



THE INTERNATIONAL

TEXAS A&M  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

# WE GO BEYOND >

2016 Annual Report

# And THIS IS HOW WE DO IT

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## STAY CONNECTED



# MEET THE PRESIDENT

## Getting to Know TAMIU's Sixth President: Dr. Pablo Arenaz

This November, Dr. Pablo Arenaz became a part of TAMIU's history. He's now the sixth president of the University as affirmed by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

An acclaimed research scientist who's secured over \$34 million in research grants, he's a tireless advocate for minority participation in science and research. He'll also be the first to tell you that it's highly unlikely anyone's childhood dream is to become a university president...but he quickly reminds that change only happens through leadership.

His short-, mid- and long-term vision for the future of the University includes breaking ground for a new academic/laboratory building, adding new doctoral degrees in criminal justice, humanities and education, and transforming TAMIU from a comprehensive master's institution to a doctoral institution that's a national higher education destination.

Dr. Arenaz provided some fascinating insight and perspective as he takes on the role of TAMIU president.

### **How would your grade school teachers have described you?**

My teachers would probably have described me as smart, but undisciplined... someone who talked constantly. I remember my fifth grade teacher describing me to my parents as a "walking encyclopedia."

### **What was your first job?**

My very first job was as a paperboy for the *North Las Vegas Valley Times*, but I'd say my first real job was a box boy and bagger for a grocery store.

### **How would you describe your childhood in Las Vegas?**

Although growing up in Las Vegas might seem unusual, my childhood was pretty normal.

### **When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?**

For as long as I can remember, I have had a curiosity about how living things work...at 12, my parents gave me a microscope and I spent a lot of time looking at pond water and marveling at different life forms. I credit my love of science to my high school biology class and a great instructor – Virgil Sestini – who brought biology to life.





### What is your most memorable research experience?

Three major events stick out the most: first, having my first paper published; second, having a paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*; and third, and probably most significant, my role in the cloning of the Chinese hamster apurinic/apyrimidinic endonuclease (AP endonuclease) gene. AP endonuclease is a primary protein involved in the repair of certain types of damage to the DNA molecule.

### What one word would you use to describe TAMIU at this time in its history?

The one word I would use is DYNAMIC. We are a dynamic institution, constantly looking for new ways to improve what we do and to enhance the capabilities of our students and faculty.

### What three things would you insist that TAMIU students undertake?

Students should engage in a research/scholarship opportunity in their discipline with a faculty member, participate in at least one internship, and experience at least one study abroad trip.

### What can students, faculty, alums and Laredoans do to help advance TAMIU?

Students need to become more engaged with the University community through student organizations and participate in leadership. Faculty should always be involved as mentors and provide student research experiences. I would hope that alumni and the Laredo community at large would engage our students as interns and provide shadowing opportunities.

For an extended version of this story, including more on the future at TAMIU, visit <http://tinyurl.com/tamiuarenaz>

## TAMIU's Rankings Continue to Impress

TAMIU students and graduates can continue to take pride in their alma mater with growing accolades and national recognition that underscore the University's visionary ability to deliver its mission and Go Beyond.

According to the 2016 Student Success Ratings by Eduventures, a leading research and advisory firm, TAMIU is the nation's top public Master's-level university when it comes to student retention. Retention rate is directly aligned to increased likelihood of timely degree completion, which can also spell substantial savings for students and their families, and speed career entry. TAMIU's retention rate, 78%, is also the highest among A&M System regional universities.

TAMIU has been ranked eighth in the Top Ten "Best Bang for the Buck" among the nation's Southern Colleges by *Washington Monthly Magazine* in its 2016 *College Guide*. The Guide ranks institutions by social mobility, civic engagement and research; and also measures those that are the best value based on net price.

Other program or specific rankings include:

### SECOND

TAMIU's Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA) with a concentration in Finance was ranked second in the nation.  
<http://tinyurl.com/affordableschools>

### No. 3

TAMIU's MBA program has been ranked No. 3 among the Top 50 Affordable MBA Programs in 2016.  
<http://tinyurl.com/top50MBA>

### TOP 15

TAMIU programs are ranked among the Top 15 Most Affordable Bachelor's degrees in the nation according to Affordable Schools.  
<http://tinyurl.com/top15Affordable>

### FIRST

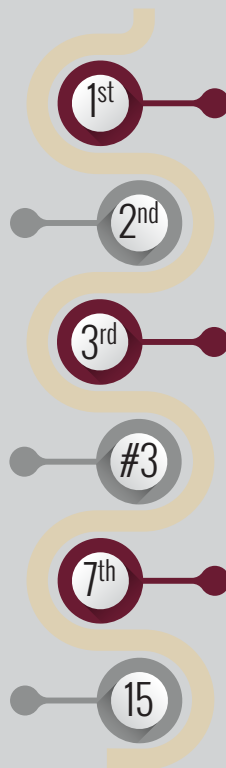
TAMIU ranked first among schools that offer Bachelor's degrees for students looking to become a teacher in Texas.  
<http://tinyurl.com/tobecomeateacher>

### THIRD

The University ranked third among schools offering master's programs by ToBecomeATeacher.org.  
<http://tinyurl.com/tobecomeateacher>

### SEVENTH

The University's Bachelor's of Arts in English was ranked seventh in the nation by Affordable Schools, an online resource.  
<http://tinyurl.com/affordableschools>



# OUR CAMPUS



TAMIU dance students soar as they take part in master classes provided by visiting members of one of Texas' premier contemporary dance companies, NobleMotion Dance Company. Renowned for integrating technology and theatre into dance, the Company also presented a free community dance performance.



TAMIU students gather to celebrate the traditional Indian Holi Festival of Colors, commemorating the beginning and hope of Spring; UC Santa Cruz economist Dr. Michael P. Dooley visited campus to discuss international economics and Gillman International Scholarship recipients Cynthia Chapa, Melissa Chávez, Mariana González and Alexandra Vásquez traveled to study in Málaga and Madrid, Spain; Paris, France, and India.

# NEWS



## New Dean takes College of Education Leadership

There's certainly an international dimension to new

Texas A&M International University Dean of the College Education Dr. James O'Meara, originally from Australia.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents appointed Dr. O'Meara to his new post in September.

With 15 years as a collaborative college leader and 14 years of international teaching experience, O'Meara joins the University from the National Louis University of Chicago, IL where he was Associate Dean.

O'Meara said he is excited about joining TAMIU.

"Among all the places I have visited, Laredo stands out for its record of high achieving students and schools," he said, "As the Dean of the College, I am excited about working with our world class faculty who are preparing our future leaders to rise to the challenges of our increasingly global society."

O'Meara earned his Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Ballarat, Australia. He also holds a Master of Arts in Distance Education from the Open University Milton Keynes, United Kingdom, and his Bachelor of Education from the University of Ballarat.

## A Light of Beauty Seen with Stained Glass Window Gift

The late American psychologist, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross once observed, "People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed, only if there is a light from within."

Some 12 years in the making, the remarkable window created by Laredoan Evan Quiros, depicts K'inich Janaab Pakal, the legendary Mayan ruler of the city of Palenque, México from 615-683 AD. It recreates the famed sarcophagus lid of Pakal's tomb, studied by archaeologists after its 1948 discovery at the Temple of the Inscriptions. The completely handmade window uses classic stained glass techniques and fusing, creating a dynamic and engaging, multi-layered, multi-dimensional image. It boldly recreates the color and vivacity of the five-ton, 12-foot original. It was completed at Quiros' studio in Fayetteville, TX.

A retired rancher, Quiros has dedicated the window to the memory of his late daughter, Susana María Quiros Jacomini and her young family, who sadly perished in a plane crash in 2008. The window is now at home in TAMIU's Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.



## Visionary Bible Gift First for TAMIU and Texas

A visionary legacy gift to TAMIU has made the University the first public university in Texas home to a Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible.

