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prism

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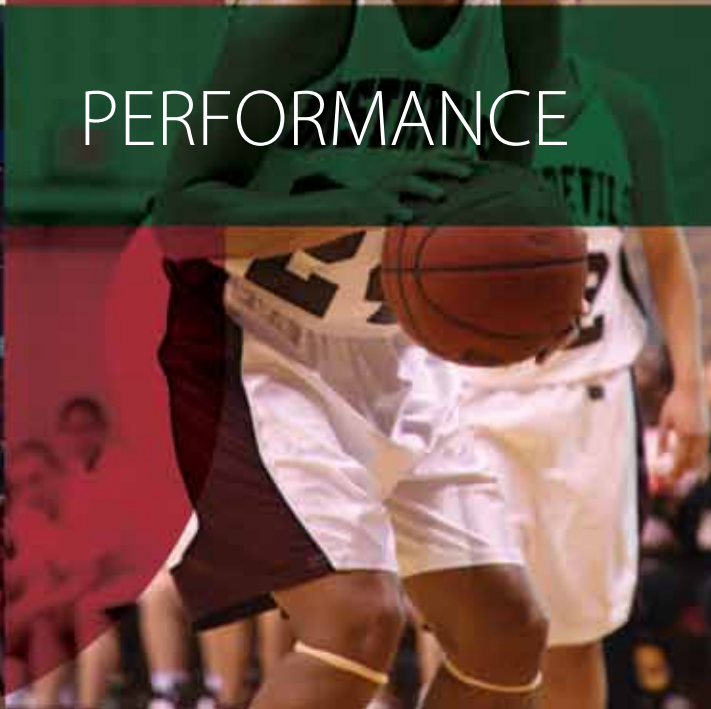


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students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly
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ABOUT PRISM

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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.*

A story of

Courage and Deter



Dr. Ray Keck, III, President

More than the land we walk upon or the buildings we inhabit, books form the essential companion to life in the university. Because they are necessary for learning, for preserving, and for sharing what we have learned, books often acquire a sacred status. "In *Society and Solitude*" (1870), Emerson asserts that reading a book is an intensely private matter, rather like prayer. Compiling a list of those texts he thought sacred, Emerson describes these books as "the majestic expressions of the universal conscience, and are more to our daily purpose than this year's almanac or this day's newspaper. But they are for the closet, and are to be read on the bended knee. Their communications are not to be given or taken with the lips and the end of the tongue, but out of the glow of the cheek, and with the throbbing heart."

All serious readers would, I think, agree with Mr. Emerson. A great book enters the private recesses our souls, transforming who we are, challenging us to be or to do what we had not imagined. Many celebrated accounts tell of readers significantly altered by the power of what they have read. Alonso Quijano, poring alone over the romances of chivalry, came upon his dream and became Don Quijote. Paolo and Francesca, reading furtively together the story of Lancelot's loves, exchanged the fatal kiss and lost their souls. The dreamlike command of an unseen voice—"Take! Read!"—led St. Augustine to the text that would define his life.

A Quiet Revolution. In preparation for this academic year, freshmen, faculty, and staff of Texas A&M International University read, not alone or in a closet but together, "All But My Life," the story of one woman's experience of the Holocaust. When on September 12, 2008 the author, Mrs. Klein, stepped into the recital hall of our Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, 900 freshmen, faculty and staff jumped to their feet to offer cheers of gratitude and recognition. As Mrs. Klein stepped forward, tears filled in her eyes as she received our greeting. I have never felt such surging pride in our students and our community. I wish those moments—cheeks glowing and hearts throbbing—could have been lengthened, captured, preserved. For in those moments in which we saluted Gerda Weismann Klein, we experienced a solidarity, an identity, and an understanding Emerson did not foresee, a conjoining of minds and hearts made possible by one great and common experience, the reading together of one book.

The circumstances of her visit made my introduction of Mrs. Klein to our community unlike any other I have ever attempted. With the arrival of any guest speaker, an introduction is intended to acquaint the audience with the person about to speak, to give some sense of what is about to be said and who is about to say it. This time, because she wrote her story and because we had all read it together, we know Gerda Weismann Klein better than we know each other. We know—each by name—her family and her friends, what her brother Arthur was like and why she continues to miss him so, what it was like to grow up in the home inherited from her mother's parents, the number of fruit trees in her family orchard, the name of her nana, the color of her mother's favorite housecoat. And we know that all this, all but her life, was lost in the Holocaust.

The greatest books, the sacred books, change us as they penetrate what Antonio Machado calls the "galleries of our souls." From those precious

mination

moments spent with her on September 12 and from the ensuing discussions all over this campus, each of us has been made anew by our encounter with Gerda Weismann Klein and her book, for me, her account of unspeakable sadness and loss, resown in hope, will remain Mrs. Klein's greatest gift: "One thinks that my experience might lie like a stone upon the soul. It does not. It is a small flame which burns brightest and most intensely when it encounters injustice or love."

