INSIDE

The Momentum of ‘Momentum 2015’

Alumnus Rises Through the Ranks

New Welcome Center Greets Alumni, Visitors

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE INCREASING COMPETITION FOR DECREASING STATE FUNDS
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.

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- **Platinum Circle**: $10,000
- **Gold Circle**: $5,000
- **Silver Circle**: $2,500
- **Bronze Circle**: $1,000

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.

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The community leaders who have accepted the challenge of raising $25 million during Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Capital Campaign have stepped to the forefront by establishing endowments and putting the campaign well on its way to meeting its goal and reaching the additional $5 million challenge.

The Island University is fortunate to have a loyal base of private donors who understand clearly what we face as our campus grows. We've laid out an ambitious agenda and thanks to the hard work of many dedicated people many of these goals have been met. Thank you to the Capital Campaign chairs who are leading the way by establishing endowments. They are:

- Larry and Karen Urban, Chairs, Momentum Campaign, established the Larry and Karen Urban Endowed Scholarship in Engineering
- Peggy and Avinash Ahuja, Co-chairs for President's Council, established the Avinash and Peggy Ahuja Endowed Scholarship
- John and Betty Baker, Co-chairs for Austin Alumni, established the John T. and Betty Baker Endowed Scholarship in Athletics
- Bruce and Elenita Collins, Co-chairs for Fine and Performing Arts, established the Bruce L., Jr. and Elenita Collins Endowed Scholarship in Art
- Marty and Becky Davis, Co-chairs for Foundations, established the Rebecca J. and Martin C. Davis Endowed Scholarship
- Kathy and Don Deis, Co-chairs for Faculty and Staff, established the Donald R. Deis Endowed Scholarship in Accounting and the Kathy Deis Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Janice and Joyce Freeman, Co-chairs for University Retirees, established the Dr. Janice Freeman and Dr. Joyce Freeman Endowed Scholarship in Biology
- Howard and Julia Townsend, Co-chairs for Houston Alumni, established the Howard and Julia Townsend Endowed Scholarship
- O.B. Garcia, Co-chair for Corpus Christi Alumni, established the Corpus Christi Alumni Endowed Scholarship
- Gordon and Linda Landreth, Co-chairs for Achieve Partners, established the Linda J. Landreth Endowed Scholarship in Counseling
- Curtis and Jennifer Rock, Co-chairs for Young Professionals, established the Curtis A. and Jennifer N. Rock Endowed Scholarship
- Dan and Deborah Shea, Co-chairs for Athletics, established the Daniel and Debra Shea Endowed Scholarship
- Gail and Michael Sutton, Co-chairs for Parents' Council, established the William and Lyell Snyder Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Marine Science

But there is still much that needs to be done to meet the needs set forth in Momentum 2015. As state funds for higher education shrink, substantial private giving is becoming more critical than ever in maintaining and building upon the excellence we have already achieved. Momentum 2015 delineates three guiding principles for moving the University forward over the next decade – Excellence, Engagement, and Expansion. This is an inseparable triad; achievement of one without the other two will prove a fruitless endeavor. With the generous support of our friends and alumni, these goals will be accomplished.
MAGAZINE RANKS UNIVERSITY IN TOP 15 PERCENT OF MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

Texas A&M University-Corpus has been designated as a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine for its efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students. Colleges, universities and trade schools named as Military Friendly must rank in the top 15 percent nationwide as rated by the magazine’s academic advisory committee.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is committed to recruiting, retaining and supporting both active duty and former service members to increase diversity among the student body, faculty and staff. In addition to assisting returning military members with applying for educational benefits granted by the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, the University is also adopting a Military Student Bill of Rights and participating in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to helping service members and their families get college degrees. Through this program, military students can take courses in their off-duty hours at or near military installations in the United States, overseas and on Navy ships.

For more information about the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, go to http://vets.tamucc.edu

C-SPAN CIVICS BUS MAKES STOP AT CAMPUS

Political science students got an inside glimpse at how national news events are covered by the media when the C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network) Civics Bus came to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Jan. 28.

While aboard the bus, visitors learned about the network’s unique public affairs programming and accessed the C-SPAN Video Library, a comprehensive archive featuring every C-SPAN program since 1987. Other resources on the C-SPAN Civics Bus included the C-SPAN Classroom, an educational service for social studies teachers; and the Congressional Chronicle, a tool for monitoring and tracking congressional bills and members. C-SPAN was created by cable companies as America’s political network of record as a public service in 1979. C-SPAN is available in more than 95 million cable and satellite households.
University Launches New-Look ‘Go Islanders.com’ Web Site

The University’s Athletic Department has launched an all-new design of its goislanders.com Web site. The heightened new-look Web presence allows Islander fans to get the latest information and features on Islander Athletics in a quicker manner than previously possible.

The new Web site brings more coverage of the entire Islander athletic department to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi fans throughout the world. New features include expanded coverage of the marketing and fundraising side of the department, more merchandise opportunities, an enhanced “Fan Zone” area and a more extensive ticketing area. And, fans entering the BlueZone can watch video replays of Islander men’s and women’s home basketball games as well as home baseball, softball and volleyball games. In addition to game previews and stories, Islander fans now have access to blogs by student athletes, feature stories and interactive polls.

Blue Crew is now the “official” student athletic booster organization for the University. While many have participated in Blue Crew revelry over the past few years, in October the group joined the growing list of sanctioned student organizations. This gives Blue Crew many opportunities for recruitment and visibility. Learn more at www.goislanders.com.

Parade and Men’s Basketball Highlight Homecoming Week

Homecoming Week 2010 culminated on February 6 with a downtown parade and the Islander men’s basketball game against Nicholls State University. During the Homecoming Parade, decorated floats led the way to the American Bank Center where the Islanders defeated their Southland Conference rival 71-46. Prior to the game, alumni gathered for a shrimp boil tailgate.
ISLANDERS HAVE TALENT TO SURPRISE SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE PROGNOSTICATORS

Coming off a season when the Islanders struggled to an 18-38 record, Coach Scott Malone wasn’t surprised when his team did not receive much respect in the preseason Southland Conference polls. Quite the opposite, Malone is confident that the rest of the conference is in for a surprise.

The Islanders were picked to finish 11th in the 12-team conference in both the coaches and sports information directors’ polls. But, thanks to aggressive hometown recruiting and the signing of top junior college talent, Malone has his team thinking about finishing in the top six and making the league’s post-season tournament. The 2010 Islander roster includes eight players who played for high school powerhouses in the Corpus Christi area as well as nine players with junior college experience. Add in a veteran group led by heavy-hitters Trey Hernandez and Jeramie Marek and the Islanders have an explo - sive line-up that can light up the scoreboard.

Malone believes the winning formula is simple; outscore the other team.

Marek, who played at Calallen High School in Corpus Christi, led the Islanders with a .335 batting average as a freshman and finished last season with a 22-game hitting streak. Hernandez suffered through a classic sophomore slump after batting .339 with 56 RBIs as a freshman, but still led the team with 12 long balls.

“If we’re going to be really special, we’re going to have to play well offensively,” Malone predicts. “We have seven-or-eight players who can hit at this level and the potential for the big inning is always there.”

Although the Islanders are solid at the plate, the prospects for a post-season play rest largely on the arms of the pitching staff. While there aren’t any dominating hurlers on the roster, it is loaded with capable pitchers whose main objective is to avoid giving up the big inning.

“The stability of our pitching staff is the key,” says Malone. “The depth is there. If we can get five-or-six quality innings out of our starters then turn it over to the bullpen, we’ll be tough to beat.”

Returning starters Roy Ferdin and Brandon Ort have been joined in the rotation by Marc Damon, a transfer from Pima Junior College in Arizona who also plays third base. And, when necessary, Malone has the luxury of being able to hand the ball to several relievers with fastballs in the 88-92 mph range.

The infield is also much improved, thanks largely to the play of newcomer Cory Ege, a transfer from Northern Iowa who Malone calls “one of the five best shortstops in Texas. The corners are manned by first baseman Hernandez and Weston Montgomery, a utility player a year ago, who has found a permanent home at third. Bobby Buckner, a newcomer from Navarro Junior College, takes over at second base and Omar Garcia is behind the plate. The outfield is anchored by a group led by returner Jacob Perales and Chris Vergne, a newcomer from Southeastern Junior College.

“Defensively, this group is better than in the past which helps out our pitchers,” points out Malone. “We have a lot of range, especially on the left side of the infield which gives us the ability to take hits away.”

But the bottom line is the team’s attitude.

“The thing that has been encouraging in the early part of the season is that the guys are rallying around the idea of surprising people,” Malone says. “They know we took a step backward last year and they are eager to change the direction and mentality of the program.”

