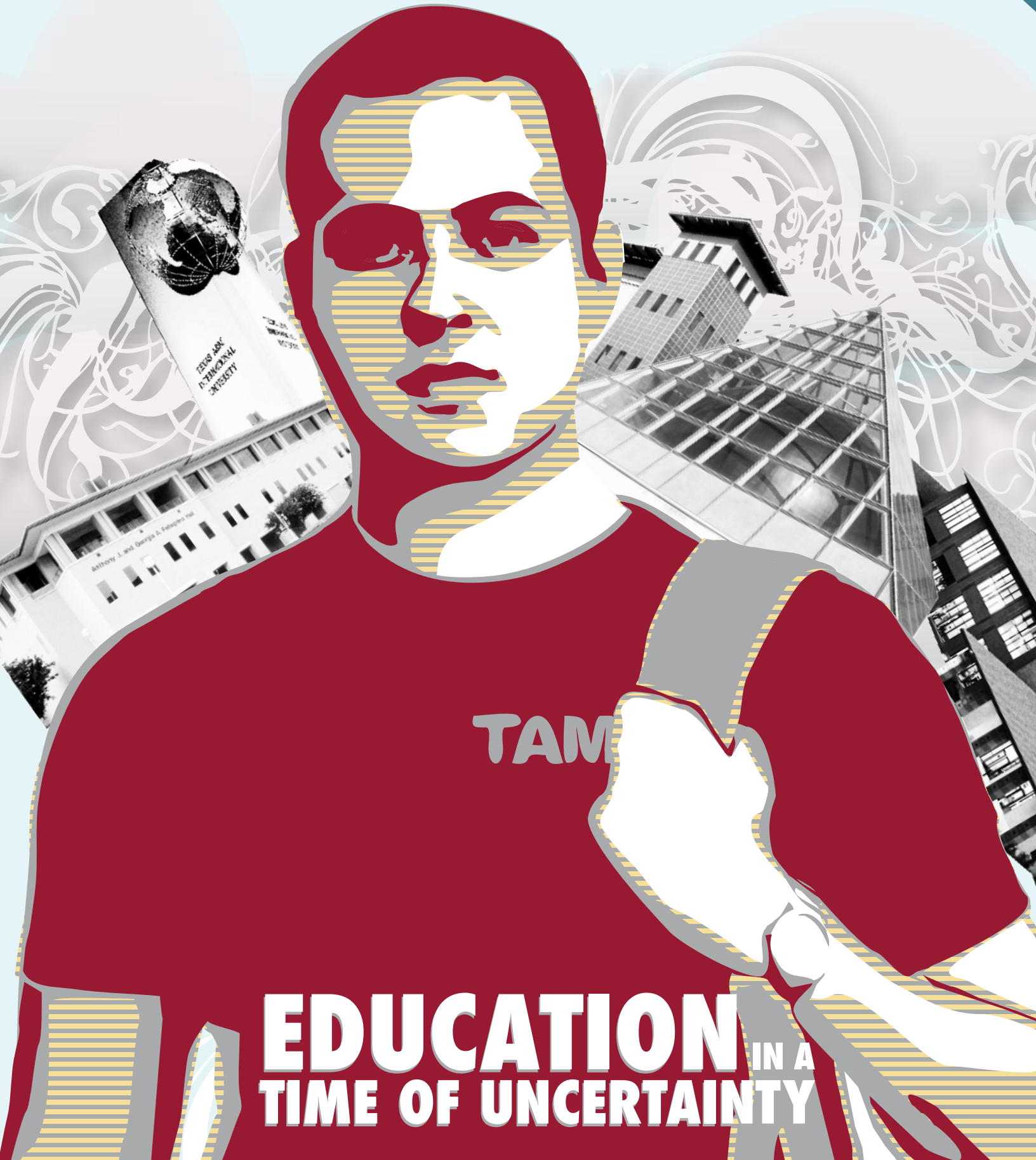


Spring 2009

# prism

The Magazine of Texas A&M International University

The  
Change  
Edition!



TAMU

# EDUCATION IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY



# 8

TEN THINGS TO DO **AT TAMIU**  
HEAD TO THE "U" FOR SOMETHING TO DO!

**TAMIU CALENDAR 3**  
of events 2009

**FINANCIAL AID  
MAKES IT POSSIBLE 5**  
Don't backburner your dreams...

**RETOOL BY RE-INVESTING  
IN YOUR EDUCATION 6**  
Higher education remains a valid  
investment for future success.

**OUR FACULTY 9**  
Professor's legacy lives on with a Folklore  
Collection.

## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Bill Jones, Chairman

John D. White, Vice Chairman

Dr. Richard A. Box

Morris Foster

Lupe Fraga

Erle Nye

Gene Stallings

Ida Clement Steen

James P. Wilson

Anthony Cullins, Student Regent

## Prism Magazine:

Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President

Candy Hein, Publisher

Editor: Steve Harmon ('91)

Art Director: Ana P. Clamont ('00)

Contributing Photographers:  
Ana P. Clamont, Catarina Colunga,  
Dan Lathey, Rebecca M. Martínez,  
Eugene Ruiz, Daniel Tijerina

Contributing Writers:  
Mika Akikuni, Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield,  
Steve Harmon, Dr. Ray Keck III,  
Rebecca M. Martínez, Dr. Bonnie Rudolph,  
Senator Judith Zaffirini

Cover Photo Illustration:  
Ana P. Clamont

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY:

Please send to  
Office for Institutional Advancement  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900  
Telephone: 956.326.2175  
Facsimile: 956.326.2174  
E-mail: prism@tamiu.edu  
If you receive duplicate copies,  
kindly send both mailing labels  
to the above address.

## OTHER MAGAZINE QUERIES:

Please send to  
*Prism Magazine*  
Office of Public Relations, Marketing  
and Information Services  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900  
Telephone: 956.326.2180  
Facsimile: 956.326.2179  
E-mail: prism@tamiu.edu

All contents © 2009 *Prism Magazine*,  
except where noted. Opinions  
expressed in *Prism* are those of the authors  
and do not necessarily reflect  
the opinions of its editors or policies of  
Texas A&M International University.

