leeman (1997–2003)	November 30, 2014
Ali M. McKenzie (2005–2011)	May 28, 2014
Mary J. O'Brien (1984–1995)	February 6, 2015





# 2015 Athletic Hall of Honor



**Gonçalo  
Figueiredo**

**G**onçalo Figueiredo, a former Team Captain and Member of the Portuguese Davis Cup Team, is the winningest Islanders men's tennis player of all time. He currently serves as associate Head Coach for the Islanders men's and women's tennis programs.

Figueiredo has seen Islanders Tennis reach the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Top 65 nationally seven years in a row. In 2014, the men's team clinched the Southland Conference regular-season championship for the seventh straight year, and the women's team captured their first in program history.

During his playing career, he achieved a Top 100 junior world ranking, and competed in World Junior events against Roger Federer, Andy Roddick, and Juan Carlos Ferrero. He reached the Top 60 in the NCAA Division I national singles rankings and had five wins against players ranked in the Top 25 nationally, including a win over Benjamin Becker – who later defeated Andre Agassi in the U.S. Open.

Figueiredo helped the Islanders advance to the NCAA Regional for the first time in school history during his senior season. He finished with a career record of 67-33 in singles and 57-37 in doubles play.

Figueiredo graduated from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. He also received his Bachelor of Business Administration in 2012.



**Shirald  
Hendrix**

**S**hirald Hendrix began playing basketball on a dirt court in Big Sandy/Dallardsville in East Texas. In high school, he played for Texas Basketball Hall of Fame Coach W. Ford King, and captained the Big Sandy Wildcats from 1954-56.

In 1956, Hendrix entered the University of Corpus Christi (UCC) on a basketball scholarship and played for four years under Head Coach and Hall of Honor member Jess Richardson. Hendrix was a standout defender and Co-Captain of the Tarpons for two years, leading the team to the first round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Championship playoffs in 1960.

Hendrix was hired by Gulf Oil Corporation while still in college, and graduated from UCC in 1960 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Following the Gulf Oil/Chevron Corporation merger in 1985, he became Vice President of Credit Card Promotions and the Chevron Travel Club. Retiring in 1989, he returned to Houston to start his own marketing consulting company.

In 1992, Hendrix joined the National Alumni Board for Corpus Christi State University and became President of the National Alumni Association. That same year, he founded the A&M-Corpus Christi Alumni Greater Houston Chapter where he is currently an active member.



**Dr. Jack  
Dugan**

**D**r. Jack Dugan moved to Corpus Christi in 1977, and founded the Dugan Eye Institute. His dedication to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Islanders Athletics has been long-standing and includes support of the Islander Athletic Fund since 2000.

His most lasting contributions have come in the form of the facilities that bear his name, including the Jack & Susie Dugan Wellness Center, the home of Islanders Volleyball and the on-campus home for Islanders Basketball, which opened in 2009.

Most recently, he provided the lead gift for the Dugan Family Soccer & Track Stadium, the home for the Islanders Soccer & Track programs, which opened in 2013.

Dugan, who was born in Lima, Ohio, was a standout high school athlete. He attended St. Benedict's College in Kansas, leading his basketball team to an NAIA National Championship in 1967. He graduated from the Creighton School of Medicine. He performed his residency at the University of Texas and served as Chief of Eye Surgery at Fort Benning, Ga., during the Vietnam War.

Dugan was married to Susie McAdams for 34 years and raised two sons and two daughters before Susie lost her battle with cancer in 2001. He has been married to Bonnie Trejo since 2008, and has 12 grandchildren.



# 2015 ALUMNI HONORS



**Dr. David McKee**

**D**r. David McKee, retired Professor of Biology and Mariculture at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, began teaching at Corpus Christi State University in 1985, where he developed a graduate Mariculture Program, now the Master of Science in Fisheries and Mariculture.

McKee was a strong proponent of “learn from nature not just books.” For more than 20 years, he took ichthyology students on weekend trips sampling fish along the Aransas River. For 25 straight years, McKee conducted 24-hour studies on Oso Bay with his marine ecology students.

He secured funding from Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) for funding undergraduate marine

biology students to spend a summer interning with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This is now in its 13th year.

McKee, who was born in Refugio, Texas, received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Texas A&I in Kingsville in 1970, a Master of Science in Biology from Corpus Christi State University in 1980, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries (Mariculture) from Texas A&M-College Station in 1986.

McKee has published two books and has authored dozens of publications and articles.

