



the **Islander**

2017

ISLANDER FOREVER

MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE
CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

T E X A S A & M U N I V E R S I T Y - C O R P U S C H R I S T I



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

ISLANDER

Forever

HOMECOMING 2017



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is produced each spring by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Office of Marketing & Communications, part of the Division of Institutional Advancement. Content in the magazine is designed to enlighten the University's alumni and friends on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's people, programs and activities.

Comments and editorial ideas should be sent to:

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

6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5726, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5726



Q&A WITH THE PRESIDENT



My name is Diana Del Angel and I am a PhD student at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Interim President of our Island University, to ask about her insights and experiences at the University.*

You have been with the University for more than 20 years. What have you enjoyed most?

What I love the most about A&M-Corpus Christi are the people. The faculty and staff are united in making our mission, which focuses on student success, a reality. When I came here in 1994, we had a vision of what we wanted to build. I have seen that vision realized and I have seen it continue to grow. Working at a Hispanic Serving Institution, with so many first-generation college students, is extremely rewarding. Being able to watch your students grow and develop into successful professionals, knowing you played a role in their success, is an incredible experience. I can't imagine a better place to work.

How does the University nurture first-generation college students?

As a first-generation college student myself, I know these students face many obstacles. While family members can be fully supportive of their student, they may not always be able to provide advice about college. We work to fill in that gap. TAMU-CC offers many programs to ensure students have all the support they need to succeed. We even offer programs to parents that assist them in being more knowledgeable about the college environment.

Our retention and student success programs include high-impact practices such as the learning communities, supplemental instruction, tutoring, peer mentors, assistance with writing, career counseling, advising on majors and degree completion, financial counseling and more. Additionally, we have support in all areas of mental and physical wellness. Student organizations are also important in retention and success. And, of course, we have highly qualified, caring faculty in our classrooms. Our hope is that all these resources provide a familial atmosphere away from home.

I should stress that these programs are for all students, not just first-generation Islanders. TAMU-CC also offers programming to support special populations like our honors students, students with disabilities, and veterans.

Our University takes pride in fostering diversity and inclusion. How do you see the student organizations contributing?

Fostering diversity and inclusion are core values of the University. As a Hispanic Serving Institution, diversity is central to our mission. However, if A&M-Corpus Christi were a campus that had diverse demographics but failed to create a culture of genuine inclusion, we would not have succeeded in our mission. Both elements, diversity and inclusion, are equally important. Student organizations certainly are central to that inclusive culture. The ease of starting an organization on campus has resulted in a variety of organizations that reflects the diversity of our students. The growth in these groups has been extensive since my arrival in '94. Today we have more than 150 student organizations that reflect diversity on all levels and provide places for students to belong. We have a wide range of academic, cultural, social, sports, faith-based, and community service organizations, as well as student government.

TAMU-CC is on a trajectory to reach Emerging Research University status. Simultaneously, we increased enrollment while striving to maintain excellence in education. How do we maintain that balance?

Providing an unparalleled commitment to every student's success, closing the gaps in educational attainment, and becoming an emerging research institution are challenging individual goals, and our effort is to achieve them simultaneously. Is that possible? I believe it is, because of the quality and the dedication of our faculty and staff. Balance is maintained and our goals are achieved if we value the strengths and contributions from every part of the University. For example, some faculty excel with First Year Islanders, while others excel with graduate students. Some prefer to focus on teaching, while others focus on research. But regardless of an individual's area of focus, all parts of the campus contribute to student success and success in research.

Why do you consider the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) to be an asset not only for the University but the greater community surrounding the Gulf of Mexico?

I remember the day the announcement was made that Ed Harte had forever changed the

University for the better. Mr. Harte's gift of \$46 million propelled forward our academic programs, research and contributions to all that live, work, play and depend on the Gulf of Mexico. The quality of researchers and the nature of the work being done at HRI has international impact, and has brought prestige to the University and incredible opportunities to our students. But, the benefit extends beyond the University because HRI research is focused on solving problems. Whether it is recycling oysters, integrating data, restoring and enhancing habitats impacted by oil spills, or tracking sharks, HRI is making certain the Gulf is healthy for us all.

Do you use social media? If so, do you use it to connect with Islander students?

Absolutely, I'm a big fan of Facebook. I've been told by my 14-year-old daughter that I like Facebook because I'm old and I really need to spend more time on Instagram and Snapchat. Other than the fun filters, Snapchat makes no sense to me. What I love most about Facebook is getting to connect with all my former students. I am so impressed by how successful they have all become. But, then again, I should expect nothing less from our Islander alumni.

***Interview was conducted on March 23, 2017.**



Islanders **Give Back** to Coastal Bend Community for **#GivingTuesday**



On Nov. 29, faculty and staff at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi took a break from their offices and classrooms to participate in #GivingTuesday, a global initiative inviting people from all corners of the world to give back to their communities. In total, 125 Islander faculty and staff volunteers contributed 269 hours of service and

made a difference at 10 off-campus locations. The number of participants has nearly tripled from 44 participants in the event's first year, 2014.

Volunteers participated in many service-based activities, including sorting canned goods for the Food Bank of Corpus Christi and donating blood at the Coastal Bend Blood Center. Other volunteer sites included the Glenoak Therapeutic Riding Center, Mission 911, Gulf Coast Humane Society and Gloria Hicks Elementary School. A group of volunteers also distributed warm meals to the homeless at Corpus Christi Metro Ministries.

"For me, higher education was a way out of poverty and doing things like participating in Giving Tuesday reminds me how fortunate I am," said Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. "If not for my higher education, I could be in similar situations. It is humbling for me to work in these nonprofit spaces where I am able to hear people's stories, humanize them and provide hope."

This is the third year Island University faculty and staff have participated in #GivingTuesday. ■



The ninth annual Big Event broke new records with more than 850 students, faculty and staff volunteering on March 25 at approximately 50 jobs sites all over the city. The Big Event, hosted by the Student Volunteer Connection, is a way for Islanders to express gratitude to their community, give back and make friends.

"Part of our Momentum 20/20 goals is to expand service," said Samantha De Melim, Student Activities Coordinator at A&M-Corpus Christi. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Islanders to get involved, come together with their friends and give back to the community through service."

Volunteers were matched with nonprofit organizations and residential homes. Some of the various duties included mowing lawns, painting and picking up trash. Job sites included the Food Bank of Corpus Christi, the Salvation Army, Fiesta de la Flor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and more. ■



Tell us your thoughts on the Islander Magazine by taking the survey at magazinesurvey.tamucc.edu

Upon completing the survey, you will have a chance to win the Ultimate Islander Prize Pack shown here.

Contest ends October 31, 2017. Winner will be notified by phone and/or email.



*Items in prize pack may vary

Simulations Bring Real-life Experience to Nursing Students

It's the start of a new shift, and just like at any other hospital, the nursing students at A&M-Corpus Christi are handling patients with a multitude of health conditions. From dealing with cardiac arrests to prepping patients for surgery, students at the Islander Regional Hospital get hands-on learning experiences that can only be described as "intense and immersive." What makes this experience unique is that some of the patients are sophisticated computerized mannequins and are a part of a learning simulation devised by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) faculty, who want their graduates to be better prepared for the future.

"It takes five to 10 years to become proficient as a nurse," said Susan Greathouse, MSN, RN and Clinical Assistant Professor in the CONHS. "With our simulations, we think about how we can help our nursing students bridge the gap between nursing school and the reality of practicing safely."

Julie Fomenko, MSN, RN and Clinical Assistant Professor in the CONHS, and Greathouse both use the phrase "intensive learning experience" to describe what it's like to go through a two-and-a-half hour multi-patient nursing simulation. The growth in confidence that Island University students experience and the growth in the nursing program is in part thanks to Greathouse and Fomenko, who have overseen the Islander

Regional Hospital since January 2015. Funded in 2016 by a \$150,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, these simulations are part of the capstone courses for senior nursing students. This first grant led to the development of a Simulated Acute Care Hospital Environment within Island Hall called "Islander Regional Hospital."