Dennis F. Donaldson

Dennis F. Donaldson had a very successful basketball career at the University of Corpus Christi from 1967-1971, leading his team to the postseason. He was a three-year team captain for the Tarpons and following the 1969-70 season received Honorable Mention as a Small College All-American. He led his team to a 13-game winning streak to end the 1968-69 season when the Tarpons competed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Tournament. Following his Tarpon career, Donaldson went on to become a very successful college and high school coach. He is currently the assistant principal for Administration at King High School in Tampa, Fla.
Looking for R-E-S-P-E-C-T
SIGNING OF HIGHLY-TOUTED PLAYERS MAKES ISLANDERS CONTENDERS

When Jake Schumann took over the Islander softball program three years ago, his obsession was to restore the once vaunted program to its former prominence and lead his team back to post-season play. After barely missing out a year ago, this may well be the season those goals are accomplished.

The Islanders lost nine straight games to open the 2009 Southland Conference season with a starting line-up that included six freshmen before catching fire, winning six of their last seven games and barely missing the cut for the conference tournament. The signing of a group of highly-touted players including four junior college All-Americans over the off-season gives the Islanders the talent to compete with any team in the nation and, perhaps more importantly, players who know how to win.

Catcher Brittany Tucker, outfielder Hannah Schwarz, and infielders Kacie Smith and Caley Jeter are at the core of the 2009 recruiting class. All four have played in the NJCAA Women’s College World Series and last year, Tucker and Smith led the Yavapai College Roughriders to the national championship.

“I worked really hard on the recruiting road to get these kids to come here with the full intent of changing not only the physical look of our team but also the mentality,” says Schumann. “These kids are all winners and they bring a wealth of championship experience to this team. They expect to win and that attitude is contagious.”

That expectation became evident early in the season when, after dropping their first three games, the Islanders reeled off 11 straight victories and established themselves as one of the top contenders for the Conference title. But the Islanders have their sights set much higher and believe that they can ultimately compete for the Division I national championship.

“If you look at our team over the last few years, there were one or two players who felt they had to carry the load,” points out Schumann. “The players we’ve brought in understand that they are good and that their teammates are also good so they don’t have to shine all the time. That takes pressure off of them and makes them better players.”

While this year’s line-up is dominated by juniors with the speed to play small-ball and the power to consistently swing for the fences, the pitching chores rest mainly on the shoulder of senior left-handers Addie Tallman and Margo Hurdt. Tallman was the ace of the 2009 team, taking the mound 39 times and posting a 20-16 record. Hurdt, the team’s designated player, threw in nine games a year ago, four as a starter, and has taken the second spot in this year’s rotation. At the plate, junior Landry Moore, who plays several positions, swings a dangerous bat and, along with Tucker, is one of two Islanders to earn “Southland Conference Player of the Week” during non-league play.

But Schumann is looking far beyond this season. He is confident that with their winning reputation restored and the beautiful campus as enticement, the Islanders are in a position to compete with any major college program for the top players in the state.

“We’re working our way up the recruiting ladder,” he states confidently. “Winning will allow us to compete for players who are also being courted by teams like Texas, Baylor and Texas Tech. The key is finding players who are confident and have the high integrity to do what they are supposed to be doing, even when nobody is looking.”

Granvil “Wayne” Tedder

Granvil “Wayne” Tedder attended the University of Corpus Christi from 1958-1961 and participated in boxing, baseball and football. Tedder excelled as a boxer, being voted the “Outstanding Fighter” at the Texas Gold Gloves tournament. Tedder performed well at the National Gold Gloves tournament, eventually losing to the National Champion in his junior and senior seasons. He was named “Mr. UCC” in 1960 and was awarded the John Hickman Trophy in 1961 as the Most Outstanding University of Corpus Christi Athlete. Tedder served in the military before becoming a successful Texas high school baseball coach. He is currently an assistant coach at Bellaire High School in Houston, Texas.

Kristen Rogers

Kristen Rogers had a prolific career as an Islander women’s basketball player, making her way near the top of numerous categories in the Islander record books. Her streak of scoring 20 or more points in 20 straight games ranks as the second longest in school history. From the moment she set foot on the island she made an impact, being recognized as the Independent Newcomer of the Year following the 1999-2000 season. She was named Second Team All-Independent after her sophomore year and was named to the First Team All-Independent squad following her junior and senior seasons. Rogers is a nurse at St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
Mervat Mostafa Abdelsamad  
**November 7, 2009**

Mervat Mostafa Abdelsamad, formerly Mervat Mostafa Shokry Abdel Halim Abdelaal, passed away on Nov. 7, 2009, in Houston, Texas. Mervat attended Cairo University in Egypt where she earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting. Following her marriage to Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad in 1982, she moved to the United States. After six years in Virginia, they moved to South Dartmouth, Mass., before coming to Texas in 1991.

Mervat began volunteering at St. James Episcopal School when her children enrolled, and she served as Development and Accounting assistant for a number of years. She was also an active volunteer in the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Since 1997, Mervat has been the vice president for administration for the Society for Advancement of Management, the oldest professional management association in the world.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Moustafa H. Abdelsamad, dean of the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; one son, Omar Moustafa Abdelsamad, working in Boston, Mass.; one daughter, Dina Abdelsamad, working in Houston, Texas; her mother, Malaka Abdelaal; her father, Dr. Mostafa Shokry; and her siblings, including Mona Shokry Abdel Halim and Dr. Mohamed El-Hadidy.

Larry W. Barton  
**January 19, 1950 — February 9, 2010**

Larry Barton joined the staff at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1993 and, at the time of his retirement in 2004, was assistant vice president of University Services. Larry’s concern was always for the students, that they would have the best tools available to obtain a higher education. He served as project coordinator for the Student Center, and the first two phases of Camden Student Housing. Larry was instrumental in helping to grow the University from a two year to a four year school. Outside of work, some of Larry’s greatest passions were hunting and dancing.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cindy; three sons, Forrest Barton of Killeen, Texas, Lance Barton of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Brock Barton of Corpus Christi; granddaughter, Brianne Barton of Corpus Christi; brother, Jim Barton of Lampassas, Texas; sisters, Glenda Bush, Shirley Pipkin of Killeen, Texas; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Nadina Hutchings  
**April 1, 1946 — October 18, 2009**

Nadina “Nana” Hutchings spent her early life in Cardenas, Cuba. Her family moved to Maracaibo, Venezuela, where Nadina attended high school. Nadina graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Zulia in 1967 and obtained a master's degree in Mathematical Statistics at the C.I.E.N.E.S. Institute in Santiago de Chile. During the summer of 1978, she began her doctoral studies in mathematics education at the University of Texas. In September 1981, she was hired as an assistant professor at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She was the first woman hired by the University in mathematics, and became a full professor, serving in that capacity since 1992. She was recognized numerous times for her contributions to mathematics education at the local, state, and national levels.

Nadina is preceded in death by her father, Jose Antonio Mesa Fernandez, and mother Ludovina Zayas Labrit. She is survived by her loving husband, Claude J. Hutchings; younger brother, Jose Antonio Mesa Zayas, of Barquisimeto, Venezuela; niece, Monica Beatriz, and her two children, Ulises Daniel and Carlos Manuel; niece, Nadina Elena and her daughter, Michelle; niece, Mariana Elena; and cousins, Marino and wife, Teresa Duran, of Leander, Texas; Jose Luis and Deborah Perez Duran, of Florida; Guillermo Labrit, Los Angeles, Calif.; Silvia Labrit, of Varadero, Cuba; and Raquel and Rosita Llera of Florida.

Dan Viola  
**September 26, 1951 — February 13, 2010**

Dan Viola was hired on May 19, 1997, to resurrect the University’s athletic program which had been dormant since 1973. He started from scratch as the head of a one-person program in an office with one desk and one telephone and built an Islander program that today field teams competing in 12 NCAA Division I sports.

Under Viola’s leadership, the Islander softball team won back-to-back Big South Conference championships and made two appearances in the NCAA Regional Tournament while the men's tennis team dominated opponents in winning the Southland Conference title while competing as an affiliate member. In addition, the women's basketball program registered five straight winning seasons, including a best-ever 19-9 record in 2003-2004.

During his nine years as athletic director, there were several moments that propelled the Islanders into the national collegiate sports spotlight. In 2002, the Islander baseball season grabbed headlines by knocking off the defending national champion Texas Longhorns in their season-opener. In 2001, the Islander men's basketball team defeated the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock and, two years later, they upset Texas A&M on the Aggies’ home court. Viola is survived by his brother, Jeff; sister-in-law, Robin; niece, Natalie; as well as numerous friends in college athletics.
“The Ancients” faculty team came on strong to narrowly defeat “The Neophytes” Presidential Scholars team on Nov. 4 during the kick-off for the fifth season of the KEDT Challenge, a production of South Texas Public Radio. The faculty team included David Billeaux, Don Luna, Kelly Quintanilla and M.K. Balasubramanya. The team of Presidential Scholars included Josh Cottle, Edy Valdez, Lindsey Hertel and Cameron Marr. Buzzers, scoring and video questions were the same as what the community has watched over the past few years. Challenge host Eric Boyd grilled the teams with academic questions pulled from the regular game show.