POSTMASTER:  
Send address corrections to  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900.

MISSION: *Prism* is published twice a  
year for Texas A&M International University  
friends. By highlighting the University's life and  
its programs, faculty, students and alumni, *Prism*  
reflects the diverse educational excellence of  
Texas' fastest growing University.

Texas A&M International University is  
committed to the preparation of students for  
leadership roles in their chosen profession  
and in an increasingly complex and culturally  
diverse state, national and global society.





## Success In Circuit Lies

The best of times, the worst of times. Americans have, for the first time in half a century, lived anew the meaning of Dickens' famous words. For many, the soaring markets of the Bush years proclaimed the final ascendancy of capitalism and the American way, bringing the dream of early retirement and fiscal tranquility.

At the same time, the attacks of September 11th, followed by the tragically blundered war in Iraq, forced us to confront both domestic and international issues that admit of no easy or sure solution. And then in 2008, everything seemed to come apart at once: an economic system undermined by faulty reasoning and greed, a social contract threatened as citizens watched their life savings begin to shrink to half their peak value.

The wisdom of the ages tells us that hard times, adversity, disappointment, and pain demand renovation, a restructuring of both what we have done and how we understand our actions. At no other time can education offer a clearer, more certain path for a journey certainly grown dark. The University experience unites the mechanics and process of professional life, even as it teaches us how to reflect upon what happens to us, how to think about ourselves.

Henry James, in his famous distinction between reality and romance, frames what I believe are the two great gifts, practical and theoretical, material and spiritual, of a University education. Reality for James discloses to us "the things we cannot possibly not know," the science and knowledge necessary to forge a lifetime of meaningful work. Romance, by contrast, "stands... for the things that, with all the facilities in the world, all the wealth and all the courage and all the wit and all the adventure, we never can directly know, the things that can reach us only through the beautiful circuit of thought and desire."

Our reason, what Mark Lilla calls our "rage for order," leads us to create an orderly and fiscally sustaining life, what we cannot possibly fail to learn in order to survive. But the unstable, mutable, insatiable knowledge our hearts crave reaches us through that beautiful circuit James calls romance. Together, reality and romance offer the physical and psychological comfort of a life well-lived, that which we most certainly will find, and that which appears before us only in our thoughts and our desires.

Now, in times of fiscal and political turmoil, we need more than ever the balanced life a University experience teaches, both reality and romance. Our studies will lead us to recover sustainable economic and political order while we also reflect upon their inner lives, comforted in that beautiful circuit.

"In times of fiscal and political turmoil, we need more than ever the balanced life a University experience teaches, both reality and romance."

**Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President**

Dr. Ray M. Keck III,  
President

## Martinez Named to Statewide Post

Elizabeth N. Martinez, (BBA, 1980, MPA, 2001), TAMIU associate vice president for administration, has been named president of the Texas Higher Education Human Resources Association

The 200-member Association contributes to the advancement of higher education, specifically the professional advancement of human resources administration in State-supported senior colleges and universities.

## Thompson Gets Southwest Book Award

TAMIU Regents Professor of History Dr. Jerry Thompson received a Southwest Book Award for his collaborative book, "The Reminiscences of Major General Zenas R. Bliss, 1854-1876."

The Southwest Book Award is sponsored by the Border Regional Library Association.

In the book, Dr. Thompson explores the early years of General Zenas R. Bliss, who received the Medal of Honor in the Civil War at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

## TAMIU's Heredia co-authors Bilingualism Textbook

TAMIU associate professor Dr. Roberto Heredia, is co-author of "An Introduction to Bilingualism: Structures and Processes" (Erlbaum, 2008) with Dr. Jeanette Altarriba, associate dean and professor, University at Albany, State University of New York, College of Arts and Sciences.

The book provides a general overview of the methods and theories used in the broad domain of bilingualism. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the book presents a global picture of the field, from early childhood intellectual development to educational and social-cognitive challenges and on to the maturing bilingual brain.



## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT TAMIU DRAWS TAIWANESE STUDENTS

Undaunted by a worldwide economic downturn, some Texas A&M International University students are going the distance to secure their education. Specifically, they're traveling around the world, drawn by the growing global importance of an international education, delivered by TAMIU.

Some 16 students from Fu Jen Catholic University of Taipei, Taiwan are participating in an innovative dual Master of Business Administration program at TAMIU. The initiative sees them take intensive coursework at both campuses. TAMIU faculty deliver the course in Taipei and Taipei students come to TAMIU to complete other courses.

Dr. Antonio J. Rodríguez, TAMIU's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business associate dean and professor of finance, said the program, designed to be completed in about two years, is strongly international in its offerings.

"Our focus is on international business in this MBA program, which is a perspective that students not only at Fu Jen but all over the world are now emphasizing. One of our Fu Jen students, Rou Wen (Adela), happens to have majored in Spanish in college and is fluent in the language. Coupling her language skills with an international business MBA will make her a highly desirable candidate

in the global job marketplace," Dr. Rodríguez explained.

The program offering with Fu Jen developed from an initial contact from Fu Jen's dean of the College of Business and TAMIU's Sanchez School of Business dean, Dr. Jacky So. It came to fruition in a short time, about one year.

University faculty have already traveled to Taiwan to present course work. Dr. Milton Mayfield, associate professor of management, delivered a master's seminar in management as part of the dual MBA program, while Dr. Jackie Mayfield, Sanchez School associate professor, delivered a series of presentations on Research in Management issues to Fu Jen business school Ph.D. students. TAMIU officials have also met with the dean of the Fu Jen nursing program and Fu Jen nursing faculty have visited TAMIU to explore joint programs.

Rodríguez said the Fu Jen initiative is a clear example of TAMIU's growing pre-eminence in international education.