The Bible gift, one of only 299 available worldwide, was made possible by The Matias De Llano Charitable Trust. It is a massive seven-volume treatment true to the scale, beauty and artistic intent of the original manuscript, long considered a work of sacred art.

The Saint John's Bible is now part

## Graduate Nursing Students Present at International Nursing Leadership Conference



Research on predictors of college nursing students' success conducted by three TAMIU graduate Nursing students earned them an opportunity to present at a prestigious international nursing leadership conference this year attended by more than 460 participants.

Maria Cristina Vinegar, Chantilly Demasiado and Ana Laura Cantú, all pursuing the Family Nurse Practitioner track under the Master of Science in Nursing degree program at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences,

presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International Leadership Connection Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Their research, "Predictors of Student Success among Mexican-American and Non-Hispanic Baccalaureate Nursing Students," examined whether student success can be predicted by entrance GPA, financial aid and a student's perception of faculty caring.

The study was a secondary data analysis from data previously collected at seven universities across Texas by Dr. Marivic Torregosa, TAMIU assistant professor of Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner Program coordinator.

The students' research concluded that student academic success was significantly predicted by entrance GPA, financial aid and perception of faculty caring. The study also noted that entrance GPA is a good indicator of students' past academic achievement.

of a permanent exhibit in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library's Great Room. The Great Room's entrance features colorful heralds guiding visitors to the display, open daily.

Trust representatives say the gift is in keeping with the charge of the Trust's forebear, the late Matias De Llano.

"Mr. De Llano directed the Trust continue his legacy: helping the community he lived in and loved. This gift expands that legacy of caring, providing a rewarding opportunity to contemplate this sacred text," said Dennis Nixon, Trust Committee chairman and International Bank of Commerce CEO.

The 1,165-page manuscript includes 160 major illuminations over seven volumes, framing a Bible for the 21st Century. A broad spectrum of artistic styles, including iconography, abstraction, chrysography and illustration, combine to create a visual vocabulary for the sacred.

## TAMIU Alum Gets Prestigious Trinity University Professorship



TAMIU alum and former faculty member, Dr. Norma Elia Cantú ('73), is now the Norene R. and T. Frank Murchison Endowed Professor in Humanities at San Antonio's Trinity University. She joined the Trinity faculty this August.

Dr. Cantú, a prominent *Chicana/o* and *Latina/o* cultural studies expert and author, was most recently professor of *Latina* and *Latino* studies and English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Cantú is *professor emerita* of English and U.S. *Latina/o* Literatures at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Her teaching career also includes a 20-year tenure on the faculty at TAMIU. Her research and creative writings focus on the cultural and literary production along the U.S.-México borderlands.

# WE ACHIEVE

## Going Green, Growing Good at TAMIU

The power of green spaces harvested civic engagement and responsibility this year at TAMIU. For the first time, the University dedicated an on-campus garden maintained by 147 students enrolled in service-learning courses.

The garden bursted with crops including turnips, beets, Swiss chard, lettuce, and melons, among others. The harvest was shared with food banks, incorporated into on-campus menu offerings, and in student tasting opportunities.

Students agreed there really was something “growing on.”

Shane Luke, freshman Psychology major, said the garden provided insight into the importance of sustainability.

“I learned about sustainability and how it influences our daily lives through what we do – and planting/maintaining a garden created a micro-sustainable cycle within ourselves,” Luke explained.

TAMIU’s Service-Learning Center (SLC) directed the garden. The SLC supports the development and



implementation of service-learning courses, providing guidance and resources on campus.

Dr. Marcela Uribe, SLC director, said the student experience was fertile in many ways.

“This was a dynamic opportunity for students to truly ‘grow roots’ with their community, strengthen academic learning, nourish non-profit organizations, cultivate career experiences, and plant seeds for a community that is more engaged,” Dr. Uribe smiled.

The garden will continue to grow in coming years, organizers promised.





## TAMIU Enactus Named Regional Champions

Social media management, website creation and an assistance list provided to area small businesses helped propel the TAMIU student organization Enactus to become “Regional Champions” at the Enactus Regional Competition in Dallas.

TAMIU was one of nine teams to receive the Regional Champion Award; 18 teams competed before a judging panel.

Enactus co-president David Canseco, a senior business administration major, was also offered an internship opportunity with chain retail warehouse club, Sam’s Club at the Regional Competition.

Enactus team members included Eustolia Morales, Idalia Ramos, Damian Sentien, Adan Soliz, Vanessa García, Cynthia Ontiveros, Daniela Reyna, David Canseco, Jesus Cavazos and Kimberly González.

This year, TAMIU Enactus identified the need to empower small businesses in the face of strong competition from large corporations and companies appearing locally, Canseco said.

Local businesses empowered include Deadzone Paintball and La Chocolateka, among others, he said.

Enactus is a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to enable human progress. Enactus students apply business concepts to develop community outreach projects, transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world.

## Thompson Gets Domínguez Award

TAMIU Regents Professor of History Dr. Jerry Thompson was named winner of the Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez Award by the Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM) for his book, *A Civil War History of the New Mexico Volunteers and Militia*, (University of New Mexico Press).

In notifying Dr. Thompson of the Award, HSNM noted, “Your readable, thoroughly documented book is of considerable importance to the historiography of New Mexico in the late 19th Century,” and one reviewer observed, “nothing comes close in detailing the Texas invasion of New Mexico. I would not only recommend the book, I would suggest that the reading of it is imperative.”

Some 10 years in creation, the book with its 939 pages is a hefty confirmation of his commitment to revealing little-known elements of the Civil War in New Mexico Territory.

“The Civil War in New Mexico began in 1861 with the Confederate invasion and occupation of the Mesilla Valley. At the same time, small villages and towns in New Mexico Territory faced raids from Navajos and Apaches. In response, the Department of New Mexico commander, Colonel Edward Canby and Governor Henry Connelly, recruited what became the First and Second New Mexico Volunteer Infantry. My book seeks to tell their story for the first time, along with the history of a third regiment of Mounted Infantry and several companies in a fourth regiment,” Thompson explained.

One of the country’s leading Civil War historians, especially its Southwest Campaign, Thompson is the author or editor of more than 24 books.

He is finishing a biography of a Laredo Civil War leader entitled *Tejano Tiger: José de los Santos Benavides and the History of the Texas-México Border, 1823-1891*, scheduled for publication by Texas Christian University early 2017.





## Student Volunteers serve Global Medical Brigades in Nicaragua

With heavy backpacks and driven by a shared desire to help the global community, 20 TAMIU students traveled to the interior of Nicaragua to volunteer.

The students volunteered with Global Medical Brigades, an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health and economic goals through university volunteers and local teams.

During their stay in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, TAMIU students joined Global Brigades staff in transforming a local elementary school into a fully functioning mobile clinic, complete with consultation rooms and a pharmacy. Student volunteers also helped develop water systems impacting community member homes.

Nicaragua's poverty level is at an all-time high, leaving citizens with insufficient access to healthcare and medical attention, said Rebekah Kawas, Global Medical Brigades Laredo Chapter president.

"TAMIU students, through months of preparation and commitment, were able to impact an indigenous community while learning about global awareness and community service. Laredo's chapter of Global Medical Brigades has raised over \$59,000 since its inception in 2014," Kawas said.

## Texas Academy Graduates First Class, Makes History at TAMIU



Frank Staggs

Sometimes, a few steps can secure the future...and ensure history. The inaugural graduates of the Texas A&M International University Texas Academy of International and STEM Studies did just that when 40 graduates crossed the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts' Recital Hall stage.

Cheering the graduates on were two community leaders who helped make their steps probable and possible: State Senator Judith Zaffirini and Frank Staggs, retired educator.

Senator Zaffirini authored the Academy's enabling legislation, approved by the 79th Texas Legislature. Staggs has provided a generous donation supporting the Academy initiative. Partner The University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio's (UTHSCSA), Laredo campus, also helps fund the Academy.