YOUR NAME IS ON THE DIPLOMA...
NOW LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE ISLAND.

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

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.

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CASSIDY SELECTED FOR INDUCTION INTO READING HALL OF FAME

Dr. Jack Cassidy, associate dean and interim chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education, has been selected for induction into the International Reading Association’s Hall of Fame. Cassidy is the first professor from the Texas A&M System to be selected into the Reading Hall of Fame which honors those in the field who are widely known and who made significant contributions to the field of literacy for at least 25 years.

Cassidy has taught courses in literacy and gifted education; started the BEST program, a clinic for youth ages 6-16 with literacy problems. Recently, he launched the Governor’s Academy for Teaching Excellence (GATE), a free summer educational program for academically talented Texas high school students interested in teaching math or science.

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED AT GOLDEN KEY CONFERENCE

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi was recognized by the Golden Key International Honour Society, the world’s premier collegiate honor society, at its 2009 International Conference in Orlando, Fla. Golden Key, which has two million members and more than 375 chapters around the world, announced that the Island University has achieved a bronze chapter standing for the 2008-2009 academic year, which signifies that the Golden Key Chapter is on its way to achieving the highest reporting standard in the Society.

UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GRANT FOR MOBILE GO CENTER

The University has received a $100,000 grant from the Texas Pioneer Foundation to purchase a mobile GO Center. Through the addition of a mobile GO Center to its existing GO Centers program, the Title V Department at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi can expand on three key objectives.

- Create a college-going culture both in the participating school districts and the surrounding rural communities.
- Engage the parent community in higher education planning for the students.
- Enhance the University’s efforts to help guide students on a successful path toward higher education.

These objectives will be accomplished through the use of mobile academic services, which include tutoring/mentoring, financial aid assistance, college searches, filling out admissions applications and parental involvement. GO Centers, located in various surrounding Coastal Bend area high schools, introduce and prepare students to enter college.

CHOPIN RECEIVES AWARD AT WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

Dr. Suzzette Chopin, a professor of biomedical sciences, was one of 10 educators to receive the National Science Foundation’s Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring at a White House ceremony with President Barack Obama in January. The Award recognizes outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities who are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

ZIMBA TAKES OVER AS CCS DIRECTOR

Dr. Paul Zimba has joined the College of Science and Technology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as director of the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS). He takes over for Dr. Wes Tunnell, founder and director of the CCS, who stepped down after 25 years to concentrate on his responsibilities as associate director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Before taking over as director of the CCS, Zimba was a research microbiologist with the Agricultural Research Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture in Stoneville, Miss. Prior to that Dr. Zimba worked as a research assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries at the University of Florida. His research interests include aquatic ecosystem ecology, algal toxin assessment, harmful algae, wetlands, aquaculture and aquatic ecosystem stressors.

UNIVERSITY RECEIVES $100,000 FROM THE ED RACHAL FOUNDATION

The Ed Rachal Foundation has awarded Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi three grants totaling $100,000.

- The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies received $30,000 for its Environmental Sciences Teacher Workshops.
- The Coastal Bend Eco-Historic Awareness Program received $10,000 to highlight the links between the ecology and history of the area.
- The Army ROTC Islander Battalion received $60,000 for the Ed Rachal Foundation ROTC Field Leadership Reaction Course to develop and evaluate leadership ability and build teamwork.
Spaniol Named NSCA Fellow

Kinesiology Professor Frank Spaniol has been named a Fellow of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), an international nonprofit educational organization that serves nearly 30,000 members in 52 countries. Selection as an NSCA Fellow recognizes professionals whose frequent and sustained long-term contributions to the profession have promoted the goals and activities of the NSCA.

In June 2009, Dr. Spaniol spoke at the NSCA Advanced Training Symposium in Shanghai, China. While in Shanghai, Spaniol, who is chair of the NSCA Baseball Special Interest Group, worked with the Chinese National Baseball Team. During his career, Spaniol has been awarded more than 20 grants for sport science and instructional technology research. He is currently conducting investigations on a variety of sport performance topics such as athletic testing, motion analysis, and pioneering research in visual skills training.

MEYER NAMED UNIVERSITY VICE PROVOST

Dr. Paul R. Meyer has been named to the newly-created position of vice provost at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. For the past six years, Meyer, who works directly with University Provost Anantha Babbili, has served as assistant provost at Texas A&M University in College Station. Meyer received his bachelor’s degree in physics and English from Rice University and later earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in English/Rhetoric from the University of Texas. He has served as an assistant professor of English at both Texas A&M University and New Mexico State University where his teaching and research areas included rhetoric, professional writing, and literacy.

QUINTANILLA NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Kelly Quintanilla became the dean of the College of Liberal Arts in December 2009. Quintanilla, a professor of communication in the Department of Communication and Theatre, joined the University faculty in 1994 and, since 2000, has served as either a department chair or a program coordinator. She had served as interim dean since January 2009.

Quintanilla received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Pittsburgh in 1989. She earned her master’s degree in Speech Communication from Penn State University in 1992 and, two years later, her Ph.D. She joined the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi faculty as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 1999. She became a professor of communication in 2004 and was named department chair for Communication and Theatre. Since 2003, she has been coordinator for the University’s communication program.

The University Center Turns ‘10’

The campus community celebrated the 10th anniversary of the University Center in October 2009 with a “Decade of Dedication” ceremony in the University Center commons. The ceremony included a welcome by University President Flavius Killebrew; and presenters Dr. Eliot Chenaux, vice president for Student Affairs, and Samantha Hernandez, president of the Student Government Association. Ralph McFarland, assistant director for Disability Services, sang “Happy Birthday.”
Dr. Karen L. Middleton is serving as a visiting professor of management at Yuan Ze University in Taipei, Taiwan, during 2009-2010 through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. The Fulbright Fellowship is the most prestigious international exchange program in the world, working with universities, schools, bi-national Fulbright commissions, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to seek out individuals of achievement and potential who represent the full diversity of their respective societies.

Dr. Middleton holds a BME from Bradley University, an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston-University Park. Her professional experience includes consulting, teaching, and research in organizational behavior, leadership, and strategic management and business policy in the United States and Asia. She has worked in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, England and China.

Ecological Research, Education Top Priority for University Scientists

University Scientists and graduate students spent several days aboard the NOAA research vessel “Manta” in October 2009 exploring the South Texas “Snapper” Banks off Port Aransas. Although the banks are habited by red snapper, groupers, tuna and pelagic sharks that support many commercially and recreationally important fisheries, little is known of their ecology. The project was funded by the Texas Research Development Fund, NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI).

The HRI and the College of Science and Technology are also co-sponsoring a series of panels to provide Coastal Bend citizens with the best available scientific and engineering information around which environmental issues revolve. The series kicked-off in fall 2009 with a discussion of wind farms and their impact on South Texas. Other topics have included the environmental effects of making high high-octane gasoline and the effects of natural and man-made hazards on area beaches.

Students Win Awards at Pathways Student Research Symposium

Five students from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi won awards at the seventh annual Texas A&M University System Pathways Student Research Symposium Nov. 13-14 in Laredo, Texas.

The symposium, held this year on the campus of Texas A&M University International, encourages System students to pursue graduate studies and to present their research and view the research of other students in the System. More than 300 students gave oral or poster presentations with awards presented for first, second and third places in undergraduate and graduate level categories.

Winners from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi were:
- Life Sciences Master’s Level: Overall - Rafael Calderon
- Life Sciences Master’s Level: First place- Rafael Calderon
- Education Master’s Level: Second place- Taylor Flowers
- Social Sciences Master’s Level: Second place- Shelly Fox
- Business Master’s Level: Second place- Julian Gelvez
- Computer Science Master’s Level: Second place- Anh Tuan Do

DUGAN WELLNESS CENTER RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SPORTS FACILITIES AWARD

The Dr. Jack and Susie Dugan Wellness Center is one of nine new collegiate sports centers at universities and colleges across the United States to receive the 2010 Outstanding Sports Facilities Awards from the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). The annual NIRSA award recognizes innovative designs of new or expanded facilities which are considered a standard or model by which other collegiate recreational facilities should be measured and from which others can benefit. NIRSA selects and publishes information on the facilities as a resource for campus master planners, recreational sports directors, designers and architects, contractors and recreational sports students.

ZEBDA RECEIVES REGENTS PROFESSOR DESIGNATION

Dr. Awni Zebda, a professor in the Department of Accounting and Business Law has received the designation of Regents Professor from The Texas A&M Board of Regents. The program recognizes Texas A&M University System employees who have made exemplary contributions to their university or agency and to the people of Texas.