Her husband, Kurt Klein, the same American soldier who rescued her at the war's end, warns that "pain should not be wasted." Mrs. Klein has lived her life honoring that admonition. Her pain continues, but accompanied by a courage to denounce injustice and a zeal to nurture love, reborn in her family and inspired in her readers.

Difficult task. To write effectively about past events is a difficult task. Lionel Trilling, in his famous collection of essays, "The Liberal Imagination" (recently re-issued, with an introduction by Louis Menand), declares only the novel as adequate to the challenge. Our present lives, Trilling observes, are simply too rich with "layers of intention and manners," often irretrievable when we turn our thoughts to the past. "The buzz of implication that always surrounds us in the present," that "sense of the variousness and possibility of human life" must be created, recreated, retrospectively, for past events in their retelling to take on the power of a present moment.

Mrs. Klein brings her readers a story more various and jagged than most of us could imagine, as full and complex as the tales of our best writers. Cervantes, in "Don Quijote," locates his tale between the twin extremes of savage, unpoetic reality and dreamy hope. Gerda Weismann Klein leads her reader to see and to feel the unimaginable cruelty of the Third Reich's "final solution," but she does not hold up an idealized humanity as an alternative possibility.

Courage and Determination. She herself, her family, those she meets in the course of the war, are all human beings who demonstrate equal measures of innocence and pride, of warmth and remove, of acts both selfless and self-seeking. To the "cellarage" of evil Mrs. Klein does not contrast simple goodness, but complexity and contradiction: Abek, foolishly pursuing a young Gerda who rejects him without fully understanding why (Mrs. Klein whispered to me that she still feels troubled by her rejection of Abek); Frau Kügler, a Nazi guard, cruel and efficient, who nonetheless twice breaks out of her role to save Gerda's life; Niania, weeping as she helplessly prays her rosary when Gerda comes to tell her ancient nana good-bye; brother Arthur, valiantly leaving his family, unable to turn back to wave one last time; Kurt Klein, answering a frightened Gerda's confession that she is a Jew: "So am I."

Gerda Weismann Klein's account of her life, of her years as a Jew living under the Third Reich, moves us precisely because she is able to give the past all the variousness and possibility we perceive in the present. Her book, embraced with such warm energy by this University community, leads us to a new understanding of what we humans can do and what we can endure. From the warm glow of her words, we too can light within that small flame she carries. We too can ensure that it burn brightest in the presence of injustice and love.

- Sanchez Lecture Series celebrated 10th anniversary
- Trading Room and Technology Center supported by the Sanchez Family Foundation was inaugurated
- Enrollment topped 5,000 students
- UT Health Science Center and TAMIU signed an agreement to offer a joint bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics
- Congressman Henry Cuellar '82 announced a \$3.5 million joint grant to TAMIU and Laredo Community College from Title V
- Program for Non-Profit Excellence was announced by the Texas Center for Border Economics and Enterprise Development
- College of Business Administration was renamed A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business
- Articulation agreement with TAMU in Engineering was created
- TAMIU was designated as the fiscal agent for the P-16 Council by the State of Texas
- Athletics department became fully vested as a member of the NCAA Division II Heartland Conference
- One third of TAMIU athletes earned Heartland Conference Academic Honors
- \$7 million was raised from individuals, foundations and corporations
- \$5 million was raised from federal grants
- Laredo Heat play on lighted TAMIU soccer field with lights donated by Shashi and Priya Vaswani
- TAMIU's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business ranks 7th of "Best 296 Business Schools" by *The Princeton Review* for offering the greatest opportunity for minority students.



TAMIU Pre-Engi Speeds Student

In the Fall of 2007, Texas A&M International University and Texas A&M University implemented an agreement that defines and facilitates the automatic admission and academic transfer of TAMIU engineering students into engineering programs at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Dan Jones, then TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs, praised the agreement.

"This agreement makes it possible for Laredo students to have preferred access to one of the best engineering programs in the world. We are grateful to everyone at Texas A&M who worked closely with our faculty to make this agreement happen," he said.

Bartell Zachry, native Laredoan and chairman of the board of San Antonio-based Zachry Construction Corporation, helped to bring the two universities together and noted the opportunities the partnership presents.

"I'm honored to have had a role in bringing these two great schools together. This is all about access for South Texas and Laredo especially," Zachry said.

Dr. Tongdan Jin, assistant professor of systems engineering at TAMIU, said, "The program has grown from 10 students to 27 in the Fall of 2008," and he foresees more students applying.

In addition to completing the 42 credits required of the degree plan prior to transferring, the pre-engineering students have to complete a two week summer camp program. The camp is to help students acclimate to the Texas A&M University campus and culture; introduce them to the various engineering disciplines and immerse them in interesting math, science and engineering concepts.

Dr. Rafic Bachnak, professor and chair, Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (right) demonstrates to Sofía Maldonado and Javier Torres the proper procedure for using the Expert Mill, a computer numerical control machine.

work, dedication to the job at hand and determination that have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” -- Vincent Thomas “Vince” Lombardi

Engineering Program Transfer to A&M

The annual cost of the summer program is approximately \$100,000, which covers faculty cost and student participation. Texas A&M’s Dwight Look Engineering is providing \$143,000 in in-kind support of the program.

