A World of Opportunity.

While we start another semester by breaking records, with first-time student enrollment well-above expectations and the largest wind energy installation of its kind, it’s important to remember that on our island, “no man is an island.”

From the world’s highest mountain peaks to the depths of the ocean floor, our scientists, researchers, and faculty are making a global impact in education, healthcare, business, the arts, science, and conservation of the world’s most important natural resources.

This year, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi became one of just 15 universities in the United States to receive authorization to fly the RS-16 unmanned aircraft into national airspace. The Unmanned Aircraft Systems capability directly benefits the University’s geospatial computing program and significantly advances the University’s competitiveness for federally-funded research. And, our Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies is leading the way in international cooperation to conserve and protect the natural resources of the world’s 10th largest body of water.

These are just a couple of examples of how faculty, scientists, and students from our five Colleges are impacting the world around us. Because, in today’s world, it is not only our responsibility to provide students with the best-possible education, it is our charge to give them the experience, tools, and desire to become leaders in an ever-changing world.
Chadwick takes reins on the court

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi women's basketball team gained a 28-year veteran of the women's college basketball coaching ranks on April 11 when Royce Chadwick was named the fourth women's basketball coach in Islanders history.

Chadwick had spent the last 11 years at Marshall University in West Virginia and comes to the Island University with 561 wins. Those wins have accumulated from stops at Marshall, Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston State, Oklahoma Panhandle State and Howard Junior College. Chadwick has advanced his teams to seven NCAA Tournament appearances.

Chadwick advanced his 1996 team to the Sweet Sixteen. He also guided the Ladyjacks to six conference tournament titles while finishing 128-14 in conference play.

Chadwick earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Southwestern Oklahoma State in 1980 and later earned a Master's Degree in Business Education from his alma mater in 1982.

He is the proud father of two daughters, Kasi, 24, and Kelsi, 21.

See it for yourself! Check out a video of Chadwick in action at http://youtu.be/yk5dPKz6w7w

COACH CHADWICK BY THE NUMBERS

561 | Career wins for Chadwick
7 | NCAA Tournament bids
.606 | Division I winning percentage
.829 | Career winning percentage in Southland Conference games
7,017 | Fans in Marshall's school-record crowd for 2004 game against Kentucky
20 | Average wins per season in Chadwick’s career
28 | Years that Chadwick has served as a head coach in women’s college basketball
4 | Career wins in NCAA Tournament play
2005 | Year of MAC East title for Marshall, the first in program history
1997 | Year that Chadwick was named Southland Coach of the Year

New Soccer & Track Stadium: Dr. Jack Dugan Provides Lead Gift

Dr. Jack T. Dugan says that there is “no better investment than to invest in the lives of our students.”

Dr. Dugan generously contributed the lead gift for the construction of the Island University’s first soccer and track stadium, which will greatly benefit our outstanding student-athletes. A groundbreaking was celebrated in May at the Momentum Campus.

“As a former athlete currently in the medical field, I know the importance of having the proper facilities for athletes, which in turn promotes wellness,” says Dugan. “I wanted to be part of the enrichment of these student-athletes’ lives.”

On Aug. 3, The Texas A&M System Board of Regents approved naming the soccer and track stadium the “Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer & Track Stadium.”

“Dr. Dugan has been a great supporter of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for many years,” says University President Flavus Killibrew. “He is once again showing his unwavering support for the University through his philanthropic gift for this stadium. Because of his gift, this University is going to have one of the premier soccer/track and field facilities in South Texas.”

See it for yourself!

Check out the video of the groundbreaking at: http://youtu.be/xvBNiEJMLFE

STEM Camp Inspires Next Generation of Scientists

Teams of high school students from across the state waited poolside in anticipation of launching an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

The ROV underwater manipulation and navigation contest was one of the highlights of the College of Science and Engineering’s first “STEM Summer Institute: Underwater Robotics” program. The program is just one way the Island University is inspiring our next generation of engineers and scientists to pursue advanced degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) areas, leading to high-demand career fields across the nation.

Whether they were from the sprawling Houston metropolitan area or the rural city of San Benito in the Rio Grande Valley, students at the camp got the same excitement as they got a glimpse into oceanography research and engineering opportunities, especially ROV operation.

“It is very important for us to stimulate their interest in engineering at a younger age,” says Dr. Dugan Um, an assistant professor in the College of Science and Engineering. “They will think about this as their professional career path so that they will be involved in a lot of innovation in technology and science to make our lives better.”

The week-long camp featured lectures, exercises, hands-on activities, design and rapid prototyping, field trips, and project competitions with prizes and “tuition grants” totaling $5,000.

Architectural rendering

About the facility: The facility, which features a soccer field enclosed by an eight-lane track, will be home to the Islanders track team and the newly-established Islanders women’s soccer program. After completion, it will host Southland Conference competitions and non-conference games and tournaments featuring nationally prominent programs from across the country.

Completion Date: May 2013
Cost: $9.6 million
Size: 15,300 square feet
Amenities: Seating for up to 750 spectators, concessions, a press box, private suites, locker rooms, training rooms, storage, a ticket office, coaching offices, and a paved parking lot.

Dr. Jack Dugan Provides Lead Gift

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Bringing the World to the Island

Distinguished Speaker Series Presents Leaders in National, International Affairs

The Distinguished Speaker Series at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi brings leading national and international speakers to campus to address some of today’s most compelling issues and stories in global politics and world affairs. These leaders generate thought-provoking and stimulating conversations that provite rich context on current events and open windows into the future with all its uncertainties and opportunities.