The Texas Academy provides academically motivated high school juniors and seniors with a challenging University-level curriculum. It welcomed its first cohort in 2014. Students can earn up to two years of University credit towards a Bachelor's degree, while also earning their high school diploma.

They receive free tuition, fees and books, and are able to pursue University degrees in any area while exploring research and collaborative educational opportunities with Academy partners.

## You Can Call this TAMIU Alum President...No Really!



It's a little daunting to walk into a room with thousands of people and know that they are all there to hear you speak. But that's something that TAMIU grad Roger C. Rocha, Jr. ('93, '10) has grown accustomed to.

Rocha is the National President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a post he assumed in July 2015. As President, Rocha helps advance programs focused on civil rights and civil participation, economic development, education, health and housing, immigration, leadership, public service and technology and issues of importance to LULAC

**"I want you to remember where you came from and that this place made this moment possible."**

**Roger C. Rocha, Jr.**

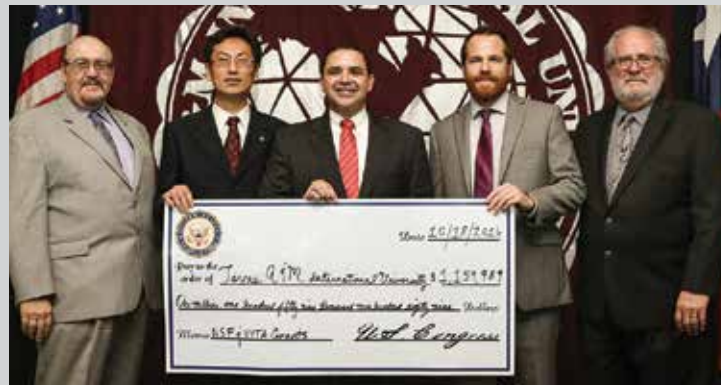
members, especially those affecting women, the elderly, young children and young adults. His post sees him often jetting across the country weekly for important conferences and meetings with our nation's leaders...and he still manages to own and operate his own successful business, Rocha Primary Care, LLC, a licensed Home Health Care facility that provides important medical services to Veterans.

Roger has received numerous professional recognition awards from AT&T and personal awards from LULAC such as the Texas LULAC Man of the Year, Veterans Service Advocate, Communitarian and Advocate of Community Service recognition from PPEP, Inc., the LNESOC recognition award for Service and Commitment, was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Laredo Next Generation Rotary Club, The Leadership Award for Community Service from The American GI Forum, the Young Leaders Award from the Island of Puerto Rico and, from The U.S. State Department, the Distinguished Citizen Diplomat Recognition.

This Summer, he walked into yet another room filled to capacity...when he returned to provide the TAMIU Commencement Address to over 180 graduates and their excited families. He beamed broadly, took a deep breath, and reminded them of something that guided his path there on campus...and does so to this day, every day:

"Yes, I want you all to savor this moment, for you have truly earned it. But I want you to remember where you came from and that this place made this moment possible. And this hard-earned moment will provide you with the job, the home and the life that you want and deserve. Never forget that this is home," he reminded them.

For Roger Rocha to Go Beyond is an ongoing journey – but it can often lead you to a place called home.



Congressman Cuellar ('82) celebrated the announcement of two TAMIU grants totaling over \$1 million to TAMIU. Left to right, president Dr. Pablo Arenaz, Dr. Runchang Lin, TAMIU co-principal investigator; Cong. Cuellar, Dr. Jack Byham, TAMIU-led VITA program coordinator; and Dr. Tom Mitchell, interim provost. The grants are from the National Science Foundation to fund an undergraduate STEM scholarship program and the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Matching Grant Program. VITA provides free tax preparation services for underserved populations.

# WE CHALLENGE



## The Ground Beneath You Bears the Weight of Research

Odds are you're not especially concerned about what goes on beneath the ground you walk on daily. But groundbreaking research by Dr. Mónica O. Mendez, TAMIU associate professor of Biology, indicates that those of us above ground should be more concerned.

Dr. Mendez has been studying bacteria-fighting triclosan, common in everything from household antibacterial soaps to toothpaste. Her research shows that triclosan isn't too particular about dispatching bad, or good bacteria. It was published in the March edition of *The Journal of Environmental Quality*.

For her study, Mendez and colleagues watered vegetables and soil with triclosan-contaminated water. The study measured the long-term, repeated effects of triclosan on soil and plant communities. While triclosan does break down, it

Students Leslie Cantú (foreground) and Ashley García (background) irrigate onions with triclosan-contaminated water to see if the antibacterial agent accumulates in the plants. Photo credit: Dr. Mónica Mendez.

never completely disappears...and researchers found it can actually turn into other harmful compounds.

So there are above and below-ground concerns with the use of triclosan worth consideration.

"It's not just triclosan that we're interested in...we also want to understand the possible products as degradation occurs. We know that triclosan decreases the diversity of bacterial communities, but we still need to figure out which good bacteria we are losing," Dr. Mendez explained.

To find out more about Dr. Mendez' triclosan research, visit: <https://www.crops.org/science-news/following-tricky-triclosan>

## Make My Degree Meaningful: to Me and My Community

What if you could earn a graduate degree, but deepen that experience meaningfully?

That's the foundation for an innovative TAMIU alternative graduate program, the Master of Science in Psychology, non-thesis track. Students serve the community through an internship service that replaces the traditional thesis. Approved community partners provide the experience, helping students link their academic knowledge to practical experience.

College of Arts and Sciences' department of communication and psychology associate professor Dr. Anna B. Cieślicka said the program grew from student requests.

"This change was motivated by student needs. Specifically, by creating a non-thesis track, we appeal to a wider range of Program candidates who might not necessarily be research-oriented, or interested in a thesis project. Instead, students are guided in integrating service-learning with academic knowledge. Their activities address community needs -- defined through collaboration between community partners, students, and faculty. Their learning is based on the principle of learning through reflecting," Dr. Cieślicka noted.

Service-learning activities are coordinated through TAMIU's Service-Learning Center, directed by Dr. Marcela Uribe.

"For our partners, students provide much needed help, making a critical difference in staff and resource allocations. This helps partners explore or engage in expanded interests particular to each. Partners and graduate students...we all benefit," concluded Dr. Uribe.



Students serve the community through an internship service.

## Prof's Research Takes Her to Ireland, England

While students and professors at TAMIU were enjoying another summer in Texas, Dr. Ula Klein, assistant professor of English, traveled to Dublin and London to conduct research for a book-length project on female cross-dressers in 18th Century literature.

She conducted research at the National Library of Ireland and at the British Library.

"I visited the National Library of Ireland and conducted research on author and educator Maria Edgeworth and her novel 'Belinda,'" Dr. Klein said.

Anglo-Irish novelist Edgeworth was a literary celebrity and an advocate for women's education.

"Getting to read her letters gave me a better sense of her as an author, which is information that I will be able to pass on to my students," Klein said.

"At the British Library, I looked at newspaper accounts of real-life women who passed as men in order to get a better sense of how popular such accounts were. I'm very interested in examining how gender, the body and sexuality are represented in texts, and the female cross-dresser is a figure that explicitly draws our attention to these issues," Klein explained.

"Last year I went to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., to look at Elizabeth Inchbald's diaries, and I was unspeakably moved by the experience of handling items that she herself had used and written in over 200 years ago," Klein said.

She said she hopes to lead students on a Shakespeare-themed study abroad trip in summer 2017.



# ATHLETICS

## Dustdevil Student-Athletes Lead Conference as Community Service Champs

When you're a TAMIU Dustdevil student-athlete, you don't just serve on the court or field...you serve in the community too.

This year, TAMIU Dustdevils are off to a blazing start, generating impressive, Heartland Conference-leading numbers for community service this 2016-17 season.

Members of nine of TAMIU's 11 athletic teams have contributed 450-plus community service hours to over 16 events through the fall semester...an equivalent value of \$9,900. With over a dozen service opportunities before the semester ends, the impact of TAMIU's student athlete community service can only increase.