In addition, Zebda received the 2009 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the Texas Society of CPAs. The award recognizes educators who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and have distinguished themselves through active service to the accounting profession. Since joining the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty in 1994, Zebda has developed and taught several undergraduate and graduate courses. His classes emphasize the use of accounting information in decision making, research and critical thinking.
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.
Serving Our Students
University First Lady Kathy Killebrew works to ensure students receive a quality education and experience

From the first day visiting Corpus Christi when her husband Dr. Flavius Killebrew was interviewing for the presidency of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Kathy Killebrew felt vigorous community support.

“You can tell right away if a community is invested in its University,” says Kathy. “There was a special partnership between the University and the city. This is where we wanted to be.”

Fast forward five years and Killebrew is highly committed to the success of the Island University’s broad population of students.

“My husband and I are here to serve the students,” says Killebrew. “So in all I do, I ask, ‘is it beneficial for the students or the campus?’ These students come to us for an education, and I want to make sure they get a quality education and experience.”

Her priority is to connect the community to University students by “friend-raising,” and establishing new relationships throughout the community. Sometimes, she even fills in for her husband to welcome visitors to the campus. She feels the University and the community need each other to move forward.

“We want an educated community that extends beyond the campus, so I also give some time to other community organizations,” Killebrew says. “If I’m off campus, I’m probably at a community event to help benefit our future students.”

In her short five years in Corpus Christi, she has served as honorary chair for several community fundraisers, as well as a year on the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra Board. For the past five years, Kathy has served on the advisory board for the Art Museum of South Texas, which is affiliated with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Currently, she is serving as a three-year member of the Spouses Planning Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), a national organization.

“This is the most active community as far as receptions and fundraisers,” Killebrew says. “People expect us to attend, so we try our best. But our students always come first. We have many campus events happening as we’re a growing University. There are several each day.”

The couple balances their time between the campus, community and family. Sometimes, they split and go to different events. One night, the Killebrews attended five functions together.

The Killebrews are present at hundreds of University-related events throughout the year including commencements, Islander Athletic games, and special meetings, lunches and dinners.

In addition, they open their home for special dinners, which often involve students. Sometimes, she invites international students to meet donors and prepare a meal from their native country. The advisor of the Islander Cheer Team, the Islander Dance Team and the Pep Band involves the spirit groups at various functions on and off campus. Kathy, a native of Audubon, Iowa, is a born performer, with decades of dance, band, cheer and twirling experience.

When she and her husband first came here, Kathy started a new organization named the President’s Ambassadors and is the advisor for that group. The Ambassadors represent “some of the faces” of our University and help the President and First Lady at all events put on by the President’s Office.

“Anytime I have a question, I ask students for their input,” says Kathy. “We’re here for them. They bring up ideas for things we may not even consider.”

Killebrew, who constantly communicates with students, understands the positive difference that their involvement can make. As former co-director of “Stepping Out,” a non-profit organization which taught dance and musical theatre to at-risk kids in the Amarillo and Canyon, Texas, school systems, she transformed lives. For her 10-year dedication to “Stepping Out,” a leadership scholarship in her name at West Texas A&M University is awarded annually to a deserving dance or theatre student.

Also, Killebrew has consulted with the University’s Early Childhood Development Center to provide kids with educational opportunities and with the Juvenile Diabetes Association to assist with event planning. She oversees numerous projects including the design of the annual University Christmas card, which is mailed out to the community, staff, donors and friends of the University; and she judges the annual “Islander Revue” music and dance extravaganza.

“I want to represent the University as best as I can,” Killebrew says. “I want to be a supporting partner for my husband by sharing his vision, leadership and engagement of this University.”
When Dr. Flavius Killebrew became president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2005, he barely had time to settle into his new office before heading to Austin to meet with legislators and make the University’s case for state funding. As the budget for higher education continues to shrink and the competition for money expands, the ability to convince elected officials that the state’s money will be well-invested is a must-have skill that requires meticulous advance preparation and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the University’s financial and educational needs. With 39 percent of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s budget at stake, Killebrew didn’t waste any time in getting up to speed.

“The legislature has plenty of places to invest its money so you have to have a good story and sell it,” says Killebrew, who crammed like it was finals week before making his first trip up Interstate Highway 35. “Way before the budget process begins we have to develop our strategic vision and sell it to legislators. Once the session is underway, they have very little time to visit, so it’s important that we’ve convinced them of our needs in advance.”

After meeting with The Texas A&M System Government Relations Team to organize priorities and sell Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s internal strategy, Killebrew and other University officials conferred with the staff of key committee chairs to set up campus visits where legislators could see taxpayer’s dollars at work. These on-site visits may look like photo-ops for politicians but they are a critical part of the information process.

Also in 2005, the aggressive strategic plan which became known as the “Momentum 2015” campaign was launched under Killebrew’s leadership. Recognizing that a critical element of strategic planning is funding, in 2006 Dr. Killebrew launched a capital campaign also titled “Momentum 2015.” Following a feasibility study and a silent phase, the campaign went public in September 2009 with the goal of raising $25 million and meeting an additional $5 million challenge.
Over the past five years, much-needed buildings have been constructed; innovative degree programs established; and land for future expansion acquired. Dr. Killebrew and his staff have worked behind the scenes laying the groundwork for these landmark accomplishments. This proved especially true for the 81st legislative session when State Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa introduced a bill to establish an engineering program.

State Rep. Solomon Ortiz Jr. was instrumental in arranging a visit by more than 20 key legislator who toured the campus and the Port of Corpus Christi, in April 2008, to see first-hand that a partnership between the University and the Port is critical to supplying an educated workforce for the nation’s sixth largest water port. Due to the efforts of Sen. Hinojosa and State Representatives Abel Herrero, Juan Garcia and Ortiz, the program was approved and the first cadre of future engineers began classes in fall 2009.

“Many of these legislators are key committee chairs and by having them here we were able to get up close and personal,” points out Killebrew. “I can’t file a bill or carry a bill so I must convince them of our needs. A lot of preparation goes into that. They can ask anything they want and you better have an answer. If you’re not prepared, you can unravel a lot of good work that’s been done.”

One of Killebrew’s biggest concerns when he arrived was the obvious lack of space to expand facilities on Ward Island. Once again, the University looked to the Corpus Christi community for help and once again the city delivered. In March 2008, after months of negotiations with City officials and meetings to address the concerns of nearby residents, Killebrew and Corpus Christi Mayor Henry Garrett signed a historic agreement transferring approximately 137 acres of city land at South Guth Park near the intersection of Ennis Joslin Road and Nile Drive for University expansion.

The city’s gift includes around 96 acres surrounding the water treatment plant west of Nile Drive and 41 acres of South Guth Park on Ennis Joslin Road. The land will be used for non-academic facilities such as athletics facilities, student housing, a physical plant and remote parking, which will create space for expansion of academics at the University campus on Ward Island.

“Dr. Killebrew worked closely with city leaders and the community to find a solution to the University’s need for expansion due to its growth,” points out Dr. Trent Hill, vice president for Institutional Advancement. “Without the additional land, the University would have had to cap enrollment. The City of Corpus Christi leadership found this unacceptable and, working with Dr. Killebrew, conducted community town halls to discuss options. Once a suitable tract of land was identified, the transferrence began accompanied by a master plan for the Momentum Campus.”

The University’s strategic vision as laid out in “Momentum 2015” is clear. The ambitious agenda for excellence, engagement and expansion is the playbook for positioning the University as a doctoral comprehensive institution that is recognized as the university-of-choice in South Texas. At the halfway point, many of the goals laid out in the plan adopted under Killebrew’s leadership have been met.

In addition to implementation of the Mechanical Engineering Program, new degree programs like the Cooperative Ph.D. in Nursing and the Ph.D. in Marine Biology have been added to the curriculum. Much needed classroom space has been provided with the opening of Bay Hall. And, when completed later this year, Island Hall will be home to the University’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the College of Education’s kinesiology program.

Similarly, the Michael and Karen O’Connor Building currently under construction will allow the College of Business to consolidate all its faculty and staff into one building. In addition, students, faculty and staff are enjoying the new Dr. Jack and Susie Dugan Wellness Center, which was one of nine new collegiate sports centers at universities and colleges across the United States to receive the 2010 Outstanding Sports Facilities Awards from the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association.

Since it opened in 2005, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies has become a nationally-recognized champion of the world’s 10th largest body of water. Created in 2001 through a $46 million endowment from Edward H. Harte, philanthropist and former publisher of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, the HRI encourages a trilateral approach with Cuba and Mexico in assuring the long-term ecological and economic sustainability of the Gulf. In 2006, the HRI hosted the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit, an unprecedented conference that brought together world-renowned scientists with government, business and industry, conservationists and resource managers.

“The institute has brought issues regarding the health and sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico to the attention of countries around the world,” says Killebrew. “The impact of the research being undertaken at the Harte Research Institute is far-reaching.”

The University has also 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 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.

Under the program, fledgling 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.