"Simulation is the cutting edge of nursing education. With the creative interprofessional scenarios that Fomenko and Greathouse have created, students practice real-life situations in safe environments," said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean of the CONHS. "The feedback from employing agencies has reinforced that the graduates are better prepared to deliver competent nursing care and work with interprofessional teams."

Thanks to a second grant of nearly \$200,000 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Fomenko and Greathouse will now be able to expand the simulation experience to first- and second-semester nursing students. The grant will allow the Island University to add another "wing" to the hospital, which will feature 10 new beds, new blood pressure machines, IV pumps, computers on wheels and a second medical administration computer system. With the addition of nearly \$60,000 in new equipment, nursing students will



now be better prepared as they transition to practice as newly graduated nurses.

"Nursing education has grown so much over the years," said Fomenko. "When I was in nursing school, there were 30 students in a cohort. Now we have 120 students in a cohort. Managing four times the number of students in a community that has two hospital systems can be challenging when sending them out for their clinical hours."

One of the goals of the new grant is to substitute traditional face-to-face clinical hours at a hospital for simulation hours in the classroom. Another way the grant will benefit the CONHS is by allowing many of the faculty to become Certified Healthcare Simulation Educators. Fomenko and Greathouse, who are always creating new simulation scenarios, believe the certification will increase faculty theoretical knowledge and help them stay

"Simulation is the cutting edge of nursing education. With the creative interprofessional scenarios that Fomenko and Greathouse have created, students practice real life situations in safe environments."

Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton

Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences

up-to-date with advancing simulation and nursing education technology.

"We spent a good three months writing simulation scenarios, but it is an ongoing process," said Fomenko. "We keep up with current research, and when there is a change in current practice or technology we make sure to incorporate it into the simulation."

Both Fomenko's and Greathouse's accomplishments were recently recognized by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) when they received the INACSL Excellence "Best Practice Innovator" Award at the 2017 conference in Washington, D.C. They received the award for going above and beyond in demonstrating commitment and use of innovative approaches to simulations. Greathouse and Fomenko say they work so hard on the simulation curriculum for the impact they have on their students.

"There is something that is truly gratifying about watching those 'lightbulb moments' happen," explained Fomenko. "As an educator, that is what you are shooting for; you want to see your students grasp a concept or idea and run with it." ■

Nursing Students Provide Free Medical Services to Rural Communities

Along with educating Islander nursing students through innovation, research and practice, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is helping to deliver accessible health care to the needy while providing field-based learning opportunities for students who seek to give back to the community.

In fall 2016, CONHS partnered with the Texas A&M University Colonias Program to learn about the basic health and psycho-social needs of patients in colonias, and the cultural expectations and challenges of serving rural communities. A colonia is any area that lacks major infrastructure, such as potable water, sewage systems and electricity.

"There are long wait times to see health care providers in these communities, and often providers drop in and out inconsistently, both of which allow for immunizations, infectious disease and chronic illness to become an issue," said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, CONHS Dean at A&M-Corpus Christi. "Our intent is to build health care bridges that will sustain the residents of the colonias by providing the help of our Islander nursing students."

In February 2017, more than 40 Islander nursing students traveled to the small town of San Diego where they participated in Duval County's first-annual Health &

Wellness Expo.

"For many students, this was their first exposure to rural underserved health care areas," said Hamilton. "It changes their perspectives on the importance of health care access in those communities to the point that they consider returning to those areas as registered nurses to work." ■



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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



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.



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6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5741

Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 • 361.825.3320

One Gulf: Shaping the Gulf's Future

As the Gulf of Mexico continues to move forward from the Deepwater Horizon blowout and oil spill, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has brought together international leaders to look to the Gulf's future, most recently at its fourth State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit, which was held March 26-28 in Houston, Texas.

During the next 15 years, the Gulf of Mexico will be the focal point for one of the largest restoration efforts ever conceived. More than \$20 billion in restoration funding from the spill fines will provide an unparalleled opportunity to effect positive change on a Gulf-wide scale. But to move forward effectively, all parties connected to the Gulf must be united. The State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit convened leaders from research, government and industry from all three Gulf nations – the United States, Cuba and Mexico – to discuss and strategize science-driven solutions for the Gulf's problems.

The Summit panel discussions took an interdisciplinary approach to Gulf of Mexico health and conservation, and featured speakers on economics, human health, policy and hard sciences.

Summit panel topics included exploring the links between human and ecosystem health; communicating science; improving restoration effectiveness through science-based monitoring; linking science, policy and action; and a discussion of how the Gulf will move forward over the next 15 years.

Two additional Gulf-themed meetings convened immediately following the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance All-Hands

Meeting and the Gulf of Mexico Workshop on International Research. They took place concurrently on March 29-30.

The All-Hands Meeting is the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's annual working session focusing on priority Gulf issues.

The Workshop on International Research was an invitation-only gathering of 150 researchers from the United States, Mexico and Cuba organized by HRI, The National Academy of Sciences, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This diverse group of stakeholders met to identify knowledge gaps in marine ecosystem science from coastal communities to the deep ocean, prioritize relevant research needs across disciplines, and establish working relationships between international partners. ■



Reylon Ellis in Perfect Harmony with Online MBA

The music industry will always be a hobby and passion for Reylon Ellis, who co-owned a music production company in his hometown of Chicago until 2007. However, he admits that he lacked the business acumen he needed to continue to successfully run the company.

He acquired that skill set after graduating from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with an Online Master of Business Administration degree in December 2016. Ellis, who

currently lives in Dallas, was able to balance the online coursework with a full-time job and family, and says the program was rigorous but ideal.

"It's a commitment to see it through. I went to A&M-Corpus Christi because of the A&M brand," Ellis said. "You have courses where you literally have no hair anymore, but you're earning it. There's a reason why you want the brand and the AACSB accreditation."

Striving to show his children — Tyra, age 12, and Jalen, age 10 — the importance of higher education, Ellis and his family made the trip from Dallas to Corpus Christi for commencement.

"My kids were excited about my achievement, but what I also loved was when Tyra told me, 'Oh, I want to go to college, too.' It inspires. My kids see me working hard and they say, 'Hey, Dad's doing it.' Everything I do is for them." ■



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT STARTS WITH SUPPORT....

The Achieve Partnership is an annual scholarship program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi designed to build and sustain relationships between the University and the business and professional community. Through their commitment, Achieve Partners make annual gifts used to support scholarships for Islander students.



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Make your investment a collaborative effort towards the success of our future and become an Achieve Partner today! For more information on the University's Achieve Partnership program, please call 361.825.2639 or visit our website at achievepartnership.tamucc.edu.

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Islander Alumna, Founder of **GROW Local South Texas**, Wins CBBIC InnovateHER

The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center (CBBIC) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is pleased to announce GROW Local South Texas as the winner of the 2017 local InnovateHER Challenge.

“Winning this competition is honestly overwhelming,” said Aislynn Campbell, Executive Director of GROW Local South Texas. “The idea of commercialization for a nonprofit is a new thing in the last 10 to 20 years and the direction we’re moving in is really great.”

Campbell received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies-Public Relations from the Island University in 2003.

The aim of the InnovateHER Challenge was to amplify products or services that will have a measurable impact on the lives of women and families, while having the potential for commercialization and filling a need in the marketplace.

“The winner of the InnovateHER competition, GROW Local South Texas, presented a business model that benefits the health of women and families throughout the Coastal Bend Region by providing consistent availability to fresh and healthy produce at a reasonable price.”

Russell Franques

CBBIC Associate Director of Client Relations

The local competition, which was the first phase of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) national challenge, began with a call for submissions. A pitch contest was held in June 2017 for the top three local finalists, who were then judged by a panel of regional business experts.

As the winner of the local contest, GROW Local

South Texas will now move to the semi-final round where all local competition winners will be judged by the SBA for the chance to advance to the national competition.

“The winner of the InnovateHER competition, GROW Local South Texas, presented a business model that benefits the health of women and families throughout the Coastal Bend Region by providing consistent availability to fresh and healthy produce at a reasonable price,” said Russell Franques, CBBIC Associate Director of Client Relations.