McKee has been married to Jane for 42 years and has three children and five grandchildren.

## Distinguished Alumnus



**Patrick Richardson**

**P**atrick Richardson is a Solution Advisor for IHS global information services corporation, and provides oil and gas companies with data enabling them to track well history, drilling permits, rig locations, and drilling costs throughout North America. Richardson is one of two advisors responsible for the Energy Technical department, which earns roughly \$25 million in revenue for a team that generates \$500 million as a whole.

After his graduation from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2003, Richardson began his career in the healthcare field, but switched to the energy industry after earning his MBA from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Richardson focuses his philanthropic efforts in his local community of the Heights, Houston, and charities devoted to cancer treatment. His volunteer service includes serving as President and as a current Board Member of the A&M-Corpus Christi Alumni Greater Houston Chapter. He also volunteers for both the United Way and the Houston Humane Society.

He feels that his years at the University prepared him for the real world, and provided him with valuable leadership experiences. Richardson values the lifelong friendships that he made as a part of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Student Foundation, and Student Government.

## Outstanding Alumnus



**David Fonseca**

**D**avid Fonseca, Incubator Manager at the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, learned the value of hard work, honesty, and entrepreneurship at an early age. His first lesson on entrepreneurship was at age 10, when his parents sold all they had to start their own business.

Fonseca believes in nurturing the economic development of the Coastal Bend as he mentors and coaches clients. In the last four years, Fonseca has assisted more than 120 companies in delivering innovative products and services. The Innovation Center's clients have created 577 jobs; raised more than \$2.5 million in equity; and generated revenues of 3.7 million during the first half of 2014.

He began as a volunteer at the Innovation Center in 2009, serving as a student worker, graduate assistant and earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in four years while working 40 hours a week.

Fonseca collaborates with the National Business Incubation Association as a Professional Speaker. He has presented in Mexico, Russia, Denmark, and international conferences across the United States. He is also an Adjunct

Professor of Business at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

He is co-founder of the Colombian Student Association and the Young Business Professionals of the Coastal Bend and currently serves on several boards and committees.

## Young Alumnus



# 2015 ALUMNI HONORS

## College of Business



**Rosie Vela**

## College of Nursing and Health Sciences



**Leslie Gembol**

## College of Education



**Dr. Roy Lehman**

## College of Science and Engineering



**Korinne Caruso**

## College of Liberal Arts



**Omar Lopez**



# ALUMNI *Class* NOTES

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Dr. Jeffrey Getchell '82 BBA Marketing** is now the Director of Instructional Design and Technology at Regis University. He and wife, Mary Anne, recently celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary.

**Carla Daws '86 BA Communication/'99 MBA General Business** retired with 24 years of state employment in May 2014. She now owns a yoga business in Hays County. Her recent feature film, "Nudged," filmed in Wimberley, Texas, will premier this spring at the outdoor theater, The Corral.

**Crystal Rau '06 BBA Management** is a Client Relationship Manager in the oil and gas industry, located in Midland, Texas. She has been actively involved in the asset management industry since graduating and has gone on to finish her MBA in Finance. She has been happily married to her husband, Seth, for the past eight years and has three children, Colton, 5; Levi, 5; and Riley, 1.

**Gregg Birdy '07 BBA Finance** was recently elected Vice-President of the San Antonio Chapter of the National Association of Residential Property Managers. He was appointed to the Property Management Committee & MLS Committee at the San Antonio Board of REALTORS®. He's focusing on expanding his already successful Residential Sales Division in 2015.

**Caley Jeter '11 BBA Accounting** is excited to announce that she has passed the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam.

**Visit [IslanderAlumni.com](http://IslanderAlumni.com) to share your milestones with fellow alumni.**

**Erica Gutierrez '12 BBA Finance/'14 MBA General Business** moved to Austin, Texas, to accept a Business Analyst/Consultant II position with Texas Mutual.

**Ben Rodriguez '12 BBA Finance** is working for Middletown Valley Bank in Maryland, where he has a fiduciary responsibility for the entire portfolio of the bank. Ben plans to buy a home in West Virginia in the near future.

**Andre Jonckheere '13 MBA General Business** now lives in Iwakuni, Japan. He travels extensively.

**Claire Elizabeth Wilson '13 BBA Accounting** is currently working for an accounting firm in Beeville, Texas, and working towards sitting for her CPA exam. She is also recently engaged to Ronny Manciaz from Deer Park, Texas.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Amy "Lynn" Humeniuk '82 MA Interdisciplinary Studies** wrote the curriculum and started the Criminal Justice Program at Howard Payne University in 2004, and is currently the CRJ Director. Married to Dan for 33 years, they have three sons.