Killebrew received both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from West Texas A&M University and, after obtaining his doctorate degree in zoology from the University of Arkansas, returned to his alma mater as an assistant professor of biology. He earned a doctorate in zoology from the University of Arkansas and was instrumental in saving the endangered Cagle’s Map Turtle from extinction. While at West Texas A&M, he served as dean of the university’s graduate school and, in 1994, was named provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, serving in that capacity for 10 years.

At Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Killebrew has worked tirelessly to increase the University’s visibility and participation in professional organizations that are pointing the way to the future of education. He is on the board of directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and is in his second term as president of the Texas International Education Consortium.

He is also on the governing board of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a Texas A&M University System program to enhance retention and degree completion for underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In September 2009, Killebrew was presented with the “Education is our Freedom” Award by the American GI Forum and, in February, he was honored with the 2010 Outstanding Community Leader Award by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) for his dedication, service and contributions to the community.

Considering his history of representing the interests of students, interacting with them as both as a teacher and administrator, and working with organizations to promote their personal and educational development, it’s natural that Killebrew takes special pride in the increasing quality and diversity of the Island University’s student population. Making students his highest priority compliments the Island University’s goal of making a high-quality, affordable college education available to anyone with the ambition and desire to succeed in life.

With its outstanding faculty and programs and the natural beauty of the campus landscape, students from throughout the state and across the United States are increasingly choosing Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, as are students from other countries. Originally located on just 55 acres, the University has expanded to cover Ward Island’s entire 242 acres and grown from an upper-level school with less than 400 students to a thriving University with five Colleges and a student population fast approaching 10,000. And with society’s ever-increasing demand for a college-educated workforce, that number is projected to approach 16,000 students in the foreseeable future.

Five years ago, about 50 foreign students were enrolled at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In 2007, as part of the Momentum 2015 initiative, the Office of International Relations was created to promote international development in the Coastal Bend. The following year, that office was combined with the newly-establish Office of International Education which fosters an inclusive community and establishes collaborative relationships across cultures. In addition, the Office of International Education promotes international learning environments through Study Abroad programs that allow both faculty and students to experience educational systems in Europe, Asia and Central and South America. Today, the number of international students has more than quadrupled with around 450 students from 40 countries enrolled at the Island University.

Last year, the University celebrated its growing cultural diversity with the first Parade of Nations Dinner at which campus groups including the Islander Cultural Alliance, the Chinese Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Middle Eastern Dance Club and the India Student Association performed skits and dances representing native customs and presented fashion shows featuring attire from their native countries. The observance is just one of many events on campus each year that bridge the cultural differences between students and accentuate the common interests and goals that foster international cooperation and brotherhood.

“Our campus has been growing in traditional students and is doing an excellent job serving the Hispanic population,” points out Killebrew. “But University life is about social growth as well as academics. In the future, many of our graduates, especially those in business and science, are going to work in a global economy. To properly prepare them to be global citizens, it is important that Texas A&M-Corpus Christi continues to pursue excellence in all areas to maximize both the student experience and solidify the University’s standing as one of the leading up-and-coming institutions of higher learning in the nation.”

Ultimately, through the Momentum 2015 campaign, the leadership of Dr. Killebrew and the tireless dedication of faculty and staff, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has quickly become the University of choice for South Texas.
What has happened in the "Momentum 2015" Five-Year Period?

**Programs**

- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Arts in Applied Science
- Master of Art in Communication
- Ph.D. in Marine Biology
- Cooperative Ph.D. in Nursing
- Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center
- Office of International Relations

**Land**

**Momentum Campus**
Historic expansion of the Island University at South Guth Park. The deed was signed over to the University on March 10, 2008.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
In September 2009, the University hit a major milestone when it launched the largest comprehensive capital campaign in University history with a goal of $25 million and an additional $5 million challenge.
What has happened in the “Momentum 2015” Five-Year Period?

Dr. Jack and Susie Dugan Wellness Center
The state-of-the-art fitness and wellness facility opened January 2009.

Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center
The new center is the gateway to the Island University. The destination for alumni and students opened February 2010.

Palapas
A gift from William “Dusty” Durrill, the 12 palapas located at 10 points around campus enhance the University’s natural beauty. The palapas were dedicated on March 31, 2010.

Michael and Karen O’Connor Building
Slated for a spring 2011 opening, the newest construction on campus will be home to the College of Business.

Chapman Field
Improved baseball and softball fields including a press box were dedicated March 2007.

Island Hall
Future home to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and College of Education’s kinesiology program. The much needed space will serve students fall 2010.
New Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center Greets Visitors to Island University

A crowd of University officials, community members and the public gathered on Feb. 4 for the grand opening celebration of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s new Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center located at 6129 Ennis Joslin Road, near the intersection of Ocean Drive and Alameda Street.

The Welcome Center is the gateway to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, providing a home away from home for many graduates who return to campus each year and greeting prospective students and their families who visit the Island University. At the beautiful facility which overlooks the campus, visitors can obtain information about the University’s five colleges and degree programs as well as other materials to make their campus visit more informative and memorable.

The site for the University’s new Alumni Welcome Center is just the latest gift Lee has bestowed upon Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In 1999, he established a scholarship fund at the University and, in 2001, provided the resources for the creation of Lee Plaza. This garden area with stone benches, shade trees and the soothing sound of water flowing from a dome-shaped fountain has become a natural gathering spot where students study or relax between classes.

Lee was an international student from Korea who enrolled in 1955 at the University of Corpus Christi. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1959, he went into the restaurant business and turned one fast-food establishment into a chain of highly-successful “Boat-N-Net” Restaurants. In 2004, Lee received the Distinguished Alumni Award for his volunteer efforts and financial contributions to the Island University. He has been honored by the President’s Council and his photograph is on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s Wall of Recognition in the University Center, Legacy Hall for his gifts to the University’s scholarship and building funds.

Pictured from left are University First Lady Kathy Killebrew; University President Flavius Killebrew; alumni and benefactor Woo Sung Lee; Chaiok Lee, wife of Woo Sung Lee; and Sonny Lee, son of Woo Sung Lee.
Neuws & featuReS

alumNI NeWS

In her work at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, La., Dr. Danyel Hermes is right where she wants to be, “in the middle of the action.”

Tacker, who graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1999 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and cellular biology, is a clinical chemist for the medical center’s eight hospitals. In that capacity, she is the critical link between the technical and administrative parts of the laboratory, leading developmental projects, and facilitating the addition of new equipment and advanced testing methods for detecting cystic fibrosis and fetal lung maturity in expectant mothers.

For many, says Tacker, the benefits of updating these tests can mean the difference between life and death. The advanced technology for chloride measurement in sweat samples, she explains, provides pediatricians with the convenience to test for cystic fibrosis in hospitals and clinics, instead of sending samples to another lab, making results available in a couple of hours instead of a few days or weeks.

“My job is always evolving,” says Tacker, who is from Hondo, Texas. “It’s my responsibility to determine what the national standards are for medical laboratory practice and see what we can do to make those standards work here. Pathology is always changing to meet new standards and the laboratory is central to that. That’s what I thoroughly enjoy about it.”

Tacker is lead of the Center’s chloridometry project and is responsible for more than 200 laboratory tests. She designs studies, reviews data, and approves implementation of new testing and equipment for chemistry laboratory projects, assisting medical directors and laboratory staff as needed.

Tacker, who went on to obtain her Ph.D. in experimental pathology, credits Dr. Suzette Chopin for giving her the tools that led her on a successful career path. It was in Chopin’s pathophysiology class that she developed an interest in diseases and how they occur.

“She was so motivating, and it was because of her recommendation that I looked into earning a Ph.D. in pathology,” Tacker says. “I had no idea that such a program even existed. Dr. Chopin was able to assess my abilities and she was absolutely right. Pathology was a perfect fit.”

After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, in 2006, she accepted a Clinical Trials Research Fellowship in Penzberg, Germany, conducting background research on new medical analyzers commonly used in hospital laboratories, and assisting with FDA approval submissions that allow manufacturers to sell the new analyzers in the American market. These analyzers are used for measuring everything from glucose to thyroid and prostate markers, making them key elements of patient care.

“That was the time I started looking at the applications of clinical chemistry,” she says. “It was one of my most interesting and rewarding experiences, so far.”

In October 2009, Tacker who met her future husband, Matthew, a 1999 graduate with degrees in chemistry and math, while a student here, returned to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to address the South Texas Chapter of Sigma Xi. She spoke on “The Value of Research: A Clinical Labotaritain’s Perspective, explaining to students how she has applied her research experiences from A&M-Corpus Christi and UTMB in her current work.

“It is important for the students to understand that all of their efforts, starting with undergraduate courses, could be used in the future,” she says. “My plans to begin a successful career path all started at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.”
Dr. Catherine Cox
Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Catherine Cox, a professor of English who teaches classes in Shakespeare, Renaissance Literature, and Literature of the Western World, has been a faculty member for 21 years. She has published numerous articles and is the recipient of many research grants and fellowships including the Mary and Paul Haas Fellowship under which she worked at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. In 2005, she received the College of Liberal Arts’ Outstanding Service Award.