In September, Dr. Michio Kaku, a leader in the field of theoretical physics and co-founder of string field theory, mesmerized a sold-out Performing Arts Center with his vision of a future that includes super human-like abilities. Kaku states that the nanotechnology to drive themselves, advances in molecular medicine that will allow computers controlled by tiny brain sensors, cars that use GPS technology to drive themselves, advances in molecular medicine that will allow computers controlled by tiny brain sensors, cars that use GPS technology to drive themselves, advances in molecular medicine that will allow computers controlled by tiny brain sensors, cars that use GPS technology to drive themselves, and other innovations and opportunities.

A portion of the net proceeds from the Distinguished Speaker Series go toward scholarships for students attending Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Sign up for the newsletter at http://dss.tamucc.edu

Ocean in Motion

Dr. Darek Bogucki designs sensor to track movement of water in Gulf of Mexico

Dr. Darek Bogucki has created an optical turbulence sensor used this summer aboard the Research Vessel “Walton Smith” to track the movement of water in the Gulf of Mexico. Not only did he design the sensor, but he holds the only patent of its kind.

The sensor is taking an essential first step in understanding the complex and elusive surface ocean currents that transport pollutants around the Gulf.

“This is the fastest existing thermometer capable of measuring the smallest ocean flows, which are essential ingredients of ocean dispersion processes,” says Bogucki, assistant professor in the Department of Physical and Life Sciences.

Bogucki is leading a key element of the largest upper ocean dispersion experiment in the Gulf as part of the Consortium for Advanced Research on Transport of Hydrocarbon in the Environment (CARTHE) funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) award.

His first results were collected during Grand Lagrangian Deployment Experiment (GLAD) in late July 2012. The results ultimately will be used for improved prediction of ocean flows during oil spills, better weather prediction, and possibly better hurricane forecasts. He plans to present early results at the “Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference” in January 2013 in New Orleans, La.

Presently, the movement of the ocean has remained one of physics’ greatest mysteries. After the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig released more than 200 million gallons of oil into the ocean, scientists weren’t exactly sure where the plume would end up.

Bogucki hopes his research will answer those questions by investigating how small ocean flows in one area of the Gulf of Mexico could carry the pollutants to other parts of the planet.

“There are many researchers around the world trying to understand the ocean’s movement, and how we can effectively model it,” he says.

Bogucki plans to publish the results in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

“The more we understand how these ocean systems work, the more benefit it can have for industries, businesses, and major cities along the Gulf Coast,” he says.

Dr. Bogucki shows off the sensor.

CAREER Program Helping Underrepresented Groups Pursue Nursing Degree

While still a student in high school, Veronica Perales thought about a career in nursing but didn’t know how to get started. Then, when she heard about the CAREER program being offered through Texas A&M University’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences, she saw her opportunity.

“My experience in high school helped me understand what I needed to do to become a nurse,” says Perales. “When I toured the labs and got to shadow a nursing student, I knew that this is what I want to do.”

Perales, now a sophomore pre-nursing student at the Island University, entered the program at Corpus Christi Ray High School. She credits the program with guiding her to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a career in nursing.

“The program takes a holistic approach that focuses on physical health, social balance, and academic success,” says Dr. Bunny Forgione, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

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“The program takes a holistic approach that focuses on physical health, social balance, and academic success,” says Dr. Bunny Forgione, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The program is funded by a $900,000 three-year Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is addressing the barriers to the recruitment, retention, and graduation of groups underrepresented in the nursing field. In its first two years, the program, which targets pre-nursing and nursing students as well as high school students, has provided scholarships and stipends to more than 100 nursing and pre-nursing students and reached out to more than 200 additional middle and high school students who are considering careers in healthcare.

“The program takes a holistic approach that focuses on physical health, social balance, and academic success,” says Dr. Bunny Forgione, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “It has taken some of the financial stress out of students’ lives, which helps them concentrate on their academic goals.”

“Bob Ballard has become a spokesman for the oceans, and science couldn’t have selected a better person.”

March 26, 2013

Dr. Bob Ballard | Oceanographer and Deep Sea Explorer

On a cold April night in 1912, the magnificent new liner R.M.S. Titanic struck an iceberg and sank beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

The following day the words “TITANIC FOUND” as explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and his team found this mighty legend in its watery grave 12,000 feet down.

Seventy-three years later, on September 1, 1985, the headline would proclaim “NEWSPAPER TITANIC” as explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and his team found this mighty legend in its watery grave 12,000 feet down.

Hear the fascinating of stories of discovery as Ballard walks you through his quests through Earth’s final frontier! Visit dss.tamucc.edu for tickets and sponsorships.
The echoes of techno dance music coming from Dr. Mark Olson’s laboratory are said to be “the sounds of chemistry in the making.”

It’s where Olson’s best and brightest undergraduate students suit up in protective lab gear to work in the University’s first fully-synthetic materials chemistry laboratory.

A handful of young creative scientists set up chemical reactions in elaborate glassware, carefully handle vials of brightly colored compounds, and record observations. One of the students proudly pulls open a full drawer to show off the group’s newly-created molecular architectures. This is not your average lab.

“We can literally make any molecule we can think of in this lab,” says Dr. Olson, Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry. “The most important aspect of our work is we’re designing molecules that behave the way we want them to, essentially molecular switches that can be turned on and off like a light.”

His students from cities which include Corpus Christi, and Monterrey, Mexico, are actively learning a variety of techniques—from nuclear magnetic resonance to dynamic laser light scattering—to study the properties of the molecules they create.

At the same time, they are gaining invaluable experience for high-demand careers in areas such as materials chemistry, environmental chemistry, and chemical engineering.

“My students love what they do,” he says. “At the end of the day, they have created something new, a never-before-made compound that they can call their own!”

Did you know?

