Do you know a current Islander student with a great invention, innovation, technology or business idea? The College of Business, the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center and Buc Days have teamed up to form the Buc Days Ideas Challenge, a business concept competition that will highlight the most promising innovations and entrepreneurial concepts developed by Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students. “We are fully committed to supporting entrepreneurship education,” said Dr. John Gamble, Dean of the College of Business. “Some of the brightest young minds are here at the Island University, and the Buc Days Ideas Challenge gives our students the opportunity to turn ideas into a tangible business or product.”

Prizes for the Buc Days Ideas Challenge include:
- **First place** - $3,000; a one-year membership to the Innovation Center Student Incubator; entry as a top 40 semifinalist in the Raymond Ideas Challenge at A&M-College Station
- **Second place** - $2,000 and a one-year membership to the Innovation Center Student Incubator
- **Third place** - $1,000 and a one-year membership to the Innovation Center Student Incubator
- **Best video** - $500

Applications are being accepted through Dec. 15.

For more information, go to [www.bucdaysideaschallenge.com](http://www.bucdaysideaschallenge.com).

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**Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center Annual Report Highlights 2014 Accomplishments**

The year 2014 marked an exciting time of accomplishment for the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, its clients, and the University, according to its latest annual report.

As part of major projects in 2014, the Innovation Center:
- Assisted the Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence and Innovation, which began unmanned aerial vehicle range operations with interested entities across the globe
- Hosted a two-week program for successful entrepreneurs from Latin America
- Presented pre-incubation classes to eight new clients
- Collaborated with A&M-Corpus Christi research faculty for commercialization opportunities
- Helped develop the new initiative of the Coastal Bend Business Plan Competition Committee Innovation Competition
- Collaborated with the University’s technical writing class to assist with search engine optimization for Innovation Center clients
- Assisted in the capstone project for graduate students in the Master of Accountancy program

As part of the College of Business, the Innovation Center is a small business incubator that nurtures the development of innovative companies by providing access to a ready-made network of business and professional resources. Since 2009, the Innovation Center has assisted more than 120 early-stage entrepreneurs.

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**FAST FACTS:**

- 9,804 Undergraduate Students
- 1,857 Graduate Students
- 11,661 Total Student Enrollment
- 23:1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio
- 2,272 Living on Campus

*Fall 2015 Student Enrollment Reports*
Senior management students in Dr. Margaret Lucero’s Critical Thinking and Decision Making class offered nonprofit organizations solutions to help solve some of the current challenges they face.

Nonprofit organizations who participated included CASA of the Coastal Bend, People Assisting Animal Control, Youth Odyssey, Corpus Christi Roadrunners, Timon’s Ministries and South Texas Children’s Home Ministries.

Students completed a series of three projects that combined their management knowledge with new skills in creative problem solving. They created poster boards to help showcase a problem and proposed a solution to fix it. The six nonprofit organizations, the campus community and the general public were invited to this event.

“It is important for students to have a chance to connect classroom learning to real problems,” said Lucero, a Professor of Management. “This also gives them a chance to visit with a nonprofit organization while they learn about the services provided by the nonprofit organization and the kind of challenges that the managers or founders in that organization face.”
University’s In-School Therapy Program Helps Troubled Teens

Teens talk to Dr. Richard Ricard and his team during a behavioral intervention program that is helping at-risk students in the Coastal Bend.

The “Teen Talk” program teaches students the skills needed to create effective relationships and become better learners. The program helps local high school students who have been sent to Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs for major offenses.

“Our program focuses on positive skill development that helps students to overcome some of the difficulties they experience in both home and school environments,” said Ricard, Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

School administrators have said that the therapy is effective, and has resulted in a reduction in behavioral referrals for students.

When students arrive, they are offered the intervention group therapy with a University counselor twice a week for eight weeks.

Ricard said this research project is an example of how a University can address the needs of a community and give students the tools they need to flourish in society.

First Silverman Endowed Professorship in Literacy Awarded

Dr. Chase Young, Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Instruction at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received the Barbara Gail Silverman Endowed Professorship in Literacy.

“This endowed professorship will allow Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to attract and retain the highest-quality faculty in the discipline of literacy,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, University President and CEO. “We firmly believe, as Mrs. Silverman did, that literacy and education are the foundation for strong families and strong communities.”