"This program, as well as the Dual MBA with Universidad Regiomontana in Monterrey, México, fits our mission of serving the global community parallel to our local and regional mission. The uniqueness of dual MBA programs is that they allow international students to consider and undertake our programs in a way that better fits their needs.

"For example, part of the program, or in the case of México, the entire program is delivered at the home institution of these students and/or partly online. We are able to offer our MBA program to students who normally would not consider investing in a full-time program on site at our campus or at an American university. These programs allow TAMIU to establish itself globally by developing a unique niche in the MBA program market. We are constantly looking for opportunities to develop and implement similar arrangements with universities in other parts of the world," Rodríguez said.

For additional information, contact Dr. Rodríguez at the Sanchez School of Business at 956.326.2517, e-mail [rodriguez@tamiu.edu](mailto:rodriguez@tamiu.edu) or click on <http://www.tamiu.edu/ssb/>

April

24  
TAMIU Ballet Folklórico  
Una Primavera Mexicana Concert  
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
7:00 p.m.

28  
Spring Piano Studio Recital  
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
7:30 p.m.

1  
International Guitar Concert  
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
8:00 p.m.

3  
Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra  
"Maestro's Heroes"  
LCC Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez  
Fine Arts Center  
3:00 p.m.\*\*

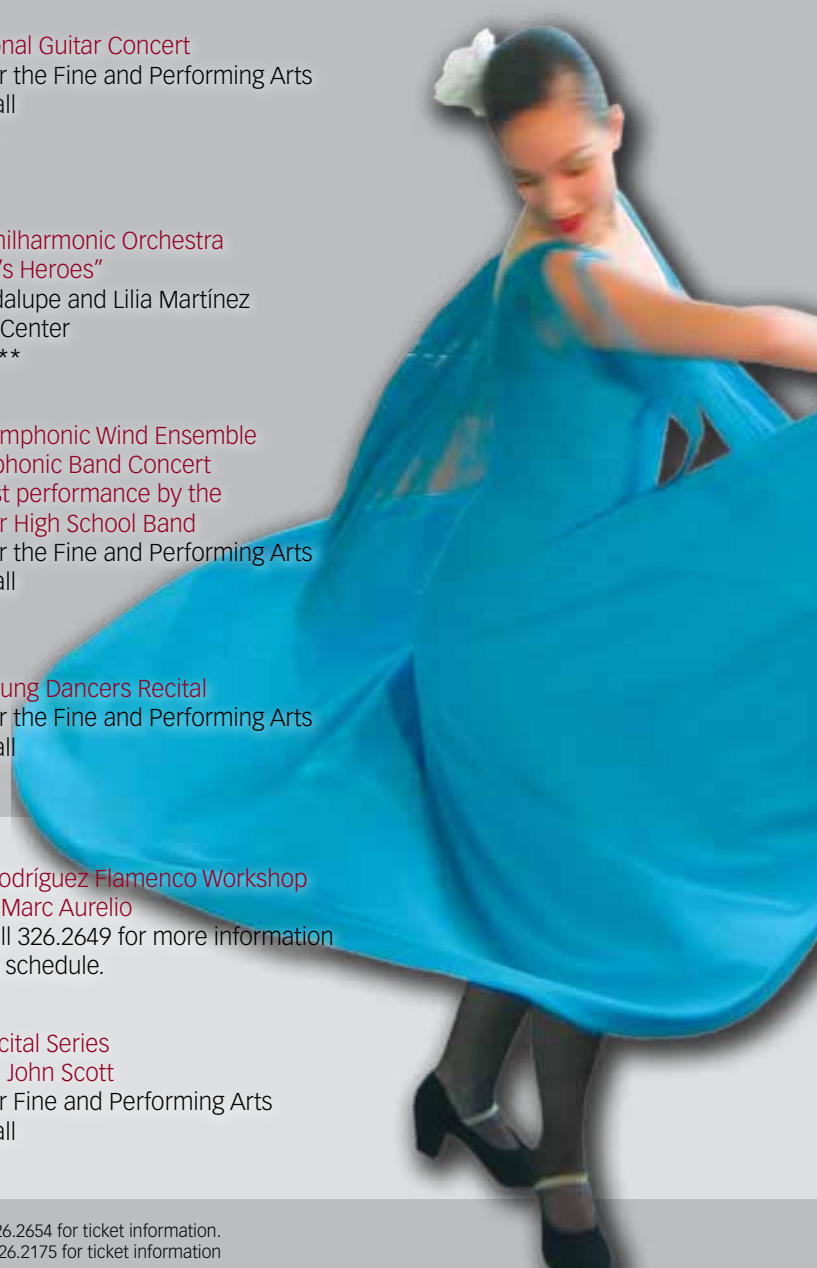
3  
TAMIU Symphonic Wind Ensemble  
and Symphonic Band Concert  
with guest performance by the  
Alexander High School Band  
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
4:00 p.m.

24  
TAMIU Young Dancers Recital  
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
3:00 p.m.

13-14  
Rogelio Rodríguez Flamenco Workshop  
featuring Marc Aurelio  
Please call 326.2649 for more information  
and class schedule.

14  
Organ Recital Series  
featuring John Scott  
Center for Fine and Performing Arts  
Recital Hall  
4:00 p.m.

\* Call 956.326.2654 for ticket information.  
\*\* Call 956.326.2175 for ticket information



May  
June

Dr. Annette M. Olsen-Fazi, associate professor of French and English, passed away Jan. 31, 2009. Colleagues and students alike found themselves buoyed by her boundless energy, enthusiasm and quick wit.

She joined TAMIU in 2005 and held her Ph.D. in Anglo-American Studies from the Université Paul Valéry, in Montpellier, France. She led a study-travel program for TAMIU students to France and aggressively built interest in French offerings.



With a Humanities Texas grant, she created TAMIU's first French Film Festival, "La Vie En France." She was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant in 2007-08 to lecture and research Tunisia's University of Sousse. When diagnosed with breast cancer, she characteristically was soon trying to find a way to help others.