**Justin Moore '93 BA Communication** resides in Houston, Texas, working as a Realtor for Champions Real Estate Group.

**Rodney Buckwalter '98 BA Communication/'03 MS Occupational Training & Development** is now owner of Caliber Patient Care in San Antonio, Texas.

**Cecilia Gamez '98 BS Criminal Justice** is traveling the world and just completed 15 years of work.

## Two-Time Alumnus to Return to Ecuador to Implement Business Techniques



**Bolivar Lozada**, who is originally from Quito, Ecuador, graduated with his first set of degrees in Finance and Economics in 2011. Two years after working at his family-owned business in Ecuador, he returned to the Island University to earn his Master of Business Administration in August 2014. Already a successful leader and businessman, Lozada said that his future plans will include returning to Ecuador to implement the Islander business techniques he has learned.

## Biologist Helps to Protect Endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle



Biologist **Cynthia Rubio** has spent the last 24 years protecting the rare Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Padre Island National Seashore is one of the few places in the world where the endangered reptile nests. Rubio, who received her Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Biology in 2003, is part of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at the National Seashore. There, she works to protect the Kemp's ridley while they are nesting on Texas beaches. Rubio continues to use her skills to conduct outreach and training on sea turtle nest detection across the Texas coast.

## VanMatre Named Freer ISD Superintendent



**Steve VanMatre** has been named Superintendent of Schools in the Freer Independent School District. VanMatre received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Corpus Christi State

University and his Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In his professional career, VanMatre has received numerous awards including the Texas Music Educators Association Distinguished Administrator; the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Educator of the Year; and Corpus Christi ISD Teacher of the Year Semifinalist.



**Dr. Sonia Noyola, NBCT '99 MS Educational Technology/MPA Public Administration** has sponsored senior economics students who have made history by being the first to not only compete in the University of Texas-Austin ASI Civics Fair Videoconference, but also took first in State for their Oral History project.

**Lori Shearin '03 BS Clinical Laboratory Science/'13 MPA Public Administration** just started a new position as an Academic Advisor at A&M-Corpus Christi in the College of Science and Engineering.

**John Woelke '04 BA English** and his wife, **Ann Woelke '05 BA English/'07 MA English** moved to Waco, Texas, in fall 2014. John cares for their son, Jack, while managing their photography company. Anne is a Senior Contracts Negotiator at L-3 Communications. They have enjoyed exploring their new community.

**Sara Huerta King '06 BA History** and **Christopher King '06 BA Psychology/'11 MS Counseling** have been married for five years and welcomed twin daughters in December 2014. Austyn and Paityn join big sister, Jordyn, to make this family complete. Chris works for the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs as a Substance Use Disorder Specialist assisting homeless veterans. Sara works for Del Mar College as a College Outreach Specialist assisting students to get into college.

**Gary Lopez '06 BA Communication** continues to work for Tejas Management System Inc. If not working, Gary continues to volunteer his time by taking individuals with special needs to once-in-a-lifetime places. This past month, Gary visited Greece, Croatia, Turkey, and Italy, making new memories around the world.

**Eric Alzafari '08 MPA Public Administration** is living in Houston, Texas, with his fiancée. He was recently promoted to the Specialized Caseload Unit and given supervision of a Mental Health caseload.

**Amber Rokyta '08 BA Communication** celebrated her 2nd Anniversary with United Way in March of 2015. She is enjoying nonprofit work more and more each day.

**Don Trahan '08 BA Psychology/'10 MA Psychology** completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Counselor Education from the University of New Mexico in fall 2013. He relocated to Virginia in order to assume the directorship of the Student Transition Program within the Division of Diversity and Inclusion.

**Tara Hall '02 BA Communication** lives in New York City and is the Director of Organizational Development for the Center for Employment Opportunities.

**Robert MacDonald '09 BS Criminal Justice** celebrated his 35th anniversary in law enforcement in January. He retired from the Corpus Christi Police Department after 30 years of service, was the Chief of Police in Uvalde, Texas, and has been the Chief of Police in Jasper, Texas, since November 2013.

**Melva Perez '09 BA Political Science** has moved back to Corpus Christi and now practices immigration law with the non-profit organization, RAICES, providing free and low-cost immigration legal services to immigrants in the Coastal Bend.