Silverman, who was an Islander alumna and active member of the Corpus Christi community, was a much-loved and esteemed public and school librarian. She passed away in 2012. The Silverman family hopes their gift not only encourages advancement in academics, but also keeps Barbara’s memory alive.

“Mrs. Silverman is certainly an inspiration. She viewed children’s literature as a precious gift and she shared it with everyone,” stated Young. “I try humbly to keep her legacy alive.”
The Islander Ring not only marks a milestone achievement, but it can also bond fellow Islanders. U.S. Army Captain Marcos R. Garcia, an Islander alumnus, shares this story about just such a connection.

Recently, Garcia assisted at a briefing at Army Materiel Command Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama. There, he met Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche, an Islander alumnus.

“When we shook hands, we saw each other’s ring. That’s when we connected,” said Garcia.

During their fortuitous meeting, Garcia and Wyche spent time talking about their alma mater.

“The Islander Ring is a symbol of tradition, pride and university spirit,” said Garcia. “I worked hard to earn this ring.”

A&M-Corpus Christi official rings are a major part of the University’s tradition and serve as a lasting symbol of accomplishment. Official Ring Ceremonies are offered twice per year, during the fall and spring semesters.
New Graphic Design Degree Program Underway for Island University

The Island University is planning to offer a new degree in graphic design as early as fall 2016. The program received approval from the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in September and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October.

“We have seen a boom in workforce need within graphic design and with ad agencies,” said Amanda Garcia, Associate Professor of Art at A&M-Corpus Christi. “We are placing more students in large brands – Apple or Flint Hills or Whole Foods. This degree program is a necessary step for students who are looking for these jobs right out of college.”

According to the U. S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook, graphic designers generally need a bachelor’s degree in graphic design or a related field and a professional portfolio that demonstrates their best design work.

Garcia said graduates will be very competitive in the workforce, having breadth of skills, knowledge and extensive portfolios.

The department has grown from one to nine classes over the last 10 years. This major will add 13 courses, allowing students to develop deeper mastery of skills that were previously covered only briefly in one semester.

The Island Waves Student Newspaper Wins 13 TIPA Awards

The Island Waves Newspaper competed at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) spring convention and won one ‘On-Site Competition’ award, one ‘Best in Show’ award for a current issue of the Island Waves, and 11 individual awards for items published in 2014.

“These awards show off the skills of the student reporters and editors who work for Island Waves,” said Wendy Moore, Faculty Adviser of the Island Waves Student Newspaper. “They also show the students and the University that they are learning quality journalism skills and implementing them in a way that provides meaningful and well-written content to the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi community.”

Founded in 1909, TIPA is the oldest and one of the largest collegiate press associations in the nation. Each year, contests are held in general magazine, radio, television, online, two divisions of yearbook, two divisions of literary magazine, and four divisions of newspaper, plus more than a dozen on-site contests during the annual convention. Check out the latest issue online.
Lack of Daily Small Talk Could Lead to Poor Parent-Child Relationships, Says Island University Researcher

Small talk has big consequences for the relationship between parents and their children. Dr. Stephanie Rollie Rodriguez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, conducted in-depth interviews with parents who do not live with their children to understand changes in the relationship when parents don’t have a chance to interact with their children on a daily basis.

“Participants who have limited interactions struggle to ‘know’ their children while those with frequent interaction with their children have access to the mundane stories of their children’s lives, which helps to maintain the relationships,” she said.

Rodriguez’s participants revealed they had to play “catch-up” in order to get information about their children’s daily activities.

“This has implications for all kinds of relationships,” Rodriguez said. “It reinforces the idea that a lot of relational maintenance and a sense of ‘knowing’ someone comes from daily interaction and small talk.”

Visit theIslander.tamucc.edu to access video content and interactive features.
The Island University has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of more than $1 million to boost the White House-recognized eLine Military Program that fast-tracks nursing degrees for veterans with prior medical experience.

Many veterans who served in a medical capacity as medics or corpsmen find their experience does not translate into the credentials recognized in the civilian world. The eLine Military Program solves this problem by individually evaluating military medical experience for appropriate academic credit.

“This program gives individuals credit for what they already know, and keeps them from having to start the program from the beginning,” said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

For example, a veteran who receives credit for prior medical training can complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 15-18 months, compared to 24 months like most BSN students.