GROW Local South Texas is a nonprofit founded in 2013 that offers fresh, locally grown produce and all-natural gardening and home food preparation techniques for families in the Coastal Bend. The group has garnered a reputation as the leader of the local food movement in Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend. Its mission is to cultivate a healthy community by growing the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable foods.

“Everything we do is about supporting families, and supporting income in rural and small town families,” said Campbell. “We not only help these families financially, but we have also helped create a community aspect where we have begun to become neighbors who support and help each other.” ■

Junior Achievement Honors Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award

In an effort to encourage work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students volunteered more than 5,000 hours teaching Junior Achievement (JA) curriculum to kindergarten through 12th grade students in the 2015-2016 school year.

As a "thank you" for that volunteerism, President Emeritus of A&M-Corpus Christi, Dr. Flavius Killebrew, was invited to the JA USA Volunteer Summit in New York on March 7, 2017 to receive the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award at the bronze level on the behalf of the University.

Dr. Marilyn Spencer, Chair of Decision Sciences and Economics; Dr. Ben Blanco, Adjunct Faculty

in the Department of Management and Marketing; and Dr. Ahmed Elkassabgi, Visiting Faculty in the Department of Decision Sciences and Economics — all housed within the College of Business at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi — provide opportunities for students to volunteer in the Junior Achievement Program at the University.

"Our students learn these concepts better while teaching them to the children, as well as pick up practical interpersonal and presentation skills during the delivery of the curriculum," said Spencer. "I began this partnership with JA at least a decade ago, and I still greatly enjoy my students' stories of how enthusiastic and engaged the children are during these lessons." ■



Endowed Scholarship Council

Creating a scholarship endowment is one way to ensure your contribution will remain in perpetuity to support higher education and to help the University remain competitive in attracting the brightest students. In recognition of donors making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council.

For more information about the Endowed Scholarship Council or other giving opportunities, contact:
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College of Science and Engineering Reconnects with Alumni During Shrimp Boil, Honors **Extraordinary** **Faculty** Member



Good food and good company brought together College of Science and Engineering (COSE) alumni, faculty and staff during the annual Alumni Shrimp Boil on Oct. 29 at the Laguna Madre Field Station.

During the event, a special ceremony was held in celebration of Dr. Wes Tunnell, Endowed Chair for Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Tunnell received a plaque and his name on the wall of the Laguna Madre Field Station as well as a personalized gift from Dr. Frank Pezold, COSE Dean.

"My time at the University has been great," said Tunnell. "It's humbling to be recognized."

Tunnell, who came to the Island University in 1974, has contributed to the development of research institutions such as the Center for Coastal Studies as well as the HRI. Known to many as a scientist and visionary, Tunnell played a key role in developing A&M-Corpus Christi's Bachelor of Science degree programs, with the addition of four master's and two doctoral programs. ■

Island University

Researchers receive **NOAA Grants**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission of science, service and stewardship spans from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean, and now, to the coastal waters near Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The last six months have been filled with excitement and recognition as Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has received more than \$1.5 million in NOAA grants. Island University researchers have been applauded for their efforts to preserve and sustain water quality, recycle oyster shells, restore reefs, conserve local habitats and study sea levels.

In fall 2016, Dr. David Yoskowitz, Associate Director and Endowed Chair for Socioeconomics at A&M-Corpus Christi's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI), teamed up with NOAA researchers to better understand the socio-economic impact rising sea levels could have on coastal communities. Yoskowitz will focus on finding ways to measure and better communicate the economic and social benefits of the environment to the public as part of the \$1.2 million research collaboration titled, "Living with Sea Level Rise in Texas."

Now, the University has received four other grants through NOAA's Texas General Land Office's Coastal Management Program (CMP).



In January 2017, Dr. Jennifer Pollack, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology, and Gail Sutton, HRI Chief Operating Officer, were awarded a CMP grant of nearly \$100,000 for their new project, "Shell Bank: Oyster Shell Recycling, Citizen Engagement, Hands-On Learning, and Reef Characterization." Pollack and Sutton plan to use the financial assistance to continue the restoration of oyster reefs and marine ecosystems — one shell at a time. Collecting used oyster shells from local restaurants and seafood wholesalers, as well as from food festivals in San Antonio and Austin, the duo also plan to engage 150 at-risk students in restoration activities that involve field-based learning.

Dr. Brandi Kiel Reese, Assistant Professor of Microbial Ecology, and Dr. Lee Smee, Associate Professor of Biology, were awarded a \$95,000 CMP grant for their project titled, "Mangrove Expansion Alters Sediment and Water Quality and Affects Biodiversity in Texas Wetlands." In the 1980s, mangroves only covered about 65

acres of the Mission-Aransas National Research Reserve. Mangroves have since expanded to cover 21,500 acres — all at the expense of salt marsh habitats. Reese and Smee's study will help them understand the global carbon cycle, how changes in vegetation affect carbon, and how vegetation shifts affect animals that burrow in sediments near mangroves.

Thanks to a \$93,000 CMP grant, Dr. Hua Zhang, Assistant Professor of Engineering, and Dr. Paul Zimba, Professor and Director of the Center for Coastal Studies, will study the health of local bays and estuaries in relation to land development through their study titled, "Linking Coastal Urbanization to Water Quality and Habitat Changes of the Upper Laguna Madre." The project will analyze the impact of coastal development in the Corpus Christi-Kingsville metropolitan area from 1982-2016 by establishing the first evaporation stations in the Upper Laguna Madre, reconstructing the freshwater balance of the estuary, and employing the Google Earth Engine to characterize landscape changes over decades.



Dr. Michael Wetz, Associate Professor of Marine Biology, was awarded a \$88,000 CMP grant for his project titled, "Phase 2: Baffin Bay Water Quality Study: Data Collection and Outreach to Address Water Quality Concerns." The study's overall goal is to reduce the frequency and intensity of harmful brown tide blooms and hypoxia in Baffin Bay through restoration and an overarching watershed protection plan. A continuation of the Baffin Bay volunteer water quality study, the project was initially established in early 2013 after anglers, outdoorsmen and scientists reported fish kills to university researchers. ■

Improving **Elderly Care** is the Goal of New Island University **Partnership**

Aging is something that many will experience, but aging peacefully and comfortably often comes with significant costs associated with today's outdated senior care options. That is why Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, in partnership with RJD Corpus Christi, LLC, signed an Innovative Aging Initiative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) this spring. This new partnership will be the start of a collaborative effort to bring futuristic, independent, assisted living and memory care facilities to the Coastal Bend through a new type of senior living facility.

"Imagine a senior living community that is designed based on extensive research and boasts the best health care practices available," said Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Interim President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "From the cafeteria layout to new technologies, this facility will provide innovative care practices without interrupting daily life. That is what today's partnership is all about."

Land near Rodd Field and Holly Roads will be used to build the new senior living facility, which will focus on investigating, developing and evaluating technologies and best practices to serve the needs of older adults and those who deal with physical and cognitive challenges. From nursing care to music therapy, Island University students will be able to participate in multi-disciplinary research opportunities and will provide long-term senior care solutions to the Coastal Bend community.

"Public-private partnerships like this one are win-wins. They allow private industry to do what it

does best and allow us to focus our resources, as we should, on academics and research — the core functions that Texans count on A&M to deliver," said John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

The partnership, which was more than two years in the making, was the idea of John McCrocklin, a New Braunfels commercial real estate broker and developer, and his colleague, Wayne Ammel, who both believed that more research was needed to initiate advances in cost-effective elderly care.

"Taking on such a major initiative could not have

happened without the tremendous capacity we have on campus, especially in our nursing and engineering programs," said Dr. Ahmed Mahdy, Associate Vice President for the Division of Research, Commercialization and Outreach (RCO) at A&M-Corpus Christi. "Thanks to University leadership like Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dr. Frank Pezold and Dr. L.D. Chen, our research will be able to



impact the elderly, their family caregivers and trained health care professionals."

Rosco Construction and DFD Architects will collaborate with RJD Corpus Christi, LLC to build the new senior living facility and bring a long-anticipated dream into reality.