At the time he graduated with his Ph.D., Dr. Mark Olson had published 20 peer-reviewed journal manuscripts in “high-impact” journals such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Angewandte Chemie, and Nature Chemistry.
**NEWS & FEATURES**

**DIVISION OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS**

**EMPHASIZING RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND PERSONAL GOALS**

Joining the University as vice president in the newly-created department of Student Engagement and Success, Dr. Don Albrecht is helping individual students reach their personal goals while focusing on the welfare of the growing student body and maximizing the Island University’s emphasis on retention and engagement.

Formerly the Division of Student Affairs, the division’s new name reflects Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s commitment to ensuring that all students have the support they need in every aspect of the University experience.

“We are proud that our students surpass the state retention and graduation rates,” says Albrecht.

“But, in addition to providing a top-quality education, our goal is to help students embrace diversity, develop leadership skills, and prepare them for careers of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.”

Albrecht graduated from Texas A&M University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He earned his Master of Education degree from Texas A&M in 1977 and, in August 1989, was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University.

From September 1977 to August 1985, Albrecht served in Student Activities at Texas A&M University. He was named Director of Student Activities at Baylor University in 1985 and, in 1987, became Assistant Dean for Student Activities. He joined the administration at West Texas A&M University in 1992 as Associate Dean of Student Services and, since 1993, had served as Vice President for Student Affairs.

**KRENECK RETIRES AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES**

During his 22 years as Associate Director for Special Collections and Archives, Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck oversaw a prolific expansion of the University’s rare Texana books and manuscript collections dealing with Corpus Christi and its South Texas environs.

Kreneck, an expert in Texas history, curated the Kilgore Collection and worked with the Kilgore family to create the Daniel E. and Carol Isensee Kilgore Endowment for Texana. With a specialty in Mexican American archival resources, Kreneck worked with many local Hispanic families to acquire their materials for the University including the University’s acquisition of the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers.

Kreneck was also instrumental in acquiring the surveying records of three generations of Blucher family surveyors, the records of former Nueces County Surveyor William W. Green, and several other important professional surveyors. He also acquired historically valuable documents of former U.S. Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz spanning more than a quarter-century career in Congress.

**KRENECK RETIRES AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES**

**THROUGH THE YEARS**


**Sweeping the ADDYs**

For the last seven years, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students have swept the ADDY Awards at the American Advertising Federation, Corpus Christi Chapter competitions which include design, advertising, video, photography, and best of show categories. In all, more than 80 University students have received awards.

The University has had many gold and silver regional winners go on to compete and win at the 10th District (Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas) with those gold district winners proceeding to the national competition.

This year marked the first time a Texas A&M-Corpus Christi student has received a national ADDY Award. Macy Sarchet, a spring 2012 University graduate, received a Silver National ADDY Award during the American Advertising Federation’s National Annual Convention held in June in Austin, Texas.

Sarchet, who has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication-Media Studies with a minor in Art, was presented the award in the AAF’s national student and professional competition for her outstanding work in graphic design for “The Birds” poster series.

**Knockout Student**

Jordan Garza takes on MMA

After an impressive amateur career that included technical knockouts (TKO) over two opponents, Island University freshman Jordan Nicole Garza made her professional MMA (mixed martial arts) debut in June with a split-decision loss in the UWF Tournament of Warriors at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi. Nicole, a former cheerleader at Corpus Christi Carroll High School, is a Kinesiology major in the College of Education.
An ‘Idle Iron’ Oasis

Artificial Reefs Provide Marine Life with Permanent Homes

Thriving ecosystems of abundant marine life have settled into “permanent” homes around abandoned oil and gas platforms and other artificial structures in the Gulf of Mexico. Many structures are referred to as “idle iron,” because they are no longer producing but have become popular places for fishermen and divers.

“They’re like an oasis in the desert,” says Dr. Greg Stunz, Endowed Chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. “Wherever you have a structure, you will have a congregation of marine life.”

Stunz is leading a two-year project monitoring Texas artificial reefs funded through Texas Parks and Wildlife. In all, Stunz and his researchers will collect data on 14 structures near Port Aransas, Port O’Connor, and Port Mansfield, all part of the Texas Artificial Reef Program. He hopes the project will provide important scientific information to help determine how fish populations utilize these surrogate reef habitats.

“One of the main reasons that fishery management agencies have multi-billion dollar industry and a renewable resource is because of their valuable habitats,” says Stunz. However, the Department of the Interior’s “Idle Iron Policy” would require the removal of all wells that have not been used in the last five years. Stunz is concerned that removing these platforms which contain such an immense quantity of ocean organisms could have detrimental impacts on the marine ecosystem.

“Artificial reefs are a way to enhance and rebuild some of the damage that has been done to the ocean,” Stunz says. “We’d like to see a reprieve from the ‘Idle Iron Policy’ at least until we get a better scientific grasp on the role these structures play in the Gulf ecosystem.”

Stunz adds that this work being conducted in the Gulf of Mexico can be viewed as a role model for other countries with numerous artificial reefs including Norway and areas surrounding the Baltic Sea. He stresses that what happens in the Gulf also directly affects our nearby neighbors in Mexico and Cuba.

On the Land and

Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science Measures

Threats to Gulf Coast

Since 1989, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science has provided real-time meteorological information essential for predicting and measuring water levels throughout the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON), a string of more than 25 monitoring stations along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Now, with the addition of six new Sentinel stations, scientists at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will be able to provide accurate real-time data even if the coast is hit by a major storm.

Unlike the older stations which are often knocked out by surging water, the new monitors, are installed on four-pile structures and placed approximately 15 feet above mean sea level and can continue to transmit data even in the face of a category four hurricane.

