

LAREDO MORNING TIMES

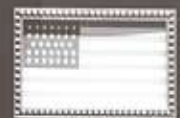


Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States
1809-1865

View of Fort by their Parents etc



Handwritten letter or document



General Winfield Scott
General of the U.S. Army
1781-1861



Fort Lafayette



Sec. of State William Seward

TAMU'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

PART 6 OF 12: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Handwritten letter or document



General Benjamin F. Butler



Public Document

Public Document

Public Document

Handwritten letter or document

Handwritten letter or document

Handwritten letter or document

Handwritten letter or document

Telegrams with envelopes to John Williams' father stating in part "Your son's discharge has been sent by mail to Fort Warren, Martin Burke, Lt. Col. with pass for John Williams to go from Fort Lafayette to Fort Warren" dated November 12, 1861

Large handwritten letter or document

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TAMIU 50th Anniversary

TAMIU's 50th anniversary Special Collections



Ribbon cutting of the current Special Collection and Archives

By Christian Alejandro Ocampo
Laredo Morning Times

TAMIU has been a monumental achievement for the City of Laredo, Webb County and the surrounding region. With constant change and growth, history is made often and the TAMIU Special Collections and Archives has been gathering as much information as possible since July 1999.

According to TAMIU, regional history is the primary focus of the repository, and the archives serve as a regional historical resource depository for Webb, Dimmit, La-

“History is constantly being made, and so it’s an active process here trying to see what’s important to document and what’s important to preserve. We continue to collect.”

**- Jeannette Hatcher,
Special Collections Librarian**

Salle, Maverick, Zapata and Zavala counties. Documents saved include both civil and criminal court cases, engineering and planning documents and city to federal files.

Hatcher is a Laredo-born citizen who is tasked with caring for and adding to the collection. As the depository’s record keeper, Hatcher is in charge of overlooking new additions with the use of collection

parameters, research trends and her own history professional input.

She holds undergraduate degrees in history and government from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin’s School of Public Affairs and is a professional librarian.

Hatcher has been at TAMIU since 2003 and has been working on

building the collections and helping students with their research needs. Hatcher said the whole idea of knowing what happened before and being able to learn from the past is important to her. She also said being able to be a part of preserving history in the region and being able to disseminate that research is transformational and important.

“That’s what we’re about here in the archives, it’s preserving the original material for as long as possible,” Hatcher said.

The archives are temperature-controlled environments that have UV filtering in order to protect each piece of the collection. Hatcher said there is no substitute for the materials which include letters written by

TAMIU 50th Anniversary

Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, George Washington and more.

"I could show you a really nice photocopy of the Benjamin Franklin letter, but if you and I are standing in front of a letter that you know he touched, doesn't it feel different," Hatcher said. "It inspires you to want to know, what was he writing about."

The letter is part of an exhibit featuring multiple letters and documents written during Colonial America. The documents are authentic and showcase pictures of the authors. From King George III to Thomas Jefferson, the exhibit hosts a plethora of

historical value.

The exhibit also showcases a more in-depth look into these historical figures in a way not seen in an average textbook.

According to Hatcher, during the time of the Civil War, a man was asked to take a loyalty oath to President Abraham Lincoln but declined. He was put into custody, and in order to get him out, his wife needed to post bond. Unfortunately, she could not afford it.

She reached the bond amount with the help of others, but then she needed assistance in creating the bond. When she had trouble forming it, she went directly to President Lincoln and asked



Group photo during the donation by the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra



A letter written by Benjamin Franklin



Jeanette Hatcher retrieves a first edition *Missionary Adventures in Texas and Mexico*

TAMIU 50th Anniversary



Leather bound books of regional criminal and civil court documents



Photos during the 2011 Lincoln Exhibit

for his help.

“Lincoln, the man to whom her husband would not swear a loyalty oath, and said, ‘Mr. President can you help me?’” Hatcher said. “He said, ‘Why yes, of course.’”

Lincoln then wrote a letter to the Secretary of State to help the woman post bond. Hatcher said that she believed that he knew how difficult and divisive the war was and felt bad for a woman who was desperate to re-

cover her husband.

A wall dedicated to this one story showcases over 20 letters, yet the main attraction is a small letter with less than 10 words written by President Lincoln himself. This exhibit has been on display for years and will continue to be at TAMIU to give everyone an opportunity to see it.

Transitioning from Colonial America to Laredo’s Americans, there is also an exhibit where visitors



Norma Cantu speaks to a crowd during a Faculty Author Book Collection

can see excavated items from a burial site. The excavation uncovered numerous materials and items such as a small gold cross, a clay chocolatera and coronets of the dead.

As the TAMIU 50th anniversary celebration continues, the archives also house documents that signify the start of the university which allowed higher education to flourish in Laredo.

As part of the tour, the info sheet

states that Texas A&I University at Laredo was founded on June 14, 1969 as a Center of Texas A&I University in Kingsville. This is after the Coordinating Board for Higher Education neglected to include Laredo in its 1970s plan because Laredo could not produce enough enrollees for a university.

A letter by Speaker Ben Barnes states that in statistics by the Coordinating Board, only 20.2% of Laredo

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high school graduates looked for higher education. It also states that the statewide average was 27%.