"The passion we have seen at the University on this subject parallels our own," said Morgan Bender of RJD Corpus Christi, LLC. "We have been impressed by their vision and dedication and look forward to working together." ■

Dr. Kelly Quintanilla Named Sole Finalist for President of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi



Dr. Quintanilla has filled several roles at the Island University since 1994, including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Additionally, she was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Director of the School of Arts, Media & Communication. She also chaired the Department of Communication and Theatre, and was a professor of communication for 16 years, teaching courses in Business and Professional Communication, Teamwork and Leadership, Organizational Communication, Public Relations and Public Speaking.

She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from Pennsylvania State University.

Active in her local community, Dr. Quintanilla has served as a board member for the Art Museum of South Texas, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra and the Harbor Playhouse. ■

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System has named Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla the sole finalist to be President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Quintanilla has served as Interim President since January.

Chancellor John Sharp said he expects Quintanilla to oversee continued growth of enrollment and research at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, while also increasing academic offerings.

"I have always been impressed by Dr. Quintanilla's intellect, work ethic and dedication to serving the University and the Coastal Bend," Sharp said. "We can expect Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to continue to make great strides under her leadership."

Quintanilla expressed gratitude and excitement about the Board's decision.

"I have been privileged to spend the last 23 years working alongside faculty, staff, community and legislative partners to serve Texas A&M-Corpus Christi," Quintanilla said. "I am grateful to the search committee members, Chancellor Sharp, and the A&M System Board of Regents for selecting me to serve in this important leadership role."

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ISLANDER FOREVER

MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI



ISLANDER *Forever*

In 1947, a total of 312 students entered the classrooms of the University of Corpus Christi. Who knew that Ward Island, a piece of land on the outskirts of the city, would later grow to a doctoral-granting institution, and eventually the home of more than 12,200 students?

Campus was a very different place during those days. Old barracks and military facilities remained from the former Naval satellite training facility. Most of the area around campus was largely undeveloped with open fields and cotton crops. At the time, the areas of focus for the University were science, humanities and education.

"Both of my parents actually graduated from the

University of Corpus Christi in the late 1960s," said Adam Farrell, class of 1998 and 2001.

The UCC was a very different place back then.

"Coincidentally, at one point, my dad was given a key to the student union building, which I later worked in when it was the fitness center."

That building is now the Glasscock Student Success Center.

Eventually, the Texas Legislature authorized the opening of Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi. With a total of 969 students in 1973, the institution focused its educational efforts solely on junior, senior and graduate-level students. After transitioning to Corpus Christi State University a

few years later, the University joined the Texas A&M System in 1989. In 1994, the growth continued as the University downward expanded to include freshman and sophomore levels, and added a doctoral program.



A new science and engineering building, Tidal Hall, is underway and scheduled for completion in summer 2018.

The campus' physical footprint has grown as well. There are 24 new buildings, including Phase I of the new science and engineering building, Tidal Hall, which is under construction and scheduled for completion in summer 2018. The University has also expanded off the Island. The Momentum Campus is home to state-of-the-art sports facilities and a much-needed expansion to student housing, and will bring the total number of residents in the complex to 1,042 students. The expansion also includes the Art Museum of South Texas, located in downtown Corpus Christi, and the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in Flour Bluff.

"It's awesome to see how quickly everything has changed in the last 20 years," said Farrell. "The progress that's been made, the number of students there now, and the various programs that are now offered."

Since adding the first freshman class in 1994, traditions, just like the campus, have grown tremendously and continue to live on through the memories of students, alumni and community supporters.

In February 2015, a new anchor was dedicated more than 40 years after it was removed. The anchor now sits as a campus centerpiece near the University Center, and is a special historical tradition for alumni and students.

Countless other traditions have gained traction

in the last 20 years. From the "Lighting of the I" and various Homecoming festivities, to "Late Night Breakfast" and the "Islander Ring Wish," Islander spirit is at an all-time high, and the idea of being an Islander Forever is resonating far beyond the 240-acre campus.



"Lighting of the I" pep rally saw the biggest crowd of supporters.

"When I attended, campus pride didn't seem nearly the same as it does now, from a student, alumni and a community standpoint," said Farrell.

This pride goes well beyond campus activities, sporting events, and long-standing traditions and into academics. Since 1994, A&M-Corpus Christi has added 12 undergraduate programs, 17 master's programs and nine terminal degrees, including six Ph.Ds. With fall 2016 enrollment at 12,202 students, the University's momentum is remarkable.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's location has provided a unique opportunity from the day it first opened its doors. Closing the gaps in South Texas higher education and ensuring first-generation students become successful professionals and leaders in their field has always been a focus. To this day, the University continues to maintain its Hispanic Serving Institution status. In fact, its growth among Hispanic students is at 356%.

Decades after its founding, the Island University is by all means a success story, and the community is realizing what it means to be an Islander Forever. As the University grows, the impact that it has on the local economy, the workforce, city leaders and overall innovation will only become more evident. Today we take pride in knowing that we are all Islanders Forever. ■

New **Accolades** and **Renewed** **Certification** for Kinesiology Department

"We're very excited to receive this exclusive recertification. Along with credibility, this certification also gives us a lot of exposure."

Dr. Frank Spaniol

Professor and NSCA Program Coordinator

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Kinesiology program is creating buzz as it works towards becoming one of the top programs in the state.

The Kinesiology program, housed within the College of Education and Human Development, has once again been recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program, both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

"We're very excited to receive this exclusive recertification. Along with credibility, this certification also gives us a lot of exposure," said Dr. Frank Spaniol, Professor and NSCA Program Coordinator. "There have been students who have come to us from all over the world, and many of them have told me that they chose our University based on our affiliation with the NSCA."

This marks the sixth year of recognition for the Kinesiology undergraduate program and the fifth year the graduate program has been recognized by the NSCA. The NSCA certification, which lasts for three years, gives students access to special scholarships, grants, preferential treatment and discounts at conferences. Students also receive access to special internships at the NSCA world headquarters located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where the Olympic training centers are located.

A&M-Corpus Christi's online Master of Science in Kinesiology program was also recognized in fall 2016 on the "Top 10 Best Online Masters in Kinesiology Degree Program" list distributed by SportsManagementDegreeHub.com. Rankings were based on affordability, flexibility and academic prestige.

"The flexibility of our online program is one of its biggest selling points," said Dr. Don Melrose, A&M-Corpus Christi Professor of Kinesiology and Interim Department Chair. "Many of our online students are professionals already working in the sports science field. This program allows them to affordably and flexibly balance their jobs, classes and family schedules."

To learn more about the Kinesiology Department at the Island University, visit kinesiology.tamucc.edu. ■



Counseling and Training Clinic Offers Free Personal Skills Group to Community

Since February 2016, the Counseling and Training Clinic at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has offered a free personal skills group, designed to help individuals who are struggling with issues including negative self-perception and difficulty coping with emotions such as fear and sadness.

Since its inception, the program has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the public and campus community alike, and is now offered in Spanish. All sessions are completely private and confidential and are facilitated by

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi counseling students, and supervised by fully trained and licensed professionals.

"I'm excited that we are able to provide this service to the community," said Dr. Michelle Hollenbaugh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling and Psychology. "It has been a wonderful learning experience for all of our counseling students."

For more information on this program or to sign up, call the Counseling and Training Clinic at 361.825.3988. ■

A&M-Corpus Christi Announces New Academic Deans to COEHD & CONHS

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi welcomes Dr. David Scott as Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and Dr. Julie Hoff as Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Scott and Hoff will assume their duties in fall 2017, subject to approval by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents. Scott most recently served as Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Community Engagement in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Hoff most recently served as Department Chair and Director of the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas. ■



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Dr. Sandrine Sanos, History Professor, Receives **\$50K** **National Research Award**

Fresh off a summer 2016 stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that sent her to historical archives in Normandy and Paris, Dr. Sandrine Sanos, Associate Professor of Modern European History at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, was selected to receive another NEH grant.