**Andrea Van Horn '09 BA Psychology/'12 MA Psychology** worked for the local school district in Corpus Christi, as an LSPP-I for one year after graduation. She moved to Oklahoma due to her husband's work, and was able to spend a year with her 3-year-old son at home. Andrea recently started working for several local psychologists as an associate.

**Rob Boscamp '10 BA Communication/'12 MA Communication** lives in Corpus Christi, where he works as the Community Relations Director at 91.7 FM KBNJ, a Christian radio station. He also returned to writing freelance for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

**Dawn Doyle '10 BS Criminal Justice/'13 MPA Public Administration** is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Public Administration from Walden University and works part-time for Legacy Home Health Agency, Inc. in Corpus Christi.

**Ashley Brooks '12 BA History** currently resides in San Antonio, Texas, where she was recently promoted to the position of Associate Director of Financial Aid with The Alamo Colleges. She is also completing her Master's degree in Public Administration. She recently also became the President of her Alumni chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. in San Antonio, Texas.

**Ariel Allen '13 BA Sociology** was chosen from 1,000 applicants to be a part of the 2014-2015 CAC AmeriCorps team based in Knoxville, T.N. She currently serves as a full-time Program Coordinator with Keep Knoxville Beautiful, a local non-profit, and Keep America Beautiful affiliate.

## Alumna Promotes Educational Technology Organization in Kenya



**Liza Mucheru-Wisner**, top 3 finalist on the 10th season of Donald Trump's "The Apprentice," is working to promote her technology business in her home country of Kenya. Mucheru-Wisner, Founder and Executive

Director of POWER UP (Providing Opportunities Where Everyone Rises Up), is an award-winning business performance advisor who established the Texas-based organization in 2010. The organization works to provide unique technology-rich learning environments to children from around the world.

## Islander Alumnus Fights to Promote Community Fitness



Fitness expert **James Washington** is using his knowledge and skills gained through his education at the Island University to provide preventative methods for health-related issues among youth in the Coastal Bend.

Washington, who graduated with his Bachelors of Science in Sports Management in December 2012, has accepted the position of Health Promotions Coordinator for the City County Health Department. During his time as a student, Washington worked with Islanders athletics as an Assistant Strength Coach Intern and developed an understanding for the importance of youth fitness.

## Alumnus Accepted as Policy Fellow to the Texas House of Representatives



**Justin Guajardo**, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2014, has been accepted as a new Policy Fellow to the Texas House of Representatives by the Mexican American Legislative Leadership

Foundation. This highly competitive position is one of only four selected from across the state. Guajardo is assigned to Representative Marisa Marquez from House District 77, which includes downtown El Paso and the University of Texas—El Paso.



**Kevin Rambler '13 MFA Studio Art** married Abigail Lashbrook on Jan. 10, 2015. He also recently accepted a position as an Exhibit Designer for the Farmington Museum System in Farmington, New Mexico.

**Fernando Albarran '14 BA Theatre** lives in Houston, Texas, and is currently teaching Creative Performance and Broadcasting at Lake Olympia Middle School as well as working on an up-and-coming professional theatre company.

**Cheryl Redding-Votzmeyer '14 BFA Art** has accepted a position in May 2014 as the Education Coordinator at K Space Contemporary. To wrap up the year, Cheryl was blessed with a trip of a lifetime to Israel, where she and her family were able to visit the Holy Land.

**Rene Zamora '14 BA Communication** recently took a position as an Admissions Counselor at A&M-Corpus Christi. While attending the University, Rene worked in the Office of Recruitment and Admissions assisting in programs for new students. He also served as the Student Body Vice President. Rene takes pride in representing the Island University as he travels around Texas assisting students in their college journey.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Octavio "O.B." Garcia '54 BS Mathematics** and wife, Viola G. Garcia (deceased) were honored at LULAC Council's #4444 "Celebration of Family" Banquet held Oct. 23, 2014, honoring Four-Star Parents. The purpose of the event is to showcase the parents of families who embody the values of the community through hard work, perseverance, character, and giving.

**Edalio Salinas '85 BM Music** retired from teaching after 28 years. Now he has the time to work on his bucket list with his wife, Rebecca, and enjoy watching their daughter, Regina, run cross country/track & field for the Islanders.

**Marianne McQueen Robert '88 MS Curriculum & Instruction** volunteers and works as General Advisor to the Lambda Delta chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity for women at A&M-Corpus Christi. She was awarded the Greek Advisor of the Year this past year.