“The relatively high rate of sea level rise along the northern Gulf of Mexico requires continuous monitoring,” says Dr. Gary Jeffress, Director of the Blucher Institute. “Five of the largest U.S. ports in tonnage shipped are located in this area and disruptions due to storms can affect the entire nation.”

The Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS) is an extension of the TCOON. Developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this network of data collection stations measures and disseminates real-time measurements of water levels, currents, wind speed and direction, and other information mariners need to safely navigate the narrow channels connecting the Gulf Coast waters and inland ports.

On land, the Blucher Institute is updating elevations along the Texas coast as part of the National Height Modernization Project. In surveying 20 locations last year, Jeffress and his team found that many areas have dropped by as much as 1.5 feet since elevations were last measured in the 1950s, largely due to the extraction of oil, gas, and water from the ground. At the same time, climate change is causing sea levels to rise, making areas not previously vulnerable to flooding more likely to be at risk.

“Even one hurricane anywhere along the Texas coast can be dangerous for all residences and businesses close to the water,” stresses Jeffress. “In 2008, when Hurricane Ike hit Texas, flooding caused almost $30 million in storm damage in Jefferson County because an entire subdivision had been built using outdated data. The result was that landowners were forced to abandon their property.”

The TCOON monitoring network helps landowners better protect their investments and improve the accuracy of flood maps and insurance data.

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Deep down on the shores of Palau and high up on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, you can see the impact of millions of dollars in research and uncountable hours of service at the Island University. As you look into classrooms and labs on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, you’ll find it may just be the tip of the iceberg.

Online Programs Offer Flexible Learning to Accommodate Students’ Needs

The rapidly-expanding Office of Distance Education is providing high-quality flexible online classes to meet the needs of students who are juggling demanding family and work schedules as well as those living in rural areas. “We are constantly adding online offerings to reach out to the vast reservoir of talented students across Texas,” says Dr. Lauren Cifuentes, Director of Distance Education and Learning Technologies. “Through these programs, students who might not otherwise be able to earn a college degree can benefit from the expertise of our excellent faculty and learn the skills for a rewarding career that will also give them the means and opportunity to give back to the community.”

See it for yourself! Check out how eLine helps military earn degrees online at http://youtu.be/mdqVnEVMvM

Online programs now available include:
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science, Geospatial Surveying Engineering
- Master of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner, Leadership in Nursing Systems, Nurse Educator
- Master of Science, Educational Technology
- Bachelor of Science, Nursing
- eLine Military Program
- Bachelor of Science, Geographic Information Science

Upcoming online programs include:
- Master of Public Administration
- Public Administration Certificate
- Master of Science, Curriculum and Instruction
- Master of Science, Program Evaluation
- Elementary and Secondary Teacher Certification
- Online Teaching and Course Development Certificate

See it for yourself! Check out how eLine helps military earn degrees online at http://youtu.be/mdqVnEVMvM

Lena D. Coleman, founder and CEO of The L.C. Foundation, Inc., recently established an endowment to help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs implemented through the President’s Office.

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

In recognition of donors making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council. Donors with cumulative gifts to endowed scholarship funds of $50,000 or more are inducted into the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.

For more information about the Endowed Scholarship Council or other giving opportunities contact Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.
“The potential exists for us to have a valuable worldwide impact for years to come,” says Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Vice President for Research, Commercialization and Outreach. “Although we’re contributing to area economies by producing the workforce and creating new jobs, we must innovate with research that can create solutions worldwide, now and in the future.”

The University has some strong building blocks to grow its reputation. Our Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) has transformed us into global leaders in coastal monitoring. “We have shared our expertise with agencies and organizations in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala,” says Dr. Philippe Tissot, Associate Director of the CBI.

The Harte Research Institute is studying the effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, providing data to more effectively respond to environmental disasters in any body of water around the globe.

“We’re also exploring domestic and international laws that govern development of shared oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico,” says Dr. Richard McLaughlin, Endowed Chair for Marine Policy and Law. “For the first time, Cuba is engaging in deep water hydrocarbon exploration. We’re one of the few universities in the U.S. to collaborate with Cuba.”

Cifuentes says projects like these can become models for partnerships around the world that will harness the intellectual power of universities to better the lives of communities next door or in the next country.

“We have a responsibility to share our resources with governments, business, and communities in order to make the most of our work, and give our students the best opportunities,” he says.

Here are some areas where our research has a global impact:

**Fisheries**
- Studies of deepwater corals and their communities in the Caribbean
- Studies of fish populations in Indonesia, Micronesia, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica
- Limited fisheries policy and research collaborations with Cuba

**International Students**
- Foreign exchange students from China greeted Tianjin Pipe Group Corporation (TPCO) leaders during their exploratory visits to Corpus Christi.

**Harte Research Institute**
- Assisting with Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reserves in the Gulf Of Mexico” treaty signed in February 2012.
- Partnering with The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston for a binational research project to explore the domestic and international laws that govern development of shared oil and gas fields in the Gulf.
- Bringing together experts from the two nations to improve collaboration and find methods of more effectively responding to future oil spills in the Gulf.
- Investigating with researchers and government officials in Mexico and Cuba the feasibility of establishing a network of marine-protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Unmanned Aerial Systems**
- Global leader in research of Unmanned Aerial Systems/remote operated vehicles (ROV)
From OPPOSITE WORLDS

STUDENTS FROM INDONESIA’S CAPITAL, RIO GRANDE VALLEY BECOME BEST FRIENDS

Growing up in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley in the small town of Weslaco, Texas, Beija Mutuz would have never imagined that she would become best friends with an international student raised in one of the largest cities in the world.

Mutuz first met Vasha Bhatari, who is from Indonesia’s capital, Jakarta, in fall 2010 in the campus dorms. The following spring, the two finance majors grew close after Bhatari took a seat next to Mutuz in an accounting class.