The NEH Awards for Faculty Program is valued at \$50,400 and was available to Sanos based on the Island University's status as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

The prestigious grant will support Sanos for a full academic year (July 2017-July 2018) as she spends additional time abroad researching her next book, "The Horror of History: Violence, Exile, and Gender in Cold War France, 1954-1967."

"It is an honor to benefit from this invaluable support," said Sanos.

Sanos' book builds upon her interests in how the aftermath of violence shapes cultures and societies. She believes her book will interest those in political theory, sociology, history, literature, cultural and media studies, and gender studies.

Sanos came to the Island University in 2008, and currently teaches classes in Modern European History, the History of Gender and Sexuality and the History of Ideas. ■



New Bachelor of **Media Arts** Degree Offers Specialization in **Media Studies** and **Production**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is excited to offer a new Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts degree beginning fall 2017.

In fall 2014, the media production emphasis was introduced to the Bachelor of Arts in Communication degree. Since its inception, the emphasis enrolled more than 100 students, making administrators realize the need for a full-fledged degree plan for media arts.

"This new designation will deepen course offerings, and concentrations will allow our students to better compete with students coming out of programs offered at other universities," said Dr. David Gurney, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Media.

The program will have two areas of emphasis — media production and media studies. The media production emphasis prepares students for production-focused jobs in film, television and new media, while the media studies emphasis immerses students in the critical study of media culture, from the history of film and television to the contemporary age of digital production and social media. ■

Islanders Team up to Assist Local **Child Advocacy Group** with Advertising Campaign

Creative minds across the Coastal Bend gathered at the Island University on Oct. 22 for ONE DAY, a public service event that brings together local university students with industry professionals to develop and implement a marketing and advertising strategy for a local nonprofit that has no extra money for marketing or advertising.

Created in 2014 by Dr. Amanda Garcia, Professor of Art and Graphic Design Program Coordinator at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, ONE DAY is co-hosted by the University and the American Advertising Federation – Corpus Christi Chapter.

Most recently selected to receive the free advertising services, the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend (CACCB) works to lessen the trauma to abused children and their families by uniting the efforts and support of public agencies and the community.

"I am humbled by every person who dedicated their entire day to our project. I was blown away by the talent they possess and am impressed beyond words with the ideas they came up with," said Clarissa Mora, CACCB Executive Director.

Finished products for the CACCB included images for use in billboards and online ads, as well as a new logo for the organization.

"In one day, the team of volunteers — including University students, faculty, staff and community members — created an entire campaign from concept to completion," said Garcia. "This event gives our students the opportunity to get real-life experience with industry professionals." ■

"This event gives our students the opportunity to get real life experience with industry professionals."

Dr. Amanda Garcia
Professor of Art

CREATE

Theatre Students Sew Hats to Donate to Children with Cancer

Hair loss is a somber reality for many children undergoing chemotherapy, but students in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Department of Theatre and Dance are working to bring joy and smiles to sick children by creating animal-themed hats to donate to Driscoll Children's Hospital.

"The hats let these kids and their parents know someone is thinking of them."

Austin Olivo

Freshman Theatre Major

"The hats let these kids and their parents know someone is thinking of them," said Austin Olivo, a freshman Theatre major. "I hope the hats give them a sense of joy and take their minds off all their stress."

Breaking up in teams of two, students cut, pin and sew the hats using the sewing machines in the theatre costume shop, and have donated anywhere from 60 to 100 hats each semester for the past five years. ■



Website Now Live Making **Dr. Hector P. Garcia** Papers Accessible **Digitally**

An important milestone in the year-long project to improve access to the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers has been achieved with the release of an online exhibit that provides an overview of the life and accomplishments of the Corpus Christi physician and champion of Mexican American civil rights. The exhibit, which went live in December 2016, can be accessed at tamuccgarcia.omeka.net.

In partnership with History Associates Inc., the historical research company selected to assist with

"This project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide first-class access to a unique and highly significant body of materials."

Ann Hodges

Special Collections Librarian
and University Archivist at the Bell Library

processing the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers housed in the Special Collections of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is leading the project that will organize and selectively digitize Garcia's papers.

"This project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide first-class access to a unique and highly significant body of materials," said Ann Hodges, Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist at the Bell Library. "It will completely transform the ability of students and researchers anywhere to find and benefit

from Dr. Garcia's legacy and life's work."

Garcia (1914-1996) founded the American GI Forum in 1948 to organize veterans to fight for educational and medical benefits. In 1990, Garcia donated to the University his papers that include letters to and from Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

"Scholars worldwide who are conducting civil rights, Mexican American rights and veteran rights research will now be able to easily discover and access the historically significant work of Dr. Garcia," said Dr. Catherine Rudowsky, Bell Library Director. "This is an important academic and civic achievement."

The online exhibit is divided into five different life chapters including doctor, soldier, activist, ambassador and legacy. After work has been completed, the collection will consist of approximately 400 linear feet of records.

In addition to correspondence and newspaper clippings, the papers include audio/visual materials and artifacts such as buttons, plaques, medical bags, stethoscopes, photographs, telegrams and letters.

As of March 9, the team of archivists processing the papers is approximately 70 percent complete, having processed more than 283 feet of materials. Digitization of audio/visual materials has begun and digitization of selected text materials is underway. The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2017. ■



Lone Star UAS Center Tests New UAS Technology to Improve Sky Safety

The Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence and Innovation at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (LSUASC), NASA, and the Federal Aviation Administration successfully conducted several test flights over the course of three days beginning June 5 and running through June 8 at the Charles R. Johnson Airport located in Port Mansfield, Texas to provide valuable insight into how Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) work and operate in low-altitude airspace.

During a special media demonstration, LSUASC performed a test flight in which three UAS flew together in the same airspace over a simulated “capsized boat” in the Laguna Madre. An AR 180, provided by LSUASC commercial partner AirRobot, was outfitted with a new MESA-DAA airborne sense-and-avoid radar. This innovative airborne radar will enable flight beyond visual line-of-sight for many applications, including package delivery, infrastructure inspection and, in this demonstration, public safety.

LSUASC team members considered the event “a momentous occasion” as this was the first time in the evolution of UAS history a small UAS on-board radar was able to detect boat traffic in a major waterway along with small UAS traffic flying in the area.

“Echodyne’s airborne detect-and-avoid radar is made especially for small to medium UAS and enables safe beyond visual-line-of-sight operations — in all environments and conditions,” said Jerry Hendrix, Executive Director for the LSUASC. “Before the MESA-DAA became commercially available, there were no options for long-range radar on small to medium commercial drones.”

Another purpose of the test flights was to provide NASA with data to improve beyond visual-line-of-sight technology and first-responder priority operations.

“Radar is an ideal sensor technology for all sorts of scanning and imaging applications, especially



when environmental conditions are less than ideal,” explained Thomas Driscoll, Chief Technology Officer for Echodyne. “Our radar thrives over other sensors in unpredictable weather conditions, can rapidly scan a broad field of view, can track Cessna-sized targets at distances greater than two kilometers, and dramatically increases situational awareness for UAS operators.”

The need for new rules and regulations in low-altitude airspace led to the creation of the Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management Plan (UTM), which consists of a series of activities called “Technology Capability Levels (TCL),” with each level increasing in complexity. The testing of the new radar was a part of NASA’s TCL 2, a national campaign focusing on flying small, remotely operated aircraft beyond the pilot’s line-of-sight in sparsely populated areas to demonstrate, evaluate, and refine functional designs and UTM technology prototypes. The next step in the UTM research initiative. Will use results gathered from the recent test flights to then focus on testing technologies that maintain safe spacing between responsive and non-responsive UAS over moderately populated areas.

For more information on the Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence, visit lsuasc.tamucc.edu. ■

TAMU-CC Establishes Online Land Surveying Map Collection, Among **Largest in Nation**



The Land Surveying Digital Map Library at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has forever preserved a piece of history while providing convenient online access to the public. The map library, located at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, has made the Island University home to one of the most historically significant collections of maps in Texas.

Since 2014, a team of dedicated students has scanned and cataloged nearly 1,000 documents each month, totaling more than 74,000 items. These documents range in origin from the 1850s to 1970s and are beginning to be published for viewing at tamucc-ir.tdl.org/tamucc-ir/.