The Distinguished Faculty Award honors individuals who have made a positive impact on students, advanced the mission of the University, and are recognized by their peers as outstanding contributors to their profession, campus and community.

Dr. Nolan Estes
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Dr. Nolan Estes (BA ’50) is the L.D. Haskew Centennial Professor for Educational Administration in the Public School Executive Leadership Program at the University of Texas Graduate School of Education. He has served as a U.S. delegate to Ministries of Education in several countries and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Organization for Economic and Community Development in Paris, France. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Dr. Estes to a term as associate United States Commissioner of Education to work with Congress in implementing the historic Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors graduates who have demonstrated significant personal accomplishments and professional success and who are also involved in helping the University further its mission. These individuals are leaders in our region, state and nation.

Binesh Prabhakar
Young Alumnus Award

Binesh Prabhakar (MS ’04) has started two companies, one of which has earned revenue of more than $2 million dollars in its second year. He is a volunteer with the Women’s Education project, a non-profit that supports women’s education in India. Also, he is a member of the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society, the Indus Entrepreneurs and the American Society for Quality. In addition, he is in the process of establishing an alumni association club in the New England area.

The Young Alumnus Award honors former students who have graduated within the last 10 years and have enjoyed exceptional personal and professional success early in their career fields.

Dr. Donald Deis
Outstanding Alumni Award

Dr. Donald Deis, the Ennis and Virginia Joslin Endowed Chair in Accounting (BA ’75 and MBA ’77), is also chair of the Accounting and Business Law Department and a professor in the College of Business. Between 1982-1983, Deis served as president of the National Alumni Association and was instrumental in establishing the National Alumni Association and the local area chapter, the Corpus Christi Area Alumni Club. Deis and his wife, Kathy (BSN ’78 and MSN ’90), also a University alumnus, generously contribute their time to the University and have established two scholarship funds to assist students. In addition, Deis and Kathy are co-chairs of the faculty/staff part of the Momentum Capital Campaign.

The Outstanding Alumni Award honors individuals who have remained active with the alumni association and served as leaders through both their personal and professional accomplishments.
Did you miss out on Homecoming 2010?
Check out our favorite alumni photos from the Awards Breakfast, Alumni Brunch and Jazz Mixer.
Get connected at:

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Have you been thinking about ordering your Official University Ring? Make today the day! Call the Alumni Office at 1.877.482.6822 to place your order. We will inform you of how to get your bachelor's ring upgraded to reflect your master's degree free of charge.

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AMERICAN SPANISH

A S Y M B O L  O F  Y O U R  A C C O M P L I S H M E N T

Have you heard?

Leonard Allen Schlueter ’68 BS Business Administration retired from the IRS as a management analyst and moved into his grandparent’s house in Austin, Texas. The house is around 100 years old and there are lots of chores to do around the house and property.

Kevin S. Rees ’89 MBA Business Management spent three months in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq helping U.S. soldiers perform battle-damage repairs on helicopters. In May, he will go to Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to provide helicopter repair instruction to U.S. allies.

Benita Mendell ’94 BBA Marketing is the general manager of The Monitor Newspaper and regional advertising director for the Texas Freedom Rio Grande Valley Newspaper in McAllen, Texas.

Jay A. Nesbit ’95 MBA Management is the pharmacy manager at Genoa Healthcare in Mentor, Ohio.

Andrew Rolf ’00 BBA Management Information Systems is engaged and has set the wedding date for fall 2010. He is employed by Chevron in Houston, Texas.

Victoria Elizabeth Kelley ’01 MACC Accounting is the broker and owner of TopNotch Realty in Corpus Christi. She has a new husband and a new daughter who is 2 years old.

Maria Olinda Yzaguirre Ramirez ’04 BBA Accounts Management Information Systems is an accountant at Denbury Resources, Inc. in Plano, Texas. She is also studying for the CPA exam. She and her husband are expecting their first child in September 2010.

Abby Diaz ’05 BBA Management is a human resource specialist for the Houston, Texas, ISD. She recently started graduate school.

Camilla (Cammy) Simone ’06 BBA Finance is an auditor in the Internal Audit and Compliance Department at American Bank in Corpus Christi.

Sarah Fay ’08 BBA Management is a human resources coordinator for CHRS-TUS Spohn Health System in Corpus Christi. She became engaged to Mike Raffay on Jan. 1, 2010. Their wedding is planned for Nov. 6, 2010.

Erik Burciaga ’09 BBA Management is a sales coordinator at Cup Graphics and Screen Printing in Corpus Christi. He got married in Sept. 2009.

Erika Iriarte ’09 BBA Finance is a business manager for Kiewit Offshore Services.

Craig Robert Parker ’09 BBA General Business won the “Rising Star of 2009” Award from Nouveau Eyewear, where he works from home as a sales representative. He feels very fortunate to have good customers, support from his management and his good customer service team. He worked in ophthalmic frame sales prior to finishing his degree at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2009 and returned to several existing customers that have been essential to his success.

Have you been thinking about ordering your Official University Ring? Make today the day! Call the Alumni Office at 1.877.482.6822 to place your order. We will inform you of how to get your bachelor's ring upgraded to reflect your master's degree free of charge.

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Rising through the Ranks

ALUMNUS MAKES TRANSFORMATION FROM ENLISTED MAN TO GENERAL OFFICER

For Brigadier General Larry Wyche, the Island University is all about beginnings.

As a young boy working alongside his grandfather in the tobacco fields of Virginia, Wyche dreamed of being the first in his family to earn a college degree. That pursuit began in 1979 when, after discovering Corpus Christi State University while on a weekend pass from nearby Fort Hood, he enrolled as a business management major following his discharge from the Army after graduating from Del Mar College.

It wasn’t long before he met Denise Martin, a Corpus Christi native, fellow student and the woman who would become his wife. Four years later, diploma in hand, he began another journey that would take him further in life than he had dreamed possible.

Rather than use his business management degree in the private sector, the former enlisted man was commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant. Wyche received his commission in the office of University President B. Alan Sugg who personally pinned the lieutenant bars on the new graduate’s uniform. Today, Wyche credits Sugg, Dr. Paul Cameron, a B-52 pilot during the Cold War, and other faculty members with setting the course that would ultimately lead him to the command of the Joint Munitions Command at Rock Island, Ill., where he is responsible for supplying conventional ammunition for all military services and other governmental agencies.

“They changed my life,” states Wyche. “They urged me to go back in the military because of the many opportunities the Army offers. From the president to the faculty and everyone on campus, they wanted to help all the students and provide a great environment to go to school.”

During subsequent years, Wyche rose through the commissioned ranks serving in several theatres including Afghanistan and earning, among others, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and, most recently, the Global War on Terrorism and Afghanistan Campaign medals.

“I am a war-fighter logistcian prepared to give the shirt off my back and boots off my feet to support the fight. I will never say no as long as I have one gallon of gas or one bullet to give,” vows Wyche. “You have to be part of it to fully understand, but Americans should be proud of the sacrifices being made by our soldiers in harm’s way.”

After attending a professional development session at the Naval Air Station in September 2009, Wyche experienced a new beginning with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Impressed by the University’s growth, he returned for Homecoming 2010 and spent time with the Islander ROTC Battalion, talking with the cadets.

That night, he was the guest speaker at the Battalion’s annual ball. In his address he urged the cadets to cherish the time they have with University faculty because, for most, it will be many years before they realize how important their professors were in helping chart their lives.

“When I left, never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d return as a general officer,” says Wyche. “The University was good to me and my family and in return I want to give as much time as possible back, especially to the cadets who are the future leaders of our country.”
Rhonda Stephens McKinzie ’93 MS Counseling & Guidance received her LPC license and worked with The Deaf Center for Dr. Sharon Rogers and later, Dr. Eric DuBois, in Corpus Christi. She has been interpreting for the deaf professionally since age 18, has received upper level board certification, and taught psychology at the University of Texas at Tyler and Tyler Junior College (TJC). In August 2008, she accepted the position as department chair of the sign language interpreter training program at TJC.

Dennis Donaldson’s (1971) induction into the Athletic Hall of Honor at Homecoming. The last 13 years, the last 13 with the Brownfield, Texas ISD. He works for Brownfield part time as a contracted reading coach and enjoys a more flexible schedule that includes some hobbies.

Virginia Guerra ’99 BSIS Bilingual Education is an instructional teacher advisor for George Evans Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD. She married Gualadale Eddie Flores in June 2000. They have three beautiful children, Juliana, 6; Matthew, 5; and their newest addition, Daniel, born in May 2009. Virginia is an instructional teacher advisor for George Evans Elementary in the Corpus Christi ISD.

Mark Lee Wilder ’99 BS Kinesiology is an assistant principal at Tejeda Middle School in the North East ISD in San Antonio, Texas. He and his wife celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary last summer with a trip to Niagara Falls. It was his first time in Canada.