She is survived by her daughters, Lisa Maldonado and Stephanie Fazi, both of France, and her beloved Warren Graffeo, adjunct faculty for the department of Language and Literature.

A Memorial Scholarship has been created in her memory to support TAMIU student travel to French-speaking countries.

The film festival she founded will also be named in her honor.

For more information, call 956.326.2175.

For an updated calendar of University events and activities with forecasting abilities, visit the University's Web site, [tamiu.edu](http://tamiu.edu). Just click on "Events."

For additional information on the Fine and Performing Arts at TAMIU visit [www.tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe](http://www.tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe)

Recorded information is available at 956.326.ARTS (2787)

## TEXAS LEGISLATURE HEIGHTENS FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

by Senator Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D.



SECOND IN SENIORITY, Senator Judith Zaffirini is the highest-ranking senator for the border region and Bexar County. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed her Chair of the upgraded Senate Higher Education Committee. She represents Senate District 21, which includes Atascosa, Bee, northeast Bexar, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Jim Hogg, Karnes, LaSalle, Live Oak, McMullen, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Wilson, Zapata and Zavala counties.

The Texas Legislature convened on Jan. 13, and I am delighted that Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed me chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, which he upgraded from a subcommittee.

Because higher education issues are so important and timely, he empowered us to address them more swiftly, efficiently, effectively and fairly. What's more, he is our first lieutenant governor to create a full committee on higher education. Bravo!

Legislation reported favorably by our new committee will flow directly and unimpeded to the Senate for consideration. We will consider priority bills, including those related to tuition deregulation, Top Ten rule and tier one universities.

As higher education chair and a member of the Finance Committee, I realize the intense competition for state funding, especially in light of the low Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) announced recently by Comptroller Susan Combs.

The difference between the current and the 2003 BREs is that we have more than \$9 billion in the rainy day fund. The problem, however, is that most state agencies have not recovered fully from the 2003 budget cuts.

This year's legislative priorities include many complicated issues involving college tuition and deregulation. As higher education chair I will continue to work tirelessly to enhance affordability

and to expand access and promote excellence at colleges and universities, especially at my beloved hometown university, TAMU.

As of March 1, I have filed 12 Senate bills (SB) addressing higher education priorities. SB 31, for example, relating to a Community College Bridge Program, would encourage students to complete the core curriculum and/or associate's degrees at a community college and then transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree on time. It is intended not only to support these students, but also to enhance the success of minorities in higher education.

My SB 1146 includes all tuition revenue bond requests submitted by higher education institutions, including \$44,500,000 for an academic classroom and library expansion and support services buildings at TAMU.

As an educator, education always has been my passion and highest legislative priority, with a special focus on early childhood and higher education.

Count on me to seek additional funding, even in this tough economic climate, so that TAMU can facilitate student success. By focusing on increasing access while striving for excellence in instruction and research, we can improve our colleges and universities while strengthening our communities and our state.

## DON'T BACKBURNER YOUR DREAMS... FINANCIAL AID MAKES IT POSSIBLE

With more and more folks looking at a dwindling bottom line, the pursuit of higher education may be an investment that some find difficult to fund. Not so fast, say members of Texas A&M International University's Office of Financial Aid...help is on the way.

"We are very aggressive about helping our students and their families to fund their education and have a number of programs that make a difference in the lives of our students and their families as they fund higher education. There's a number of scholarships and grants, Work-Study and Student Loan programs," said Laura Elizondo, TAMIU director of Financial Aid.

One immensely popular program is the University's "Dusty Promise," that has awarded \$2.7 million and helped 491 students come to TAMIU since 2007. The Promise, as it's known, is for admitted students whose families earn less than \$30,000 annually. Funding comes from TAMIU's operating budgets and, in some cases, federal, state or grant sources and scholarships.

Elizondo said Washington's recently passed economic stimulus package included a sizable increase for the Pell Grant program, adding \$400 or \$500 per maximum award. Awards range from \$976 to \$5,350.

"The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to promote access to higher education. Students use their grants at 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions, including TAMIU. About 78% of our students qualify for Pell Grant assistance, so this is really good news and will help a great deal. At TAMIU, we awarded \$8 million in Pell Grants in 2008," she explained.

The government's stimulus bill also includes \$490 million for the Work-Study Program. As minimum wage increases, the program will allot more money for student workers.

Another group that should find returning to school especially attractive will be veterans eligible for the new GI Bill taking affect Aug. 1, 2009.

"Called the GI Bill for the 21st Century, this is the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original 1944 GI Bill. Veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits," Elizondo said.

Other programs that Elizondo encourages parents to explore with their students include:

**Current High School Students:** Qualified students take Advanced Placement courses and cut University costs by earning University credit in advance. Also, Dual

### Online Resources

#### **Financial Aid at TAMIU:**

<http://www.tamtu.edu/affairs/financial/?id=2>

Opportunities for Veterans at TAMIU: <http://www.tamtu.edu/affairs/registrar/veterans.shtml>

#### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

#### **Scholarship Search:**

<http://www.tamtu.edu/affairs/financial/scholar.shtml>

Enrollment, mandated by House Bill 1, insures students can take up to 12 hours in University credit classes while still in high school.

**For Recent Graduates:** ROTC program participation at TAMIU can provide a broad range of financial assistance.

Elizondo also reminds that scholarships are not just the realm of those holding 4.0 GPAs or specific major.

"**Scholarships** target students of all abilities. We maintain full profiles of hundreds of available scholarship opportunities and can match students to possible scholarships," she said.

She said the most important thing any parent or student can do now to help insure their share of the financial aid assistance available is simple.

"It's all about applying early, being admitted and making all deadlines. Today, more and more people are applying for that same dream and hoping to secure financial aid to make it real, so we really stress getting an early start.

"We know that the forms and requirements can be intimidating, but we can help parents and students to get the most. We hold regular information sessions for parents, host city-wide financial aid fairs and work closely with school counselors on a weekly basis. We extend hours to help working parents and encourage anyone with questions to call, e-mail or visit us," she encouraged.

Hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 956.326.2225 for more information.





# Change, Retool By Re-Investing in Your Education

## Higher education remains a valid investment for future success.

"A graduate degree is basically re-investment education—getting a graduate degree bolsters relevance to the market and can advance and further secure a career in the long run," stressed Cassandra Wheeler, Texas A&M International University's executive director of career services.

Among the major growth areas for employment are nursing and post-secondary teachers, Wheeler noted.

"Between now and 2014, a total of 703,000 registered nurses will be needed nationally, along with 524,000 post-secondary teachers. Another area of growth is accounting. All are areas TAMIU offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs," she said.

Jobs in law enforcement, higher education, early childhood education and schools will also get a boost when the

economic stimulus plan goes into effect.

"Go back to school to receive a bachelor's or master's degree to enhance your marketability in the following areas: education, nursing, physical therapy, engineering or business, and criminal justice, all of which can be found at TAMIU," Wheeler advised.

TAMIU's four Colleges offer over 70 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees presented by a gifted faculty from all over the world. Aggressive financial aid and assistance programs are in place, as are internship and Study Abroad opportunities, she said.

But if you already have a degree, TAMIU's programs can help augment that degree.

For those who already have a bachelor's and are considering teaching as a profession there is the

TAMIU College of Education Alternative Certification Program. Those interested in criminal justice can be better poised for a promotion with a graduate degree from TAMIU's master's in criminal justice, offered online.

Wheeler also suggests job seekers enhance their skill sets with courses through TAMIU's Office of Special Programs in computer skills, basic accounting or paralegal studies or enroll in a foreign language course through TAMIU's Office of International Studies at TAMIU.

For more information, contact Wheeler at the Office of Career Services, 956.326.4473, visit offices in Student Center 114 or click on [tamiu.edu/affairs/career](http://tamiu.edu/affairs/career)

## D.D. HACHAR HONORS PROGRAM READIES FOR 10-YEAR MILESTONE IN LIVES CHANGED

We all realize that life is linear...a measured progression from one point to another, from a beginning to an end. But life is also bumps in the road -- imposed or real detours that threaten to delay progression.

Some dedicate their energies and resources to leveling those bumps, to speeding that progression, to making real what is promised.

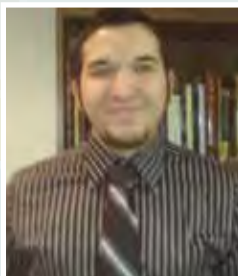
Since 1978, the vision of one Laredoan has sustained such an effort, providing some \$10 million in scholarships to Laredo students.

D. D. Hachar, a local businessman and civic benefactor, died in 1978. His legacy continues through the D. D. Hachar Charitable Trust, which supports education and programs like Texas A&M International University's D. D. Hachar Honors Program, which will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2010.

"Mr. Hachar said it best when he said, 'with education people do not need outside help. They can help themselves,'" said Joaquin Romero, senior vice president with BBVA Compass Bank, which oversees the D. D. Hachar Trust.

"Without the guidance and support of the program I would not be where I am today."

**Roberto J. Flores**



D. D. Hachar Honors Program Director Dr. Carlos E. Cuellar, TAMIU associate professor of history, said that to date over 250 students have benefited from the Honors Program.

Cuellar said the program's focus on mentoring bright students as part of a team effort has been crucial.

"The program works because it is a team effort involving Compass Bank; TAMIU administration and professors that are willing to mentor the dedication and hard work of program students," Dr. Cuellar said.

Of the 151 who have already graduated from TAMIU, 147 have gone on to pursue graduate degrees.



"I made the right choice when I chose TAMIU."

**Becci Buckley**

**Roberto J. Flores** is now completing his third year of medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

"Without the guidance and support of the D.D. Hachar Honor's program I would not be where I am today. For me (it) represents that paradigm which all institutions try to achieve which is to have experienced and knowledgeable faculty that are committed to teaching young, bright and eager to learn students," Flores said.



"The program prepared me for life after graduation."  
**Liz Sandoval**  
pictured  
with Dr. Keck

**Becci Buckley** is now attending Texas A&M University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"I made the right choice when I chose TAMIU. Family is and has always been very important to me and I felt at home at TAMIU. The Honors Program is a four-year scholarship... It is no easy task, but absolutely worth it," she explained.

**Liz Sandoval**, who now works in Washington, D.C. for the Department of Agriculture's "Research, Education and Economic Agency, and plans to pursue a master's in public administration, concurred.

"The camaraderie with the scholars and Dr. Cuellar's continuous commitment made the experience one of the highlights of my life. Furthermore, the Program's constant encouragement to participate in academic and community activities prepared me for life after graduation," Sandoval said.

For his part, Dr. Cuellar says his nine-plus years with the program have been his most rewarding as a TAMIU faculty member.

"It's brought me a sense of fulfillment, purpose and joy. I hope that we continue to get students into the program who are self-starters, reach their academic goals and continue to strive to make a way in the world for themselves and others," he said.

The line remains unbroken, speeding ahead, its bumps gently eased by an unseen but constant hand.



**MEXICAN RADIO PRESENTER TAKES ENGLISH AT TAMIU TO INVEST IN SELF, CAREER**

**Who:** Rogelio Guzmán, news radio show presenter, Radio Avanzado, 960 AM, headquartered in Matamoros, México.

**Profession:** Journalist

**From:** Matehuala, San Luís Potosí, México.

**Lives in:** Laredo, Texas. Husband, father of a 2-year-old child.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in communication from the Universidad Autónoma de San Luís Potosí.

**Story:** Guzmán is currently taking an English as a Second Language course at Texas A&M International University's International Language Institute.

**Goals:** To Learn to speak English to communicate with his news sources while transmitting news in Spanish to Hispanic audiences in the U.S. Also, to earn a master's degree in communication.

