INSIDE

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Incubator Program Gives Boost to Start-up Companies

PAST AS PROLOGUE: VISIONARIES WHO SHAPED THE FUTURE
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a robust history of the community’s engagement in our development and expansion. We see evidence of this generous commitment in our facilities, our programs, our faculty and our students. Building upon the well-being of the University opens additional opportunities for many individuals to step forward and provide private support which helps Texas A&M-Corpus Christi fund essential services that cannot be accommodated through state dollars and tuition revenues.

**MEMBER BENEFITS**

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

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

As a member of the President’s Council, you become our partner in progress, because your support helps guide us toward the many milestones we will reach.
In the 62 years since our doors first opened, the Island University has been transformed from a small college with a narrow focus into a major institution of higher learning with five colleges that produce high-quality graduates and prestigious institutes that are conducting groundbreaking research in a variety of fields.

This didn’t just happen. The beautiful campus and top-notch facilities enjoyed by around 9,500 students today would not have been possible without the commitment and generosity of our University’s many friends and patrons. For most students, the names on the buildings across campus are just destinations. But, in a higher sense they are a chronicle of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s history, testimonials to the foresight of people who understand the critical link between an educated workforce and a thriving community, both economically and culturally.

It’s no secret that universities are being confronted with declining levels of state support at a time when the costs of providing a quality education are increasing. As a college education becomes increasingly essential for today’s students, pursuing that goal is creating financial burdens on them and their families. Throughout the nation, substantial private giving is more critical than ever.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been fortunate over the years in having a loyal base of private donors who clearly understand the power of education to transform the lives of people and the community. Many have stepped forward to make substantial commitments that have allowed us to build state-of-the-art facilities, offer significant scholarships to deserving students and to attract the outstanding faculty who are the foundation of our academic success.

This fall, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi launched the Momentum Campaign, a comprehensive fundraising drive that will allow us to fund several key objectives essential to continued growth and excellence. The campaign seeks to establish merit-based scholarship funds to allow the University to compete for the best and brightest students. To do this, we must also hire and retain brilliant faculty who can truly make a difference in the lives of the next generation. Additional funding is necessary to expand and strengthen our programs, especially in the areas of greatest economic growth, such as marine and coastal science, engineering, and the health sciences.

In addition, raising money for bricks and mortar is important for our long-range plans to expand our facilities utilizing the land given to the University last year by the people of Corpus Christi. This gift of approximately 137 acres just minutes from campus makes it possible to move some non-academic operations to the new site, ensuring room for additional classroom and laboratory facilities on campus.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is poised to take its commitment to excellence, engagement and expansion to an even higher level. With the support of our many friends and benefactors, we will build on the greatness we have achieved and pave the way for an even brighter future.

The Islander

is produced in fall and spring by the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Office of Marketing & Communications, part of the Division of Institutional Advancement. Content in the magazine is designed to enlighten the University’s alumni and friends on A&M-Corpus Christi’s people, programs and activities. Comments and editorial ideas should be sent to:

c/o Office of Marketing & Communications
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5726
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5726

ON THE COVER
The University has expanded from a small private college of 312 students to a public university of more than 9,500 students. Satellite imagery courtesy of Google Earth.
UNIVERSITY EARNS CASE AWARD FOR NEW GRAPHIC MARK

The University has received the Award of Excellence for its new graphic mark from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Southwest District IV. The new graphic mark competed in the Communications Awards Competition with entries from universities and colleges from throughout Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mexico.

MOMENTUM CAMPUS

Seneca Holland, a research associate with the Harte Research Institute, was presented with an Amazon Kindle2 Wireless Reading Device by University President Flavius Kililebrew for submitting the winning entry in the “Name the Land” contest. Holland’s suggestion, “Momentum Campus,” was selected from hundreds of entries to name the site donated to the University by the City of Corpus Christi.

UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEW BUS WRAP

The Islander Dance Team earned enough points in July at the Universal Dance Association College Dance Camp held at Texas State University to qualify for a spot at the UDA College Cheer and Dance Nationals in Orlando, Fla. The national competition will be held at the Walt Disney World Resort on Jan. 15-18, 2010. The Islanders won several other awards including first place in fight song, the superior performance trophy, and more than 35 individual awards to become one of the top teams at camp.

Top row, left to right: Andrea Estrada, Kaitlyn Andreas, Emily Barrera, Brenae Price, Marissa Flores, Erica Gutierrez and Cami Ramos.
Middle row, left to right: Corine Carrizales, Marisa Villanueva, Chelsea Childress, Kimberly Garcia and Taylor Miner.
Bottom row, left to right: Taylor Wilson, Gabrielle Sanchez, and Marina Camero.

The University’s new bus wrap featuring Islander student-athletes from all 14 NCAA team sports was unveiled June 19 at the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority headquarters. The new mural replaces the popular design celebrating the University’s 60th Anniversary that has been a familiar sight along the bus route that serves the campus community.
Ask Tim Fitzpatrick why he came to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and he’ll give you an answer that’s short and sweet. “Optimism,” smiles Fitzpatrick, who this summer became the University’s third athletic director since the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi revived its sports programs in 1997. “I believe that we have the foundation to make the Islander athletic program the most successful in the Southland Conference.”

To make his case, Fitzpatrick points to the national attention that the men’s basketball team brought to the University when the Islanders won the Southland Conference title in 2007 and went on to play in the NCAA Tournament. The cross country and men’s tennis teams have also won conference titles since joining the Southland three years ago and Fitzpatrick is confident that that success will carry over to baseball, softball, and all other sports. Fitzpatrick’s road to the Island began when he was a student at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Prior to his senior year, he planned to go to law school, but an opportunity to serve as the athletic department’s sports information director changed his career focus. “I was not competing as an athlete, but had a close relationship with the athletic director,” recalls Fitzpatrick. “Unfortunately, the school’s sports information director passed away and the president asked me if I would like the job. It ended up being a tremendous opportunity for me.”

After completing his year as the sports information director, Fitzpatrick abandoned his plans to go to law school and enrolled at the University of Ohio where he earned his master’s degree in sports management. Since then, he has risen through the collegiate administration ranks. He started as an intern in the ticket office then became a successful athletic fundraiser and marketer at the United States Military Academy. He advanced up the ladder steadily, spending time at the University of North Texas, Pittsburgh, The Southwest Conference and North Carolina-Charlotte.

Prior to becoming an Islander, Fitzpatrick spent four years as the senior associate athletic director at Indiana University. Now that he has become an athletic director, he is looking to take the Islander program to new heights. “The University’s location is great, there’s already a solid staff in place and we have the unique advantage of being the only NCAA Division I program in a city the size of Corpus Christi,” says Fitzpatrick. “It’s important to me that that the athletic program receives support from the administration and when I interviewed it was obvious how much President Killebrew wants to see it grow.”

While success on the field is important, Fitzpatrick’s top priority is the development of student-athletes. “I get my biggest satisfaction from my job when I see how these kids develop,” he says. “It is all about the student-athletes and enabling them to grow so that they can be successful in life. Every time I make a decision, the first thing I consider is the consequence it has on the welfare of the student-athlete, because that will always matter most to me.”

New volleyball head coach Tony Graystone is no stranger to winning, and he plans to instill the same mentality into his players in his first season as head of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi program. Graystone comes to the Island from West Texas A&M where he was one of the nation’s most successful head coaches, reaching 100 victories in 106 matches. Graystone’s teams won the Lone Star Conference eight times in his 10 years as head coach. His teams made it to NCAA “Elite Eight” four times and twice advanced to the “Final Four.”

With an overall career record of 315-61 coming into the season, Graystone has set his sights on turning around the Islander program and building it into the most successful program in the Southland Conference.
Last year, Elisa Beagle sat on the bench with an injured foot and watched helplessly as the Islanders stumbled to an 11-19 record that included a first-round exit from the conference tournament.

But Beagle turned that season of frustration into a learning experience, watching the action from the sidelines and making mental notes. Healthy once more and eager to make up for lost time, the senior post is burning to prove why last year she was a preseason All-Southland Conference pick before being sidelined for the duration.

“What happened last season gives me the fire to come back and help my team win the conference,” says Beagle. “Having to sit out the year was really tough. But I learned a lot watching from the sidelines. I want to use that to make myself a better player and to help us reach our goal of playing in the postseason.”

Beagle (6’0”) gives the Islanders an established presence in the middle. Completely healed and looking to prove she is as strong as ever, she provides invaluable leadership on an experienced ball club that returns 10 players.

“We’re talented at every position and we should go far,” she predicts. “If we stay focused, we can win the conference and make it into the postseason.”

Starters Shaye Montgomery (5’6”), Jade Davis (5’9”), Myeisha Myles (6’1”) and Adrienne Scott (6’1”) all return along with Beagle, who was a starter before being sidelined. Lauren Smith (5’8”) and Deziree Green (5’10”) each started at least 13 games last season as well.

Davis led the Islanders in scoring with 12.8 points per game, followed by Montgomery with 10.3 per game and Myles who averaged 10 points per game. Montgomery led the team with a 3.45 assists per game average and Myles was the team leader with 8.3 rebounds per game.

Height is a long suit for the Islanders who have six players taller than 6 feet. Senior Diandra Torres (6’1”), junior transfer Anitra Jeffery (6’0”), senior LaToya Thomas (6’2”) and juniors Myles and Scott also have the speed to allow the Islanders to do things on the court that they have been unable to do in the past.

“I’m excited to see how we can utilize our speed,” says Coach Robert Robinson. “We will be able to take advantage of some situations and press a little more with our length.”