Thomas J. McCabe Jr. ’02 MS Education had the honor of overseeing the opening of a new national call center for veterans and their families. The Combat Call Center is a 24/7 live source of information, referrals and assistance for our nation’s fighting men and women.

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Adam Thomas Sadler ’02 BS Education and his wife had triplets in March 2009, identical girls Hayden and Hannah and a boy, Johnathan.

Lindsey Rinn Lester ’04 BS Education welcomed a baby girl this past summer.

D’Nese Rios Hinojosa ’05 BS Kinesiology works for the Corpus Christi ISD. Her son, Ryker, just turned 1 on Dec. 30.

Robert Neal Hall ’06 MS Education is a head softball coach and a lead guidance school counselor at Decatur High School in Decatur, Texas.

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Albert D. Winks ’06 BS Education was deployed to Afghanistan as a MEDEVAC helicopter pilot. He and his pilots were involved in more than 200 missions and the rescue of more than 300 patients.

Scott J. Roberts ’07 MS Education is a school counselor in the Leander, Texas, ISD. His wife and he had a baby boy in late June 2009.

Leigh Bryant ’08 BS Education is a physical medicine and rehab assistant physical therapist for Gonzaba Medical Group.

Sandra Rene Jacoby ’08 BSIS Education got a job in her hometown of Fredericksburg, Texas, in September 2009 when they had to open another Pre-K class due to the large enrollment. Eight months after graduating, she loves her new job and her 15 students.

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Patricia Knight ’08 BS Education is a student at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and will be finished with physical therapy school in December. She hopes to work in Dallas after she graduates.

Jesse Rios ’08 MS Educational Administration is an assistant principal for the Corpus Christi ISD.

Sukhbir Singh ’08 MS Education has a daughter named Sukhman Kaur who is a student of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She was accepted into dental school in the fall and he is very proud of her.

Terry Lynn Frels (Butts) ’09 MS Education is a long-term special education inclusion teacher at an elementary school in Edgewood ISD in San Antonio, Texas.

Mia R. Cannon ’09 BBA Management is organizing Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Relay for Life 2010, “What Happens at Relay Goes Around the World.” Its goal is “to raise $50,000 for the American Cancer Society to promote wellness, fund life-saving research and provide a voice to all of those affected by cancer to fight back!”

Ernest A. Sibley ’61 BA Bible and wife, Auttie, retired from the International Mission Board in 2001 after serving for 29 years in the country of Malawi in southeast Africa. They have three children and four grandchildren. Their youngest daughter will graduate from Texas Tech Medical School in May 2010. In February, he attended his first Homecoming since his graduation in May 1961. He states, “What a Delight!”

Dr. Vicki R. Vaughn ’70 BA English is executive director for the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement in Brownwood, Texas.

Eduardo E. Benavides ’77 BM Music decided to enter the long-term care field and became a licensed nursing facility administrator (LNFA) after retiring from a successful private piano teaching career in Austin, Texas. He has worked for Granger Villa Nursing Facility in Granger, Texas, for five years. He believes in trying to change the face of long-term care and
HAVE YOU HEARD? continued

make sure it is what we would want for our own parents and, later, ourselves.”

Oscar Hernandez ’79 BS Criminal Justice has been back to the University on various occasions and is amazed at its beauty and growth. He and his wife, Lisa, operate delivery a service company and deliver just about anything within the legal parameters of the law throughout the State of Texas.

Carolyn M. Plank ’84 BA English is a technology manager for IBM Corporation in Florida.

Duane M. Pufpaff ’98 MPA Public Administration is now retired. He believes the Master’s Degree in Public Administration program helped him develop the skills he needed in his final position as chief of Communication, Analysis and Planning.

Kendall (Arden) Peterson ’99 BA Political Science plans to go international with a new business called ZENtrepreneur, in Corpus Christi, that helps people get off prescription pain medications with a new medical technology that simulates the effects of acupuncture without the needles by using specially programmed microchips placed on the skin. The profound changes that Kendall has seen in people’s lives have been amazing.

Velma Sanchez ’99 BA Psychology is a human resources and training manager for URS in Austin, Texas.

Karisa Lynn Davidson ’00 BA Psychology is a care associate at the Trinity Towers Brookdale Senior Living Community. Her 6-year-old son participates in a tae kwon do after school program and loves it. In January 2010, Karisa reached the official two-year mark of being cancer free and only has to go to MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, every six months instead of every three months.

Edward (John) Marez ’00 BA Political Science is serving his third term on the Corpus Christi City Council and second term as chairman of the City Council’s Municipal Court Committee.

Tedoro David Aguilar Jr. ’01 BA Psychology & Criminal Justice is a legal case worker with the Department of Family and Protective Services in San Antonio, Texas. He is engaged and plans to be married by September 2010.

Desiree J. Wuennenberg Nonthistine ’01 BA English is in her fourth year teaching sophomore and senior English at Vacaville High School in Vacaville, Calif. She is on the District Pacing Guide committee, is an in-house detention supervisor and is a member of their Western Association of Schools and Colleges delegation. The students keep her young and she “absolutely loves” her job.

Veronica Del Carmen Ramirez ’01 BM Music teaches private singing and piano lessons. She performed for the Washington Birthday Celebration Association, the Mr. South Texas Luncheon and the International Bridge “Abrazo Ceremony,” a symbolic international bridge hug between nations featuring children from Nuevo Laredo and Laredo, and Mexican and U.S. dignitaries.

Jessica Ann Alaniz ’02 BA Political Science is an assistant to the vice president of Administration and Finance at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. She is also studying for her doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Phoenix.

Miranda Louise Burge ’03 BA Communication is an event planning specialist for Plan Ahead Events in Austin, Texas.

Noelia Posas-Lucio ’03 BS Criminal Justice is a superintendent for Texas Youth Commission in Austin, Texas.

Carolyn Young ’03 MS Studio Art is an adjunct professor for the Department of Art at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Vanessa R. Ballmer ’04 BA English and husband Luis Castillo ’07 MBA Business Administration reside in Katy, Texas. Vanessa enjoys working with Houston Community College as the system-wide compliance documentarian.

Michelle Renee Brauchle-McDowell ’06 BA English and husband Anthony, who is in the Navy, were transferred to the beautiful state of Washington. They are making the adjustment to the snow, cold and abundant greenery.

Jarrod Chavana ’06 BA Psychology and History is a journalist for the U.S. Air Force. He was married on Sept. 12, 2009 and will be deployed to Iraq until June 2010.

Brandon T. McElveen ’06 BA Psychology will graduate from the University of Houston-Victoria with his master’s degree in psychology in May 2010. He is founder and president of the University’s psychology association, and was honored to be the University’s NASP student leader.

Lacey Beth David ’07 BS Criminal Justice is a therapist for the Head Start program in the San Patricio, Jim Wells and Nueces counties. She works with children ages 5 and younger, doing play therapy. She feels this is such a rewarding job and loves it.

Catherine Rose Killeen ’04 BA Psychology married Chris Lee Storey ’04 BS Mathematics in June 2004. They moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she began a career in higher education administration and completed her Master of Education in Counseling with an emphasis in student affairs in May 2009. Their biggest news, however, is welcoming their wonderful son, Cason Storey, into their lives on March 18, 2009.

Gregory Lee Diehlmann ’05 BS Criminal Justice is studying for his doctorate with Capella University. He plans to keep working until he accomplishes his goal of becoming an attorney.

Niomi Fuentes ’05 BA Psychology is a quality assurance administrator for Avail Solutions, Inc., in Corpus Christi. She is in love with Wayne Smith ’08 BA Psychology.

Carlota Santos ’05 BA Communications, ’08 MBA Business Administration is a research specialist working under the auspices of the endowed chair Dr. David Yoakowitz, professor of Economics at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

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Janelle J. ’07 BA Communications married Christopher E. Reyes ’08 BBA Marketing on June 27, 2009. They were engaged following Christopher’s graduation in August 2008 where he proposed by writing “will you marry me?” on his cap. They honeymooned in Paris, France. Janelle has returned to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to get her Master of Science in Secondary Educations and Certificate in Speech.

Stephanie Fuentes ’07 BA Psychology is a rehabilitation teacher and case manager at Mental Health and Mental Retardation Youth Services in Corpus Christi. She is attending graduate school for the Counseling Program for Marriage and Family Therapy and plans to graduate in 2011.

Sarah Makins ’07 BA Communications married Chris McAlister ’07 BA Communications on Aug. 14, 2004. They are the proud parents of Hallie Grace, 5, and Ty Christopher, 9 months. Chris works in sales in Corpus Christi and Sarah is working on her Master’s in Communication Disorders at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Rusty Lynn Pitre ’07 BA Art is an inventory management specialist for the Corpus Christi Army Depot. He married the woman of his dreams, Jeana Rennee Pitre, on July 7, 2007. They have a wonderful little boy, Cole Austin, 6, and they recently had the most beautiful little girl, Kassidy Alyse, born March 3, 2009.