**Marilyn Cook '92 MS Curriculum & Instruction/'96 MS Educational Administration** is now an Educational Therapist Professional.

**Dr. Mark McNamara '93 BS Biology/'05 MS Biology/'12 EDD Educational Leadership** was promoted to Professional Associate Professor in the Department of Life Sciences at A&M-Corpus Christi. He also became an open water scuba instructor and now teaches scuba lessons part-time. In the fall, he will begin his 10th year with the Island University.

**Jennifer "Kyle" Shroyer '07 BS Biology** married her girlfriend of 10 years, Erica Rodriguez, in September 2013 in San Diego, Calif., and earned her Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. She is in her eighth year of teaching at Holmes High School.

**Sandra Jacoby '08 BS Interdisciplinary Studies** is currently teaching in her sixth year at the Fredericksburg Primary School in Fredericksburg, Texas. After teaching summer school, she returns to Burg's Corner to sell peaches (a part-time summer job since 2001). She has recently started her own business: SRJ Photography.

**Paul Saville '08 BA Psychology/'09 MSC Kinesiology** after graduation he went on to achieve his Doctorate in Health & Exercise Psychology from McMaster University, which landed him an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Exercise & Sport Sciences at Azusa Pacific University. He and his wife Liz are excited to be embarking on this new life journey in Southern California and are also expecting their first baby girl in May.

**Justin Morales '09 BS Kinesiology** has been with Weatherford for a little over a year. He and his wife, Kasie, were also expecting a baby girl, Aubree, in January 2015. The couple and their daughter, Addison, are as excited as can be. They hope that both Addison and Aubree will become Islander Alumni someday as well.

**Amber Bright '11 BS Interdisciplinary Studies** was honored as "District Elementary Teacher of the Year" for the Gregory Portland ISD this past school year.

**Donte Booker '12 BS Kinesiology** graduated with honors from Concordia University-Portland Oregon in June 2014 with a Master of Education with a concentration in Curriculum & Instruction and a Minor in Mathematics K-14. He is now living in Nashville, T.N., where he will begin a new career.

**Mary Gleason '12 EDD Educational Leadership** is planning a bowling tournament at the end of July to raise funds for literacy.

**Annie Mucheru '12 BS Interdisciplinary Studies** has been teaching for over 2 years at Dr. J. A. Garcia Elementary. This year, she was honored to be named "Teacher of the Year".

**Apolonia A. Davila '13 BS Interdisciplinary Studies** is more than happy to have reached the midway mark of her first year as an English I Teacher as well as a Freshman Volleyball and Varsity Softball Assistant Coach in La Feria, Texas.

**Celinda Castro '14 BS Interdisciplinary Studies** has accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Tuloso-Midway Primary School. Celinda is supporting A&M-Corpus Christi in her classroom, and enjoys educating her young students at an early age on the importance of higher education.

**Melerie Deleon '14 BA Kinesiology** just landed a full-time position with the San Antonio Spurs as the Group Sales Coordinator.

**Douglas Stoves '14 EDD Educational Leadership** has been elected to the directorate of the Commission of Residential Life for American College Personnel Association and serves as the Dean of Students at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**Sylvia Centanni Scott '99 MS Environmental Science** taught for one year and then went to Rice University and completed a Masters in Geoscience in the Professional Science Master's Program. She has been working for Schlumberger since 2006, and lives in The Woodlands, Texas, with her two cats and one dog.

**Dan Kueck '01 BS Computer Science** works for PDX, Inc., a pharmacy software company located in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Erica Padilla '01 BS Biology** has started a Service Center in Corpus Christi for an ALS Group out of Houston after eight years with a local environmental testing laboratory. She enjoys the benefits of working independently and spending more time with family while continuing to protect the residents of Corpus Christi through environmental testing.

**Amanda Brown '02 BS Biology** has recently been promoted to Nursing Clinical Manager after working for Harris Health System as a Registered Nurse for the last seven years.



**Norma “Danelle” Zunker ‘03 MS Reading/’09 PhD Curriculum & Instruction** has a 33-year-old daughter and is living in Florida. Norma has the most adorable niece who stays with her four days a week. She is the love of her life and she considers her a granddaughter.

**Angela Speaker ‘07 BA Communication/’12 MS Counseling** is currently a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern in the State of Texas and is working as the Senior Academic Advisor for the College of Education at A&M-Corpus Christi.

**Russel Raab ‘09 BS Biology** and his wife, Jo Beth, had their first child born Nov. 20, 2014. The baby girl, Jacynthe Jolee, is keeping her parents on their toes.