The scanning project was made possible thanks to an initial \$64,000 grant and additional continued funding from the Ed Rachal Foundation and a partnership between the Bell Library and the Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) for Surveying and Science.

"The funding made it possible for us to hire the best students to complete this project," said Dr. Richard Smith, alumnus and former Assistant Professor of Geographic Information Science at A&M-Corpus Christi. "The students have gained real-world mapping experience while simultaneously broadening their knowledge of the South Texas community."

The maps and notes were all donated to the University by Conrad Blucher. Blucher, his father, Charles Blucher, and his grandfather, Felix von

Blucher, were all professional land surveyors and engineers in South Texas who mapped the area for 120 years.

"The Blucher map collection contains thousands of maps, notes, diagrams, charts and related historical documents," said Dr. Catherine Rudowsky, Bell Library Director. "The scanning project safeguards the historical link amongst the past, present and future."

This project has both local and national impact. Locally, the community can use the map collections for genealogy, history and surveyor use. Nationally, it provides broader discoverability and accessibility, preserving a piece of U.S. history.

Currently, a team of students continues to scan, catalog, transcribe, and publish not only the Blucher map collection, but an additional 10 map collections stored in the Special Collections and Archives Department of the Bell Library. They are also working to georectify all collections — meaning the maps will reference actual locations on Earth.

In addition to digitizing the maps, the team has written original, in-house scanning software, called BandoCat, which has greatly increased efficiency. BandoCat has recently been open-sourced for use by the public.

Future plans for the project include increasing the number of student workers, with the objective to enhance project capacity, progress and public access. ■



Islanders Basketball

Breaking Records and Making History

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi basketball produced yet another historic season in 2016-17. The Islanders made their fourth consecutive postseason appearance and advanced deeper than ever before, reaching the championship game of the CollegelInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT).

Under Head Coach Willis Wilson, the Blue and Green continued one of the most successful runs in program history. Memorable moments included the second-longest winning streak, a return to the Southland Conference Championship Game and coach Wilson's 300th career victory as a head coach.

At 24-12, the Islanders recorded at least 20 victories for the third consecutive season while going 12-6 in Southland Conference play to finish second in the league. In a year filled with highs and lows, the Islanders completed one of the biggest turnarounds in conference play, rebounding from a 2-5 start to go 10-1 the remainder of the year.

History was made when the Islanders hosted the opening three rounds of the CIT, marking the first time multiple postseason games have ever been played in Corpus Christi. The Blue and Green then went on the road and defeated UMBC on national television to earn their first-ever appearance in the CIT Championship.

The Islanders stepped into the national spotlight on March 31, hosting the CIT Championship Game against Saint Peter's. Nationally televised on CBS Sports Network, the Islanders sold out the Dugan Wellness Center and showed the nation what it

means to be an Islander in a classic fight for the title.

Both Rashawn Thomas and Ehab Amin were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District team recognizing the pair among the elite of college basketball players. A senior, Thomas shattered seven school records including breaking the all-time scoring, rebounding and blocks marks while becoming the first Islander to ever score 2,000 points. The 2017 NABC honors marked the third consecutive year the Islander has appeared on the list. Thomas was also invited to the NABC All-Star Game, featuring some of the top players in the country.

Amin awed the crowds with his defensive prowess, finishing second in the entire country with 3.33 steals per game. The junior set the Islanders record with 119 steals this season, a mark that also shattered the Southland Conference record. Amin also became the first Islander to ever record 200 career steals, breaking the school's career record as well.

The Islanders run to the championship game of the CollegelInsider.com Postseason Tournament crowns one of the most successful periods for the Blue and Green. With 69 victories in the past three seasons, the Islanders have racked up more wins than in any other three-year period in program history. When all is said and done, the 2016-17 Islanders have rewritten the record books with 12 new all-time marks as the wave continues to rise on the Island. ■

IN REMEMBRANCE



Roy Ford, 2016 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Athletic Hall of Honor Recipient and Class of 1971, passed away Jan. 23, 2017, in Houston. Ford came to the Island University in 1969 as a transfer point guard from North Texas. Prior to Ford's arrival, the team had a record of 1-11. During his playing time that year, the Tarpons won 11 of 12 games and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in program history. The New Mexico native averaged 15.6 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.6 assists in during his time in a Tarpon uniform. Listed as one of the Most Outstanding College Athletes in America in 1970, Ford received Top Playmaker and Mr. University of Corpus Christi laurels. At the time of his passing, Ford was an adjunct professor at the University of Houston and member of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi National Alumni Board, a yearly contributor to the Islander Athletic Fund, Houston Scholarship fund and served as President of the TAMU-CC Alumni Chapter of Houston. Ford was 68 years old.



Willard H. Hammonds, Sr., A well-known real estate businessman, world adventurer and good Samaritan, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017, at 87 years old. Hammonds was known for his charitable giving, including a scholarship he set up at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to memorialize his wife, Jeannine Delores Schmidt. The Mrs. Willard (Jeannine) Hammonds Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship benefits business majors at A&M-Corpus Christi. Hammonds enjoyed meeting his scholarship recipients and was pleased with the impact these scholarships were making for the recipients and their families, so much so that he made a significant gift to double the size of the initial endowment at the end of 2016. Hammonds was also a big fan of the Distinguished Speaker Series, and made it a point to attend each of the lectures.

IN REMEMBRANCE

1940s

- Riley W. Eubank – June 13, 2016 – '49

1950s

- Kenneth A. Maroney – June 19, 2016 – '51
- Oran B. Tyler – March 28, 2017 – '51
- Jerald M. Brooks – Feb. 6, 2017 – '52
- William E. Jobe – Jan. 20, 2017 – '58

1960s

- Granvil W. Tedder – Aug. 2, 2016 – '61
- Roy J. King – Dec. 25, 2016 – '62
- Charles R. Klutts – Jan. 7, 2017 – '62
- Herbert W. Bullock – May 6, 2016 – '63
- Richard B. Matthews – March 4, 2017 – '64
- Darwin B. Nelson – Jan. 26, 2017 – '64
- Jerry F. Zgarba – Oct. 17, 2016 – '64
- Mary J. Thompson – March 19, 2017 – '69
- Bruce E. Amdur – Aug. 12, 2016 – '69

1970s

- Roy L. Ford – Jan. 23, 2017 – '71
- Janice R. Freeman – June 9, 2017 – '73
- Jose R. Castellano – March 14, 2017 – '74
- Bettye J. Dixon – March 1, 2017 – '74
- Flora F. Barrera – Jan. 7, 2017 – '75
- Patricia M. Kaler – Dec. 17, 2016 – '75
- June M. Lewis – Dec. 5, 2016 – '75
- Salvador R. Magana – April 19, 2016 – '75
- Charles B. Alexander – Feb. 25, 2017 – '76
- Louise B. Moser – July 11, 2016 – '76
- Richard E. Shurley – Nov. 15, 2016 – '76
- Carlene S. Johnson – May 3, 2016 – '78
- Modesto R. Flores – Jan. 8, 2017 – '77
- David L. Levy – Jan. 13, 2017 – '77
- Gay M. Roberts – April 12, 2017 – '77
- Estanislao H. Rosas – Sept. 8, 2016 – '77
- Woodrow M. Sanders – Nov. 11, 2016 – '77
- Barbara J. Furlow – Oct. 9, 2016 – '78, '86
- Guillermo C. Perez – May 31, 2016 – '78
- Maryann Greer-Carpenter – Feb. 11, 2017 – '79

- Fred J. Pester – March 30, 2017 – '79
- Harry A. Grim – Nov. 26, 2016 – '79
- John J. Nicholson – Dec. 7, 2016 – '79
- Carol M. Richardson – Dec. 11, 2016 – '79
- Ken J. Starrs – Nov. 16, 2016 – '79