In May of 2008, Zachry, also an engineer and a longtime supporter of A&M Engineering, and Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, visited with local Laredo engineers to describe to them the program and solicit their support. Zachry also pledged \$50,000 to be matched by local developers Blackstone Dilworth and Gary Leyendecker through the Laredo Area Community Foundation. Dr. Keck feels that this plan will “ultimately see established in Laredo a full College of Engineering at the University.”

Signing the historic accord are, left to right, Dr. Dan Jones, former TAMIU provost; Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president; and Dr. Jerry R. Strawser, TAMU interim provost. The accord is effective this Fall.



More Students Attend University While in High School

More than ever, the campus is home to younger and younger students who are participating in two new programs that are dismantling long-erected walls between universities and high schools. The University’s Early College High School and State-mandated selection in House Bill 1 are effectively removing barriers and encouraging seamless and powerful transitions from high school to university.

The Early College High School Program, a joint initiative with Laredo Independent School District, provides a University-focused education throughout the four-year high school experience. Funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, it has expanded to over 300 students in the three years since its inception. It has also earned state recognition as an exemplary campus and regional and national recognition as a model campus for others to emulate.

House Bill 1 mandates that all Texas high school students in their senior year have the opportunity to earn University credit in courses offered at state universities and colleges. This Fall, the University has seen approximately 345 students enroll at the University through HB1.

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the programs, individually and in combination, can do much to not only encourage students to pursue higher education, but for higher education institutions to address the needs of new generations of students.

“By having a high school offered wholly on our campus, we are inscribing a comfort zone into our curriculum, an opportunity for students to acclimate to a University life that cherishes their dreams and encourages their realization. With HB 1, we offer that same environment with targeted classes that challenges students to perform to succeed. In both instances, our faculty are also afforded an opportunity to develop new teaching and student retention models that are geared to students that are driven and directed to succeed. There is also much to be said for the shift in dynamics that occurs across campus with students of all ages involved,” Dr. Keck said.



**Dr. Minita Ramirez '83
congratulates
Ms. Laura L. Hovel '07
for receiving her
masters degree.**

School of Bu ge

Texas A&M International University's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business, formerly known as the College of Business Administration has been named the recipient of a \$10 million gift from the A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation and a \$10 million matching challenge grant.

The gifts will be used to establish an endowment fund for the University's A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business for its support, programming, activities and improvements.

The Sanchez' said the gift exemplifies the A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation's commitment to effecting social change and improving the quality of life for residents of South Texas and the border.

"Our family has deep roots here and a great affection for our hometown. Through our Foundation, we are able to return some of our good fortune to the people and place that we truly cherish. We are delighted to be able to give the College of Business Administration the ability to grow and excel further," said Tony Sanchez.

His wife, Maria "Tani" Sanchez, noted, "By doing so, we strongly believe that we are effecting lasting social change

C H A L L E N G E G R A N T

Sanchez Family Challenge Matching Donations

A second \$10 million dollar opportunity by the Sanchez Family Foundation is a challenge grant that makes possible an innovative occasion for other donors to "double" their donations made to the University of over \$25,000. For example, a \$500,000 gift would become \$1 million, a \$1 million gift \$2 million, etc. The naming opportunity is then given to the donor.

TAMIU president, Dr. Ray Keck, said the challenge grant could be an agent for the University's growth.

"The impact of this visionary challenge that The Sanchez Family Foundation makes possible is the acceleration of the University's growth and its move the next level. With like-minded partners powering this investment, the University's greatness will be shared for generations to come," Dr. Keck explained.

breadcrumbs, leading you on to fulfill your life's purpose"— Chris and Janet Attwood

Business gets new name



here and providing a catalyst for an improved quality of life in South Texas."

Impact on University felt. Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the impact of the latest Sanchez gift is indeed life-changing for the young University.

"We have always been much-blessed by the partnership of the Sanchez family, but this gift is absolutely monumental in purpose and scope. While we feel this remarkable family's presence daily here at TAMIU, this generous gift extends their vision beyond our imagination. All young universities like TAMIU dream of such a partner and we are so fortunate that they share and affirm our vision of higher education for South Texas," Dr. Keck said.

L-r: Frank Ayala '08 and Tony Sanchez seated: Karla Linero '07, Tani Sanchez and Elizabeth Dovalina '08.

Salinas Trust Responds to Sanchez Challenge

For more information on the Challenge Grant and matching funds, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 956.326.GIVE or visit <http://www.tamtu.edu/adminis/vpia/>.

The first large response to the Sanchez Family matching challenge grant at Texas A&M International University was a \$1 million gift to the University from the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust. The Trust will have three naming opportunities for classrooms in the memory of Roberto M. and Beatriz S. Benavides, and Serapio and Amelia de LaChica Vela and in appreciation of Fernando A. Salinas.

"This gift will act as a catalyst, accelerating the University's growth and its move to the next level of excellence," Dr. Keck explained.