“Vasha first told me about her involvement with the business fraternity, and that’s how we began talking,” recalls Mutuz, a junior. “I didn’t think I would have joined the fraternity if she didn’t tell me about it.”

The pair is now planning a trip to Indonesia this fall. “I helped Beija realize that there’s a whole other world out there,” says Bhatari, a senior. “I showed her that we are all students with the same issues, the same problems.”

Recently, Venkiteshwaran hired Bhatari as his assistant to assist him with research and student tutoring. She was his top student in his spring financial management class.

“I chose Vasha for her academic excellence,” he says. “She really wants to contribute, and is truly outstanding from hundreds of students.”

Of course, Mutuz is one of Bhatari’s biggest fans. Not only does Mutuz receive help with her accounting from Bhatari, but because of her best friend, Mutuz says she has become more accepting of different cultures, and more grateful overall.

“Vasha has inspired me to want to do more in school,” says Mutuz. “She is always willing to help others even when she has so much to do herself!” But Bhatari agrees that the lessons learned go far beyond the classroom.

“I helped Beija realize that there’s a whole other world outside the U.S.,” says Bhatari. “I showed her that we are all students with the same struggles, but we have our own unique qualities.”

GLOBAL ISLANDERS PROGRAM TO BRING THE WORLD TO OUR STUDENTS

The Island University has launched an exciting new program designed to bring the world right to the doorstep of its more than 10,000 students.

The Global Islanders Program kicks off this fall with a focus on Mexico and Central America. Every year, a new country or region will be highlighted.

“One of the elements in our Momentum 2015 Strategic Plan is to open up new global experiences for our students,” says Provost Christopher Markwood. “This program represents a collaborative, University-wide effort to help our students achieve a broader view of the world that they may otherwise not have a chance to experience.”

The Global Islanders Program is working to enhance many University experiences and learning environments such as film screenings, concerts, expert presentations, coffeehouse gatherings, and study abroad programs. The goal is to provide students with an international flavor. At the same time, the University is making community connections featuring events open to the public.

Other components will include a spring trip available to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members; and a fundraising/service-learning project through the University’s Rotary Club. The group plans to purchase clean water filtration systems to be used in Honduras in the spring.

“As this program continues to develop, the list of Global Islanders events, activities, and those involved, will become extensive,” Markwood says. “The idea is that by the end of four years, the student will have traveled the world through these experiences.”

“Like us” on Facebook! Search Global Islander

OUTSTANDING ISLANDERS FROM ABROAD

Maria Alejandra Gironza
junior mechanical engineering major
Hometown: Popayan, Colombia
Gironza works as a math tutor for the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), and helps plan campus events as a member of the Colombian Student Association.

Parthasarathy Krishnamoorthy
computer science graduate student
Hometown: Chennai, India
Krishnamoorthy is one of five international students who designed a website for the Molina Veterans Association. He serves as an international affairs chair for the India Student Association.

Yao Ran
senior communications major
Hometown: Zhengzhou, China
Yao, a mentor for the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), has been integral to Dr. Diana Ivey’s “Comm Night” as a selected speaker. Yao is applying for her Master of Arts in Communications.

Kwadwo Amoako-Baah
computer science graduate student
Hometown: Ghana, West Africa
Amoako-Baah is one of five international students who designed a website for the Molina Veterans Association. He is also an algebra tutor for the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA).

Baybars Kucuktekin
junior mechanical engineering major
Hometown: Izmit, Turkey
Kucuktekin, a teaching assistant for Dr. Mehmet Tugpangaci’s Material Science Class, works on numerous projects for the Mechanical Engineering Department. He works in the Bell Library Media Center, and is the events organizer for the Turkish Student Association.
Graduate Students Reach Out To Families in Rural Costa Rica

Counseling and Educational Psychology graduate students taught families living in rural areas of the Costa Rican rainforest how to live healthier during their first study abroad trip to the Solits Center for Research and Education in July. Students provided recommendations of services for special needs students, and offered strategies for teachers to provide personal, social, educational, and emotional support to students and their families. Island University students also met with students at the Technological Institute of Costa Rica for a mutual exchange of cultural knowledge. The students were accompanied by College of Education faculty members Dr. Michelle Hunnicutt Hollenshaug and Dr. Lisa Wines. College of Education students visited the Solits Center to carry out environmental science activities in the Costa Rican rainforest to develop ideas and strategies for teaching students of diverse cultures, belief systems, and experiences during the Maymester course "Environmental Science for the EC-12 Multicultural Classroom." Faculty members included Dr. Carmen Tijeda Delgado, Sandra Menoy, and Dr. Yvonse Castillo.

Printing in Europe

Ryan O’Malley was one of several printmaking professors across the nation invited to participate in the “Printmaking in Graafika Festi- val” held this summer in Pärnu, Estonia. The festival was organized by Academia Non Grata, an alternative independent art academy. While in Pärnu, the Island University Assistant Professor of Art had a solo exhibition and held live performance printing at the 2012 Kaalrula Skateboarding Competition.

After Estonia, O’Malley traveled to Room and Ambert in Auvergne, France, to par- ticipate in group exhibitions of contemporary American and French printmakers organized by French relief printmaker Marc Brunier-Mestas, and incoming Texas A&M Corpus Christi Master of Fine Arts student Jula Curran. O’Malley held demonstra- tions with residents, tourists, and children and interviewed La Montagne Magazine about the contemporary state of printmaking. O’Malley is working to bring special guest artists representing both countries to Texas A&M- Corpus Christi later this year and in 2013.

Taking to the High Seas

“Sometimes you find yourself halfway around the world. And, sometimes, halfway around the world, you find yourself.”