Brain Richard Tillis ’07 BS Criminal Justice has inquired about starting the Masters Program for Public Administration. He is in the promotional process at Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and spends a lot of time with family and friends.


Eugene Dodaro IV ’08 BA Communications teaches sixth grade English in the Jasper, Texas, ISD.

Holly Knippa ’08 BS Criminal Justice is an early intervention specialist for Early Childhood Intervention-Infant Development Program in Corpus Christi. She is planning her wedding for June 12, 2010.

Ashley Schmitt ’08 BA Music is a graduate research assistant at the Stephen F. Austin State University School of Human Sciences. She is working on her master’s degree in music education and obtaining teaching certification. Ashley plans to get her doctorate in music history.

Wayne Smith ’08 BA Psychology is a qualified mental health professional working as a crisis counselor and as a face-to-face screener for clients at high risk for Avail Solutions, Inc., in Corpus Christi. He is also attending classes to obtain his master’s degree in clinical psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Jennifer Tajchman ’08 BA Psychology is an office manager at South Texas Benefits, an insurance and investment firm. She is engaged J.D. Pleasants, a North Carolina native who moved to Corpus Christi while in the Coast Guard. They plan to marry in April 2010 and can’t wait to start their new lives together.

Don Patrick Trahan, Jr. ’08 BA Psychology will receive his master’s degree in psychology in spring 2010 (from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi). He plans to continue his education by pursuing a Ph.D. in Counselor Education.

Gabriela Rae Vera ’08 BA Psychology is pursuing her master’s degree in counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and plans to graduate in December 2011 under the Marriage and Family degree plan. She works for Nueces County Mental Health and Mental Retardation as a service coordinator for mental retardation. She recently was accepted in Chi Sigma Iota, a Counseling Honor Society.

Jessica Renee Viar ’08 BA Communications plans to return to school in summer 2010 to obtain her master’s degree in early childhood education.

Ashley Wang ’08 BA Psychology is studying at the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service in New York City, N.Y. She will receive her funeral director’s license in December 2010.

John D. Delgado ’08 BA History will continue substitute teaching in the Corpus Christi area until the fall of this year. He is pursuing a junior high school history teacher position in the local area.

Danelle E. Flores-Hogan ’09 BA Sociology moved to California after graduating and has remained a stay-at-home mom due to the state of the economy. She has applied to several graduate programs and is in the process of heading back home to find a job in Corpus Christi or San Antonio, Texas. She plans to apply to University of Texas at San Antonio for the master’s program in sociology.

Becky S. Lutzke ’09 BA History is an eighth-grade American history teacher in the Alice, Texas ISD.

Carlos Jaime Martinez ’09 BA Theatre is a seventh-grade English language arts teacher at Zapata Middle School in Zapata, Texas. He is also a coach for UI Modern Oratory, Improvmutt at the middle school and extemp (informative/persuasive) at the high school.

Jose Luis Noriega ’09 BM Music is a manager and librarian for the VSO and a graduate teaching assistant for the Department of Music at the University of Texas-Pan American. Most recently, he has joined the Rio Grande Valley Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the existence and marketability of drum and bugle corps through social events; music marching; and competitive performances.

Travis James Washmon ’09 BA is the campus coordinator of the Denton State Supported Living Center in Denton, Texas. He adopted the newest member of his family, Isis, in October and she is growing into an amazing young lady. He plans to attend the University of North Texas in summer 2010.

Danielle Whiteside ’09 BM Music has a 3-month-old boy and is waiting eagerly for her husband to come home from deployment. She is also applying for teaching jobs in Texas for the fall. Nursing and Health Sciences
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Melissa Bubela ’05 BSN Nursing is a staff nurse on a medical surgery unit at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas. She married Jonathan Howell ’04 BBA Accounting, who is now in the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy for the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s office. They have 2-year-old daughter, Madison Faith.

Jill Malazzo Holcomb ’06 BSN Nursing is a graduate student studying for her nurse practitioner degree and will graduate in May 2010. She had her first child, a girl named Addison Claire, on Jan. 28, 2010. Addison weighed 5 pounds, 1 ounce and was 18 ½ inches long.

Patricia Mae Branton ’07 BSN Nursing is engaged and planning to marry on the beautiful River Walk in downtown San Antonio, Texas. Since June 2007, she has been employed with Seton Family Hospitals and has worked at Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas. She works on a neurosurgery unit serving children and teens.

Kimberly Garza ’08 BSHS Nursing and Health Sciences works at Uresti Senior Assistance, a local home health agency. After graduating in May 2008, she obtained her funeral directing degree, and she obtained her funeral directing degree, and works in research. She was married in December 2009. She married Adam Maloy, and they are looking forward to her new career.

June L. A. Ness ’09 BSN Nursing has transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bay Area Hospital in Corpus Christi. She is working for the United States Department of Agriculture in one of their Marketing Services Dairy Program labs. She plans to be there for the next 30 years and is excited that she does not have to keep looking for “the job” anymore. She is happy at her job and looking forward to her new career.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Roger J. Halwachs ’68 BS Biology had his first grandchild born on Aug. 14, 2009, Katie Lorraine Flynn, to daughter Kristen and her husband, John.

Pat Nichols ’76 BS Biology was promoted to director of the Center for Career Development (CCDET) at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) in December 2009. She served as interim director from September 2008 to November 2009, where she worked since 1989. CCDET provides services through a Truancy Intervention Program, a Youth Employment Service, and UWO AmeriCorps Connects. They also provide training and quality assurance for public agencies in Wisconsin. All of their work is focused on creating a better quality of life for those in need of supportive services in the State of Wisconsin.

Russell “Russ” W. Thompson ’79 BS Computer Science is the owner of Five Gulf Software and is a Web developer who specializes in online data bases.

Jennifer M. Darling (Scott) ’01 BS Biology is a lab supervisor at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, Mich. She and her husband run a non-profit organization, Darling Cetaceans.

Hannah Louise Towne ’02 BS Environmental Science works for the United States Department of Agriculture in one of their Marketing Services Dairy Program labs. She plans to be there for the next 30 years and is excited that she does not have to keep looking for “the job” anymore. She is happy at her job and looking forward to her new career.

Chris Lee Storey ‘04 BS Mathematics is a mechanical engineer at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and will begin the master’s engineering program at the University of Texas-San Antonio in August 2010. On March 18, 2009 his wonderful son, Cason Storey, was welcomed into his family.

Lisa Jones (Maloy) ’05 BS Biology works in research. She was married in May 2008.

Lisa Winnett ’05 BS Biology just completed her internship, working with exotic big cats, and has applied to law school for fall 2010.

Corando Gallegos ’94 MS Environmental Sciences is a chemist with CCAD where he has worked for almost 20 years. He has been married for 15 years and has a 13-year-old daughter.

Caley Deshawn Hunter ’07 BS Biology teaches aquatic science and advanced placement biology at Memorial High School in Victoria, Texas. She coaches the Academic Science team and also sponsored the Interact Club and assists with school district’s science fair.

Andrea Baskin ’07 BS Mathematics is engaged.

David Matthew Schweitzer ’05 BS Biology has a great job teaching seven biology classes at Coastal Bend College in Kingsville, Texas.

Michael Bradley ’07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology works for OEM Pump, a manufacturing company that makes pumps for the petrochemical, industrial and municipal markets. He is married to Rachael DeVos, They had their first baby in 2008 and bought their first house.
Nominate Someone Special for an Alumni Award

Do you know an alumnus, alumna or professor who you think embodies all the great qualities to be an Islander Award Winner?
Nominate your favorite:

Young Alumni
Outstanding Alumni
Distinguished Faculty
Distinguished Alumni

Details and forms are available at www.IslanderNetwork.com. Deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, November 5.

Magdalene Moczygema ’09 BS Environmental Science is pursuing an advanced degree in environmental science at Texas A & M University. She is preparing her proposal and degree plan for committee approval, as well as lots of field sampling.

Russell Wayne Raab ’09 BS Biology is a zoo keeper in charge of the Mammals South section at Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin, Texas. He has birds (African, American, Australian, and South American), hippos, crocodiles, Malayan tapirs, Louisiana pine snakes, and hoof stock, etc. The zoo is noted as the best small city zoo in the nation. It was one of the first zoos in Texas to receive Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation.

Maribell Roblez Martinez ’09 BS Chemistry was married on Nov. 28, 2009 and is looking for a job in which to use her degree. She hopes to return to school for her master’s degree, and will most likely pursue a Masters of Education. But just in case she is not able to make the classes, she is looking into teaching certification classes.

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Let’s hear from YOU!
Would you like to have your photo and update included in the next Islander Magazine? Share your life’s celebrations with your classmates. They want to know! Go to www.islandernetwork.com to submit your classnotes.

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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 offers the opportunity for many to support students first-hand through scholarships which help defray the costs of tuition and fees.
Giving Gifts of Opportunity

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.