Dr. Ray M. Keck, III, TAMIU president with Javier Santos, Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust Trustee

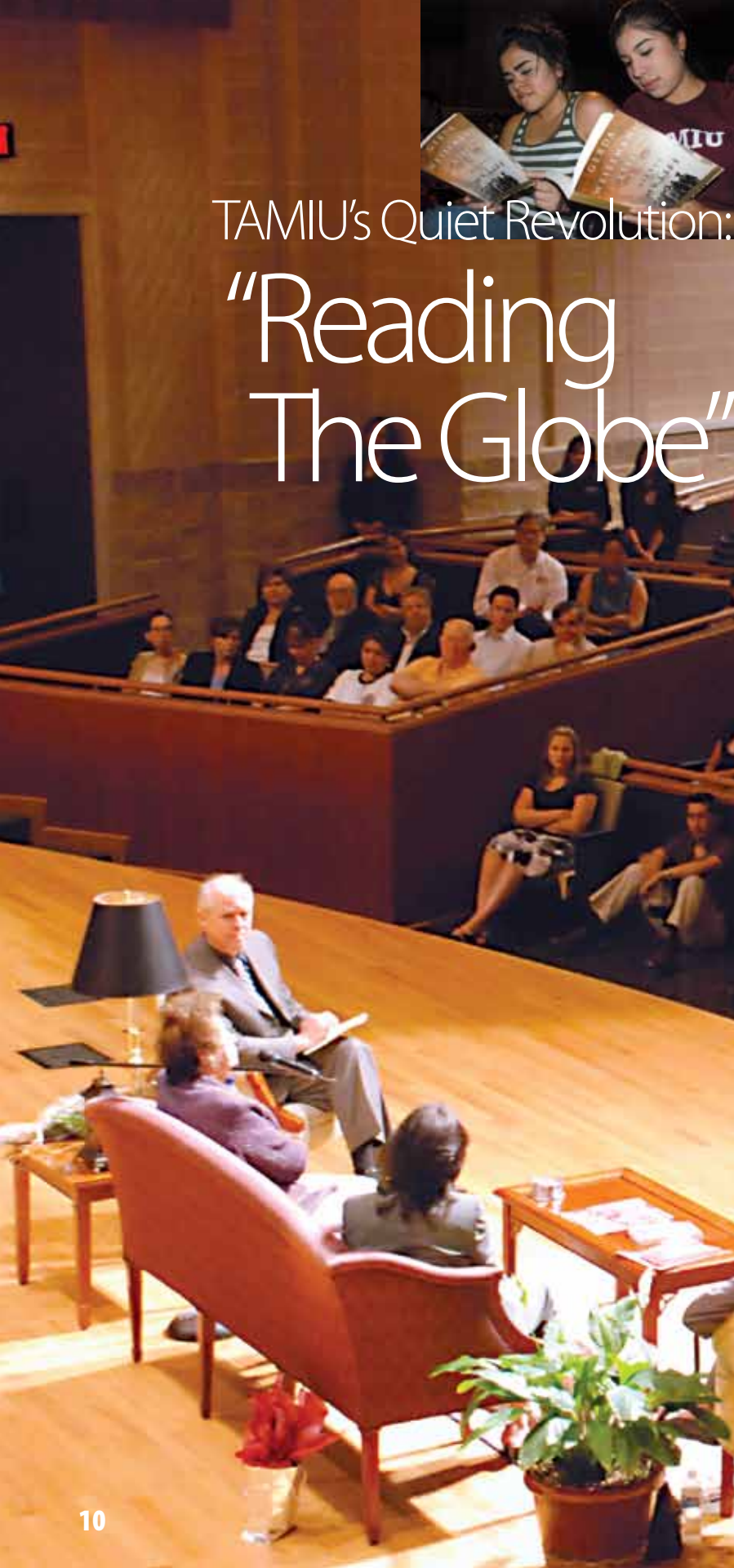
Javier Santos, Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust spokesperson said, "The Trust was fortunate to be able to help Laredo's University to grow and excel."

"Through strategic program delivery, research and service, this University lights the way to our community's economic, intellectual and physical growth. While the University is assisted by the State of Texas and graciously supported by many private philanthropists, like the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust and The Sanchez Family Foundation, its growth brings unfunded needs. We appreciate the philanthropic partnerships which help us to address these needs," Keck said.



TAMIU's Quiet Revolution:

"Reading The Globe"



If you visit Texas A&M International University this Fall, you will probably see freshmen students reading a similar small, brown-colored text that rarely leaves their side. Its pages will be tagged and its margins bright with carefully inked comments. In conversations across campus, you're likely to hear it mentioned frequently among TAMIU students, faculty and staff.

The campus community is part of a quiet reading revolution fueled by the first offering of "Reading the Globe: the TAMIU Freshman Experience," a University-wide common reading effort designed to promote meaningful learning, set high expectations for students, build an intellectual community and deepen students' understanding of international issues.

Holocaust survivor shares memoirs. This fall, all incoming freshmen were provided with a copy of "All But My Life" by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Klein's book was also selected as the first in Laredo's "One City, One Book," a city-wide book club initiative sponsored by the Laredo Public Library and the Food for Thought Foundation.