That’s how Dr. Patricia Olenick, Associate Professor in the Col- lege of Nursing and Health Sciences, sums up the three weeks she spent in June traveling the Philippine Islands with “Project Hope,” a volunteer group that works to make healthcare available to people throughout the world. Based aboard the USNS Mercy, the multinational team treated 680-700 patients a day. Ole- nick provided direct women’s healthcare to more than 100 patients with ailments ranging from headaches to cancer in makeshift clinics in auditoriums and schools. Olenick, who lived in the Philippines for two years as a child, also participated in educational exchanges with local doctors and nurses. In addition, she taught local midwives skills in baby resusci- tation using a bag and mask to achieve cardiac-respiratory stability. The medical volunteers followed a grueling schedule that began at 4:30 a.m. They worked in temperatures well over 100 degrees before calling it a day at around 8 p.m. However, the discomfort did not dampen Olenick’s enthusiasm.

“…To participate in a multinational team in pro- viding care and education to the people there was a dream come true,” she says. “As Gen. Douglas McArthur once said, I shall return!”

Training and Research Worldwide

When swimmers step onto the starting blocks at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olym- pics, chances are that some will have benefitted from strength and conditioning research from Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi kinesiology faculty.

Over the past two years, Dr. Jay Dawes, an Assistant Professor of Kine- siology, has presented on combination training methods to over 600 Olympic, national, and youth swim coaches in China’s Wuhan city and to national-level and international athletes and coaches at the Chinese National Baseball Team has helped elite athletes improve biomechanics and train their eyes to react more quickly, improving their athletic performance.

In January, Kinesiology’s sports management program is also making an impact. For the past two years, students have traveled to Portugal to market the Davis Cup, one of the world’s top men’s tennis competitions. The students also hosted a sports science clinic on visual training, nutrition, and biomechanics testing before the tournament. The 140,000 square-foot Island Hall, home of the Kinesiology Program in the College of Business, is the ideal platform for game-changing research. The facility, one of the top in the nation, features separate dedicated labs for biomechanics, motor development, and exercise physiology. It also includes an athletic training center and extensive facilities for recreational and competitive sports, research, and training.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 2012-13 Fall Catalog

A Concrete Story: A Coral Reef Restoration Initiative in the Gulf of California

Since 1994, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has been working with researchers from the University of California at San Diego and other institutions to study and implement coral reef restoration in the Gulf of California.

The project began with a study of the relationship between the corals and a species of sponge, known as the “pink sponge.” The pink sponge is a unique species that only grows on coral reefs and provides a habitat for many other species. The study found that the pink sponge is essential for the survival of the coral reef ecosystem.

The project then moved on to develop a technology to transplant the pink sponge onto the coral reef. The technology uses a combination of seedling transplanting and artificial reef structures to create new habitats for the pink sponge. The project has been successful in creating new habitats for the pink sponge, and has led to the development of new techniques for coral reef restoration.

The project has also been successful in creating new habitats for other species that depend on the pink sponge for their survival. The project has been successful in creating new habitats for the pink sponge, and has led to the development of new techniques for coral reef restoration.

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Dr. Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, was invited to present on the work he and his students have conducted on the study of memory using the marine snail Aplysia californica during the “10th East European Conference of the International Society for Invertebrate Neurobiology” held Sept. 6-10 in Moscow, Russia.

“The meeting was organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Physiological Society (Neuroscience Chapter). “This was an excellent opportunity to display to an international audience the groundbreaking research activity Chapter).

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“His research on memory

While living as a missionary in the wilds of Brazil for almost two years, Greg Johnson learned what it means to depend on God for many things that most people take for granted. “From his first day on campus he has been a self-starter, meeting students, sharing his story, and helping freshmen transition to university life,” says BSM director Eric Bean. “It’s obvious that Greg has a calling to minister in other cultures and that will help create a culture of missions within the BSM.”

Now, Johnson is sharing his faith with students as an intern with the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM), which has been part of the Island University since its inception in 1947. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is the latest stop for Johnson, who felt the call to missionary work while still a high school student in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Since graduating from college, he has twice traveled to Cambodia to volunteer at an orphanage and in 2008, he spent time in Bolivia helping dig water wells. While in Brazil working with the International Mission Board earlier this year, he was approached about continuing his mission at an American university, working with students, especially freshmen and international students who were making the transition to college. He chose Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

“Human beings have altered most everything in the world and that includes the species that populate our oceans,” says Bird, a molecular biologist who studies marine conservation and management. “We are inadvertently affecting how marine life is evolving. Whether it's overfishing, pollution from agriculture and industry byproducts, or the warming and acidification of the oceans, we are changing the genetic structure of marine populations day-by-day by altering natural selection.”

In his work, Bird, who joined the faculty at the Island University this fall after serving five years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Hawaii, studies factors that control the genetic structure of marine organisms. He is studying how harvesting regulations affect the evolution of populations and how that, in turn, affects the fishery yield. Bird also uses genetic data to design marine protected area (MPA) networks that increase fishery yield and population stability.

Dr. Andreas Fahlman
As an experienced deep-sea diver, Dr. Andreas Fahlman is fully aware of the effects that rapid decompression can have on the human body. As a researcher in the College of Science and Engineering, he is intrigued by the question of how marine animals respond physiologically and behaviorally to hypoxia and elevated pressures as they travel through and dwell among a wide range of habitats.

“In my research, I use both mathematical models and experiments to investigate when and how lungs collapse in marine mammals and if breath-holding diving animals ever experience nitrogen levels that could result in decompression sickness,” says Fahlman, a former specialist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution’s Marine Mammal Center. “If so, this raises the question to what extent does nitrogen limit diving performance in marine animals?”