The Islanders bring four newcomers to the team including Jeffery, a transfer from Angelina Junior College, and true freshmen Ashley Darley, Imani Dunn and Jessica Jammer. Junior guard Louvinia Robinson rounds out the Islander roster.

Coach Robinson believes that a friendly schedule that includes six home games before the start of the conference play should be a boost to the Islanders.

“It’s a nice thing for our players to be able to play at home in front of our fans and it is a good opportunity for our fans to be able to watch us play,” says Coach Robinson. “We have a lot of players we can run out on the floor and that will only help us. It’s going to be an exciting year.”

### SPRING 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

**BASKETBALL GAMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball Conference Home Opener</td>
<td>Saturday January 9</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Central Arkansas</td>
<td>1PM</td>
<td>American Bank Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball Conference Home Opener</td>
<td>Saturday January 16</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Northwestern State</td>
<td>7PM</td>
<td>American Bank Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>Saturday February 6</td>
<td>Islanders Men vs. Nicholls</td>
<td>7PM</td>
<td>American Bank Center</td>
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**SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Islander Classic</td>
<td>Thursday February 18</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Centenary</td>
<td>12PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Southern</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Boston College</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Boston College</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Emerald Beach Classic</td>
<td>Thursday February 25</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Houston Baptist</td>
<td>3PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Islanders vs. North Dakota</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Islanders vs. UL - Monroe</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Islanders vs. UL - Monroe</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hungry for Success

EXPERIENCED ISLANDERS PRIMED TO TAKE ON BIG NAME FOES

If you want to challenge the big dogs, you’ve got to take them on in their own backyard. That’s the philosophy of men’s basketball Coach Perry Clark as the Islanders prepare for a run at the Southland Conference championship and a return to the “March Madness” of the NCAA postseason tournament.

How good is this year’s Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi team? Perry should have a pretty good idea by the time the Islanders tip off their conference opener at Central Arkansas on Jan. 9. By then the Islanders will have faced five schools that made it to the postseason last year including teams from the Southeast Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big 12.

The Islanders grueling non-conference schedule begins in West Texas where they face Texas Tech and Oregon State in the “Dust in the Desert” Classic before taking on Mississippi and Houston in non-conference road games. Looming largely on the schedule is a Jan. 2 date at Texas to face a Longhorn team that begins the season ranking in the top five in national polls.

The challenge doesn’t faze Kevin Palmer (6’6”), the Islander guard who is shouldered with great expectations after averaging 18.2 points and earning Southland Conference “Newcomer of the Year” honors last season. As a junior transfer, he started 33 games, scoring 599 points, averaging 5.2 rebounds and snaring a team record 86 steals. After such an impressive debut, Palmer knows he is a marked man.

“Coach told me that I have a bull’s-eye on my back and that everybody’s going to be coming after me. But, I’m up to the challenge,” smiles Palmer. “We’ve got as good a group of players as anyone in the conference and if they go after me we’ve got other guys who know what to do with the ball.”

Experience is the key word for the Islanders who return four starters from last year’s 18-15 team. Although they doubled their win total from the previous year, the Islanders missed the playoffs, a disappointment they plan to correct this season.

“We were so close that we could feel it and that makes us want it that much more,” admits Palmer. “If we stick together and play as a team, we’ll be tough to beat. Our goal is to win the conference and make it to the (NCAA) tournament.”

The Islanders have four players returning who averaged between 6.2 and 8.2 points a game a year ago. Junior Demond Watt (6’7”) averaged 8.2 points while Justin Reynolds (6’9”) netted 8.1 points and earned honorable mention All-SLC honors. Horace Bond (6’8”) averaged 4.6 points and was the Islander’s top defensive player. Senior center Filip Toncinic (7’0”) averaged 6.2 points with 4.4 boards.

In addition, sophomore Jawan Nelson (6’9”) is back in the paint and should improve upon his rookie season. Also returning is forward Marcus Hammonds (6’5”), who provides athleticism on the wing. Returning in the backcourt are seniors Shamar Coombs (6’1”), Lamar Drake (6’1”) and junior Antonio Topps (6’1”), the team’s biggest long-range threat. Guard Terence Jones (6’2”) is expected to help ease the loss of last year’s sixth-man Tim Green. Michael Babies (6’1”) will come off the bench for the Islanders.

For complete schedules, visit goislanders.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS</th>
<th>Whataburger College Classic</th>
<th>6PM</th>
<th>Whataburger Field</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Islanders vs. UCLA</td>
<td>Whataburger Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Oklahoma</td>
<td>1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Islanders vs. Mississippi State (DH)</td>
<td>3PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southland Baseball Championship</td>
<td>Wed.-Sat. May 26 - 29</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Whataburger Field</td>
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</table>

| GOLF                  | Islander Classic | Sun.-Tues. Feb. 28-March 2 | All Day | Corpus Christi Country Club |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TENNIS</th>
<th>Islanders Tournament of Champions</th>
<th>Thur.-Sat. March 5 - 6</th>
<th>All Day</th>
<th>HEB Tennis Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southland Conference Tennis Championship</td>
<td>Thur.-Sat. April 23 - 25</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Tennis Center</td>
<td></td>
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THECB Grant Opens GATE for Free Summer Education Program

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded a three-year $750,000 grant to the University’s College of Education for the Governor’s Academy for Teaching Excellence (GATE) free summer educational program. The three-week program for high school students interested in teaching careers in mathematics and/or science at the elementary or secondary levels includes field trips, films, guest speakers, mentorship from exceptional educators, and a first-hand teaching experience in the University’s “Kid’s College,” a summer program for elementary students.
Dr. David Berlanga Jr. retired in 2005 after nearly 30 years as a professor in the University’s College of Education. Throughout his career, he encouraged his students to learn to teach in two languages to help those who were limited in the English language. Because of his grant-writing abilities, he was able to help many students obtain scholarships that allowed them to earn their college degree.

Berlanga grew up in Corpus Christi where he graduated from King High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Texas A&I-Kingsville and his post-graduate degrees from the University of Michigan.

Richard Russell “Dick” Phelps, a retired civil engineer and public land surveyor, was a former chair of the University’s Blucher Institute where he was responsible for the development of a tide gauge system and research project along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Phelps was born in Evansville, Ind., and reared in Beaumont, Texas, where he lived for 34 years. After graduating from high school, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry from Texas A&M University, a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Lamar University, and an M.E. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After a productive career as a consultant, he joined the engineering technology faculty at the University of North Carolina then, seven years later, accepted a similar position at the University of Houston’s Central Campus. He joined the Blucher Institute in 1989 and retired in 1992 following completion of the tide gauge system.

During his 33-year career, Phelps was active in many service and professional organizations including the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 1995, he received the Hugh L. George Award for Outstanding Service. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 51 years, daughters Linda Phelps and Laura Phelps Archer, and three grandchildren.

Lawrence “Larry” Weiner  June 22, 1932-June 26, 2009
Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Weiner was a professor of music for 31 years and was conferred Composer-In-Residence Emeritus status upon his retirement from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2003.

Weiner, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, graduated from the University of Texas in 1954 with a bachelor of music degree and, two years later, received his master of music degree. He joined the military in 1956 and spent three years as the principal pianist with the 4th U.S. Army Band at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Weiner taught and composed at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi from 1974 until his retirement. During his tenure, Dr. Weiner also established and directed the highly-acclaimed “Distinguished Visitors in the Arts” concert series.

Weiner is survived by his wife, Laura Sherman, and daughters: Leah and Aria Sherman-Weiner of Austin, Texas; and son, David Weiner of New York City. He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Weiner.

Ray Whitmire  March 13, 1939-Jan. 28, 2009
Dr. Ray Edward Whitmire was a professor of accounting and finance in the College of Business for 35 years. A native of Corpus Christi, he graduated from Ray High School in 1957 and, in 1961, received his bachelor of arts from Texas A&M University. He served in the United States Army, volunteering for two tours in Vietnam and attaining the rank of captain. He did his postgraduate work at the University of Texas before joining the faculty at Corpus Christi State University. As one of the initial College of Business faculty hires, Dr. Whitmire helped shape the initial courses and continued to contribute to the College’s development and expansion.

He was a dedicated mentor and as sponsor of the Student Finance Association helped many students in the development of their professional and leadership skills. Dr. Whitmire was never too busy to help a student or colleague, either with an academic matter or one of a more personal nature. He enjoyed outdoor activities and many stories are told of his unique solutions to practical problems. He is survived by his wife, Joan; son, Russell Whitmire; daughter, Joy Whitmire Pollock, and three grandchildren.
THECB RECOGNIZES NURSING PROGRAM FOR RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received a $25,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in recognition of its exceptional programs under the Nursing Education Performance Initiative.

The grant was one of three awarded to Texas institutions that have achieved graduation and licensure rates of 85 percent or above during the 2008 academic year. The overall retention and graduation rate for nursing schools throughout Texas is 67 percent. The initiative was implemented by the THECB to help relieve the state’s current and predicted nursing shortage.

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi nursing program is the only one in The Texas A&M University System and in South Texas to receive the award. The grant funds will be used to develop a detailed plan for best practices for other schools to use as a guideline to achieving higher graduation and licensure rates.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ “Assisting at Risk Minority Students for Success” (ARMS) program utilizes a database of factors to impact a student’s success in the nursing program. The data is collected from each student on admission and is evaluated along with test grades to predict success in the program and to identify students at risk for failure prior to academic difficulty occurring.

Texas Woman’s University and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi have combined to offer a cooperative Ph.D. in nursing that will help address the national shortage of nursing educators.

This cooperative Ph.D. makes a doctoral nursing science program available to nurses in South Texas with a blend of online, televideo and face-to-face classes. Students are taught by Texas Woman’s University doctoral faculty.