1980s

- Douglas W. McCoy – Dec. 7, 2016 – '80
- Kevin A. McKinney – Aug. 9, 2016 – '80
- Eduardo H. Garcia – Nov. 14, 2016 – '80
- Michael E. Richardson – March 18, 2017 – '80
- Linda Schanen – Feb. 9, 2017 – '82
- Virginia D. Lynch – Jan. 18, 2017 – '87, '91
- Bryan P. Cartall – June 8, 2016 – '83
- Anne B. Countiss – Jan. 23, 2017 – '83
- Michael D. Campbell – Aug. 30, 2016 – '84
- Jesse G. Moore – Oct. 12, 2016 – '84
- Wanda J. Irwin – Dec. 27, 2016 – '84, '87
- Ann O. Owens – Nov. 5, 2016 – '85
- Karen B. Griffin – Dec. 30, 2016 – '85
- Janet C. Zepeda – June 8, 2017 – '85
- Rosemary S. Boland – Dec. 22, 2016 – '83
- Guadalupe C. Sandoval – Nov. 1, 2016 – '89
- Bub W. Vickers – May 25, 2017 – '89

1990s

- Jack L. Herndon – Dec. 3, 2016 – '90
- Robert B. McDonald – May 29, 2017 – '90
- Michael Orozco – Nov. 5, 2016 – '90
- Alicia R. Flores – July 14, 2016 – '91
- Raquel Madrigal – Oct. 26, 2016 – '91
- Samuel C. Young – Feb. 14, 2017 – '92
- Elizabeth S. Zepeda – Aug. 29, 2016 – '92
- Francis A. Heines – July 25, 2016 – '93
- Petra Pena – May 3, 2017 – '93
- John A. Sheldon – Jan. 17, 2017 – '93
- John W. Simonson – Nov. 4, 2016 – '93
- Joe K. Nix – March 8, 2017 – '93, '95, '98
- Sandra H. Valls – Dec. 31, 2016 – '93
- David D. Grover – April 24, 2016 – '94, '97
- Eugenio Prado – April 14, 2017 – '94
- Monty D. Douglass – March 12, 2017 – '95, '98

- Esiquio Hernandez – Dec. 20, 2016 – '96, '04
- Leticia Perez – May 28, 2017 – '96, '97
- Diana P. Rodriguez – Nov. 29, 2016 – '97
- Reymundo Hinojosa – Oct. 28, 2016 – '98
- Raymond Lopez – July 20, 2016 – '99

2000s

- Orlando Gonzalez – Sept. 10, 2016 – '00
- Sergio R. Casanova – Feb. 8, 2017 – '01
- Barbara G. Sanders – Sept. 27, 2016 – '01
- Eunice F. Doegey – April 11, 2017 – '03
- Jayme D. MacAllister – April 16, 2017 – '04
- Francisco E. Canales – July 7, 2016 – '05
- Holly J. Spells – July 17, 2016 – '05, '08
- Nicholas J. Weaver – April 23, 2017 – '09

2010s

- Cynthia A. Sanchez – May 13, 2017 – '10
- Shane P. Ganschow – Dec. 7, 2016 – '12
- Bobby G. Kelly – May 14, 2017 – '13
- Taylor M. Counts – March 30, 2017 – '15
- Fred J. Pester – March 30, 2017

Faculty & Staff

- Emanuel Bailey – Feb. 9, 2017
- Mary L. Bautista – May 29, 2016
- Ruth Beal – May 6, 2017
- Bart Cook – Dec. 27, 2016
- Carla Berkich – June 19, 2017
- David P. deVacque – Dec. 28, 2016
- Margarita V. Flores – Aug. 30, 2016
- Janice Freeman – June 9, 2017
- Thomas L. Goad – Oct. 23, 2016
- Leathe M. Grant – June 18, 2016
- Isidro Guzman – Nov. 12, 2016
- Mary D. Hill-Alvarez – April 14, 2017
- Michael A. Jack – May 31, 2017
- Nancy E. Mayberry – Dec. 26, 2016
- Patricia A. Meyer – March 26, 2017
- Edward G. Olivares – June 21, 2017
- Marion W. Parmley – May 17, 2017
- Timothy T. Pendergraft – April 15, 2017
- Alma A. Ramirez – Dec. 27, 2016
- John M. Richards – May 7, 2016
- Casey Thomas – May 2, 2017
- Wilbert Wiggins – Nov. 19, 2016

Current Students

- Natalie Kucera, College of Nursing & Health Sciences – Oct. 2, 2016
- Neil Mukoro, College of Nursing & Health Sciences – Nov. 8, 2016
- James Odom, College of Education & Human Development – Aug. 2, 2016
- Monica Rose Perez, College of Science & Engineering – Nov. 21, 2016

2017 HOMECOMING HONORS BANQUET HONOREES

ATHLETIC HALL OF HONOR INDUCTION:



Nolan Estes '50
Men's Basketball & Football 1948-1950

Islanders Men's Basketball Team 2006-2007 Season



No.	Name	Cl.	Ht.	Pos.
1	Dominique Taylor	So.	6-0	G
2	Josh Washington	Sr.	6-3	G
3	Matt Slatnick	So.	5-10	G
12	Josh Ervin	Sr.	6-1	G
13	Adan Montalvo	Fr.	6-0	G
20	Taurean Mitchell	Sr.	6-1	G
21	Manuel "Scooby" Johnson	Fr.	6-7	F
22	Brandon Roberson	Fr.	5-11	G
23	Kevin Meniffee	Sr.	6-5	F
32	Cedric Smith	Sr.	6-7	F
34	Carl Nelson	So.	7-0	F
42	Chad Nelson	Fr.	6-7	F
44	Seth Engelken	Sr.	6-8	F
50	Cameron Teague	So.	6-5	F
54	Chris Daniels	Jr.	7-0	C

Ronnie Arrow, Head Coach Andy Helton, Assistant Coach
Mike Floyd, Assistant Coach Stott Carter, Assistant Coach
Karl Turk, Manager Trey Turnbough, Manager Mark Bohling, Athletic Trainer

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Distinguished
Alumnus Honoree:
Dr. D. Scott Elliff
'82 '86 '12



Outstanding
Alumnus Honoree:
Trey McCampbell
'77 '82



Young
Alumnus Honoree:
Ashley Olheiser
'10

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES

College of Liberal Arts:
Erick Cantu '14

College of Science & Engineering:
Noela Oliveira Garza '99 '08

College of Business:
Sharon Kollaja '92

College of Education &
Human Development:
Dr. Sonia Noyola '99 '00

College of Nursing &
Health Sciences:
Dr. Kacie Spencer '07



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Islander Alumni Association *Annual Update*

I'm excited to serve the second year of my term as your National Islander Alumni Board President. Our Island University has always held a special place in my heart: memories as a child with my godfather during the time he attended the University of Corpus Christi, memories of my sister and I attending Corpus Christi State University, memories of my brother receiving his Master's degree at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and, of course, the memories of the many times that I have visited there since.

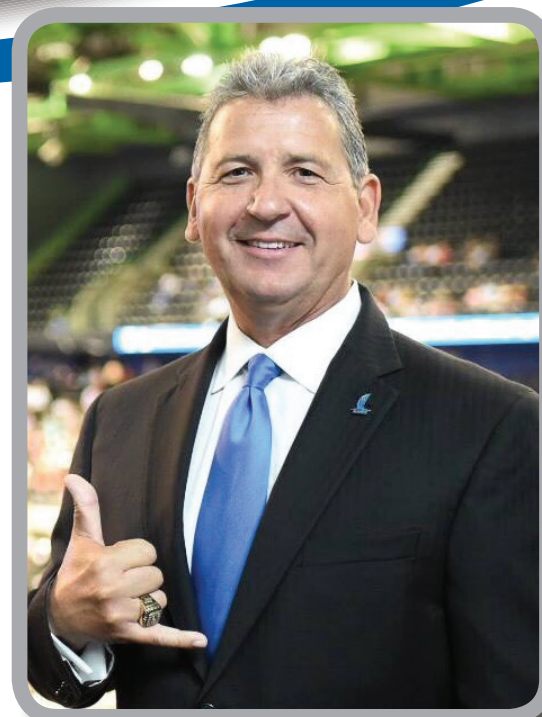
Even though our University has gone by several names and seen many changes over the years, we Islanders are all connected. We've walked the same paths, sat in the same classes, and have rooted our Islanders on to victory, wearing our blue and green with pride. Those moments, and many others like them, have helped mold and shape who we are today, and they will remain a part of us forever.