Since graduating summa cum laude in Multidisciplinary Studies from Hawaii Pacific University in 1994, Fahlman, a native of Sweden, has traveled the world, living in the United States, England, South Africa, and British Columbia. In 2008, he earned his Doctor of Philosophy from Carleton University in Ottawa, Alberta, Canada. He joined the Island University faculty in 2011.

Dr. Chris Bird
Most people believe that evolution is a slow process that takes place over thousands and even millions of years. But for Dr. Chris Bird, it is a daily process that has a profound effect on marine animals and the industries that depend on their health and survival.

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The welcome center, adjacent to the Bell Library next to Lee Majors, is a starting point for prospective students and their parents. With University employees to assist them, students are able to finalize their applications and walk away knowing that they are a member of the Islander family.

What sets our welcome center apart is the complete package of services available to students, says University President Dwayne Killen. “We are one of the state’s top research institutions and it is this focus on moving South Texas ahead that we have embodied in the welcome center.”

The state-of-the-art facility provides prospective students with state-of-the-art technology and admissions forms. Visitors also have access to interactive touchscreen campus maps and a 32-seat media room to take a closer look at all the campus has to offer.

See it for yourself! Check out the Grand Opening of the Welcome Center at http://www.tamucc.edu/welcomecenter.
For Anthony Ciccarelli, it could have been just another one of those idle thoughts that amount to nothing. Instead, he had while watching a friend unplug when she flew for a vacation became, full-fledged business.

“Over my lifetime I’ve done a lot of traveling and I’ve learned a lot about living by a shoetire,” says Ciccarelli, who spent two years globetrotting after graduating from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management. “So when my friend added a whole suitcase just with shoes, I thought that there had to be a better way.”

In that fleeting moment, Ciccarelli came up with the concept of “High Heels” (pronounced High-Heels), an ingenious method for connecting women’s footwear for multiple purposes that has the potential to take the fashion accessory industry by storm. These changeable slip-on covers can transform a single pair of shoes into a variety of colors, prints, cutout design, and many other fun aspects. The covers also act like a tube sock, providing a more comfortable shoe.

In April, Ciccarelli enlisted the help of “Weeding Ladies,” a clothing and resale shop in Portland, Texas, where the first prototypes were stitched. With patent application secured, the fired-up neophyte headed to Las Vegas in August where his invention was enthusiastically received during a fashion industry convention. Other presenters were so impressed that they have approached Ciccarelli with their own accessories for his line.

“It’s a game changer for the fashion industry,” Ciccarelli says of his invention including a magnet that can be used to secure decorations such as team emblems and sorority signs to the shoe.

Ciccarelli recently approached a notable fashion industry executive who has the potential to take the fashion accessory industry by storm. These changeable slip-on covers can transform a single pair of shoes into a variety of colors, prints, cutout design, and many other fun aspects. The covers also act like a tube sock, providing a more comfortable shoe.

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Illinois and is working part time as a Doctorate in Ethnomusicology in the arts/writing teacher.

Kimberly S. Dake ’05 BA English lives in San Antonio, Texas, and does volunteer work with the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra.

Benjamin Hoffman ’06 BM Music is beginning his Ph.D. program in history at the University of Houston while working as a teaching assistant for the History Department.

Grant Nugent ’08 BS Criminal Justice and ’11 MS Counseling is pursuing a master’s degree in professional counseling. Since 2015, he has served as a reservist in the United States Army.

Monique “Swallow” Wellesley ’08 BA Communication is working on her Graduate Teacher Certification in Special Education at Texas A&M University–San Antonio.

Newman Wong ’08 BA Sociology is an institutional researcher at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He recently graduated from the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities Fall of 2012 class and is an alumnus to his fraternity Sigma Chi.

Carlos J. Martinez ’08 BA Theatre is a middle school theatre teacher.

Pongthorn Asawaniwed ’09 BS Criminal Justice earned his master’s degree in criminology in June and accepted a position as English lecturer at Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep, Bangkok, Thailand.

Grant Flack ’09 BA Art and his wife, Laura, a boy and a girl, Ryan and Avery.

Benjamin L. de Juhl ’08 BS Applied Leadership has joined Islander Alumni Committee’s Alumnus of the Year award, which will be presented at the 22nd anniversary.

Julia Cruz-Aedo ’12 BA Psychology is a teacher with the Corpus Christi Independent School District.

Michael Henneberger ’12 BA Communication is a digital production assistant at the San Antonio Express-News in New York City. He maintains the websites and social media sites for “Fosh It” and “Workaholics.”

Marina Martinez ’12 BS Criminal Justice is a full-time mother of three and works full time at Dupont in Ingleside, Texas. After earning a Bachelor’s degree, she entered the Title I office, which is the parent involvement mentoring to become a supervisor.

Jennie I. Washington ’12 BA Psychology is a public relations employee in the office for the city of Austin, Texas. He plans to install the sculpture mid-December at the Bartholomew Municipal Pool.


Joe Miller ’11 MA Public Administration is director of Education & Youth Programs at the Children’s Museum of the Americas in Houston.

Benny Ibarra ’03 BA Musical Theatre and his wife, Kim, are expecting a baby. They have two children, Gabriel and Nathan.

Grant W. Cooper ’03 BS Nursing completed a Master of Science in Nursing and is a LTCC (Long-Term Care Certificate) recipient. He recently graduated and is pursuing his Master’s as a psychiatric nurse practitioner and plans to join the Army Nurse Corps as a career military officer.

Benjamin S. Kanten ’00 BSN Nursing is an Army officer stationed in San Diego, Calif., and Molokai, Hawaii. He is working in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is a staff accountant at Collier, Johnson & Woods. She is a certified nurse midwife and is a staff accountant at Collier, Johnson & Woods.