The author herself visited the campus to meet with students and share her memoir as a young Polish Jewish girl's Nazi enslavement and her ultimate liberation by American soldiers. The book was the basis for the Emmy-winning Holocaust documentary, "One Survivor Remembers." Klein has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *CBS Sunday Morning* and was featured on *60 Minutes* and *Nightline*.

Over 800 students sat motionless, but certainly not emotionless as Klein revisited her experience in wrenching detail, often eliciting sobs throughout the cavernous Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Drawing from her memories on enslavement, torture and eventual liberation, she cautioned her young listeners that the lessons of the Holocaust are sadly not over and that marginalization, oppression, and torture live on around the world, citing the current situation in Darfur, Iraq and in regimes worldwide.

TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck said the initiative is probably one of the single most important efforts undertaken by the University.

"This was just monumentally important for our students, their University and our community and we are all deeply moved by our opportunity to share this experience. In my 30-plus years of teaching, I can honestly say that this was a watershed event and one that I'll cherish along with our students for life," Dr. Keck said.

"Globe" prototype of annual offerings. TAMIU executive director of the University's Programs for Academic Support and Enrichment (PASE), Conchita Hickey, said "Reading the

bition, the overlap is called success." --Cullen Hightower



TAMIU Professor President-Elect for Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Texas A&M International University professor of English Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell was elected president-elect of the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Society* for 2009-2011 at the Society's Biennial Conference held at Maine's Bowdoin College, Hawthorne's alma mater.

Mitchell will become president of the Society in 2012. Among Mitchell's duties as president-elect include organization of the 2010 Conference to be held in Concord, Massachusetts.

The Society's over 400 members include professors, students, and lovers of literature interested in the scholarly study of Hawthorne, the mid-19th Century writer most famous for such tales as "Young Goodman Brown" and "Rappaccini's Daughter," and full-length romances "The Scarlet Letter" and "The House of the Seven Gables."

In addition to holding biennial conferences in places where Hawthorne lived and wrote, the Society sponsors a journal, the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, and organizes scholarly sessions at the annual national meetings of the Modern Language Association (MLA) and the American Literature Association (ALA).

Mitchell has been a professor at TAMIU since 1998. He has served as a department chair and two terms as president of the Faculty Senate.

Mitchell's book on Hawthorne, "Hawthorne's Fuller Mystery" (University of Massachusetts Press), was nominated for the MLA's First Book Award and for the American Studies Association's Thomas Hope Franklin Award for best book in American Studies.

He has also published several articles on Hawthorne, as well as other prominent 19th Century writers Herman Melville, Margaret Fuller, John Keats and Robert Browning.

Prior to joining TAMIU, he taught for 25 years at Laredo Community College. He is married to Dr. Linda Marie García Mitchell, principal of St. Peter's Memorial School. They have three children.

Globe" is a prototype of a proposed annual offering each Fall at the University.

"It's an exciting first installment and we are greatly encouraged by student, faculty and staff response to this program. Freshmen students, faculty and administrative staff received copies of the book and reserve and electronic versions of the book are to be available from our Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library," Hickey explained.

Book tied to further learning. All faculty that will be instructing new TAMIU freshmen this year will have opportunities to tie the text to learning to further expand upon its impact, she said.

"In this way, we're able to develop social, cultural, historical, political and, in some cases, economic dimensions of the selected book. It is an enormously important book that has profound implications for all readers as it questions our humanity and reaffirms our capacity for strength against all odds," Hickey explained.

Later this semester, students will compose essays based upon the book. A faculty committee will choose a limited number of top essays, with those students being eligible to participate in a paid trip to Poland during spring break to include a visit to the concentration camps, besides other places of historical and cultural interest.

When they return, student travelers will meet with other TAMIU students and designated groups to recount their experience and serve as ambassadors for "Reading the Globe: the TAMIU Freshman Experience," its mission and goals.

Community members interested in financially supporting this new University travel initiative can contact Candy Hein, vice president, Office for Institutional Advancement, at 956.326.GIVE or e-mail tamiugiving@tamiu.edu.

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Emilia Rodríguez García
Endowment for Education

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García Gift Supports TAMIU Scholarships



Emilia Rodríguez García, retired teacher, has donated a \$50,000 endowment to Texas A&M International University's College of Education in support of student scholarships.

Mrs. García was a math teacher for over 35 years and charter teacher at Lamar Middle School. Joining her to celebrate her gift are (standing) Javier L. García, son, Alysha García and Rubi L. García, granddaughters, Berta L. García, daughter-in-law and Eddie L. García, Jr., son. Seated are: TAMIU vice president for institutional advancement Candy Hein, holding Jasmine Victoria Hinds, great-granddaughter, Emilia Rodríguez García, and Becky L. García, granddaughter.



Marcus Moreno
BA '92, MBA '98

"I'd like to see us have 500 active Alumni members and contribute over \$100,000 in Alumni Scholarships for local students per year," he smiled.