Associate athletics director Dan Lathey said TAMIU Athletics has always strived to make an impact in the community and its list of community partners is always expanding.

"Our community partners always complement our athlete's dedication and our athletes always show great energy for accomplishing the task at hand; it's a rewarding set-up for everyone. This year, we have helped 10 local agencies," Lathey said.

Dustdevil student-athletes are eager to help educational or nonprofit entities, Lathey said, "Call on us and we'll be happy to discuss options."



## Alum Goes Beyond> Down Under

You might say TAMIU alumni and former Dustdevil Basketball standout Malika Jackson ('15) really took the University's "Go Beyond" mantra to heart: this year, she signed her second professional contract in the Australian Big V Basketball League.

The 2016 regular season ended with Jackson at the top of three statistical categories. She led the Big V League with 430 points, 83 free-throws made -- and led the League in scoring with 22.6 points per game. Jackson averaged a double-double over the course of her first season, with 11.1 rebounds per game, which ranked fifth in the League. Additionally, Jackson ranked fifth in Total Rebounds (210) and second in Defensive Rebounds (160).

In October, Jackson signed a new contract for the 2017 season. She'll play for the Chelsea Gulls in the 2017 season. They're headquartered in Chelsea, near Melbourne, Victoria, nearly 8,000 miles away from her California home.

Jackson enjoyed a two-year career at TAMIU where she was named the first All-American in Women's Basketball history. She led TAMIU's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II national tournament in 2013-14. She was named to the All Heartland Conference team for her efforts, and the Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll for academic and athletic achievement. She earned her B.S. in Kinesiology.

While a Dustdevil, she proved she could be an impact player, something that's already been imported to Chelsea.

Thanks, Malika, for going beyond...and continuing to make us proud of our first Down Under Dustdevil!

# WE ENGAGE

## TAMIU “Voces” Celebrates, Honors Hispanic Heritage

From the sharing of a traditional *grito* and playing of *lotería*, to an exploration of music in Central and South America, a dramatic presentation on the life of Bernardo de Gálvez, and a dinner featuring famed México chef Pati Jinich, Voces: Hispanic Heritage Month was observed at TAMIU.

For the first time, TAMIU expanded on-campus activities under the Celebration theme of “Voces,” providing the community opportunities to engage in the month-long celebration, said TAMIU vice president for Institutional Advancement, Rosanne Palacios.

“We realized that our campus observation offers remarkable opportunities for insight and engagement, and wanted to share it. We all know that there is community in diversity and our ‘Voces’ Celebration certainly underscored this. Events were free of charge, open to the public, and an online calendar and active social media campaign provided opportunities to learn more,” she observed.

“Voces” Celebration highlights included a Chicana Portrait Series by Raquel Valle-Senties, a Borderlands History Lecture, live Sharkey Corrigan Organ accompaniment of *El Automovil Gris*, student film presentations, lectures on Spanish great



Acclaimed PBS chef and star Pati Jinich peers into the oven as she reads a special KLRN hosted lecture and dinner as part of the University’s “Voces: Hispanic Heritage Month.” Laredo artist and writer Raquel Valle-Senties pauses before her portrait of Dr. Norma E. Cantú, just one of her multi-part Chicana Portrait Series, on extended display in the Sue and Raddcliffe Killam Library.

Cervantes, and a student roundtable on Hispanic Contributions to Invention.

The “Voces” Celebration will now become an annual observation at TAMIU.

## TAMIU, Partnered with Sí Texas-Juntos for Better Health, Works to Improve Community Access to Health Care



A new recurring clinic lead by TAMIU is dedicated to improving community access to health care as part of the first Juntos for Texas Better Health Traveling Health Care Team, Sí Texas – Juntos for Better Health. The clinic service will be offered at Laredo's Holding Institute campus.

Funding for the clinic is part of funding for the inaugural cohort of the Sí Texas: Social Innovation for a Healthy South Texas Project, funded by Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, the largest, private, faith-based funding source for healthcare services in South Texas, and a program of the Social Innovation Fund of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The overarching Sí Texas Project is designed to improve rates of depression and diabetes over five years and build the capacity of organizations working in this arena. Using a Collective Impact framework, Sí Texas will build an intricate network of cross-sector partnerships that will lead region-wide improvements in behavioral health and chronic disease. TAMIU joins seven organizations from the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend in the inaugural cohort.

Dr. Glenda Walker, Dean of TAMIU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences' Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing, said this clinic outreach effort is crucial to advancing community health, with federal funding focused on three target areas.

"These areas: depression, diabetes and obesity, can be responsible for a constellation of health problems in our community. Our clinic services will help us to study these problems locally and provide targeted healthcare responses. This will also provide our nursing students with a dynamic clinical rotation experience that is crucial to successful nursing education," Dr. Walker explained.



# DISCOVER TAMIU

## Living Up to Its Name Annually

While every day at TAMIU is significant, one Saturday in Spring is fast becoming an outreach tradition helping underscore how the University opens doors, hearts and minds.

"Discover TAMIU," now in its third year, is a family-friendly event focused on highlighting the importance of higher education to Go Beyond. The 2016 event was made possible with generous funding by Wells Fargo Bank, and over 2000 attended.

The daylong event is big on experience opportunities for students of all ages, their families and friends. President Pablo Arenaz noted that Discover TAMIU really lives up to its name.

"We offer over 100 experience opportunities, each underscoring the excitement about what this campus does every day to brighten futures, lift hearts and open minds. From kids to retirees, to anything in between, TAMIU can share with you the importance of education







and the possibilities it makes real. We especially enjoy visiting with Alumni who ‘re-Discover’ TAMIU, bringing their children, and grandchildren,” Dr. Arenaz said.

Discover TAMIU features five different experience pathways that help travelers Go Beyond: from classroom to boardroom and from laboratory to the skies above. The experiences are mapped across campus and a published guide helps participants navigate their journey of discovery.

Discover TAMIU 2017 is scheduled Saturday, April 1, 2017. Admission, as always, is free of charge and open to all.

The University has a dedicated web site with event information and large groups can make booking arrangements in advance. Visit <http://www.tamtu.edu/discovertamtu/>

STAY CONNECTED



## TAMIU MPA Alumni Association Members Serve the Community with Donations, Fundraisers



TAMIU Master of Public Administration (MPA) Alumni Association members are pooling their knowledge, experience and resources together to serve and engage the community.

This year, MPA Alumni Association members worked in their respective agencies to promote MPA education and training as a means of increasing awareness of and improving public service values and professional standards, said Dr. Peter Haruna, TAMIU professor of Public Administration and Government and director of the Public Administration program.

Working with the TAMIU Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement this past summer, the MPA Alumni Association appealed for and collected several boxes of school supplies that they donated to Lincoln-Juarez Elementary in Rio Bravo.

“MPA alumni are keen about advancing public interest and the common good by demonstrating service above self,” Dr. Haruna said.

Haruna said Association members plan to establish an MPA Scholarship Fund to be used to support future students who wish to advance their education and training in public administration and public service.

“They also plan to organize periodic leadership and management performance-enhancing workshops for public service and non-profit career professionals,” Haruna said.

Most recently, TAMIU’s Online Master of Public Administration degree program was recognized as one of the most affordable online MPA programs in the nation by an online reviewer, College Values Online ([collegevaluesonline.com](http://collegevaluesonline.com)).

# Make A Difference Day

"Make a Difference" day is the largest single-day of volunteering in the country. This year, in partnership with the City of Laredo Animal Care Facility, 319 TAMIU students helped to beautify the City of Laredo Animal Care Facility, creating a more inviting center for animals and visitors to help increase pet adoption. Students painted decommissioned fire hydrants, cleaned kennels, groomed dogs, installed benches, named dogs, worked in the garden and helped out at the adoption/fostering station.

See a video at <https://youtu.be/--tdoail5pk>





# WE EXPLORE

Reading the Globe Students Bound  
for South Korea, China this Spring

TAMIU's "Reading the Globe" Program is among the most visible ways the University shows how students can "Go Beyond." To date, Reading the Globe participants have visited over 10 countries.