**About his profession:** "I feel a tremendous sense of responsibility towards my profession. The microphone receives all my respect. That's because the radio has the power to develop people's imagination. What's said on the airwaves should be timely, intelligent and accurate."

**About TAMIU:** "I'm taking my ESL class at TAMIU because the University's prestige permeates borders. The University is a Member of The Texas A&M University System."

**On Education:** "The best way to utilize our money during these tough economic times is to prepare ourselves academically. During this and all times, the biggest investment you can make is in an education."



## TEN THINGS TO DO AT TAMIU TOUGH TIMES GOT HEAD TO THE "U" FOR

**1 Take in some art:** TAMIU hosts student, local and regional artists and exhibits their work in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (CFPA) Gallery. Opening night reception and gallery admission is free and open to the public. More info: [tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe](http://tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe)

**2 Cheer for the home athletics team:** The Dustdevils are now an active member of the NCAA Division II and compete in 10 sports. General admission tickets are \$5, \$3 for students, and free for anyone with a TAMIU ID. More info: [GoDustdevils.com](http://GoDustdevils.com)

**3 Enjoy dance recitals:** TAMIU dance students sway, pirouette or shake a leg across the stage at the CFPA Recital Hall. Admission to most recitals is free and open to the public. Fee events (\$5 - \$15) benefit student scholarships. More info: [tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe](http://tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe)

**4 Explore different cultures:** Learn about different cultures without leaving Laredo with TAMIU's international festivals, Black History Month, Latin American Studies Week and Hispanic Heritage Month. All events are free and open to the public. More info: [tamiu.edu/calendar](http://tamiu.edu/calendar)

**5 Take in Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra concerts:** The award-winning LPO's Music By Numbers, unlocks much of the mystery to classical music by providing notes on the music. General admission is \$25 adults and \$17 for seniors 62+; student admission is always free. More info: [laredophilharmonic.org](http://laredophilharmonic.org)

**6 Go to the moon and beyond at the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium:** Where else within 120 miles can audiences take a trip to outer space for \$5 or less, see the Seven Wonders of the World or rock out to U2 and Pink Floyd? You can do all that and more at the LBV Planetarium. More info: [tamiu.edu/coas/planetarium](http://tamiu.edu/coas/planetarium)

# YOU DOWN? SOMETHING TO DO!

**7 Learn something new at a lecture:** Famous writers, noted scientists, prolific historians, economic experts and others speak regularly at TAMIU through the University's many lecture series, all free and open to the public. More info: [tamiu.edu/coas](http://tamiu.edu/coas), [freetrade.tamiu.edu](http://freetrade.tamiu.edu), [tamiu.edu](http://tamiu.edu)

**8 Listen to more music:** TAMIU students and faculty and invited guest performers share their voice and musical talents at the CFPA Recital Hall year-round with recitals, concerts and special performances. All events are free and open to the public. More info: [tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe](http://tamiu.edu/coas/fpa/coe)

**9 Spend some time outdoors:** Visitors can stroll in the Lamar Bruni Vergara Garden, home to native plants that attract birds, butterflies and bees. Campus self-guided tours are free of charge. More info: [tamiu.edu](http://tamiu.edu)

**10 Check out the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library:** TAMIU students, staff and faculty, educators and TexShare cardholders have access to Killam Library items and services for free. Others may purchase a community library member card for \$25. More info: [library.tamiu.edu](http://library.tamiu.edu)



## PROFESSOR BRIGGS' LEGACY LIVES ON

A much-revered former English professor's legacy will live on at Texas A&M International University with the dedication this Spring of a folklore collection in his memory at the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library Great Room.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at a special reception this Spring to recall the late Dr. F. Allen Briggs, the first English professor hired at the former Texas A&I University at Laredo in 1970 and the first professor emeritus at its successor, Laredo State University (LSU).

The program featured a welcome by TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck; an introduction by recently retired TAMIU College of Education faculty member and former Dr. Briggs student Dr. Lem Londos Railsback; a presentation on the importance of folklore by Briggs student and now-University of Texas at San Antonio faculty member Dr. Norma Elia Cantú, and a short history of the Folklore Collection by TAMIU faculty member Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, another Briggs student.

Briggs, who passed away in 1982, was a member of the founding faculty of both the former A&I at Laredo and LSU for 10 years. Overall, his teaching career spanned 40 years. Many of his students have gone on to become top educators, administrators, academicians and writers.

The Briggs Folklore Collection is planned to grow and currently includes student projects that focus on folklore, family trees and languages.

Dr. Briggs' four adult children and granddaughter were present at the event (see photo 9 on page 13).

For an online profile and more information about Dr. Briggs' legacy at TAMIU, visit <http://www.tamiu.edu/newsinfo/3-5-09/article3.shtml>

## TRANSITIONS DR. CHAMPION REMEMBERED

Dr. Dean John Champion, popular TAMIU professor of criminal justice, passed away Feb. 23, 2009, after a brief struggle with leukemia.

Originally from California, he joined TAMIU in 2000 and was a proud graduate of Brigham Young University, where he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees. His Ph.D. was earned at Purdue University.

An internationally recognized scholar and prolific writer, Dr. Champion had written 40 texts and-or edited



works, several published in Russian, Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish editions. A strong advocate of distance learning, he received TAMIU's 2006 Distance Educator of the Year Award in 2006. His specialty interests included juvenile justice, criminal justice administration, corrections and statistics/methods. He was the College of Arts and Sciences Scholar of the Year 2006-2007.

He is survived by his wife, Gerri K.; his son and daughter-in-law Dr. Sean (Canaan) Champion, M.D., Arkansas; stepdaughter Wendy L. Tuner, Ohio; and brother-in-law William (Sharon) Sprinkle, Virginia and three granddaughters and four great-grandchildren.

The family suggests that those who wish to make a contribution in his name contribute to Laredo Food Bank or charity of choice.



## TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS

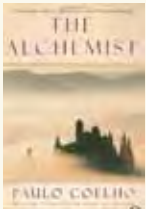
# IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

By Bonnie Rudolph, Ph.D.