According to Texas Board of Nursing data, less than one percent of the nurses in Texas hold a doctoral degree while 6.3 percent have earned a master’s degree in nursing. During the period 2004-2006, almost 56 percent of the qualified applicants to nursing programs in Texas were denied admission because of insufficient faculty resources. The faculty vacancy rate for the Texas Coastal Bend nursing schools is currently 20 percent.

The ability to prepare new nurses is directly related to our ability to supply trained professionals to teach nursing programs,” points out Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, dean of the University’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “The national shortage of nurses is intricately linked to a lack of nursing faculty and training facilities.”

Since he became Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President/CEO in January 2005, Dr. Flavius Killebrew has consistently championed the creation of new programs to meet the needs of both prospective students and the South Texas community. In addition to supplying teaching professionals, the new doctoral program will help meet the demand for better-educated nurses and administrators in the private sector.

“A doctoral degree is quickly becoming essential for nurse executives of healthcare organizations across the entire country,” says Killebrew. “This program will reduce the necessity for full-time administrators to travel to complete their doctoral education and will provide students with flexible options that will allow them to retain their jobs and complete their education with the support of local faculty.”

Although students in South Texas will be participating through Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the degree will be conferred by TWU. Current doctoral faculty and advisors will mentor with faculty at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi who will assume teaching roles in the Ph.D. program after gaining TWU Graduate Faculty status.

With more than 900 graduate and undergraduate students, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the fastest-growing College at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
FACULTY RECEIVES TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Thirteen Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty members have received Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Awards. All part or full-time adjuncts, instructors, assistant, associate and full professors directly teaching classes of at least three credit hours with 15 or more students enrolled are eligible for the awards.

The following faculty scored in the top 5 percent for their respective classes:

- Dr. Pingjung Timmer '04, instructor of mathematics
- Dr. David Mouri, associate professor and coordinator of the Department of Life Sciences
- Kelly Russell, assistant professor of theatre
- Dr. W. Scott Sherman, associate professor of management
- Dr. Jim Lee, professor of economics
- Dr. Bunny Forgione, associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and professor

The following faculty scored in the next 15 percent for their respective classes:

- Marcia Venzon '79, mathematics instructor
- Shere Salinas, adjunct instructor of mathematics
- David Jensen, adjunct professor of chemistry and director of the National Spill Control School
- Dr. Gregory Buck, assistant professor of life sciences
- Dr. Kevin Strychar, assistant professor of marine biology and microbiology and Harte Research Associate
- Christine Peters '07, adjunct instructor of mathematics
- Sharon Polanksy '80, director of the College of Business Master’s Programs

Awards are based on the percentile ranking of the average score of the system-wide faculty evaluation form which is comprised of 16 questions developed by the TAMU System from input by the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, the System Faculty Senates, Presidents and Provosts, and the System Administrative Office.

UNIVERSITY JOINS NATIONAL CONSORTIUM

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has accepted an invitation to join the National Learning Communities Conference (NLCC) Consortium. The University will join Delta College, Harper College, Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City, Mo., Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and Kennesaw State University in the consortium which organizes the annual National Learning Communities Conference. A&M-Corpus Christi's First Year Learning Communities Program has received state and national recognition and is regarded as a national model for learning communities.

Island Day Reception Draws Record Crowd

Dr. Gilda Ramirez '92, director of Student Services and College Finances, was among the nearly 200 faculty, staff and current students to greet a record turnout of more than 1,500 prospective students and their parents from across Texas at Island Day April 25 in Lee Plaza. Several times a year, the recruitment event brings prospective students and their families to campus for a full day of informational sessions about the University’s many degree opportunities, the enrollment process, housing, and student life.

KINESIOLOGY PROGRAM ACCEPTED INTO ERP

The College of Education’s Kinesiology Program has been accepted into the National Strength and Conditioning Association’s Education Recognition Program (ERP). The ERP Graduate Studies Program recognizes colleges and universities that offer at least a master’s degree related to strength and conditioning or sport performance. The Department of Kinesiology prepares students for professional careers in athletic training, exercise science, physical education, sports management, sports coaching, and strength/conditioning.

AATC RECOGNIZED FOR SERVING TRANSFER STUDENTS

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s Academic Advising Transition Center (AATC) has received the Silver Award in the Best Practices in Transfer Enrollment Management category from the Successful Transfer Enhancement Program (STEP). The STEP Award Competition recognizes outstanding work in serving transfer students within the State of Texas. As part of the honor, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s AATC was also named one of the Seven Examples of Excellence.

Pictured from left to right with the STEP Award are University President Flavio Killebrew, Dr. Patricia Hill, director of the Academic Advising Transition Center; and Margaret Dechant, associate vice president for Enrollment Management.
LEWIS NAMED KC ACTF FACULTY FELLOW

Dr. Terry Lewis, director of University Theatre, was honored as The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Faculty Fellow for Region VI, at the national competition April 13-18 in Washington, D.C. The national theater program recognizes the best and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs across the United States.

Canales Lectures in Peru

Dr. JoAnn Canales, professor and associate dean of Graduate Studies, addressed Peruvian government officials on methods for implementing quality control assurance and accreditation systems for higher education in Peru. At the request of the U.S. Department of State, Canales lectured before Peru’s National Assembly of University Rectors during a week-long series of events in June that also included conversations with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Peruvian government, public and private institutions, newly-organized accrediting entities, nongovernmental educational organizations, think tanks, and Peruvian Binational Center educational advisors. The Peruvian government is soliciting the insights of professional educators on the implementation and quality control of accreditation standards, and seeking international cooperation for further research and development.

ASTON STUDIES IN BEIJING, CHINA

Nicole Christine Aston, a junior biomedical science major, is studying in Beijing, China, on a Boren Scholarship awarded by the National Security Education Program. In addition to her medical/health internship, Aston is studying the Mandarin language, and the history of Beijing. Boren Scholarships focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security interests. These areas include Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin American, and the Middle East. Boren Scholars study less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

RECEPTION HELD FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

An appreciation reception to celebrate the Mechanical Engineering Program was held on campus June 24.

University President Flavius Killebrew was joined at the press conference by State Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa and State Reps. Todd Hunter, Abel Herrero, and Solomon Ortiz Jr. Those attending the reception were area businesses, organizations and individuals that have stepped forward to support the University’s new mechanical engineering program. Other guests included members of the Corpus Christi City Council, Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, and Nueces County commissioners.

The new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 30. Classes began this fall.

In May, the Corpus Christi community met its challenge goal of $3 million research and development. In May, the Corpus Christi community met its challenge goal of $3 million.
Chopin Receives Silver Wave

Dr. Flavius Killebrew presented Dr. Suzette Chopin '03 with the Presidential Order of the Silver Wave for bringing national recognition to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, during a faculty convocation held Aug. 24.

Chopin, a professor of biomedical sciences, was one of 22 honorees nationwide selected to receive the National Science Foundation’s Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). The PAESMEM Program identifies outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities who are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The awardees serve as leaders in the national effort to develop the nation’s human resources in those fields. Chopin will receive a $10,000 award to support student travel to scientific conferences and will be honored at an upcoming White House ceremony.

During the convocation, State Rep. Abel Herrero also presented Chopin with a resolution to congratulate her on receiving the award. Chopin was named a Texas A&M University System Regents Professor in 2006 and has received numerous awards for advising and mentoring students.

NUCKOLS SPENDS SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

History major Erin Nuckols participated in the Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The program exposes students to a broad spectrum of library work, including preservation, reference, access standards and information management. Nuckols and other interns worked with unprocessed collections held by the Library of Congress to prepare them for access by researchers. At the end of their assignments, interns displayed and discussed their most significant discoveries during a presentation at the Thomas Jefferson Building.

Huerta Elected Chair of APSA Section

Dr. Juan Carlos Huerta, a professor of political science, has been elected chair of the Political Science Education section of the American Political Science Association (APSA).

As head of the 413-member section, Huerta will be a leading APSA advocate for the importance of teaching and learning. He will also represent professors from a diverse range of universities. He previously served on the program committee for the APSA Conference on Teaching and Learning from 2006-2008 and on the 2005 APSA Program Committee for the annual meeting.

VOKURKA APPOINTED TO MALCOLM BALDRIDGE AWARD BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Dr. Robert Vokurka, chair of the Department of Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences, has been appointed to the 2009 Board of Directors for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. This is the 10th year that Vokurka has been named to the board composed of experts from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and healthcare organizations and government.

STUNZ AWARDED GRANT TO STUDY RED SNAPPER

Dr. Greg Stunz has been awarded a $66,585 grant from the Environmental Defense Fund to test hypotheses on red snapper survival and stock and recruitment patterns. In seven years, Stunz has secured nearly $6 million in research grants which center on understanding the relative value of habitat for aquatic organisms and ocean and human health. The Harte Research Institute’s endowed associate research professor is coordinator for the University’s new Marine Biology Program. His other current research projects involve shark population dynamics on Padre Island National Seashore, and stock structure assessment of spotted sea trout along the Texas coast.
We have lived in this community for many years and have been a part of its growth. We believe that our investment of time and support has brought a substantial return. When our friends and associates ask what can best inspire growth in this region, it is always quick reply: The success of the greater Corpus Christi community is integrally tied to the success of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

When we were approached to serve as chairs of the Momentum Campaign for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, it was a gesture that made us feel very proud. We have watched the campus grow in its student body, academic programs and buildings, especially in these more recent years. The University has woven itself into the fabric of the greater community, creating an economic boost, cultural awareness and educational strength. The work undertaken by faculty and students continually improves our well-being, and that is something we must continue to foster.