A Common Reading Program started in 2008 and spearheaded by University College, it engages the University and community in a shared academic, intellectual activity. First Year University Seminar students focus on a book providing an immersive opportunity for discourse and social awareness on a local and global scale. TAMIU faculty and staff also participate in the Common Read, fostering and strengthening the growth of an intellectual community in and around TAMIU supportive of students' academic development.

After application, competitive essay and interview, a group of students is selected for a study-travel opportunity related to the Common Read setting. This year, 15 students will travel

to China and South Korea, part of the backdrop for this year's book selection, *In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom*, by author and human rights activist Yeonmi Park.

Students selected for the 2016 Program include: Luis Daniel Arriaga, Ramses Betancourt, Yahaira Franco, Breanna Garza, Cassandra Guardiola, Joshua Herrera, Kevin Montiel, Luis Mota, Nelly Salazar, Angelica Ramírez, Aileen Rendon, Alejandra Ramírez Ulloa, Natalia Villarreal, Emily Walker and Jesse Ward.

Each year, feedback from Reading the Globe students is phenomenal and they lead a Fall Convocation Program, sharing their travel experience with incoming freshmen, encouraging them to also "Go Beyond."

For more about Reading the Globe, including students' perspectives from their trips to Bosnia, India, Turkey and more, visit: [www.tamiu.edu/spotlight/](http://www.tamiu.edu/spotlight/)



## Going Beyond: TAMIU Professor Reconnects with Past in Present Cuba

Sometimes, going home can be a first-time experience. This past summer, Dr. Aaron Alejandro Olivas, TAMIU associate professor of history, reconnected with his family's history during a visit to Cuba while presenting at an international academic conference.

Dr. Olivas, whose heritage is Mexican-American and Spanish, was able to meet a cousin from his mother's side of the family, part of a larger extended family that mostly left Cuba for the United States in the 1960s.

"My trip to Cuba was very moving given my family's connection to the island. My own family history and Hispanic identity are what first inspired me to become a historian, so you can imagine how meaningful this trip was to me. I was also fortunate to find my cousin Rafael in Holguín, in the eastern part of the island. My grandmother Dolores used to correspond with him for years, sending him money for his basic needs. I could not help but feel it was my duty to visit him—part personal interest, part Spanish guilt. Rafael is my only living relative in Cuba, since the rest of the family has either died or left the island. Sadly, it is a common reality that the Cold War, the Revolution, and immigration in the late 20th Century has led to the division of so many Cuban families," Olivas explained.

Central to Olivas' visit was his participation at the conference, "The Slave Trade to Cuba: New Research Perspectives," organized by the Universidad de La Habana and Harvard University. His presentation, "Trade and Politics of the French Compagnie Royale de Guinée in Cuba, 1702-1712," delved into late colonial Spanish America's transition from Habsburg to Bourbon rule and its relation to the slave trade.



While in Cuba, he also sought out opportunities to explore the role that Catholicism plays in contemporary Cuban society.

"It was fascinating to see just how widespread Catholicism is practiced in contemporary Cuba. This has not always been the case under the revolutionary government, but it is certainly the case today. Certainly, the resiliency of Catholicism in Cuba can be explained in both spiritual and cultural terms, as in other

The preponderance of vintage automobiles would lead one to think that in Cuba time stands still...but times are changing. Dr. Olivas' personal connection to the island brought an added dimension to his journey and research.

parts of Latin America. Still, I witnessed more unique ways in which Catholic Cubans practiced their faith. I did expect and appreciate the blending of West-Central African

spirituality into Catholic religious devotion, but I was also intrigued by the ways in which traditional Spanish practices such as the cult of the saints continue to be used by Cubans to help them cope with the pressures and uncertainty of the contemporary world," he said.

Olivas also said conversations with international scholars became especially useful.

"My interactions with international scholars were quite useful for my book project in terms of revealing new perspectives about Cuba and Caribbean history. Creating a dialogue between scholars of Latin American, European, and African history is so essential to gaining a truly balanced understanding of Atlantic World history. This helped me realize my need to better understand the political history of West-Central Africa at the turn of the 18th Century, as the success of French slaving activities in Latin America would have depended not only upon the cooperation of Spanish imperial subjects, but also African merchants and coastal elites," he noted.

To read an extended version of this story visit <http://tinyurl.com/tamiuolivas>



## Literary Giants Share 400th Birthday at TAMIU

Dr. Lola O. Norris & Dr. Ula E. Klein

TAMIU celebrated two literary giants during October with “Cervantes and Shakespeare @ 400.”

The Celebration focused on the two writers whose works have inspired generations of readers from the 16th century on.

Event organizers Dr. Ula E. Klein, TAMIU assistant professor of English, and Dr. Lola O. Norris, TAMIU assistant professor of Spanish, College of Arts and Sciences, department of Humanities, said the first-ever event attested to the lasting impact of both writers.

“This year marks the 400th Anniversary of the passing of Spain’s Miguel de Cervantes and England’s William Shakespeare. Both inspired generations of readers... and so we paid homage to the creative spirit of these writers whose works encapsulate the joys, the challenges, and the determination of the human spirit,” Dr. Klein said.

Students, as well as members of the community, were treated to a performance of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by the Laredo Theater Guild International, readings from *Don Quixote*, free film screenings at the Alamo Drafthouse-Laredo, renowned Cervantes scholar Dr. Eduardo Urbina’s lecture on the lasting impact of Cervantes’s novel, a Texas Humanities-sponsored Shakespeare Exhibit which drew resources of the Harry Ransom Center and production photographs of the Department of Theater and Dance at The University of Texas at Austin.

In addition, the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library’s Special Collections hosted a month-long exhibit, “Cervantes @ the Archive.”

The program was made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## TAMIU Students See the World Thanks to Guadalupe & Lilia Martínez Foundation Support

Thanks to a generous scholarship from The Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation, a total of 185 TAMIU students were able to log 1,262,732 miles around the world as part of the 2015-2016 University Study Abroad Program.

Through The Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez International Fellows Scholarship, the Foundation granted a total of \$178,915 in scholarships to TAMIU students traveling abroad. The Foundation has awarded such scholarships since 2008.

Luis Garza ('15), a member of the TAMIU Student Philanthropy Council who traveled to Hong Kong, said his Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation-funded Study Aboard Program truly expanded his horizons and sense of humanity.

**“Studying Abroad helped me realize that the world is a lot bigger than we might think. This wonderful combination of cultures, climates, and concepts are the things that bring us together as a human race.”**

Luis Garza

Among countries students visited were China, Spain, France, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, Chile, South Korea, Belize, Philippines, Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Thailand, Japan and South Africa. The length of stay for students in each of the countries varied from semester-long programs to winter or summer only programs.

The Foundation's primary purpose is to provide means for the people of Webb and Zapata counties to achieve successful lives and to improve the overall environment there.

## Signature Courses Debut at TAMIU

This Spring freshmen open an innovative new chapter at TAMIU.

“Signature Courses,” a mandatory series of special, focused courses taught by select, seasoned TAMIU faculty members, begin.

Dubbed “Great Minds, Great Times,” TAMIU president Dr. Pablo Arenaz said

the initiative is one of the most exciting additions to the University's programs.

“It's a bold offering that has tremendous relevance and promise for students. It really helps set the tone for their development and progress. It offers singularly transformative experiences to guide their undergraduate, and perhaps life journey,” Dr. Arenaz said.

Dr. Catheryn Weitman, Dean of University College, and program coordinator, said Signature Courses are a relatively new addition to higher education.



TAMIU students who have studied abroad thanks to the Foundation will surely do their share to do so.



## Student Takes on Historic Role as A&M System Student Regent

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and Student Regent Stephanie Martínez.

TAMIU student Stephanie Martínez made history when she was appointed the next Student Regent for The Texas A&M University System by Governor Greg Abbott this year.