Leonides and Joaquin Cigarroa, along with 25 representatives of Laredo gathered in Austin, asked the board to amend the plan. They highlighted the negligence of a higher education institution in South Texas and presented 8,000 signatures to be added in the case for a university.

Leonides also sent a letter to protest the decision to ignore Laredo stating how it would be a mistake. It states that there was no institution of higher education within 125 miles of Laredo and how many parents had many children, but they would not have an academic opportunity in their future.

The signatures, the letter and the persistence were enough to change the minds of the board, and it led to the Laredo State University and then TAMIU.

The exhibit also showcases a chronological tour of the plans and construction of the first buildings. According to Hatcher, the Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library was the first building to be built, and before hiring a TAMIU president or director, a librarian was the first employee hired.

“The Special Collection and Archives at TAMIU is one of our most cherished features because it celebrates our shared stories. Our designation as the official regional historical resource depository for Webb County means that those stories are preserved and will be shared for generations to come,” TAMIU President Dr. Pablo Arenaz said. “I think this designation has helped to encourage others to donate their historic materials and help preserve their remarkable history in the uni-

versity’s Special Collections and Archives. It’s a source of great pride.”

The Special Collections and Archives are open to the public, and individual assets can be checked out to see and read after receiving permission from the collection staff. Donations can be made and be evaluated by Hatcher.

Over the years, the archives have been visited by students from all over Laredo for an in-depth look at history. Events have been held at the archives as well, like the Abrazo Children introductions of 2019. Whether a student, resident or Laredo visitor, the Special Collections and Archives are open to the public.

It currently houses a Bob Bullock series which includes over 15 books, tens of thousands of cases from the mid-1800s to the 1930s, and the massive volumes of the Saint John’s bible. Hatcher said that the collection looks for first edition books due to them being the source and to avoid the changes made to the author’s original writing after reprinting.

According to the Khan Academy, as humans discover more ways to keep track of time, they also develop more accurate ways of keeping records and recording history. Using her careful parameters, Hatcher is the regions record keeper who will undoubtedly shape the future with each new piece of history she collects at TAMIU.



Attendees overlook photo albums during the 2018 Abrazo Children council meet-up



A group photo of the 2018 Abrazo Children and past Abrazo Children



Upcoming Schedule

Discover TAMIU	Feb. 29
Homecoming & Tailgate	Feb. 2020*
Presidential Lecutre Series	March 25
The Big Event	March 28
TAMIU athletics BBQ Party & Car Show	March 28
TAMIU Alumni Golden Celebration	March 28
Celebration of Life	April 7
TAMIU Planetarium 15th anniversary	April 2020
25th annual University Life Awards	April 23
Ring Ceremony	April 29

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A personal photo



Attendees overlook photo albums during the 2018 Abrazo Children council meet-up



Items from the old Laredo burial site



Attendees tour and see the new Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra donated material

“The importance of history is that you learn from it, so that we can make better choices, the best possible choices in the future having learned from all the interesting things that happened in the past.”
- Jeannette Hatcher, Special Collections Librarian



Remarks are given during the Lupita Ramirez genealogy Collection presentation



A ledger of criminal and civil court documents



Group photo during the Lupita Ramirez Genealogy Collection Presentation



Previous century photographs

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Portraits of President George and Martha Washington



Children tour through the Special Collection and Archives



An 1893 general grocer proof of purchase

50
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
A World of Difference



**SHARE
YOUR
STORY!**

Your story is our story – and now it's time to share that story! We're inviting individuals who have been impacted by the University to share a memory or moment that's forever changed their lives.

 **VISIT** us at <http://50.tamiau.edu/yourstory>.

 **UPLOAD** your story, photos, and videos.

 **SUBMIT** your story.

 **FOLLOW TXAMIU** on our official social media channels.



Late 1800s check



Group photo during the Lupita Ramirez Genealogy Collection Presentation

For more information on TAMIU's 50th anniversary, follow TXAMIU on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and Spotify, use the hashtag #TAMIU50 and visit the school's website at 50.tamiau.edu.



[TAMIU.EDU/50](https://tamiu.edu/50)

From a study carrel on a shared campus to three name changes and an inspiring home on 300-acres in northeast Laredo, TAMIU has quite a story.

And with over 29,000+ alumni worldwide, we're really living up to our 50th Anniversary theme, "A World of Difference."

Our Alumni Golden Celebration, Saturday, March 28 from 7 – 11 p.m., is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect with the University that has made that difference possible. It's a time to come home.

We hope you'll come home, join our Celebration and share in our story.

*It's a story 50 years in the making.
It's the story of a lifetime.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 29 – 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Discover TAMIU 956.326.2720; tamiu.edu/discover/tamiu/
March 28 – Alumni Golden Celebration. Ticket Info at 956.326.4483 or go.tamiu.edu/golden**

We Thank Our 50th Anniversary Visionary Event Sponsors: Falcon Bank, The City of Laredo, Texas Community Bank, IBC Bank, Webb County, and La Posada Hotel.

5201 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, LAREDO, TX 78041 • 956.326.2270