Given these difficult economic times, all of us are experiencing some level of stress with some of us having trouble sleeping, others over-eating and some of us irritable and distant. Those of us, who are prone to depression, may suffer the most. But people in general respond to unexpected economic deprivation with signs of distress. For parents, as stressors such as bills, unexpected health care costs, job hunting mount, it is easy to express our distress in ways that are harmful to family relationships. Moms may become depressed and snap at their children or withdraw. Dads often become irritable and

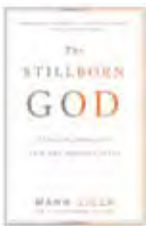
## READING

# FOR THESE TIMES...



### The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho

The Brazilian storyteller weaves a magical tale of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who dreams of a distant treasure amid the Egyptian pyramids. Along the way he meets spiritual messengers, gaining enlightenment and self-wisdom as he travels.



### The Stillborn God, Mark Lilla (A. R. Sánchez lecturer, April 15)

Lilla takes up the question of religion and politics. How do they/have they co-existed in the Western tradition? Can they be separated and how can thoughts about one true God transform into thoughts about killing to do His work?



### The Architecture of Happiness, Alain de Botton

The author looks at how architecture speaks to us, encouraging associations that, if we are receptive to them, bring us closer to our true selves and inform our lives. In brief, buildings should embrace values that ennoble us all.



### The Crash of 2008 and What it Means: The New Paradigm for Financial Markets, George Soros

The often controversial financier and world philanthropist offers a gimlet eye view of what went wrong in 2008, with a look across history and a call to a clear set of policies needed to cope with our new present and shared future.

communicate less with their wives. Either reaction leads to heightened anxiety for the children. Job loss in particular can lead to a cycle of stressors resulting in anxiety, depression and marital conflict. Here are some tips to help you keep perspective and stay on course for the better times that are to come.

## PUT FAMILY FIRST!

- \* **Do things with the family** that don't cost or are inexpensive. Take walks, bike rides, eat meals together and talk about happy experiences family members have; have a family game night.
- \* **Stay connected** with your networks of support, your friends, and family, church groups.
- \* **Engage in problem solving** and brainstorming for solutions. Limit the amount of time you allow yourself to worry about your problems.
- \* **Use positive self-talk** to build your confidence and watch out for, and stop negative self-talk. For example instead of allowing yourself to say, "This is just too much for me," say something like, "My family and I can handle this. We're strong, and we'll figure out ways to cope and even grow closer."
- \* **Take some risks** and learn new behaviors. If you are faced with a job loss, consider that maybe this is an opportunity to reinvent yourself and find work less stressful, more meaningful.
- \* **Use relaxation techniques** or prayer rituals to help calm yourself and build confidence.
- \* **Stay active.** Exercise, and or engage in hobbies that are low cost and satisfying.
- \* If unemployed, **learn skills** needed for effective job searches and reach out to your network of contacts to assist.
- \* **Watch how you are thinking** about stressors you face. Perception and self-talk are essential to successful coping. If you catch yourself in a negative cycle of thinking, distract yourself and think of something else. Return to problem solving at another designated time.
- \* **Hang on to some of your routines**, especially ones that please you. If reading the comics on Sunday is something you enjoy, don't surrender it to scour the want ads. Read comics first, then want ads.
- \* **Talk to your loved ones** about how you are feeling and seek help if stuck in a negative mindset. There are many professionals available in your community who can help "kick-start" your optimism about your future.

Remember, like everything, this too shall pass!

*Dr. Bonnie Rudolph is professor of psychology and director of the Psychology Program at TAMIU. She is also the supervisor of the TAMIU Community Stress Center, which addresses the needs of clients who either do not qualify for or cannot afford mental health services in the community.*



# NEWS

## University Enrollment Up 10.5%

Despite a darkening economy, more students are making a bright choice to invest in themselves and their futures at TAMIU, creating an impressive 10.5% enrollment increase, according to enrollment figures reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Final enrollment figures show TAMIU Spring 2009 enrollment is 5,558, up 10.5% from last Spring's 5,017 students. Semester Credit Hours (SCH), upon which State funding is based, totaled 55,265 — up 10.5% from last Spring's 50,003.

The enrollment growth is especially important during this legislative session year.

## Matias De Llano Charitable Trust Provides \$500,000 Gift

The Matias De Llano Charitable Trust has donated \$500,000 to TAMIU's A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business for the continuation of its Ph.D. Program in International Business Administration.

A check for an installment of \$500,000 was presented to University representatives including TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck, dean of the Sanchez School of Business Dr. Jacky So, and Ph.D. Program director, Dr. William Gruben. Representing the Trust's Committee were Eddie Farias, Dan Hastings, Peggy Newman and Leonardo Salinas.

The \$500,000 pledge is the second contribution from the Trust after a previous gift of \$500,000 in 2004. This second commitment will be matched by the Sanchez Challenge Grant, bringing the combined total from all gifts and matches to \$1.5 million.

## Alum Returns with Gift of Special Performance

A TAMIU alumna from Taiwan returned to her alma mater this Spring, providing a rare performance of a traditional sign language opera at the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts' Recital Hall.

Dr. Eunice Yu-Mei Tsai (M.S., Ed '88) is director of the General Education Center for Tzu Chi College of Technology.

## Growth Prompts E-mail Service Expansion for Alumni, Students

This Spring, TAMIU's exponential student growth has prompted the launch of an expanded and enriched e-mail service for the over 13,000-plus (and growing) current users.

To improve operations, services will now move off-site through a Microsoft-developed e-mail service, Live@edu. Student and alumni accounts will grow to a 5-gigabyte capacity that does not delete. Accounts will also include messaging, chat, Windows Live Spaces, SharedView and a virtual memory stick.

Alumni and students will transition at <https://dusty.tamtu.edu/>, moving their existing accounts to the new System. E-mail addresses remain the same and passwords retained or reset. The University hopes to complete the transition within one year.