We continue to work to ensure the progress of the University, and the Momentum Campaign to meld investments in people and programs that will directly benefit the community, the state and nation. Over these next months many who have pledged their support to the campaign will be calling upon individuals, organizations and businesses throughout the area. Now is the time when we all must act. Think broadly on what the Momentum Campaign can do that directly affects you, your family and the prosperity of this growing area. Then step forward to make your commitment to help.

Larry and Karen Urban
Chairs, Momentum Campaign
University President Flavius Killebrew was joined on stage by chairs Larry and Karen Urban and their co-chairs to announce the Momentum 2015 Capital Campaign during the State of the University Luncheon attended by more than 840 community leaders and friends of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in September. The campaign goal is $25 million with an additional $5 million challenge.

MEET THE CO-CHAIRS
Welcome aboard! This group of alumni and community members has tirelessly dedicated themselves to the purpose of the Momentum Capital Campaign. Help them achieve their goals by making Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi a university for the 21st century.

HOUSTON ALUMNI
Julia and Howard Townsend

SAN ANTONIO ALUMNI
Larry and Linda Mills

CORPUS CHRISTI ALUMNI
O.B. Garcia

AUSTIN ALUMNI
John and Betty Baker

TAM-CC FOUNDATION BOARD
Al Jones

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL
Peggy and Avinash Ahuja

ACHIEVE PARTNERS
Gordon and Linda Landreth

UNDER 50
Curtis and Jennifer Rock

FACULTY AND STAFF
Kathy and Don Deis

ATHLETICS
Dan and Deborah Shea

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Bruce and Elenita Collins

PARENTS’ COUNCIL
Gail and Michael Sutton

FOUNDATIONS
Marty and Becky Davis

RETIREES
Janice and Joyce Freeman

STUDENT FOUNDATION
Justine Hatton

A COMMON GOAL
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has undertaken the Momentum 2015 strategic plan to chart the course of the University’s development by focusing on the themes of excellence, engagement and expansion. Results from the comprehensive feasibility study indicated that we can turn this plan into reality without burdening students with excessive tuition, the University is committed to a comprehensive fund raising campaign with an initial working goal of $25 million. The completion of the campaign at this level will allow Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to fund several key objectives essential to our growth.

Of this campaign total, we are focusing fund raising efforts on:

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<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
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A Map of Progress

Committed Visionaries Chart Path to Greatness for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
For more than 20 years, Bernard Paulson told anyone within ear shot that Corpus Christi would not be able to attract top corporations to the Coastal Bend until the local University had an engineering program. This year, people finally listened.

Impressed by strong support from the Port of Corpus Christi, the business community and a $1 million pledge from the City, in January 2009, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents approved the bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Classes began this fall with 65 students, more than twice the number originally projected for the first year.

“It’s just good economic sense,” points out Paulson, who has more than 40 years experience in the Corpus Christi business community. “We have industries that need engineers and others that will come because the University now has an engineering degree program.”

The outpouring of financial support for the mechanical engineering program is just the latest example of the ongoing commitment from the community to give the Coastal Bend a first-class University that offers a high-quality education. Through their endowments, gifts and scholarships, in the 40 years since the University became a public institution, visionary donors have transformed what was a small private Baptist college into a major public institution with outstanding academic programs, cutting-edge research projects and top-notch facilities.

For most of the 9,500 Islander students, the names on the buildings across campus are just destinations. But in a higher sense they are a chronicle of the University’s history, testimonials to the foresight of people who understand the critical link between an educated workforce and a thriving community, both economically and culturally.

Perhaps the most visible example of this commitment is the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. Established in 2000 through a $46 million endowment from former Corpus Christi Caller-Times publisher Ed Harte and his family, with the addition of several endowed research chairs, it has become a leading marine science and policy research institute to support and encourage the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the world’s sixth-largest body of water. In 2007, Harte and local attorney John Hornblower established the $1.5 million Furgason Fellowship, named in honor of former University president and HRI executive director Robert Furgason, to support teaching and research fellowships for scientists from Mexico and Cuba.

Since it opened in 1987, the Conrad Blucher Institute has earned a well-deserved national reputation as a leader in innovative research and the development of scientific measurement technology in surveying. However, few know that the Institute, which today includes The Texas Coastal Observation Network, the Division of Nearshore Research, and the Texas Height Modernization Project, would not have been possible without the generosity of Conrad Blucher, a registered professional land surveyor and the last in a long family line of surveyors who mapped South Texas for more than 100 years.

Jeff Bell has been a champion of the Islander University for many years and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library is just one testament to the immeasurable impact he and his late wife have had on students at A&M-Corpus Christi. As president of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Foundation from 2002-2004, Bell was on the frontlines of leadership, overseeing the Foundation’s money management strategies and bringing together a large group of influential individuals with the goal of enhancing education opportunities for the University’s students.

The University’s award-winning Blanche Davis Moore Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) would not have been possible without the generosity of the late Corpus Christi resident who dedicated her life to advancing education in the Coastal Bend. The ECDC, which includes students age 3 to fifth grade, is the only school in the Corpus Christi Independent School District that presents its entire curriculum via dual-language education. All students’ instruction is split evenly between Spanish and English every day.

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

One of the most popular buildings on campus is the new Dr. Jack and Susie Dugan Wellness Center, a 67,000-square foot facility that, in addition to two NCAA regulation basketball courts, includes weight and cardio areas, locker rooms, including two for those with special needs, and group exercise rooms for students, faculty and staff. The Center would not have been possible without a $1 million seed gift from Dr. Dugan in memory of his late wife.

Another major addition to the campus is the O’Connor Building which, when completed, will allow the consolidation of business faculty and classrooms at one location. The $25 million facility was in large part made possible by the application of more than $6 million from a gift to the University by the late Corpus Christi businessman Michael A. O’Connor and his wife, Karen.

While state-of-the-art facilities are an integral structural part of a major university, the lifeblood is the students, many of whom would not be able to pursue a college degree without financial assistance. In that respect, the late Lawrence Atkins is unmatched in his generosity to the University. In 2008, the Atkins estate bequeathed $5 million to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the single largest gift for scholarships in the University’s history.

According to his friend and attorney Kenneth Botary, Atkins, who started his multimillion dollar advertising business out of the trunk of his car, admired people who become successful through a strong work ethic and wise investment.

“Early in life Larry learned the value of saving and working hard,” recalls his long-time friend. “He wanted to show his appreciation to the people of South Texas by helping college students and encouraging them to work hard, invest wisely and remain in South Texas.”

Mary Haas and her late-husband Paul, who
died in November 2008, have been ardent sup-
porters of the University since before it opened
its doors in 1947. Mary served on the Coastal
Bend committee that brought the University
into existence in 1947. And, an endowment
from the couple in 1988 helped establish the
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation which
solicits, invests, administers and distributes
donations, gifts and bequests for the exclusive
benefit of the University.

“When you consider where we started and
where we are now, it is mind-boggling,” admits
Mary. “It is very satisfying to have had a part
in something that has progressed this way.”

Throughout his life Morris L. Lichtenstein
Jr. strived to carry on his family’s rich tradition
of public service. It continues today through
his legacy, The Morris L. Lichtenstein Jr. Foun-
dation which donates $20,000 annually to the
College of Business Graduate Students Schol-
arship Program.

The Foundation’s generosity also extends
to the musical arts through a capital contribu-
tion toward Phase II of the Performing Arts
Center. In addition, each year the Lichtenstein
String Quartet Scholarship is awarded to four
promising musicians who in addition to per-
forming concerts, teach violin to young chil-
dren at the Joe Garza Recreation Center.

Over the years, many alumni have given
back to the University through gifts, scholar-
ships and grants. One excellent example of the
‘Rule of Reciprocity’ is Woo Sung Lee, a 1959
graduate and founder of the highly successful
chain of “Boat-N-Net” restaurants. Each day
Islander students enjoy “Lee Plaza,” the sanc-
tuary at the heart of the University which bears
his name, and some are recipients of the schol-
arship fund he established in 2004.

Lee’s most recent gift to the University is
the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center
that houses the University’s alumni relations
operation and several development functions. For his philanthropy, this year Lee was pre-
sented with a proclamation naming him a “50-
Year Distinguished Alumnus.”

“His extraordinary gifts are what it’s all
about, giving back to your alma mater,” says
Trent Hill, vice president for Institutional
Advancement. “Woo Sung Lee is an honored
friend of A&M-Corpus Christi, and we are
extremely proud of his generous commitment
to the University.”

Since the resurrection of Islander athletics
in 1997, the University’s Tarpon Foundation
has provided scholarships for talented male
and female student athletes and contributed
to the general operating budget that includes
equipment, travel budgets, and academic coun-
seling. In 2003, retired political consultant
Marvin Collins gave the athletic programs an
unprecedented boost with a $1 million chari-
table gift annuity to the University’s athletics
programs.

“To me, one of the biggest things happening in South Texas is Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,” he explains. “I looked at the reasons alumni support a university and decided that A&M-Corpus Christi had to get on the pages of the news with their sports teams. Good sports teams get the attention of alumni, and sports bring in money.”

Another generous benefactor of Islander athletics was the late John Chapman, a lifetime baseball fan and long-time supporter of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s program. Thanks to a generous donation from Chapman and his wife, Louise, in 2007 improvements were made to the baseball/softball complex that now bears his name including the addition of a new press box that accommodate the Islanders’ new level of competition within the Southland Conference.

The Chapman legacy continues to be instrumental in the development of academic programs and student support at A&M-Corpus Christi through the John Chapman Endowed Scholarship that supports the financial needs of students. The Chapmans were also leading contributors in the construction of the Math and Science Resource Center dedicated in February 2006.