**Jacquelyn Reuther ‘09 BS Biology**, who is currently residing in Houston, graduated in February 2015 with her Ph.D. in Human Molecular Genetics with a concentration of Cancer Genetics from the University of Texas MD Anderson Graduate School of Biomedical Science.

**Evan Paret ‘13 BS Environmental Science** graduated in May 2013. After graduating, he transitioned into an internship with the City Manager’s Office at Corpus Christi City Hall. While working with the city, he is also pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Administration at A&M-Corpus Christi.

**Isabel Hemby ‘09 BS Environmental Science** is happily living and working in Corpus Christi and enjoys spending her time out with her pibble, an American pit bull terrier.

**Marco Messina ‘14 BS Chemistry** is currently living in Los Angeles, Calif., where he is working toward his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is conducting research in the laboratories of Professor Heather D. Maynard, where he is synthesizing trehalose glycopolymers for use in protein stabilization.

**John Romanucci ‘14 BS Computer Science** is excited about his upcoming launch for a new website he and his team have been working on for the city of Atlanta, Ga. His second son was due to be born on Feb. 25, 2015. John and his wife, Natalia, were thinking of naming him Antonio.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Elizabeth Paseur ‘12 BS Health Science** now lives in San Antonio, Texas. After working two years for Methodist Healthcare, she now has a job as Communications Coordinator for Catholic Charities.

**Brin Davis ‘14 BSN Nursing** is currently working in the Neuro/Trauma ICU at The Medical Center of Plano. She is currently working toward her Master of Science in Nursing at A&M-Corpus Christi.

## Alumna Continues to Pursue Her Dreams



**Clarissa Serna**, who appeared on the hit NBC show, “The Voice,” graduated from the Island University in 2008 with her Bachelor of Arts in Media Communication. She is currently preparing for the release of her next

album. Serna also headlined the “Chasing Dreams Tour,” which featured other artists from “The Voice.” In April 2014, Serna spoke to Early Childhood Development Center students at A&M-Corpus Christi about the importance of education and following their dreams. Serna has shared her talent throughout South Texas and her hometown of Corpus Christi.

## Novelist Alumna Returns to Give Public Reading at the Island University



**e.E. Charlton-Trujillo**, a critically-acclaimed novelist, returned to the Island University during the 18th annual Authors’ Day celebration on February 19. She read and signed copies of her 2013 award-winning novel,

“Fat Angie.” Charlton-Trujillo, who graduated in 1998 from A&M-Corpus Christi with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master’s degree in Filmmaking from Ohio University in 2003, is the author of three novels which include “Prizefighter En Mi Casa,” “Feels Like Home,” and “Fat Angie.” “When We Was Fierce” is forthcoming in 2016.

## Alumna Named Live Oak Assistant City Manager



Island University alumna, **Jordan Matney**, has been named the new Assistant City Manager for Live Oak, Texas. Matney graduated with her Master of Arts in Public Administration in fall 2013.

As the new Assistant City Manager, Matney will be responsible for assisting with the day-to-day management of the city. All of these responsibilities will utilize the knowledge and skills she acquired and enhanced while enrolled in the Public Administration program at the Island University.



**Visit IslanderAlumni.com  
to share your milestones  
with fellow alumni.**



# ISLANDER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Annual Report*

# 2014



## About The Islander Alumni Association Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi



**T**he Islander Alumni Association exists to strengthen and promote the interests and welfare of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, all Islander students, and alumni.

The Islander Alumni Association considers all graduates of this institution while named the University of Corpus Christi, Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi State University, and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as its members. All graduates of the Island University are members of the Islander Association from the moment they graduate and we encourage all alumni to be active alumni by giving to the Annual Fund.

The Association serves the University by encouraging support for the University, the current students, and creating a strong and proud alumni network. The Association serves our alumni by creating Alumni benefits and affinity programs, creating alumni communication networks, and hosting special alumni programs and events. The Association serves our current students through creating networking opportunities with our Islander alumni, hosting the Islander Ring Ceremony, and staying connected to student events and needs on campus.

Find out how to get involved at [IslanderAlumni.com](http://IslanderAlumni.com).



## From the Director

*Islander Alumni,*

**2014** has been a year of change and growth for the Islander Alumni Association and our Alumni Relations Office. We equate our development in 2014 to building a house. First you draw up your schematics, next pour your foundation, then start framing out the structure and what you are building begins to take shape. This is true of our ever-evolving alumni structure. The past couple of years, our Alumni Board Members and Alumni team have been primarily dedicated to planning and foundation-building, and we are excited to start enhancing the structure of our Association.