## TAMIU Brings Nations Closer with Joint Degree Plans

TAMIU and Nuevo Laredo's Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT) have agreed to join hands to enable border residents to receive joint bachelor's and masters' degrees.

The two have signed an agreement that acknowledges a long-shared common goal and sets in place a plan for the future. The agreement allows TAMIU students to begin their degree there and finish at UAT. Their UAT counterparts could begin there and end at TAMIU. Both universities would recognize the joint degrees.

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the agreement affords TAMIU students an additional opportunity to realize the University's global mission by engaging in a truly international curriculum.

Through a performance project funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Education, the 17-member performance troupe and staff presented "Love Transcends the Skyline," a sign language opera.

Tsai said the Opera calls for efforts spanning languages, ethnicities, culture and religions to make a global positive difference with filial piety and good deeds.



1



2



4



5



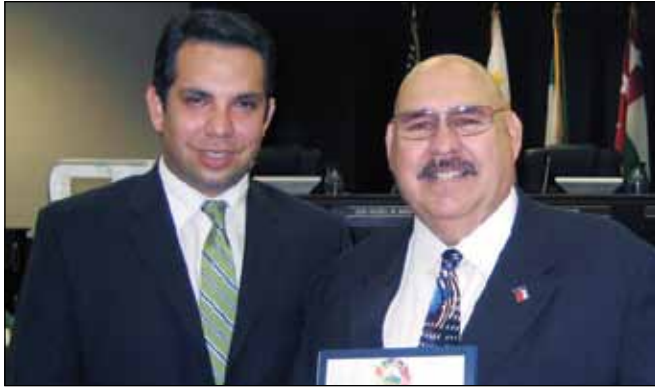
7



8



10



3



6



9



11

- 1 Guests of Senator Judith Zaffirini at the first day of the 2009 Legislative session are TAMIU seniors: Carina González, Selina Mata, Geoffrey E. Daves, and James Cortez.
- 2 Dr. Yu-Mei Tsai ('88), director of general education center at the Tzu-Chi College of Technology in Taiwan (right) brought her students to Laredo and her alma mater to perform sign language opera. After presenting Dr. Keck gifts from their native Taiwan, Dharma Master De-Yin (left) demonstrated the use of the portable chop sticks.
- 3 City of Laredo Mayor, Raul Salinas proclaimed March 2009 as TAMIU Alumni Month. He is joined by Alfredo Santos, IV ('06). The celebration was held at the LEC during a Buck's game.
- 4 ConocoPhillips employees raised money for different organizations in the communities where they work and live. Athletic Director Debbie Snell and Soccer Coach Claudio Arias attended the luncheon at their Aguilares office. Employees welcoming guests were Sonia Molina, Kathy Treviño, Marina Hensley and Dana Parker.
- 5 Joe Long from the Lozano-Long Foundation recently visited TAMIU to discuss grant opportunities with the Foundation. Pictured L-R, Dr. Minita Ramírez ('83) associate vice president for student success; Long, president Lozano-Long Foundation; Dr. Ray Keck president, and Candy Hein, vice president of institutional advancement.
- 6 Coordinator of Prospect Research Cathy Colunga (center) got together with Sunita Mirpurikumar ('91) and Cliff Green ('07) while she vacationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. Sunita has lived there for the past 15 years with her husband, Raj and daughter, Sapna. Cliff is currently working on his masters in social work and looks forward to continuing with his Ph.D. Cliff is the son of TAMIU professor, Dr. Stanley Green.
- 7 Enjoying TAMIU Night at the Bucks are Alicia Valdez ('83), Mauricio Vasquez, Dusty, Roberto and Vanessa Guardiola ('01), and Jesse Ramírez.
- 8 Donor Anthony J. Pellegrino visited campus to see how much the campus has grown since the naming of Pellegrino Hall for he and his wife. A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business Ph.D. students presented him with a TAMIU tie. (l-r) Eliana Ledesma ('08), Shaun Sexton ('07), ('08), José Luis Daniel ('05), Leebrian Gaskins and Jesús Carmona.
- 9 At recent dedication of the Dr. F. Allen Briggs Folklore Collection are, left to right, son, Garrett Briggs; granddaughter Caris Thetford; daughter Marylyn Senechalle; daughter Jan Welch and son James Briggs. In archival photo, left to right, Dr. Briggs, Christian Gates Spies, son of Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes, and Dr. Lem Londos Railsback.
- 10 Dr. Elsa Murano, Texas A&M University president, visited TAMIU and the Laredo Independent School District's Early College High School on campus. Left to right, Dr. Humberto González, dean, College of Education, Dr. Keck, TAMIU president, Dr. Murano and José Cerda, principal of the ECHS.
- 11 TAMIU student participants in the University's "Reading the Globe: the TAMIU Freshman Experience," traveled to Poland over Spring Break, visiting many sites linked to this year's Experience book, "All But My Life," by Gerda Weissmann Klein. The 15 students travel was coordinated by the Office for Institutional Advancement and underwritten by donors, including the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation.

# Texas A&M International University



## Your Future is Calling... Invest in Yourself

These are challenging times, but investing in yourself through higher education is one smart move. This year, record numbers will turn to higher education to retool for a new career or prepare for a changing future.

Over 80% of **TAMIU** students qualify for financial assistance to help them do just that —choosing from over 70 undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees.

**Come and visit us so that we can explore the options that best fit your needs!**

**TAMIU: It's the reward of a lifetime!**

For information, graduate program, visit [tamiu.edu/gradschool](http://tamiu.edu/gradschool), e-mail [graduateschool@tamiu.edu](mailto:graduateschool@tamiu.edu), call 956.326.3020 or come by Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 326

For undergraduate information, visit: [tamiu.edu/whatiwant](http://tamiu.edu/whatiwant), e-mail [enroll@tamiu.edu](mailto:enroll@tamiu.edu), call 956.326.2270 or come by Student Center, room 126.

**Texas A&M International University  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900**

NON PROFIT ORG  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 1457  
Dallas, TX