Among the most benefactors are the people of Corpus Christi. In 1972, after the University discontinued its affiliation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, voters approved a $1.5 million bond issue (the equivalent of $8.2 million in today’s dollars) to purchase Ward Island and donated the site to the State as a home for a new state-supported university.

In 2008, the City donated 137 acres for the University’s future expansion. The gifted land, which is close in proximity and visible across the Oso Bay from Ward Island, will allow the University to significantly increase its student population by moving many non-academic facilities off the Ward Island campus which cannot accommodate the strong growth in University enrollment.

“Each year, as the state legislature is forced to cut funding, we must rely on the generosity of our donors to help us keep a high quality education affordable for all who want to earn a degree,” stresses University President Flavius Killebrew. “It is through donations, both large and small, that we will be able to provide current faculty with support and capital resources for the expansion of existing programs while attracting more outstanding scholars to teach and conduct research for undergraduate and graduate programs that will bring national recognition to the Island University.”
DEVELOPMENT OF PLASMA ENGINEERING RESEARCH LAB OPENS WIDE RANGE OF POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

A new research program initiated by the College of Science and Technology focuses on the application of plasma science and engineering technologies in bio-medical engineering, energy conversion and material processing areas.

The Plasma Engineering Research Lab (PERL) program is directed by Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan, an assistant professor in the University’s mechanical engineering program. In its initial stages, PERL is receiving federal support to establish the plasma research center on campus. It is also collaborating with the new business incubation program developed by the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in the College of Business.

Plasmas are the most common form of matter, comprising more than 99 percent of the visible universe. They permeate the solar system, interstellar and intergalactic environments. Plasmas are conductive assemblies of charged particles, reactive species and fields that exhibit collective effects. According to Thiyagarajan, plasma technology opens multiple avenues for a wide range of potential applications.

“Plasma science and engineering is a rapidly-growing field that can provide a great opportunity for engineering students to participate at the state-of-the-art facility through cutting edge research,” says Thiyagarajan. “These technologies will have a great impact in many military and consumer applications.”

Because plasmas respond to electric and magnetic fields and can be efficient sources of radiation, they are usable in a vast range of applications, both civilian and military. Plasma technology is already being applied in almost 100 areas including the development of high-efficiency lighting, gas treatment, semiconductor production, and sterilization of medical tools.

The Center has already accepted its 10 residents and one affiliate client into the incubator program. Plasma Technologies, Inc. is a medical technology company that develops, designs, patents and markets medical devices to be used in wound healing, tissue regeneration and sterilization. The local company works in close collaboration with Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa., as well as Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Ensemble Group, a Web site design and application developer, uses the latest technology to assist clients in Internet marketing. Using database technologies, the company provides custom-built systems to increase productivity and economic returns.

“Two years our goal is to be hosting 25 resident and 100 affiliate (non-resident) clients, subsequently creating new job opportunities in the Coastal Bend area,” says Richard Bell, director of the business incubator. “This is a great opportunity for the University to provide a positive economic impact to a community that has supported higher education and educational opportunities for university students to work in an entrepreneurial environment.”

Incubator Program Nurture Growth of Entrepreneurial Start-Up Companies

The College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has established the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center to stimulate job growth by encouraging entrepreneurial economic development of companies that, once established, are committed to remaining in the Coastal Bend.

A key component of the Center, which was funded by a $500,000 donation by Dusty Durrill and $1.5 million from the City of Corpus Christi, is its innovative incubator program that will nurture entrepreneurial startup companies by providing targeted resources and services to accelerate their growth and ensure long-term success. The business incubation program promotes cross-disciplinary academic and entrepreneurial programs utilizing University faculty and staff to maximize the potential for success. By extending the services and expertise to help them become financially viable, the program helps new companies create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, commercialize new technologies, and strengthen local and statewide economies.

“Our faculty, students, community organizations, and Center staff will provide the necessary guidance for member companies to enhance their chances for success,” explains Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the College of Business. “The Center will be able to provide the business aspect necessary to supplement the technical side of new ventures to increase their viability. This is a great partnership with benefits to all concerned.”

Under the program, fledging businesses receive appropriate rental space and flexible leases, shared basic business services and equipment, and technology support services. Additionally, they have access to professional Ph.D. level consulting, student internship programs, coursework modeling and interaction, executive-level education classes and assistance in obtaining the financing necessary for company growth.

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Sam L. Susser, president and chief executive officer of Corpus Christi-based Susser Holdings Corporation, was the recipient of the 2009 G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award presented by the College of Business. Through its subsidiaries, Susser Holdings Corporation operates Stripes Holdings, L.L.C., Susser Petroleum Company and Applied Petroleum Technologies (APT). Susser operates more than 510 retail stores under the Stripes, Town & Country and Village Market banners.

SUSSER HONORED AS KIRKLAND DISTINGUISHED VISITOR
Creating a scholarship endowment is one way to ensure your contribution will remain in perpetuity to support higher education and to help the University remain competitive in attracting the brightest students.

In recognition of donors making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council. Donors with cumulative gifts to endowed scholarship funds of $50,000 or more are inducted into the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.
A freshman gets in the Islander spirit with Izzy the Islander at a Freshman Send-Off Party.
About Bea Blomquist
National Alumni Association President

Bea Blomquist ’98 is president of the National Alumni Association. She is a graduate of the College of Business with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. While attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, she was involved in the Student Accounting Society, serving in several leadership roles. She also served on the College of Business Dean’s Student Advisory Council. After graduation she accepted a position in the University’s budget department and now works as the business manager for the College of Science & Technology.

Bea has continued to participate in community events such as the HEB Feast of Sharing for a number of years but her love of volunteering has been at the University with many student related events such as the Relay for Life, New Student Orientation, Grad Ring Sales, Late Night Breakfast, Graduation, and President’s Picnic. In 2006, Bea received the Young Alumni Award and received the TAMUCC Employee Excellence Award for Engagement in 2007.

Bea has served as an alumni association board member since 2004. She has been very active in the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club and the Anchor Alumni Club serving in several leadership roles. “I want to encourage all alumni to give back to our great University whether it is by getting involved or contributing to your college. What an opportunity we have to see others succeed.” Bea and her husband, Gus, also an alumnus, have a son who will continue the tradition of attending the University. Bea can be reached at (361) 825-3207 or at beatrice.blomquist@tamucc.edu.

The Alumni Web site is the place for news about fellow alumni, the University, job opportunities and more. Go to IslanderNetwork.com and:

- Register and gain entry to the “Alumni Access” section
- Start a blog and interact with other alumni
- Tell us what you think by taking our ongoing opinion poll
- View photos of alumni events and learn about the activities of local alumni chapters
- Learn what your fellow alumni are up to in the Class Notes section
- Re-establish old friendships by e-mailing classmates directly from the Web site

Mark Your Calendars!

Winter Jazz Mixer
Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010 • 6 – 8 p.m.
Islander Art Gallery
4024 Weber Road in Hamlin Center
Enjoy live music, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction, at this kick-off event for The Island University’s 2010 Homecoming Week festivities. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. Tickets: $20. For more information, contact Chapter President Lee White at 361.548.3141; or lwhite01@stx.rr.com.

Homecoming Islander Men’s Basketball vs. Nicholls State
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 • 7 p.m.
American Bank Center
Join us in downtown Corpus Christi for an evening of great tailgating fun and edge-of-your-seat action as the Islanders take on Nicholls State.

Alumni Awards Breakfast
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 • 9 – 10:30 a.m.
A hearty breakfast and awards ceremony combine to make an outstanding morning to a great day for alumni during the Homecoming celebration. Join us in the University Center Ballroom to see if your nominee wins the outstanding alumnus award! For tickets call the alumni office at 361.825.3895.

Alumni Shrimp Boil
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 • 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Join the fun as alumni gather before the Homecoming game to tailgate with a free shrimp boil in the American Bank Center parking lot. Loads of fun, drinks and food. Call to R.S.V.P. at the alumni office 361.825.3895.

Alumni Awards and Board Nominations
Have you thought about serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors? Can you nominate an alumnus and/or professor for the Distinguished Alumni Awards? See details and forms at www.IslanderNetwork.com
Deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, December 7.

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The Best of Both Worlds for Melanie Carr

A speech class at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi ultimately changed the life and career path of alumna Melanie Carr.

Once Carr, then Melanie Kliebert, discovered her strength in the course, she switched her major from psychology to TV/film communications. The decision led to news and media relations opportunities.

“I took the required speech course and everything just clicked,” says Carr, who is communications manager for the City of Cedar Park, Texas. “I actually ended up enjoying the class I feared the most.”

After graduating high school in San Antonio, Texas, Carr attended Sonoma State University in Northern California but returned to Texas after her sister and mother moved to Corpus Christi. In 1997, she graduated from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with highest honors.

“The University was such a supportive environment,” says Carr. “I knew all the professors and the students in the communication program. I felt a sense of belonging, and I wasn’t just a number.”

As communications manager, Carr, a board member of the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO), handles the public and media relations for the City of Cedar Park, maintains the Government Access Channel and the city’s Web site, and writes, produces and hosts all local Cedar Park TV programs.

“I get the best of both worlds,” says Carr, who has received TAMIO and TELLY awards for special tourism videos and cable programs. “I still get my TV fix because we oversee a Government Access channel and I get to do several tasks that keep me motivated.”

While at the Island University, Carr served an internship at KRIS 6 News, eventually becoming the weekend producer there, and later at KIII-TV 3. After the traumatic events of Sept. 11, 2001, Carr decided she needed a break, but returned a year and a half later.