Martínez is the first TAMIU student to be named to the position of Student Regent and the first female Hispanic named to the role. Her term expires May 31, 2017.

She is a first generation college student and completed a bachelor's degree in Communication from TAMIU. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Communication at TAMIU.

Governor Abbott announced Martínez's appointment in May along with nine other Student Regents to their respective public universities around the state, and a student representative to serve on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Chancellor John Sharp welcomed the news of Martínez's appointment.

"The Student Regent provides a fresh perspective and an important voice in key discussions that determine the future of the Texas A&M System," Chancellor Sharp said, "I look forward to working with Ms. Martínez in her new role as the System continues to make progress throughout the state."

Martínez said that within her short time as a Student Regent, she has had the pleasure of working with individuals

that care and are interested in the development and growth of all Texas A&M University System universities.

"Throughout my term, I plan to increase communication between our 11 campuses in the hopes of creating a better student network environment System-wide for all students," Martínez said, "It is my hope that in my year of service, I am able to inspire students to take advantage of great learning opportunities such as my role, which in the near future can allow them to succeed in their endeavors."

She continued, "As a minority student, I hope to bring a unique and fresh perspective to the Board while empowering

**"The Student Regent provides a fresh perspective and an important voice in key discussions that determine the future of the Texas A&M System."**

**Chancellor Sharp**

and representing over 143,000 students in our System. As my term progresses, I look forward to collaborating with all campuses."

Martínez plans to pursue a career in student life at the college or university level. She said her dream is to become a president of an institution of higher education some day.



## Future Teachers are Celebrated at First World Teachers' Day

High school students planning to pursue a University degree in Education were celebrated when TAMIU hosted its World Teachers' Day in October. The event served to induct the first cohort of 40 Laredo Independent School District (LISD) Early College High School (ECHS) students into the TAMIU Pre-Ed Track.

Among those present were representatives from TAMIU's College of Education; LISD, Congressman Henry Cuellar's office, Pre-Ed students and their parents, and Michelle Accardi, director of Policy and Partnerships, The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

The inductees are students enrolled in the LISD ECHS declaring education and teaching as their desired future career. During the induction, the students received a TAMIU RISE badge and were challenged to abide by the TAMIU Code of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence as they complete their Pre-Ed experience while at the ECHS.

Dr. James O'Meara, TAMIU College of Education dean, noted that this year, World Teacher's Day Marks the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, further shining a light on the need to support teachers. The Celebration also emphasized the importance of preparing qualified teachers, a commitment the College of Education proudly shares.



Cassandra Wheeler, (fourth from left), longtime TAMIU executive director of Career Services, was recently selected as the Laredo Chamber of Commerce incoming Chair for 2016-2017. She has been volunteering and serving the Chamber since 2005. Holding the Chamber's symbolic gavel, she noted she felt a strong connection to all who served before her... including her predecessor, TAMIU Alum, Mario Peña ('78). Cassandra is also currently completing a Ph.D. at TAMIU.



## Border Offers Powerful Backdrop to Historic Law Course Partnership

While some find the borderlands a surreal confluence of culture and myth, the U.S.-México border is home to very real impacts on laws both countries follow.

That backdrop provided an opportunity for an historic partnership between TAMIU and the Texas A&M University School of Law, resulting in the inaugural offering of “Borderlands Law: Contemporary Legal Issues Relating to the U.S.-México Border,” this past summer.

Professor Stephen Alton, TAMU School of Law associate dean, led the course.

A select group of School of Law, students and TAMIU undergraduate and graduate students, enrolled. Together, they addressed a range of topics including trade, transportation, business and banking transactions, immigration, border security, crime, human rights, oil and gas, energy, water, the environment and the Mexican legal system.

Dr. Kevin Lindberg, TAMIU associate provost, noted that State Representative Richard Raymond first conceived of the idea leading to the innovative partnership.

“Representative Raymond, concerned that South Texas was legally underserved and that there was no legal education offered in Texas south of San Antonio, sought a law school partner to bring a course in international law to TAMIU,” Dr. Lindberg explained.

The course will again be offered this summer. Course entry is competitive and limited.



Gabriel Eckstein, professor at TAMU, lectures on water and the environment.

## TAMIU Scores Second Presidential Honor Award

TAMIU was recognized again with the Presidential Honor Roll Award for its exemplary community service programs. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its commitment to community, service-learning and civic engagement. This is the second year in a row TAMIU has earned recognition for its innovative service initiatives and efforts.



“TAMIU students, faculty and staff were recognized nationally for collaboratively enriching the general community through research, teaching and learning. ‘It takes a village’ to make our community a better place to work, live and grow as socially responsible citizens,” said Mayra Hernández, director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement.

“Partnership TAMIU: An Alliance for Good” is a distinguished program where agencies sign agreements with the institution to celebrate a mutually beneficial exchange of resources to enrich the community and accomplish our respective missions and goals,” Hernández noted.

“So far, we project that TAMIU has generated more than \$3 million in economic impact through its capstone service-learning projects, faculty and student lead-research initiatives, staff and student general volunteerism efforts,” she added.

Signature partners include South Texas Food Bank, Children's Advocacy Center, Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center, Bethany House of Laredo, Habitat for Humanity of Laredo, Literacy Volunteers of Laredo, Special Olympics Texas Area 21, Laredo Rotary Club, Volunteers Serving the Needs, Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation, Casa Voz de Niños, SCAN, the Consulado General de México en Laredo, and the United Independent School District.

## TAMU Sanchez School of Business Sees the Future...and it's Online

Sometimes, the future is just a click away. That's certainly the case for anyone wishing to pursue an MBA degree at TAMU's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business...it's all fully online.

Now, all four MBA concentrations are accessible to students online, all the time, anywhere. Concentrations include the MBA in International Banking and Finance, International Business (English and Spanish), International Trade and Logistics, and Management. The International Trade and Logistics component is a new program option that started this Fall.

Dr. Steve Sears, Dean of the Sanchez School of Business, said this online expansion offers busy students flexibility to manage their degree progress on their own schedule and terms.

He also noted the School's jumpstart program can further speed access to the School's MBA Program.

"For students with non-business backgrounds, our three online, Pass-Fail Prep Modules provide students with a low-cost, easy access to enroll in any of the School's MBA degree options," Dr. Sears said.

*The Princeton Review* has ranked the School of Business third in the nation for "Greatest Opportunity for Minority Students," and named it to the Best Business Schools West listing among the nation's 295 most outstanding business schools.



# WE MEAN BUSINESS

Hundreds of students with dreams of becoming successful entrepreneurs walk the halls of TAMU's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business every day, rushing from class to class, backpacks in tow.

Whether their entrepreneurial dreams and goals materialize often hinges on multiple factors: determination, innovation, passion for their work, and the ability to never stop believing in themselves. These factors are encouraged and fueled in every Sanchez School class, research opportunity and team undertaking.

Taking a look at some recent graduates, it seems that for many, the Sanchez School has served as a business incubator, a transformative environment that nurtures graduates to succeed, help create jobs and new business opportunities, and better the business landscape here and elsewhere.

*"As Dean, it is very satisfying to see our graduates enjoying the success of owning and operating their own business."*

Dr. Steve Sears

Sanchez School of Business Dean Steve Sears said the School is proud of the graduates and their success.

"As Dean, it is very satisfying to see our graduates enjoying the success of owning and operating their own business," Dr. Sears said, "As a graduate from a business school, I previously owned two businesses, both in the retail industry, and having your own business is putting your education into practice and a great sense of pride comes from this accomplishment."

He continued, "I believe that students in our School of Business receive an excellent education and acquire tools to be successful in the business world in many fields. The faculty join me in congratulating these entrepreneurs on their success and wish them the best in their endeavors."