TAMIU Alum Gives Back, Gives On

Professional:

Allstate Owner Agent
Laredo and San Antonio
Honor Ring, 6 years
National Conference Award, 5 years
Allstate National Advisory Board

Community Service & Civic Involvement:

Next Generation Rotary
Webb County Action Agency
Board Member
City of Laredo-Airport Board Member

TAMIU:

TAMIU Portraits of
Alumni Achievement-2007
Alumni President 2000-2001
Alumni Vice-President 1999-2000
Ford AutMus Fest Chair/
Co-Chair 2006-Present
President's Alumni Council 2007-Present

Family:

Wife Ada '93
Daughters Sophia 6 years old and
Selika 4 years old

Marcus Moreno '92, '98 says his gratitude and commitment to Texas A&M International University is best provided by giving back.

"My time at TAMIU filled me with a profound sense of appreciation and responsibility to someday be able to return in some small way the support and empowerment that was provided to me," Moreno explained.

A successful Allstate Insurance agent, his volunteer efforts in his community has been recognized by the Allstate Hands in a Community grant which is awarded to top agents. The Allstate Foundation requires that volunteer work have a positive impact on the local community. Moreno selected TAMIU as the benefactor of his service.

Originally from San Antonio, Moreno said TAMIU was an inspiration to him as a student and he wants to help insure that the University continues to be a source of encouragement for current and future students to fulfill their own dreams and desires.

"I remember the profound impact of being part of classes and being able to live and learn with students with different opinions and backgrounds. It brought me

an openness and receptiveness that's been part of my professional life ever since," he recalled.

Moreno said he hopes other alumni will explore opportunities to give back to the University.

"It's a great way to continue to be involved in the life of the University. You can volunteer your time to the Alumni Association, for example, or you can provide a financial gift in support of University students or programs. In my many years of community service, I've come to learn that every dollar makes a difference. Our community's future is the long-term beneficiary of our support," he said.

Moreno's commitment to his alma mater extends beyond the occasional gathering. He has dispensed countless hours and devotion into crafting a winning event, Ford AutMus Fest. His farsighted leadership is not only propelling AutMus into the Association's biggest fundraiser, but also a much anticipated annual festival, now in its fourth year.

"I'm not sure alumni recognize the importance of private donations, but that's not to say their love and loyalty isn't strong. I'd like to see us have 500 active Alumni members and contribute over \$100,000 in alumni scholarships for local students per year," he smiled.



Marcus Moreno '92, '98 (right) with former alumni association president, Orlando Navarro '94 at the 2007 Ford AutMus Fest.

2008 Dr. Billy F. Cowart Award Recipients

The College of Education established the Dr. Billy F. Cowart Award in 2006 to recognize the achievements of our region's educators who have made tremendous strides in their field.



BECKY LONG '06

Special Education
Texas A&M International University
Master of Science in Special Education
Department Head of Special Education at
United South High School, Laredo



ARACELI HORNEADO PACHECO '90

Teacher Education
Laredo State University
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Third Grade Teacher at Finley Elementary, Laredo



TAMIU students that participated in the Scholarship Phonathon pictured are: (L – R) Silde Hernández, Alejandra de la Garza, J. P. García and María Silva.

TAMIU Scholarship Phonathon “Rings” \$310,000

The call was answered. Texas A&M International University’s call for community support for student scholarships brought an affirmative response of \$310,000. The goal for the effort was \$250,000.

“We’re absolutely elated with the generosity provided by our community’s businesses and leaders,” said TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck. “On behalf of our deserving students, I sincerely extend my appreciation to all who answered the call.”

The University had mounted a three-pronged campaign to help generate needed scholarship monies after this semester’s enrollment surge to 5,980 students and high retention rate (70%) combined to drain its available scholarship pool.

The campaign included a direct mail letter, visits with potential donors and a phonathon that targeted local businesses.

D.D. Hachar Trust Fund sets pace. The drive’s earliest and largest responder was the D.D. Hachar Charitable Trust Fund, managed by LNB-A Division of Compass Bank, which provided \$250,000. The phonathon brought in an additional \$60,000 pledged by 60 local businesses.

Candy Hein, TAMIU vice president for institutional advancement, was quick to thank University and community volunteers who staffed the phonathon.

“This really would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers. It was an ‘all hands on deck effort,’ from our deans and faculty to our administrators, staff and TAMIU’s Alumni Association members. We’re very blessed to have so many answer our call to help our students realize their higher education dreams here,” Hein said.



Increase your donation without dipping into your savings...

Are you aware that some companies match donations made by their employees?

Contact your employer’s human resource department to see if they will match your gift to the University. Their match can double, triple or even quadruple the amount of your gift.



ANA LAURA RANGEL SALINAS '84, '93

School Counseling
Laredo State University
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education
Master of Science in Education
Counselor at Mirabeau B. Lamar Middle School, Laredo



DR. MYRTHA PÉREZ VILLARREAL '91

Educational Administration
Laredo State University
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education
Texas A&M International University
Master of Science in Education Administration
Principal at Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School, Laredo

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust was established in 1989. The legacy of its namesake continues through the enhancement of the Catholic Church, educational and health institutions, and numerous local social services organizations.