“I missed the fast-paced environment and the feeling of never knowing what’s going to happen next,” she says. “With TV, there’s always breaking news. That’s what keeps it exciting.”

In 2003, Carr became an anchor at Corpus Christi’s Action 10 News where she was also assignments manager and producer. The following year, she took a management position in Tyler, Texas, and later became the morning executive producer at the CBS affiliate in Austin, Texas.

“In Tyler, I started on their assignments desk, but eventually became their assistant news director and a sports anchor,” Carr says. “The nice part of being in a small market is the variety it offers.”

During her career, Carr has covered many important people and events. But, it is the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, she will always remember most.

“Parents were panicking and schools were under lockdown. During that time, I was dealing with my emotions and fears. It’s moments like that, that really stand out.”

Nicole Levy ’08 BBA Management is director of operations at Coastal Cargo Academy in Corpus Christi and is in the MBA program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Come see her at Barnett Street Pub where she works a second job as a bartender.

Leanne Marie Mulholland ’08 BBA Management is a branch development officer with the Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union and is working on her MBA at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Mia Cannon ’09 BBA Management is the Jobel/Youth program special projects coordinator for Semo of Texas Inc. in Corpus Christi. She also works with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s American Cancer Society and Colleges Against Cancer’s Relay for Life.

Dianna Doebbler ’09 BBA Accounting hopes to graduate with her Macc by December 2010.

Jay Garcia ’09 BBA Marketing is a partnership specialist intern with the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities for the United States Census Bureau in Dallas, Texas. He began working on his MBA with emphasis in business marketing at the University of Northern Texas in fall 2009.

Jessica B. Garcia ’09 BBA Marketing works in sales and marketing for Doucet & Strain Aesthetic Laser and Wellness Center.

Betty Lee Orchard Snow ’52 BS Education is the widow of Bill Snow ’50 BS Physical Education. In 2006 she moved from Corpus Christi to the Independence Retirement Resort in San Antonio, Texas, to be closer to her three daughters and their husbands, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, reading, sewing, researching family history and nature at the family home on Lake Travis.

Lillie Hebert ’68 BS Elementary Education recently celebrated 30 years of teaching in the Chula Vista, Calif., ISD.

Judy Maroney ’73 BA Elementary Education retired and moved to the family farm in Boxelder, Texas, with her husband, Bob. She is adjusting to farm living by working in the garden and vineyard, and fishing in the pool in the back yard.

Juana Teresa Cavazos ’75 BA Special Education retired after working 33 years with Corpus Christi ISD as a special education teacher in both elementary and high school.

Frederick Mann ’76 MS Educational Technology has a radio and television station at the University of Texas–Pan American that plays more than 35,000 hits from over 40 countries. He also serves as the public affairs officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla in Port Isabel, Texas.

Rudy Garza ’77 BS Recreation is a teacher at Martin High School in Laredo, Texas. He has one daughter, Monica Garza Urdiales, who is a fifth-grade science teacher for the United ISD. He also has two grandsons.

Max “Manuel” Villareal ’79 BS Secondary Education is a disc golfer. In 1979, he helped set up an 18-hole disc golf course on the University campus.

Stephen Wolverton ’81 MS Educational Administration recently retired from the Huffman, Texas, ISD after working in education for 38 years. He now owns and operates an Internet travel service with Your Travel Business (YTB). He and his wife spend a lot of time in McAllen, Texas, with their new grandson.

Brenda Lee Velazquez ’83 BS Secondary Education teaches for the Department of Education in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Rudy Garza ’77 BS Recreation is a teacher at Martin High School in Laredo, Texas. He has one daughter, Monica Garza Urdiales, who is a fifth-grade science teacher for the United ISD. He also has two grandsons.

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Brenda Lee Velazquez ’83 BS Secondary Education teaches for the Department of Education in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Nora Vasquez Casarez ’84 BS Elementary Education is an assistant principal and instructional supervisor at the Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes, Texas. She serves on the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals board of directors and is presently a doctoral candidate with Walden University. Nora is married to Rene S. Casarez and will soon celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.

Denise Cavazos ’84 BS Elementary Education, ’96 MS Counseling and Guidance has worked for Coles Special Emphasis School, entered the counseling profession, and is now going on her 10th year as a school administrator for Harlingen CISD in Harlingen, Texas. She married Luis Lopez in 1988 and they just celebrated their 20th anniversary in Las Vegas, Nev.

Carol Ziegler ’85 BS Secondary Education has been married to John Ziegler Jr. for 27 years. She has been teaching and coaching at the Klein School District for 15 years in Spring, Texas, and looks forward to retiring. Her two daughters, Ashley, who has a son, Easton Brett, 2, and Jenna, are both in their junior year at college.

Candy Heim ’87 MS Occupational Education works in Institutional Advancement at Texas A&M International University. She has been nominated to the Women’s Chamber of Commerce of Texas as the Texas Woman of the Year. She is the grandmother of three girls.

Daniel Barbaro ’89 BS Education is a board operator for Valley Energy in Portland, Texas. His eldest son, Samuel, will graduate from the Air Force Academy in May 2010 and may carry an old fashioned image. His young- est son, Andrew, is pursuing a career in the medical field and will become a medical missionary upon graduation.
Michael Shumaker ’00 BS Occupational Training Administration, various military organizations and the Texas A&M Corpus Christi. He is now a safety and management director.

Mark Addison on March 21, 2009, and they are expecting a baby daughter in late October.

Dianne Chan ’99 BS Kinesiology is a licensed physical therapist assistant in California working for inpatient facilities. She was recently licensed in Florida. Her boyfriend, Christopher, is also a physical therapist.

Mark Wilder ’99 BS Kinesiology is married to Janice Palmer Wilder ’99 BS Computer Science and they have three children, Sarah, 6, Caleb, 6, and Jackson, 4. Mark is an assistant principal at Tejeda Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD and now works as a volunteer for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and John Paul II High School. He has traveled to many countries and her favorite activities are going to the beach, traveling and reading. She hopes to continue traveling and visiting with family in Louisiana.

Janet Johnson ’94 MS Counseling & Guidance helps seniors at Tatt High School with college applications and scholarships. Her two oldest grandsons are high school freshmen football players and she is expecting her seventh grandchild.

Lois Piercefield ’91 BS Psychology and Counseling earned his Master of Science in Counseling from Texas A&M- Corpus Christi in 1991. He retired after teaching English in the Corpus Christi ISD for 23 years and has been a volunteer worker at Christus Spohn Hospital Shoreline for several years.

JoAnn Bejarano ’92 BSIS Bilingual Education is an elementary school teacher with the George West ISD. She just celebrated her 18th wedding anniversary and has two children. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and going to the movies with her family.

Ann Fischer ’92 MS C&I Reading retired from the Corpus Christi ISD and now works as a volunteer for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and John Paul II High School. She has traveled to many countries and her favorite activities are going to the beach, traveling and reading. She hopes to continue traveling and visiting with family in Louisiana.

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When Oscar Garcia graduated from the Island University’s Coastal and Marine System Science Ph.D. program in May 2009, he discovered an endless sea of career possibilities.

Drawn by his natural curiosity for the Gulf of Mexico Garcia, a native of the port city of Tampico, Mexico, accepted a position as a research scientist in Florida State University’s Oceanography Department. He is currently exploring energy resources in the Gulf, using satellite images to detect sites at depths of up to 3,700 meters that contain hydrates, which are methane, and other hydrocarbon gases frozen into an icy slush at high pressure and low temperature.

“My work is a follow-up of the research I did while I was at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,” says Garcia, the first student from the University to earn a Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science. “I just returned from a cruise that produced fantastic results.”

While at sea, Garcia found a location off the Louisiana coast where he detected bubbling gas and oil at a depth of 1,200 meters. Once the accuracy of his find has been confirmed, he will map other sites in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Alaska.

In addition, he is working with NASA and NOAA scientists to implement a prototype for a permanent monitoring system of oil spills in U.S. coastal waters. He hopes the collaboration will lead to more efficient law enforcement of marine environmental laws by the Coast Guard.

Garcia came to the Island University in 2005 after earning degrees in environmental science and electronic engineering. While a doctoral student, he developed a method to identify oil slicks on the ocean’s surface. In addition, he presented the findings of his dissertation on the detection of natural seep formations by merging data from radar satellites, geophysical data, and direct observations made by submarines, at several international conferences.

Garcia is a member of the American Geophysical Union and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. He also received a distinguished invitation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be part of the Sea Surface Roughness Science Team, whose mission is to research and develop applications for both NOAA and NASA satellite users.

As a teaching assistant and adjunct faculty member at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, he taught physics, algebra and calculus. He also served an internship at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. And he was chief scientist for a two-month exploration expedition in the Southern Gulf of Mexico, working closely with his advisors Dr. Ian MacDonald and Dr. Beate Zimmer. For Garcia, exploring the Gulf waters is like playing in his backyard.

“The Gulf of Mexico is my home,” Garcia says. “I have lived on the Gulf Coast all my life in both the United States and Mexico and it’s been incredible to have the opportunity to apply my research to better know the ‘Mediterraneo Americano.’”
Lucille Polodnik '79 BA Art received her master’s de-
gree in library science from Texas Woman’s University in
May 2009. Previously, she worked as the Rio Grande
educational outreach coordinator for the non-profit or-
ganization Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in the
southwest region.

John Morales ’92 BA Communications retired from
accounting in 2004 and is president and CEO of the
company he founded, Lagarto Electromagnetics Inc. His
company designed a magnetic Prime Mover, like a die-
sel engine, which does not use hydrocarbons to operate.