This Health Resources and Services Administration award ($349,965 each year for three years) will allow veterans to begin the program six months before leaving the military. For more information, go to e linemilitary.tamucc.edu.
The eLine Military experience in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is improving thanks to the use of elslander technology. elslander uses iPads and the WebEx app to make online classes and learning clinical skills more engaging and accessible to students from all backgrounds and situations. elslander was developed by Dr. Jason E. Saladiner, the college’s Director of Innovative Programs.

The lab configuration of elslander consists of two or more iPads, retractable carbon fiber wheelchair mounts, a microphone stand, and one external microphone. Using the WebEx app, the iPad is configured as a network camera. The recording capability also allows for archiving demonstrations, which allows students to view the lab at a later time.

“I feel like I’m getting the same experience that a face-to-face student would get,” said Elizabeth Armstrong, a student who lives in Virginia. “I feel like I’m getting a great education, and I feel like an Islander.” Watch an elslander demonstration online.
Electrical Engineering and Atmospheric Sciences Added to Degree Programs

The Island University is now offering a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering, and soon will offer a bachelor’s degree in Atmospheric Sciences. Both received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this year.

“We are excited about the opportunity to fill the regional economic need for a more skilled workforce in the Coastal Bend,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. “The Electrical Engineering program builds on our successful and popular mechanical engineering program that focuses on unmanned flight and geospatial sciences.”

The University’s Atmospheric Sciences degree will be only the second of its kind offered in the state.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for careers as broadcast meteorologists, weather forecasters, or climate researchers with federal agencies such as the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, NASA, National Weather Service, or private companies.

HRI Students Experience Gulf Wonders Underwater during Annual Coral Spawn

Master’s and doctoral students and scientists at the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies travelled to the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary in August to dive during the annual coral spawn. The sanctuary is a series of coral-topped submerged banks located 110 miles off the Texas coast. The spawn itself is considered one of the most spectacular events in the biological world.

“My goal in bringing our students and researchers here is to remind them why the HRI exists and why what they do matters,” said Dr. Larry McKinney, HRI Executive Director and organizer of the annual event. “It is a unique opportunity to literally immerse yourself in something that is more than just science – it is life at its fullest and most meaningful.”

The coral spawn, occurring nine days after the first full moon in August, is triggered by the light of the moon and sun. Scientists believe that these mass spawning events are designed to allow genetic mixing and dispersal of offspring over large distances.

See photos from the trip.
Mapping Application Lets Emergency Responders See Scenes Virtually

A mapping application that allows first responders to quickly and easily “see” an emergency situation with a digital command center is heading to the commercial market later this year.

The SituMap app, created by Dr. Richard Smith, Assistant Professor of Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Surveying Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, is the first product for CartoFusion Technologies.

SituMap acts as a tablet-like digital command center that shows law enforcement officers maps of crisis areas. The easy-to-learn, multi-user, multi-touch software mapping application is designed to cultivate participation, collaboration, conversation and rapid decision making. Smith says there is nothing else like it available on the market.

On the table-sized touch screen display, multiple high-level decision makers can zoom, rotate, and draw. They can search locations, measure distances, and create strategically located representational pins. Directions can then be relayed to officers at the emergency location.

The newly formed CartoFusion Technologies, working with the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, has lined up investors and partners, including Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, and Texas A&M System Technology Commercialization. See SituMap in action.

FAST FACTS:

Doctorate in Geospatial Computing Sciences began fall 2015
Bachelor’s in Electrical Engineering began fall 2015
Bachelor’s in Atmospheric Sciences to begin in 2016

NEW DEGREES

Undergraduate Students
Graduate Students
Total Student Enrollment
Island University and Buc Days Host ‘Ideas Challenge’ Competition

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Hello Fellow Alumni!

My name is Russell Wagner, class of 2008, and I am the new Director of Engagement. I oversee all of our alumni programming at the Island University, and serve as the Executive Director of the National Alumni Association. We’re working on ways to get our graduates more involved throughout the state. We currently have a chapter in Houston, and will soon have chapters in San Antonio and Austin. I look forward to seeing you at all the great events we have in store! Check them out at islanderalumni.org.