We are excited to bring you a new, improved Islander Alumni Association that is responsive to your needs as Alumni, and would love to build a personal relationship with you. We are now marketing ourselves as the Islander Alumni Association because we know that our Island University has a rich history and we are excited to create connections from our past to our present and future. Regardless of mascot or University name,

*Go Islanders,*

Lori B. Garza '07  
Director of Engagement

we are part of the Island University and WE ARE ALL ISLANDERS!

We have recently redesigned IslanderAlumni.com to be more modern and user-friendly. It is also the best place to connect with other alumni, post and browse jobs, and keep up to date with the latest news about the Island University. The University is on a growth streak in both student enrollment and in our research efforts. Alumni and friends can also get the latest information and share stories through our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

The Alumni Association is in the process of growing our network and building our Islander pride so we need your help. We would like to encourage all Alumni to contact us and let us know what areas we can improve on as we develop our efforts to serve and engage our Islander Alumni and students.

We encourage you to use the Alumni Association as a way to get reconnected with the Island University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and see the growth and change for yourself.

The Islander Alumni Association hopes to get you involved in making a difference in the lives of Islanders on campus and around the world. Please visit [IslanderAlumni.com/getinvolved](http://IslanderAlumni.com/getinvolved) to find out ways to get involved and sign up!

## Meet the Alumni Team



Kimberly Becerra '13 '14  
College of Business



Lori Garza '07  
Director of Engagement



Alyssa Leicht  
College of Education



Joshua Poorman  
College of Nursing  
& Health Sciences



Karen Silva  
College of Science  
& Engineering



Russell Wagner '08  
College of Liberal Arts

## Alumni Connections

Get connected to your Islander Alumni Association



**VISIT**

Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center  
6129 Ennis Joslin Rd.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

**MAIL**

Alumni Relations  
6300 Ocean Dr., Unit 5741  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

**ONLINE**

[IslanderAlumni.com](http://IslanderAlumni.com)

**SOCIAL**



[Facebook.com/IslanderAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/IslanderAlumni)



[Twitter @Islander\\_Alumni](https://twitter.com/Islander_Alumni)



[LinkedIn: TAMUCC Alumni Association Official Page](https://www.linkedin.com/company/TAMUCC-Alumni-Association-Official-Page)



[Instagram: @IslanderAlumni](https://www.instagram.com/IslanderAlumni)



# 2014 ALUMNI EVENTS



**Islanders vs. UIW  
Alumni Tailgate**  
February 6  
(San Antonio, TX)



**Homecoming 2014**  
Feb. 28 & March 1



**Islander Conference  
Tourney Party**  
March 14  
(Katy, TX)



**Islander Alumni  
Summer Bash**  
July 24



**Islander Alumni Day  
at Whataburger Field**  
August 28



**Islander Networking  
Career Mixer**  
September 25



**Freshman Class of '94  
Reunion**  
October 17



**College of Science  
& Engineering  
Shrimp Boil**  
November 8

# 2014 STUDENT EVENTS



**Ring Ceremony &  
Islander Ring Wish**  
April 26 & October 28

Islander students celebrate their accomplishments by receiving their Islander Ring at this special ceremony, and following it up with a reception

with their families and friends at the Lee Plaza Fountain, where students have the opportunity to make a wish upon the Island for their post-graduation dreams.

**Senior Party**  
May 14 & December 10

The Association started this new campus tradition, hosting an event welcoming soon-to-be graduating seniors into the Alumni Association. Islanders celebrated the end of their student connection and the beginning of their Alumni connection with food, fun, and an exciting lip syncing contest!



## 2014 Alumni Recognition

Since the Alumni Award began in 2000, over 50 Island University alumni have been recognized and honored for their service to industry and the Island University.

**Dr. Haysam Dawod '85** was awarded top honors, receiving the Islander Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition for service to his profession and



loyalty to the Island University. The Outstanding Alumnus award was presented to **Libby Averyt '12** for career achievements and excellence in service to her community and A&M-Corpus Christi. The Young Alumnus Award was awarded to **Dr. Mark Olson '05** for his dedication to research and achievements.