Wendy Smith ‘93 BA Psychology works in quality
management for the University Physicians Health Plans
in Phoenix, Ariz.

Wichi Guerra ‘95 BA Art is a Rio Grande Valley, Tex-
as, artist with more than 20 years as an artist, instructor
and muralist. He continues to design and paint many
murals throughout south Texas and abroad.

Yvonne North ’95 BA Art is a missionary working with
the Loo people and the Turkan tribe in Northwest Ke-
nya. She runs a medical clinic in Niyaga and takes med-
cine and the hope of the Gospel to the Turkan Tribes.

Mark Branchowski ’96 BA Communications moved
to Atlanta, Ga., in 1988 where he is a director for HUN
and CNN.

Larry Varley ’86 BA Psychology is married to Veroní-
ca, who accompanies him on business trips to Europe
and around the United States. His son, Jaiett, was
married in December and is living with his wife, Lovely
Nerius, a reporter for the Armed Forces Network in Ger-
many. In July 2009, Larry was a member of the wedding
of good friend and fellow alumnus Bill Dean to Dra. No-
emi Sogari of Corrientes, Argentina.

Henry Rice ’83 BM Music oversees the Fine Arts
Department at Seaworth Academy. His oldest daugh-
ter majoring in business administration at the Agri-
cultural Technical Institute Business School and his
other two daughters attend the University of Central Okla-
homa. His son just graduated from high school.

David Calderon ’91 BA History and his wife, Ti-
fany, live in Corpus Christi and celebrated their 10-
year wedding anniversary on Oct. 3, 2009. They have
three children: Melissa, Roman and Die Dei. He is
looking forward to returning to finish his master’s
degree.

Candy Holmes ’91 BA Psychology is a supervisor of
childcare services for the Neighborhood Centers Inc./
Workforce Solutions in Corpus Christi.

Barbara Greenwood ’93 BA History is an assistant
secretary for J. Carroll Weaver, Inc in Sinton, Texas.

Joe Guerra ’93 BA Political Science is a transporta-
tion planning coordinator for College Station, Texas. He
is happily married and has three children, two daughters
and one stepson.

Virginia Estes ’94 BA English is a teacher at
Drsessel Middle School in the Corpus Christi ISD
where she has worked for 12 years. She and her
husband recently celebrated their 36th marriage an-
dering.

Lee Floyd ‘94 BA Sociology is the Baptist Student Min-
istry director at Angelo State University. He received his
Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern
Baptist Theological Seminary in 1998 and is married to
Rhonda Sandoval. They have two children, son Mica, and
daughter Megan.

Paul Perea ’85 BA Music is married and teaches el-
ementary music in the San Antonio, Texas, ISD. He has
contributed to the Green Thumb Project, B/R News, So-
lar Knowledge for kids and parents, and a communica-
tion’s center for projects to produce movies, podcasts, and
radio shows to his community and school.

Rosealind Ware Sosobes ’95 BA Communications
is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Eli Lilly and
Company in Houston, Texas.

Sarah Melendez-Pocoboca ’97 BA Communica-
tions is a public affairs officer with the Border Patrol and
spends her free time supporting her family, and running a
local professional baseball team called the “Laredo Broncos.” Her son, Rolando III, who recently turned 2,
takes up the remainder of her free time.

Trish Reynolds ’97 BA Sociology is a district behav-
ior specialist for the Katy, Texas, ISD and is enjoying life
with her children and grandchildren.

Karen Skelton ’97 BA English is in her second year at
Saint Louis University School of Law. Prior to entering
law school, she spent 10 years as a technical writer, pri-
marily in federal government agencies and the Depart-
ment of Defense programs.

Carol Renee Weekley ’98 BFA Art is an art special-
list teacher at Cabell Elementary School in the Dallas,
Texas, ISD. Both her daughters will attend college
fall 2009. Her older daughter attends Texas Tech
University in Lubbock and her younger daughter is a
student at University of North Texas in Denton.

Rudy Anderson ’99 BA Communications/Technical
Report Writing has transferred from Austin, Texas to the
Corpus Christi Field office for the Department of Assist-
ive and Rehabilitative Services- Division for Blind Services.
Rudy provides a wide range of vocational and other field
services for blind and visually impaired consumers in
Nuexos and surrounding counties.

Samuel Elizondo ’99 BA Psychology works for the
Education Management Corporation as the senior as-
sociate director of high school programs for the central
region. He enjoys attending the alumni events held in
Austin.

Rebecca Vela ’99 BS Criminal Justice is a paralegal
for the Guadalupe Law Firm. Her older daughter is in
the master’s program in counseling at Texas A&M Univer-
sity-Corpus Christi and her younger daughter just started
her second year at the Island University.

Shearyl Alsbury ’00 BA Psychology works for the Con-
roe, Texas, ISD. Her daughter was married two years
ago and her son is about to become engaged. She and
her husband travel as much as possible.

Joyce Hawthorne ’00 BA English has taught English
as an adjunct for the last six years at Del Mar College.
She and her husband are avid Islander sports fans and
basketball season ticket holders.

Dolores Summers ’06 BA Communications taught
high school for eight years before earning her master’s
degree in library science from the University of Houston-
Clear Lake. She just began a new career as an elemen-
tary school librarian.

Teodoro Aguilar Jr. ’01 BA Psychology is a legal
case worker for the Department of Family and Protec-
tive Services in San Antonio, Texas. Teodoro has been
engaged since Dec. 27, 2008, and plans to marry in
October 2010.

Patricia McKenna ’01 BA Studio Arts is a library as-
sistant at Mary Carroll High School in the Corpus Christi
ISD.

Luna Pena Ramirez ’01 BA Music teaches singing and
piano at her studio, Bella Nota Vocal Studio in Laredo,
Texas. She is currently working as vocal coach for “Man
of La Mancha,” the production that will inaugurate the
new theatre building at Texas A&M International Uni-
versity.

Ryann Cox ’02 BA English is in her sixth year of teach-
ing in the Irving, Texas, ISD. She and her husband are
expecting their second child in February 2010.

Fernando Fuentes Jr. ’92 BS Criminal Justice is
working on his Ph.D. in counseling at Texas A&M Uni-
versity-Corpus Christi, with an emphasis on diverse popu-
lations. He is president of Chi Sigma Lota, International
Counseling Honor Society, Epsilon Tau chapter. He also
serves on the President’s Council on Hispanic Serv-
ity Institute and, in July 2009, was awarded the H.M. Lef-
erty Doctoral Scholarship.

Kathryn Foster ’83 BA Sociology is a cancer informa-
tion specialist at the National Cancer Information Center
of the American Cancer Society in Austin, Texas, and a
substitute teacher for the Austin ISD. As a TV/movie
extra, she has appeared in several episodes of the TV
series “Friday Night Lights” and the new “Friday the 13th”
movie.

Noelia Perez ’03 BS Criminal Justice is the superinten-
dent at Texas Youth Commission’s York Hallway House
in Austin, Texas. Her son, Anthony, is a political science
major at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. They
look forward to his graduation in 2012.

Audelia Sandoval ’03 BA Sociology works for the
Campton-Farmers Branch, Texas, ISD and hopes to
retire in 2011. She has two grown sons her live nearby
in Dallas, Texas.

Wendy Williams ’03 BFA Art is an art educator for the
Corpus Christi ISD. She plans to pursue her master’s
degree in counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus
Christi.

Joan Alvarez ’04 BA English earned a master’s de-
gree in education administration at Texas A&M Univer-
sity-Corpus Christi and is now the principal at Progresso
Middle School.

Jennifer Catalani ’04 BA Psychology is a resource
and external relations specialist for Adult Protective
Services in San Antonio, Texas. She is currently work-
ing on the 2011-2012 federal grant programs that help students and the com-

Alumna Amber Martin ’02 and husband, Derrick, enjoy the San Antonio Freshmen Send-off Party.

Veronica Ramírez ’07 BA Music teaches singing in
piano at her studio, Bella Nota Vocal Studio in Laredo,
Texas. She is currently working as vocal coach for “Man
of La Mancha,” the production that will inaugurate the
new theatre building at Texas A&M International Uni-
versity.

Michelle Marlesh ’04 BA Communications is an
assistant professor of communication at Texas A&M
University-Corpus Christi. In May 2009, she received
the Bruce Hendel Award for excellence in teaching from
the University of Nebraska.

Humberto Cardenas Jr. ’05 MA English is an Eng-
lish instructor at Laredo Community College in Laredo,
Texas. He recently presented “A Hispanic Curriculum for
Students on the Border” as part of a panel at the Con-
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ALUMNI NEWS

HAVE YOU HEARD? continued

Mark Morales '06 BS Criminal Justice ran track for four years at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi before graduating in December 2008 with a master’s degree in education.

Tiffany Pawlak '06 BA Communications married Carson Campbell '06 Management Information Systems on Feb. 24, 2007. The live in Katy, Texas, where Tiffany is a substitute teacher with the Katy ISD. Carson works for Exxon Mobil in the greater Houston area.

David Robe '06 BA History is in his final year of law school at the University of Michigan. He recently returned from a trip to Tokyo, Japan, where he received an offer to work in the Houston, Texas, branch of a major law firm.

David Robe '06 BA History

Brad Hessee '08 BS Criminal Justice is a service representative with the Social Security Administration in Boulder, Colo.

Benjamin Hoffman '08 BA History is in his final year of the master’s program in minority and urban education at the University of Maryland. He is also working on a historical writing skills curriculum project for Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Brad Hessee '08 BS Criminal Justice

Holly Knippa '08 BS Criminal Justice is a shift manager for On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina in Corpus Christi. She recently became engaged and plans to get married next summer.