As her health deteriorated in later years, Bruni Vergara sought to ensure that her care for her community would continue. The Laredo philanthropist's vision and legacy of assisting higher education continues through the benevolent acts of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust.



\$3 Million Gift

Generous Gift from Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust Expands TAMIU Opportunities

The graduate study scholarship opportunities at Texas A&M International University dramatically increased with the announcement of a new \$3 million gift from the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust this September.

Vergara Trust trustees Solomon Casseb and Joe Martin presented the University with their generous gift in ceremonies Thursday, September 11. This gift is in addition to a 2005 gift that created a \$10 million endowment that also supports graduate student scholarships.

Trustees said their interest in providing additional support for graduate students is consistent with the Trust's commitment to education here.

"We believe that providing more opportunities and



L to r: J. C. Martin, III, Lamar Bruni Vergara trustee; Dr. Ray M. Keck, III, TAMIU president and Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., Lamar Bruni Vergara trustee.

Casseb Jr. concurred.

"We believe that the legacy of Lamar Bruni Vergara truly lives on in the lives of purpose and accomplishment that these TAMIU graduate students make real through their graduate education," Casseb said.

scholarships to those seeking graduate degrees at TAMIU is further validation of our ongoing support of higher education. Our TAMIU graduates go on to lead lives of professional excellence and leadership giving that better our community and region in incalculable ways. We are delighted to be able to insure that more students will be able to pursue their graduate education here," said Trustee Joe Martin. Trustee Solomon



The Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden is an eight-acre park that fronts the University's Student Center and was developed through a significant gift from the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust.

Unprecedented Partnership. TAMIU president, Dr. Ray Keck said "The Trust's partnership with TAMIU is unprecedented."

"We are enormously appreciative for the visionary partnership that the Trust continues to provide. While our students are the primary beneficiaries, the true gain is to our city and region which every year receives a remarkable infusion of TAMIU graduates ready to give, ready to lead and ready to serve as catalysts of change," Dr. Keck said.

The gift will support assistantships, fellowships and scholarships. An assistantship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work (20 hours per week) in teaching or research while pursuing an advanced degree and provides up to \$9,000 per year.

A fellowship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work (10 hours per week) in teaching or research while pursuing an advanced degree. Graduate Fellowship awards provide up to \$6,000 per year.

Scholarships pay tuition up to \$3,000 a year (\$1,000 per semester, including summer) for qualified graduate students.

Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance, students must be fully admitted graduate students working towards a master's or doctoral degree, enroll in six graduate hours each semester (or summer) while receiving Trust funding, and maintain an overall GPA of 3.5. Application deadline is May 1. (Late applications are accepted based on the availability of funds).

The Trust has provided gifts and support for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and its programs, student scholarships, faculty research, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden and the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium.

Create a Living Legacy "Change a Life"

- Establish an endowment for any purpose you and the President of TAMIU feel is important
- Establish in memory of a loved one or yourself
- Establish with a minimum gift of \$25,000 that can be paid in \$5,000 increments within a 5 year period

To establish an endowment, contact the
Office of Institutional Advancement
at 956.326.GIVE or
e-mail tamiugiving@tamiu.edu



TAMIU Athletics Makes

BIG MOVE

to NCAA Division II



Texas A&M International University Athletics took the biggest step in the program's seven-year history when it became an active NCAA Division II member of the Heartland Conference on September 1, 2008. The landmark day made all 11 Dustdevil teams immediately eligible for conference and NCAA postseason championship play.

Achieving NCAA Division II status capped a process that was sown with the program's inception in 2002. TAMIU competed as a NAIA member of the Red River Athletic Conference during the program's first four years before competing as a NCAA provisional member the last two years.

The evolution of the program can also be measured by the increase in the number of sponsored sports. The department has grown from five sponsored sports at the NAIA level to 11 sponsored sports at the NCAA Division II level. Dustdevil teams compete in men's and women's basketball, cross-country, golf and soccer along with

baseball, softball and volleyball.

Playing full NCAA Division II schedules will present Dustdevil Athletic teams the challenge of competing against the best small college competition in the nation. Aside from the Heartland Conference, much of this competition will come from the other major Division II conference in Texas, the Lone Star Conference.

The Heartland Conference is an established Division II conference that has recently won national championships in baseball and softball. The conference sponsors championships in a total of 13 sports.

A primary focus of TAMIU's formative years as NCAA Division II members will be increasing scholarship levels and improving facilities. "We're competing against established programs with the resources to compete at a national level. It's going to take the interest and investment of individuals and corporate partners for us to build a program that all of Laredo can be proud of," Dr. Debbie Snell, TAMIU Athletics director concluded.

Killams Challenge Community to Strengthen Resources

David and Haley Killam first became involved in TAMIU Athletics when they began providing scholarships to the TAMIU women's athletic teams. For two years now, they have offered \$20,000 in scholarships to deserving TAMIU women athletes as well as opened their home and ranch to them for social activities.