Three graduates who have parlayed that Sanchez experience into entrepreneurial success that now drives Laredo's economy are Sandra Mendiola Alaniz ('89), Arnulfo Vázquez ('09) and Jorge Nazarín ('09.) Each holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Sanchez School and operates their businesses in Laredo. They all share entrepreneurial traits including hard work and perseverance... however, what makes them exceptional is their passion for what they do and desire to make a positive impact on others' lives.

**These are their stories.**

## Arnulfo Vázquez, '09, owner, El Quinto Sol Vegetarian Restaurant

Arnulfo Vázquez is the owner of the first vegetarian restaurant in Laredo along with his father, Arnulfo Vázquez, Sr. Founded by his father 25 years ago in Nuevo Laredo, El Quinto Sol now employs more than 100 people between five restaurant locations in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. Vázquez said he is proud of the fact that El Quinto Sol is a border pioneer when it comes to offering vegetarian cuisine.

**“I am completely convinced that having attended the Sanchez School of Business gave me the foundation and preparation necessary to develop a business and be in the big league, which is the United States.”**

**Arnulfo Vázquez**

“What’s innovative about El Quinto Sol is that we serve vegetarian cuisine with an authentic Mexican flavor,” Vázquez said.

Last year, El Quinto Sol’s signature dish, vegetarian Tacos Al Pastor, which Vázquez invented, was recognized by *Texas Monthly Magazine* as one of the 120 Best Tacos You Must Try Before You Die. El Quinto Sol believes in helping its customers enjoy a healthy life through vegetarian dishes, Vázquez said.

“El Quinto Sol is open for everybody. You don’t need to necessarily be a vegetarian in order to enjoy a good flavor,” he said, “The secret of El Quinto Sol is to make our food with lots of love.”

Vázquez said attending TAMIU provided him the appropriate foundation to become a successful business owner.

“I am completely convinced that having attended the Sanchez School of Business gave me the foundation and preparation necessary to develop a business and be in the big league, which is the United States,” he said, “Building a business is just like building a home. You have to have a strong foundation and I am grateful for the teachings that TAMIU gave me.”





## Jorge Nazarín, '09, owner, Momentum Running Co.

Jorge Nazarín owns Momentum Running Co., a running specialty store he and his wife Christina, ('10, '12) opened in 2013.

Originally from Guadalajara, México, Nazarín and his single mother initially settled in nearby Zapata, TX when he was 12 years old. He did not speak a word of English at that time and remembers he learned the language on his own in middle school by patiently reading books below his grade level such as "Amelia Bedelia" while his friends enjoyed advanced books such as "Harry Potter."

Today, Nazarín and his wife own a running specialty store and through exclusive contracts with brand giants such as Nike, are able to offer rare items in their store for running, weightlifting, swimming, triathlons, Crossfit and Zumba that no one in Laredo, including large department stores, offers.

**"TAMIU changed my life because it taught me to carry myself professionally, understand the importance of deadlines and key business concepts such as supply and demand and risk calculation. My advice to current business students is to make sure they carry their vision to reality."**

**Jorge Nazarín**

"The secret sauce of Momentum Running Co. is the unique shoe fitting process, customer service, and the products we have to offer," Nazarín said, "We keep our specialty store special."

He explained that Momentum Running Co. distinguishes itself from others by providing a mix of specialty products while presenting each product carefully to customers. Relationship building with customers and quality service are also key components, he said.

"TAMIU changed my life because it taught me to carry myself professionally, understand the importance of deadlines and key business concepts such as supply and demand and risk calculation. My advice to current business students is to make sure they carry their vision to reality," he said.

"No goal or no dream is too high or impossible, but it will not be a reality without execution," he said, "You can think of or can have the greatest idea in the world, but it will be nothing without taking action."

Sandra Mendiola Alaniz, '89,  
broker and owner,  
RE/MAX Real Estate Services

Sandra Mendiola Alaniz initially worked in her family's printing business for 20 years before switching careers to become a real estate broker. She credits her husband for being instrumental in encouraging her to start her own business as he sold a business he previously owned in order to support her new venture.

Alaniz said when she decided to open her business under the RE/MAX franchise in 2013, a network of 105,000 real estate agents worldwide, the RE/MAX of Texas Board of Directors interviewed her five times. Classes she took at the Business School taught her the art of negotiation and helped her build an enterprise that grossed \$48 million in sales last year, she said.

Born and raised in Laredo, Alaniz said she has always been ambitious and has had an entrepreneurial spirit in her. She said she loves helping people in the community find their dream home.

"The way that I was raised, I always wanted to help the community," she said,

"I am so proud to say that not only am I from Laredo, but that I was educated in Laredo and I feel that it is my personal responsibility to give back to my community."

She said students do not need to leave Laredo to receive a quality education.

She recommends they become involved in TAMIU clubs and organizations and network in the community to make crucial connections.

"They are so lucky to be a part of such a wonderful University. Every time that I drive through that campus, I wish I was a student again," she said.

These three Sanchez School of Business graduates are representative of hundreds of successful graduates, all truly nurtured in TAMIU's business incubator... and all learning their own way to Go Beyond.

"I am so proud to say that not only am I from Laredo, but that I was educated in Laredo and I feel that it is my personal responsibility to give back to my community."

Sandra Mendiola Alaniz

# WE GIVE

## **President's Circle (\$25,000.00 +)**

Artesia Investments LTD  
Canseco Foundation  
E. H. Corrigan  
Matias de Llano Charitable Trust  
Doctors Hospital of Laredo  
Alfonso Gomez-Rejon  
Manuel Guerra  
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Cliffe Killam, II  
City of Laredo  
Laredo Builders Association, Inc.  
Laredo Medical Center  
Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez  
Foundation  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of  
South Texas, Inc.  
Pilar Munoa  
Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen  
Elizabeth and Hank Sames  
A. R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family  
Foundation  
Jo Emma P. and Edward L. Sherfey, Jr.  
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## **Dean's Circle (\$10,000.00 +)**

Cheryl L. Albrecht  
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Family Chevrolet  
H-E-B Grocery Company  
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Laredo Specialty Hospital  
Nora and Francisco A. Leal, MD  
Henry T. Lehne  
Elizabeth '95, '02 and Alvino "Ben" Morales  
Ana L. '82 and David T. Newman  
Rosanne Palacios  
TAMIU Alumni Association  
Union Pacific Foundation  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

## **Chair's Circle (\$5,000.00 +)**

Consulado General de México en Laredo  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Hurd Enterprises LTD  
Kinder Morgan Foundation  
Laredo Firefighters Association  
Laredo Pony Baseball/Softball League  
Logistics and Manufacturing Association  
Port Laredo  
Javier B. Santos  
Wells Fargo Foundation

## **Scholar's Circle (\$1,000.00 +)**

4-G Investments LTD  
Academy LTD  
AEP - TEXAS  
Allstate Foundation  
American Institute of Architects Laredo  
Anonymous  
Norma and Pablo Arenaz, PhD  
AT&T  
Sigifredo Barrera  
BBVA Compass Bank  
Biomat USA  
Evelyn Hunt Blakey '75  
Border Beauty Supply, Inc.  
Veronica '01 and Jeff Brown, PhD  
Linda and Ernest M. Bruni  
Alicia and Vidal Cantu  
Juan Castillo, Jr.  
Jui-Chin Chang, PhD  
City of Laredo Convention and  
Visitors Bureau  
Commerce Bank  
Consortium Properties LTD  
Alfredo Corchado  
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Firehouse Subs  
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G.S.E.H. Transport Inc.  
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GEO Mortgage Services, Inc.  
Global Tooling Specialties, Inc.  
Gina '99, '01 and Gilberto Gonzalez  
Daniel B. Hastings, Inc.  
Candy and Conrado M. Hein, Jr. '78  
Housing and Residence Life at TAMIU  
Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Laredo  
International Bank of Commerce-  
Zapata  
JS Media LLC  
K.C. Services  
R. C. Kahn Development, LTD