Holly Knippa '08 BS Criminal Justice

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Alma Mater Memories

HOWARD AND JULIA TOWNSEND ARE DEVOTED TO THEIR ISLAND UNIVERSITY

The Island University will always hold a special place in the hearts of alumni Howard and Julia Townsend. After all, it’s where they met back in the 1950s when it was the University of Corpus Christi (UCC).

The two graduated from the small Baptist University of around 300 students, married in 1955 and made their home in Houston, Texas. Over the years, both have devoted much of their time to their alma mater, serving on the National Alumni Association’s board of directors and being honored with the University’s Outstanding Alumni Award. They are devoted fans of Islander athletics, regularly driving more than three hours to Corpus Christi to cheer on their teams.

“We loved this school when we were students,” says Howard. “The UCC campus was small and we knew everyone well. Now, Julia and I appreciate the opportunity to be actively involved in the outstanding progress at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.”

Julia says Howard, who has known many coaches and athletic directors through his association with the Tarpon Foundation, has always been an avid supporter of Islander athletics. The couple holds season tickets in several sports and seldom misses a game.

“If Howard says he’s going to Corpus Christi to see one of the games, then I’m coming with him,” Julia says. “When we attend sporting events, we enjoy socializing with many of our friends in Corpus Christi and at the University.”

Howard, who played intramural sports, graduated in 1951 and earned his bachelor of science in accounting as a member of the first four-year graduating class. After serving four years in the Air Force, he went to work in Houston as an accountant and contact administrator.

Julia, who taught at the University’s primary school and participated in several campus organizations including the State Baptist Student Union, graduated in 1954 with a bachelor of science in education. Over the years, she has taught school in Corpus Christi and the Deer Park ISD in Houston. Currently, she is president of the Women’s Ministry Union at Houston’s South Main Baptist Church. The couple has two grown children, Glenn and Beverly.

Both Howard and Julia are active in the Houston alumni association, attending Houston Alumni Chapter events and helping recruit UCC alumni to Homecoming events. Howard, a former National Alumni Association president, has also served as Houston Club president.

Each year, the Townsend’s financial contributions help provide a scholarship for a Houston student to attend A&M-Corpus Christi. They also support the Tarpon Foundation.

“We don’t have a lot, but we can give something to enhance the program for students, who otherwise, would be unable to afford to go to college,” Howard says. “We’re very interested in promoting the Island University. That’s where we have many fond memories and wonderful times that continue today.”
H ave you heard?  continued

master's degree in music at the University of Texas-Pan America on a full scholarship this fall.

Melva Perez '09 BA Political Science is a student at the University of Texas School of Law. She previously worked at SERCO of Texas as a quality assurance monitor.

Rosemary Rodriguez '09 BS Criminal Justice is en-gaged and seeking full-time employment in the criminal justice field.

Eileen Suarez '09 BA Communications was accepted into the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universi-ties internship program and worked in the Department of Veteran Affairs during summer 2009, writing press re-leases, organizing and coordinating events, and writing newsletters. She plans to attend graduate school.

Travis Washmon '09 BA English is in Cologne, Ger-many, teaching English at a local language institute. He plans to move to Dallas, Texas, in spring 2010 to begin his Master of Arts at the University of Texas-Arlington, while managing an Abercrombie and Fitch store. He plans to study rhetoric and composition and eventually get his Ph.D.

Danielle Whiteside '09 BM Music moved to California where her husband is stationed in the military. They are expecting their first baby. Danielle received her teaching certificate and hopes to begin teaching soon.

C ollege of Science and Technology

Dinah Bowman '72 BA Biology was nominated for Texas State Artist and completed a mural that was un-veiled in October at the Southwest Library in Corpus Christi. Her daughter, Coral, who is working on her Ph.D., was married in March. Dinah is helping put to-gether the first Biological Illustration Art Show and sale to benefit scholarships which will be held on Dec. 4-5 at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Tracy Woody '80 BS Computer Science is the director of information technology services for the State of Texas Department of Insurance in Austin, Texas. She plans to retire in August 2011 unless something really fun comes up before then.

Joey Gray '82 MS Biology is a program administra-tor for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the Inland and Coastal Fisheries Divisions. Joey has been married for 24 years and has two sons, Austin and William.

Gwendolyn Buoton '85 BS Medical Technology is senior cytotechnologist for Texas Health Harris Meth-odist Fort Worth Hospital. She is anxiously awaiting her son's graduation from Texas A&M, his commission into the Navy, and her daughter's high school gradua-tion. She is currently single and pursuing a new hobby, horseback riding.

Marcus Mokry '86 BS Computer Science celebrated his 26th wedding anniversary in July. He and his wife have two sons, Zachary, 18, and Joshua, 14. Marcus has worked on automotive applications since 1989. He takes care of parts systems for Gulf States Toyota, a private distributor for about 150 dealerships.

Katherine Williams '86 BS Mathematics is the stay-at-home mum of 9-year-old twin boys who entered the third grade this year. She is also a mixed media artist and works in the office at her husband's cotton gin dur-ing the harvest season.

Mark McNamara '93 BS Biology is an instructor in the First-Year Learning Communities Program, a GEAR UP STAR faculty fellow, and doctoral student in the Educa-tional Leadership program at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. He married Dr. Laura McNamara in Hawaii on Aug. 10, 2009. Laura is a first-year medical resident at Bay Area Medical Center.

L ochie '06 BS Biology works in guest services in the hotel industry. He is lives in Portland, Texas, and spends his free time fishing and going to Hooks baseball games.

Samantha Mendoza '06 BS Biomedical Sciences graduated August 2009 with a master's degree in coun-seling with an emphasis in marriage and family counsel-ing and has been accepted to the Ph.D. counselors' education program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Nabil Nasser '06 BS Biology is a family-based safety worker for the Department of Family and Protective Services, and teaches biology at Georgia Southern University. He received his master's degree from Georgia Southern University for his research on reptile and amphibian biodiversity, and elephant behavior in East Africa.

Stephanie Salinas '06 BS Biology is pursuing her health care administration certification at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She was married April 18, 2009. She and her husband traveled to Walt Disney World for their honeymoon.

Caley Hunter '07 BS Biology is a life science teacher at Memorial High School Senior Campus in Victoria, Texas. She co-sponsors the Interact Club and assists at the Homework Center and Victoria ISD Science Fair.

Ali McKenzie '07 BS Geographic Information Sci-ences graduated with her Master of Science in geopha-sial surveying engineering in August 2009. All plans to continue working at the Coastal and Marine Geospatial Lab at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico studies and at Yn Yung Fandango restaurant.

Jessica Montalbo '07 BS Biology works in the Food Analysis and Diagnostic Lab at the Southwest Founda-tion for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, testing dog sera to make sure they have sufficient anti-body levels protecting them from the rabies virus. Previ-ously, she did vaccine research on numerous infectious diseases and bacteriologic agents.

Chris Poore '07 BS Biomedical Sciences is a senior pharmacy technician at Walgreens in Corpus Christi.

Robert Arbuckle '08 BS GISC Geomatics is a com-puter-aided drafting technician for Frontier Surveying in Corpus Christi.

Rachael Bradley '08 Biomedical Sciences is a full-time mom. She lives in Sugar Land, Texas with her husband, Michael, an applications engineer, and baby Landon, who was born 10 days after Rachael gradu-ated.

Laura Garza '08 BS Biology has served as a youth de-velopment counselor with AmeriCorps at a foster board-ing home in the Bronx, N.Y. She has decided to continue in service for social justice and next hopes to be in South Africa or Peru with the Augustinian volunteers.

Harley Simms '08 BS Biology teaches biology in the Galena Park ISD in Houston, Texas.

Alumni enjoy the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club's Winter Jazz Mixer at the Corpus Christi Art Center.

Edward Kemel '09 BS Chemistry has applied for grad-uate school at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Ashley Myers '09 BS Biomedical Sciences is study-ing occupational therapy in graduate school at the Uni-versity of South Dakota.

Lacy Roezen '09 BS Biology recently moved to the Houston, Texas, area where she teaches biology and coaches cross country and soccer at Manvel High School.

Stephanie Sears '09 BS Chemistry is married to Jody Ethridge and works for Ethridge Welding Service. She is thinking about becoming a teacher while she pursues her master's degree in chemistry.

Hongshi Song '09 BS Mathematics is pursuing his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
Universities throughout our nation are continually becoming more dependent upon the generosity of private donors to provide the essential dollars required to reach new levels of excellence. It is the nature of an institution growing stronger to require support beyond what can be procured through appropriations and tuition.

Just as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to the well-being of its greater community, many businesses and professionals see the University as an investment toward the growth of a quality, global-minded workforce. The Achieve Partnership program provides the opportunity for many to support students first-hand through scholarships which help defray the costs of tuition and fees.

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A paver in the Walk of Recognition is the perfect way to commemorate your time spent at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Proceeds of a Paver on the Walk of Recognition directly support scholarships for students who are active on their high school campuses or in their communities.

The Student Foundation Association is a select group of student volunteers who are responsible for the Walk of Recognition and Islander Revue. All fundraising efforts go toward the Student Foundation’s scholarship fund.
There should be no limit to how great a student’s future can become after graduation. Your support of the annual Islander Fund puts essential dollars into numerous initiatives throughout Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi which shape student experiences. Funds provide the needed support to place students into national academic competition, engage conference participation among their brightest peers, and undertake groundbreaking research.

Our Islander Callers say “Thanks” to area supporters Glamour Shots, Cracker Barrel, Olive Garden, Chilli’s, La Playa, and Longhorn Steak & Ale.