2014 College Alumni Excellence Awards were awarded to:

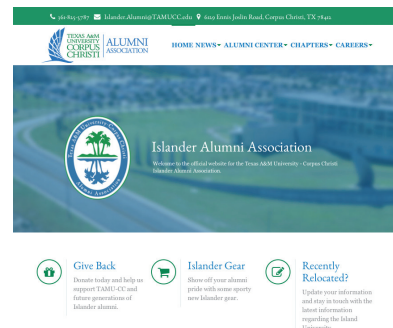
- **Michael Hunter '12** from the College of Business
- **Bryan Mayhood '07** from the College of Education
- **Michael Henneberger '12** from the College of Liberal Arts
- **Irene Rosales '12** from the College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- **Dr. Danyel Tacker '99** from the College of Science & Engineering



# 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

## New Website

The new **IslanderAlumni.com** website launched in September and is a vibrant and dynamic way to view your Alumni news and events, browse job postings,



or purchase your Islander gear. Be sure to create a login ID to unlock special features such as Islander Business cards and access to our Alumni job portal.

## Skinny Izzy

Skinny Izzy, our traveling paper mascot, debuted this summer to spread the Islander spirit and pride! Skinny Izzy visited 5 continents traveling with Islander Alumni and friends. Make sure to take Skinny Izzy with you on your next business trip or vacation. Download Skinny Izzy at **IslanderAlumni.org/skinny-izzy.com** and email your photos to **IslanderAlumni.News@tamucc.edu**.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## San Antonio Chapter Launch

The Association is looking to launch a chapter in San Antonio, so be on the lookout if you are interested in participating or becoming a leader in this effort. Please contact Lori Garza at 361.825.2352 for questions or ideas.

## Houston Chapter Mentoring Program

The Greater Houston Alumni Chapter is starting a mentoring program to aid seniors at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in launching their careers in the Houston area. We are seeking Alumni mentors in all fields of study and careers to help connect with these outstanding and motivated Islanders. Please contact Roy Ford, Greater Houston Chapter President for more information or questions at **islanderalumni.houstonchapter@tamucc.edu**

## Big News?

New Job? First house? Baby? Retiring? We know that you have a lot to be proud of and we want to hear about it! Go to **updateform.tamucc.edu** or email us at **islander.alumni@tamucc.edu** and tell us about your news! We want to thank you for staying connected to the Island University and sharing your life with us, so we will send you some exciting Islander goodies!

# VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

## Islander Alumni Board

The Association Board members help guide the vision and execution of the Islander Alumni Association by providing staff with input on programs, events, and services to help benefit the Island University's over 40,500 living alumni.

### 2014 Board Members:

Ray De Los Santos, Jr. '04  
Cynthia Turner '89  
Krystal Houck '06  
John O. Steward '06 '10  
Leslie Diane Balerio '03 '11  
Ben Blanco '98 '11  
Sonya Buckwalter '94  
Ed Cantu '81  
Gary Cotter '70  
Haysam Dawod '85  
Kimberly DeVisser '07  
Cassandra Hinojosa '99

President Katie Hoover '06  
Vice President Mark Militello '96  
Treasurer Kay Schroeder '01  
Past President Adam B. Smith '08  
Director Gloria Ann Valdez '00  
Director Liza Wisner '04 '07  
Director Roy Ford '71  
Director Stephanie Box '98 '02  
Director Elizabeth Parker  
Director  
Director

Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Houston Chapter President  
Anchor Alumni  
Club President  
Student Foundation  
Association

## Chapters & Interest Groups:

### Greater Houston Alumni Chapter

President: Roy Ford '71  
**islanderalumni.houstonchapter@tamucc.edu**

### Anchor Alumni Club

President: Stephanie Box '98 '02  
**islanderalumni.anchorchapter@tamucc.edu**

### Island Battalion ROTC Affinity Group

President: Juliette Burks  
**islanderalumni.ROTCchapter@tamucc.edu**

### Student Foundation Association

President: Elizabeth Parker  
**Student.foundation@tamucc.edu**





## IT'S YOUR ISLAND UNIVERSITY CALLING!

It's your **Island Callers** on the line. *Will you answer?*  
Each student who has earned the opportunity to serve as an Island Caller is also your connection to learn about the great things that are going on at your University.

**Be a part of our growth.** After all, you share the experiences of being an Islander. When **Island Callers** reach out, take a moment and ask what's new on campus and support your Islanders.



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
361.825.2420

**giving.tamucc.edu**

Our Island Callers thank local businesses for their generous support, including: Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Cinema 16 Corpus Christi, Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, Olive Garden Restaurants, and Waterstreet Seafood Co.