Millions from BP Settlement to Benefit Texas Gulf Research

Island University Leads RESTORE Center of Excellence

Leaders with Texas’ RESTORE Centers of Excellence plan to use millions in spill-related Clean Water Act funding on research and science activities that will benefit Texas and help restore the health of the Gulf of Mexico. In July, BP settled federal, state and local claims totaling more than $18.7 billion in penalties for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Texas OneGulf, a consortium of nine Texas institutions led by the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at A&M-Corpus Christi, was one of the first designated RESTORE Centers of Excellence in the nation to receive funding from the U.S. Treasury.

The establishment of the Centers in January is part of Texas’ ongoing implementation of the federal RESTORE Act, which requires that the five Gulf states affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill establish centers to conduct research into environmental, health, economic and energy issues in the Gulf of Mexico region.

“The Harte Research Institute is gratified and humbled to lead a statewide effort,” said Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director of the HRI. “The Center of Excellence gives us opportunities to bring together all the best Texas scientists.”

Texas OneGulf will address priority issues such as establishing a network of Texas-based Gulf of Mexico experts; developing metrics to objectively assess the health of the Gulf; and developing a system to ensure the state’s emergency responders can quickly access academic resources when responding to oil spills, hurricanes and other disasters.

Texas OneGulf and the Subsea Systems Institute at the University of Houston will equally share an initial $4.036 million. The RESTORE Centers of Excellence, including Texas OneGulf, will receive 2.5 percent of $5.5 billion in Clean Water Act fines to be paid out over 15 years. Learn more by watching a video online.
The Island University Names New Provost and Executive VP of Finance and Administration

Two top administrators at A&M-Corpus Christi have been promoted: Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is now Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Terry Tatum, former Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, is now Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Quintanilla joined the communications department faculty in 1994, and later became department chair and then the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She helped the College establish The School of Arts, Media & Communication and enhanced course offerings in journalism, graphic design and media production.

“I am excited to take on new responsibilities centered on maintaining student success, enrollment and retention, and developing new academic programs,” Quintanilla said.

Tatum, who has more than 19 years of experience in higher education leadership roles, joined the Island University in March 2010.

“I’m ready to take on the challenges that involve keeping tuition costs low and making higher education accessible to all students,” said Tatum.

Prior to coming to A&M-Corpus Christi, Tatum was Associate Vice President for Information Technology at the University of Texas and Assistant Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Lone Star UAS Center Tests Technology, Connects with Industry and Public

The University’s Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center (LSUASC) of Excellence and Innovation has worked with more than 200 industry contacts supporting efforts to use UAS safely in a variety of fields. The Center, one of only six federally designated test sites, is conducting testing in air traffic control and communications for the Federal Aviation Administration, in order to develop protocols for dealing with runways in use by piloted craft and standards of communication between UAS and the Mission Control Center. These will help safely integrate UAS into the national airspace.

In addition to businesses testing at the LSUASC, University researchers continue to test the RS-16, a fixed-wing UAS with a nearly 13-foot wingspan, at the Port Mansfield airport. Officials completed an early morning flight in the dark in June, and collected imagery of the shoreline to compare with traditional ground surveying methods.

Lone Star UAS Center officials are also researching traffic management, situational awareness and radar systems technology – all critical tools that will allow UAS to fly safely beyond the sight of operators.

High school students, too, are learning about drones. Twenty local students attended a UAS Summer Institute in July, programming and flying drones on an indoor course.

LSUASC officials also hosted a meeting in September, inviting the public to hear updates and ask questions.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Scores Sand Volleyball as New Sport

The Island University now has a Sand Volleyball intercollegiate athletic program.

The addition of the sport was celebrated in June at a grand opening ceremony for the newly created courts at the Momentum Campus, inside the Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer and Track Stadium.

“Sand volleyball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the nation, and we are positioned perfectly to compete in this arena,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, University President and CEO. “Our volleyball team is already strong, and the addition of sand volleyball allows our female athletes to expand their skills by playing throughout the year.”

The addition gives Islanders Athletics 16 sports competing at the Division I level. The program will be coached by the current Islanders Volleyball staff, under the direction of Head Coach Tony Graystone.

The sport is slated to host its first official collegiate championship in the spring of 2016. It will become the 90th sport to hold an NCAA Championship.

See photos from the event.