Patricia and Ray M. Keck, III, PhD  
Ceci and John H. Keck  
Killam Family Foundation  
The Honorable Tracy King and Cheryl King  
Robin L. Knowles  
Antonio C. La Pastina  
Laredo Lemurs  
Laredo Rotary Club  
Laredo Covenant Dental PA  
Diana Lecuona  
Mirasol and Trevor C. Liddle  
Aditya R. Limaye, PhD '15  
Al Linasukas  
LULAC Council #7  
Dolly and Julio Madrigal, PhD  
Alejandro A. Martinez, Jr. '89  
Mendoza Maintenance Group, Inc.  
Linda M. Mitchell, PhD '77, '82 and  
Thomas R. Mitchell, PhD  
Virginia C. '76 and Albert J. Muller, Sr.  
Pizzas del Sur, Inc.  
Minita Ramirez, PhD '83  
C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.  
Viviana Frank and Frank Rotnofsky  
Kay and Charles Schwartz  
South Webb County, LTD  
South-Wen, Inc.  
Sprint PCS  
Staybridge Suites  
Evelyn and Carroll Summers, Jr.  
T.K.O. Sports Bar & Grill  
TAMIU Library Memorial  
Texas Community Bank  
TownePlace Suites by Marriott Laredo  
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.  
Miguel A. Treviño  
Uni-Trade Logistics LC  
Universal Mconn - Ft. Sam Houston  
Dolly Richter Watson Memorial  
Foundation  
Catheryn J. Weitman, PhD and  
Bob Stockett  
Women's City Club  
The Honorable Judith Zaffirini and  
Mr. Carlos Zaffirini, Sr.

## **University Partner's Circle (\$500.00 +)**

Stephen Alton  
Erika '11 and Michael Blake '13  
Gracy '08 and James Bonnette  
Guadalupe '99, '06 and Randel D. Brown, PhD  
BTS Group, Inc.  
Maria Eugenia Calderon-Porter '99, '01  
and Robert Porter

# Annual Giving 2015-16

Marta Castro '00 and Oscar Jasso  
Coldwell Banker Ana Ochoa & Company  
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“My father was a physician with the soul of an artist. Throughout my life, he exposed me to the arts and encouraged conversation about history, culture, art and politics. He would be pleased to know that others are given the freedom to explore these topics because of him.”

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 Emmajo A. Robledo



**Why Toni Gives:**

“I’ve been told many times that I’m a dreamer, that it couldn’t be done, or worse, that it shouldn’t be done... I’ve been cautioned that I’m wasting my time trying to instill a love of American history and classical music here when there seems such limited interest. But I can’t and won’t give up ... I believe our community cannot reach its full potential without a diverse array of cultural offerings encouraging personal growth and independent critical thinking. It’s my small effort to preserve our proud American heritage so that it’s never forgotten.”

Toni Ruiz ('84)

Our Special Collection at the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library is a home for History where we protect the past and build our future.

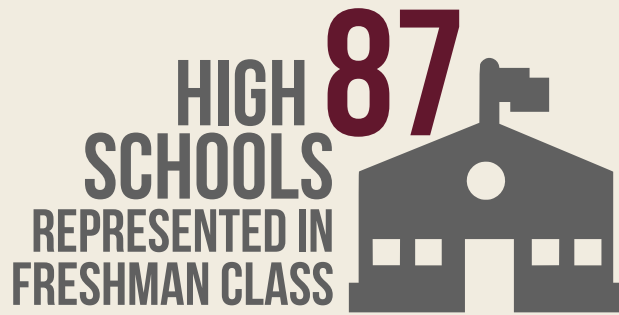
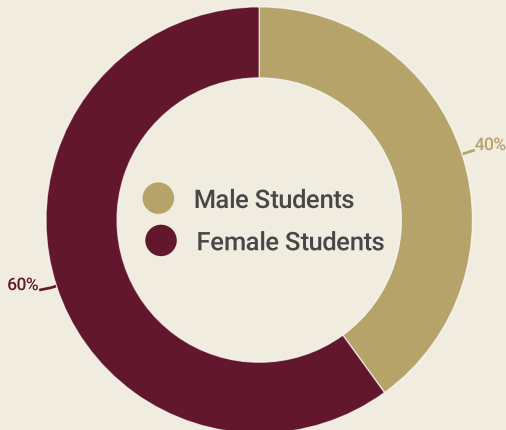
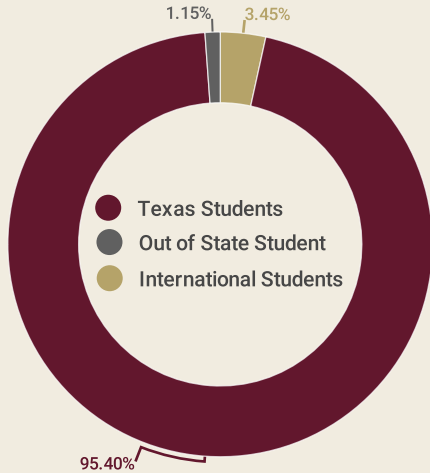
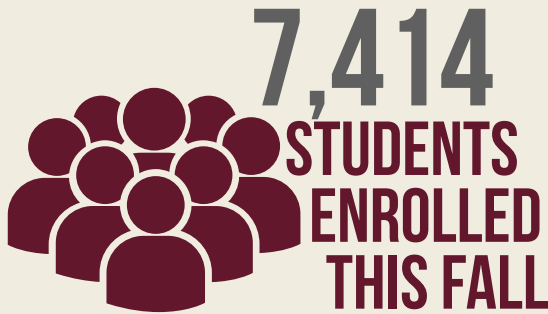
Now and always, our history is your history.

To discuss preserving your history for generations to come in the Killam Library, please contact Jeanette Hatcher, Special Collections Librarian, at 956.326.2404 or email [jhatcher@tamiu.edu](mailto:jhatcher@tamiu.edu)

Scan here for more



# ENROLLMENT



## TOP UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS:

- CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- UNDECLARED DUAL CREDIT

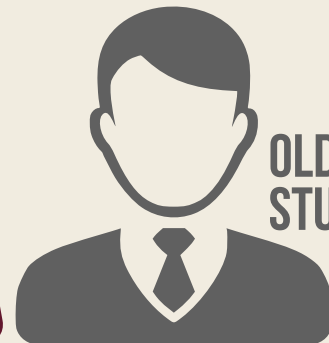
## TOP GRADUATE MAJORS:

- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- EDUCATION

**YOUNGEST  
STUDENT:  
13 YEARS  
OLD**



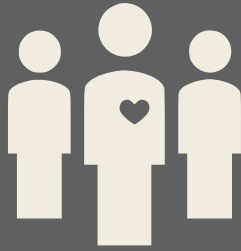
**OLDEST  
STUDENT:  
66 YEARS  
OLD**





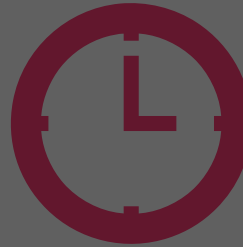
**+200**

ARTS EVENTS  
ON CAMPUS



**805**

STUDENT  
VOLUNTEERS



**37,500+**

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



**\$3 MM+**

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
MONETARY IMPACT  
SINCE 2010



**20:1**

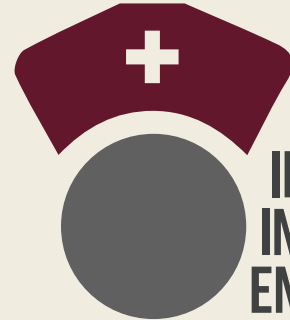


STUDENT TO  
FACULTY RATIO



FIRST ALZHEIMER'S  
WALK ON CAMPUS RAISED

**\$35,016.28**



**11%**

INCREASE  
IN NURSING  
ENROLLMENT



**34**

COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED  
IN STUDENT POPULATION

**1,262,732**

MILES TRAVELED  
BY STUDENTS



**1218** FALL  
CLASSES



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Office of the President  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo TX 78041-1900

INSIDE: OUR NEW PRESIDENT SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON HOW WE GO BEYOND @ TAMIU