Sarah (Hill) Callis ’07 BA Psychology and ’12 MSN Nursing is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is supervising at the Navy Exchange NASCC.

Christopher Burg ’06 BBA in Marketing and Christopher, his wife, Tiffany, were married in December.

Sarah (Hill) Callis ’07 BA Communications was married in 2011 at a surprise wedding ceremony at Executive Surf Club. She and her husband live in Austin, Texas, and she enjoys surfing at the church soup kitchen, and at the Racial Task Force helping victims of racially-motivated violence.

Jona S. Chui ’07 BBA Finance and Caitlin J. Chui ’08 MAC Accounting got married two years ago after falling in love while attending Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. He is an assistant vice president at Frost Bank, and she is a staff accountant at Codex, Johnson & Woods. They bought a house near the University where they plan to raise their future children.

Alicia Kelley ’10 BBA Marketing married and graduated with her master’s degree this year. Abby now lives in downtown Houston, Texas, with her husband, Allen, and their dog, Phoebe. She was most recently a family nurse practitioner for a local family practice and is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is supervising at the Navy Exchange NASCC.

Jennifer (Schott) Haynes ’07 BBA Accounting graduated Magna Cum Laude from Rice University in 2006. She lives in the Woodlands, Texas, with her two dogs and two cats and spends most of her time driving, working, and doing yard work.

Richard Isaac Garcia ’13 BS Biology earned his Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree in 2003, and works as an emergency physician’s assistant in Dallas/Fort Worth. He and his wife, Karin, have recently welcomed their first child.

Stephanie Rose Salinas-Ramos ’16 BS Biology, ’16 MS Counseling and ’12 MS Nursing is a labor and delivery nurse and named “RN of the Year.” She recently earned her Master’s in Higher Education Administration in May. She continues to work within local Tri-Delta chapter in recruitment.

Brandon Lee Harris ’15 BS Biomedical Sciences is a pediatric chaperone intern at Parkland University in Dallas, Texas. He and his wife, Amanda, have a child on the way. He plans to practice in Mississippi.

Alicia Kelley ’10 BBA Marketing married Gregory Garcia in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 11, 2011. She resides in Corpus Christi and is supervising at the Navy Exchange NASCC.

Amy Lockman ’12 BS in Biology was married on June 9, 2012.

He also plans to begin a master’s program in the Division of Statistics and Scientific Computation at the University of Texas–Austin.

Jessica Montalbo ’11 BS in Biology is buying a new house.

Irene Talamantes ’08 BBA in Marketing and ’11 MSN in Nursing is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Christus Spohn South and is supervising at the Navy Exchange NASCC.

Hannah Lena Schwartz ’11 BS Biomedical Sciences is pursuing her Master’s Degree in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Texas–Arlington.

Eric Giovannetti ’12 BS Biomedical Sciences is the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Parker University in Dallas, Texas.

Tiffaney, were married on Aug. 1, in Napa Valley, Calif. She was a digital production assistant at Cypress Creek Hospital in Corpus Christi.

Sarah (Hill) Callis ’07 BA Communications was married in 2011 at a surprise wedding ceremony at Executive Surf Club. She and her husband live in Austin, Texas, and she enjoys surfing at the church soup kitchen, and at the Racial Task Force helping victims of racially-motivated violence.

Jona S. Chui ’07 BBA Finance and Caitlin J. Chui ’08 MAC Accounting got married two years ago after falling in love while attending Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. He is an assistant vice president at Frost Bank, and she is a staff accountant at Codex, Johnson & Woods. They bought a house near the University where they plan to raise their future children.

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Amber Bright, a math and science teacher at Gregory-Portland Intermediate School, was one of 35 teachers who participated in experiments last summer aboard NASA’s “Weightless Wonder,” a reduced gravity aircraft that produces periods of weightlessness to train astronauts for missions into outer space. Bright was aboard the aircraft when it performed a series of maneuvers over the Gulf of Mexico. During free falls that lasted up to 25 seconds, Bright and her teammates gathered data in an environment which mimics conditions in outer space.

Prior to her selection, Bright, who earned her degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2011, wrote essays and submitted detailed lesson plan proposals on how she will incorporate her experiences into the classroom.

Rose González Pérez, who received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the Island University in 1987, has been selected to serve as chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. Pérez has more than 20 years of leadership experience in membership services, program delivery, fund development, community relations, and administration within the Girl Scout organization. She holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Certification in Non-profit Management from Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. She has also received numerous awards for her fundraising efforts on behalf of the American Cancer Society as an advocate for cancer awareness and research.

Mission of Mercy, a nonprofit agency that provides free healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured, has chosen insurance executive Leo Barrera to head its Texas Mobile Medical Program. Before his appointment, Barrera, who graduated from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (now Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) with a degree in marketing, served on Mission of Mercy’s Coastal Bend Leadership Council.

Following graduation in 1977, Barrera spent 34 years in the insurance industry specializing in group medical programs for small and large employers. He has been active in legislative affairs affecting the health insurance industry and maintains memberships in professional organizations, including the City-County Health District Advisory Board, Goodwill Industries and Rotary Club of Corpus Christi.

Southwest Securities, Inc., a leading regional securities firm based in Dallas, Texas, has named Jennifer Reed (not pictured), a graduate of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as senior vice president, director of Marketing. Reed, who joined SWS Financial Services in 2003 as a recruiter, became a trading representative before being promoted to business development manager in 2004. In her new role, Reed defines and executes marketing strategies for Southwest Securities’ retail brokerage and clearing services businesses.
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It’s your Island Callers on the line. Will you answer? Each student who has earned the opportunity to serve as an Island Caller is also your connection to learn about the great things that are going on at your University.

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