As a fellow Islander, I urge you to stay connected with our University. Keep in touch with your classmates and the Alumni Association of nearly 50,000 strong. Help us share in your success and promote the University that we all know and love. Let's use our Islander network to continue to help one another make a positive impact in each and every community where we live.

Your entire alumni board and full-time staff work tirelessly every day to create an Alumni Association that you can be proud of. We hosted an amazing Homecoming tailgate party last February, our largest ever! We organized events in more cities than ever before, including Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth and in the Rio Grande Valley. We've also strengthened our partnerships with University entities and departments to broaden our engagement with Islander students through events like Grad Fair, Islander Ring Ceremony, and more.

Your continued support and the support of your fellow alumni are needed. Stay connected with us and your fellow alumni through IslanderAlumni.org and various social media accounts, including our new Islander Alumni YouTube channel.

Don't miss out on your next opportunity to create a fun Islander memory... Stay up-to-date with everything that is going on within the Islander Alumni Nation. We look forward to seeing you at our next event. Until then, **Go Islanders!**



Ed Cantu '81, Islander Forever
National Alumni President

#IslanderForever
IslanderAlumni.org

2017 Alumni Board Members:

Officers:

Ed Cantu '81

Raynaldo De Los Santos, Jr. '04

Cynthia Turner '89

Gus Barrera '94

Leanne Mulholland '08, '11

Suzelle Tinnell '89

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Mariaha Pedder '04

Al Arreola, Jr. '03

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Chelsea Childress '10, '12

Haysam Dawod '85

Melissa Espitia '07

Damla Eytemiz '12

Stephanie Garcia '12

Amy Griffin '05

Paulette Guajardo '00

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Denny Meyer '05

Patty Owen '05

Jenesis Shaw '06, '08

Eloisa "Elle" Silvas '04

ISLANDER ALUMNI CHAPTERS:



HOUSTON CHAPTER

Started in the early 1990s, the Houston Alumni Chapter is the oldest Alumni group in our Islander network.

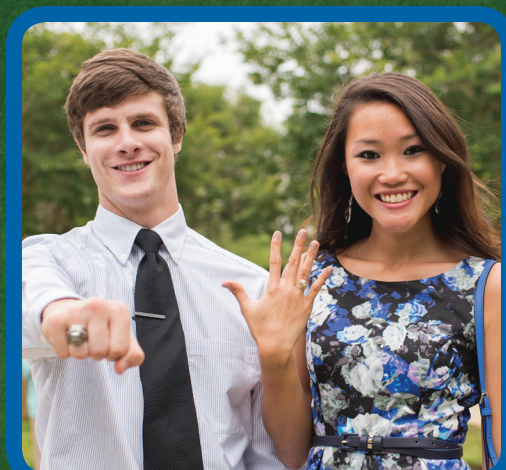


SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

Formed in October 2015, the San Antonio Chapter is the Alumni Association's newest chapter.

To learn more about our chapters, visit
islanderalumni.org/chapters

Want to start a chapter? The Alumni Association is always looking for energized and active Alumni to get involved. Reach out to the Alumni Association at 361.825.5787 to find out how to get more involved.



TRADITION OF THE RING

In 1999, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi began the Islander Ring program in coordination with the Alumni Association and Balfour. In the 18 years since, the Islander Ring has become one of the more well-known and respected traditions on the Island.

"The creation of the ring tradition was quite simple actually," said Russell Wagner, Executive Director of the Alumni Association. "There were various ring designs for our previous institutions, but those faded away when we were brought into the A&M System in the early 1990s. Within in a few years, alumni and students both were asking to bring the tradition back."

Soon, a group of faculty, staff, alumni, students and community leaders began meeting to create a new piece of individual hardware. "I don't think people realize the thoughtfulness and effort that went into its creation," said Wagner. "This was a tradition that was designed not to last years, but decades...they wanted the ring to eventually become its own symbol and

remain completely unchanged as the tradition grew."

Because of this, the Islander Ring has remained unchanged since it was created nearly two decades ago.

On the left side of the ring, there is an ocean view lined by palm trees. This side is finished with the 'Islanders' banner above, the founding year of 1947 at the bottom, as well as the initials of the person's degree. This scenic sunset symbolizes a student's view, looking out at the world from the island, and imagining their dreams, aspirations and future ahead.

The right side features the Alumni Association logo, with the mirrored palm trees on a reflecting pool. This side is finished with the initials of the University and the year of graduation at the top. The Alumni Association logo signifies the view seen as an alumnus. It's someone looking back from the other side of the water at the Island and remembering the memories, friendships and experiences that they

created during their years at the University.

For Sierra Priest, who just received her ring this spring, the symbolism goes even deeper. "There's so many things that rush into my mind when I look at it. It's a reminder of where I came from and motivation to keep going once I graduate, but it holds so many cherished memories of a place that I can always call home," Priest said.

The Alumni Association has worked tirelessly to grow the tradition. In 2013, the "Islander Ring Wish" was created to symbolically connect students to their future alma mater. Inside each ring box, students receive a sand dollar that embodies their future goals and dreams. Students then walk to Woo Sung Lee Plaza and toss their sand dollar into the fountain like a penny in a wishing well.

As of January 2017, the Islander Ring is now on display via a larger-than-life statue in the University Center north atrium. It's one of just a handful of ring

statues in the entire country. At nearly three feet in size, and almost 200 pounds, it's hard to miss.

"A college ring often acts as a catalyst for conversation, and when you talk about it, you tell the Islander story," said Curt Langford, Vice President of Collegiate Partnership Development at Balfour. "Balfour and I are very excited for the Island University and their growing ring tradition and we are proud to have been here to help provide this statue that showcases the Islander Spirit."

"The tradition of the Ring has taken on a life of its own. We hear from students all the time that the Ring Ceremony is just as meaningful to them as walking the stage at Commencement," said Wagner. "Growing programs like this can be difficult to manage at times, but when you see an Islander put that ring on for the first time, it is worth the extra time and effort."

This year, more than 600 Islanders will be donning their rings for the first time. ■





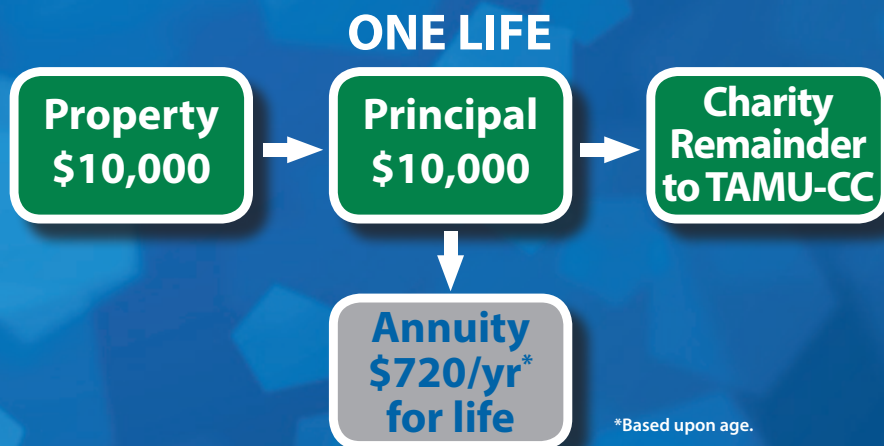
GIVING THROUGH A GIFT ANNUITY

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a way to make a gift to support student scholarships at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. You make a gift of cash or appreciated assets to us. In return, we will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one, or another person. Each payment will be fixed and the amount of each payment will depend on the age of the person who receives the payments. After all payments have been made, the remaining value of your gift will go to the University to support students, faculty and programs.

Calculate Your Benefits

Would you like to see the benefits of creating a CGA? You can use the Gift Annuity calculator on our website at www.tamuccgift.com to estimate payment projections or tax deductions based on your gift of cash or appreciated assets.



*Based upon age.

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