They have also offered to match up to \$500,000 for endowed athletic scholarships. Donors can use their name or a loved one's in their honor to designate the endowment. The minimum amount for a donation is \$25,000. If a donor gives \$12,500, it will be matched by the Killams in order to meet the minimum amount.

**If interested in making a donation, please contact the
Office of Institutional Advancement, 956.326.GIVE.**



"Excellence is the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer." -- Rick Pitino



National "Excelencia" Program HONORS LOCALS

Attending the festivities were Jannet García, director of the TAMIU International Education Division of International Programs, Bob and Shirley González, trustees for the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation, Dr. Miroslava Vargas '75, '80, TAMIU professor, and Dr. Humberto González, dean of the TAMIU College of Education.

The Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation and the TAMIU College of Education were honored recently at the Celebración de Excelencia Recognition Program and Reception in Houston, Texas in September.

Programs significant to Hispanics. Each year, Excelencia in Education, a national nonprofit organized and based in Washington, D.C., asks higher education stakeholders to nominate programs or departments that are making a significant impact for Hispanic students at the associate, baccalaureate and graduate levels. Nominees are vetted in a multi-step review and selection process led by Excelencia and a group of national experts who comprise the Examples of Excelencia selection committee.

This year, more than 70 programs from across the nation were reviewed. Martínez Foundation was one of 14 who received honorable mention honors and the College of Education was one of 11 programs named semifinalists.

Gifts of opportunity. "We are extremely grateful to the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation for the study abroad scholarships that have provided the gift of opportunity and global learning for our Hispanic

students," said Jannet García, "Study abroad students develop skills that teach them how to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, risk takers, to be open-minded and so much more."

"Programs like TAMIU's College of Education Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers Today has worked diligently to create strategies to improve higher educational achievement for hispanic students," said Henry Cisneros, executive chairman of CityView and an Excelencia Honorary Board Member. "It is particularly important to identify and expand such programs as the Hispanic proportion of the U.S. population grows. Today's Hispanic college students will be America's future workforce and leadership."

Regional, national networking important. Excelencia links Hispanic students to research, policy, and practice through a network of results oriented educators and policymakers. Its work has been supported by major national and regional foundations, including Ford Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, Sallie Mae, TG, Univision, USA Funds, Verizon Communications and Walmart.

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Emma A. Garza
Felipe E. Garza
Verónica A. González
Dr. Michael M. Grayson
Dr. San Juanita G. Hachar '91
María E. Hernández '82
Concepción C. Hickey
Judith D. and Dr. John C. Kilburn, Jr.
Dennis J. Koch
Daniel A. Lathey
Stephone Leary
Alejandro A. Martínez, Jr. '89
Elena M. Martínez '93
Elizabeth N. Martínez '80, '01
Verónica G. Martínez '96, '98

Barbara J. Mathieu
Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell
Betty L. '94 and Dr. Nasser Momayezi
Lupita Mosqueda
Delma D. Olivarez
Richard P. Pérez
Dr. Trace Pirtle
Dr. Minita R. Ramírez '83
Óscar E. Reyna
Dr. William W. Riggs
Jaime Ríos
Gustavo Salazar II '99
Rose A. Saldivar
Janet K. Salinas
Bernice Y. Sánchez and Gerardo A. Pérez
Dr. Debbie L. Snell
Gloria and Dr. Jacky So
Juanita M. Soliz '99
Dr. Lynne M. Stamoulis
Martha S. Treviño '05
Miguel A. Treviño
Dr. Miroslava B. '75, '80 and Juan Vargas '72
Petra Vela
Dr. Judith A. Warner
Rodney M. Webb
Cassandra L. Wheeler and Leebrian E. Gaskins
Mark E. Webber

Maroon & Silver Circle

Lorena P. Acosta
Richard Aguilar '06
Dulce M. Aguilera
Dr. Ramón Alaniz
Stephanie L. Alderete
Anonymous
Claudio E. Arias
Christian R. Arredondo
Christina M. Arredondo
Sidney E. Ascencio '06
Jorge Aviles
Manuel Bañuelos
Aquilés Barrera
Andrés G. Barrientos
Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield
Dr. Aleta R. Belcher
Elizabeth Belcher '98
Bertha Benavides '86, '00 and Michael Daniel
Manuel Benavides '05
Dr. Marvin E. Bennett, III
Dr. Susan M. Berdahl
Octavio Bernal
Dr. Suzette Bishop and Dr. Richard B. Wright
María Magdalena Blasco '98, '01
Rafael R. Bocanegra
Carmen L. Bruni
Graciela Buentello '08
Minerva Cadena
Diego A. Campos
M. Isabel Cantú '03
Martha E. Cantú
Felipe R. Carraman
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Juan Cisneros III '01
María I. Conteras
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Dana H. Crabtree
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Elsie R. de León
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Robert C. del Huerto
Liliana Delgado
Ricky L. Dobbins
Cindy Elizalde '06
Araceli Elizondo '05
María L. Elizondo '95
Dr. Neela A. Emanuel
Angie Escamilla
Claudia V. Escobar
Martha E. Esparza
Ernst D. Feisner
Yolanda Fierro
Linda D. Flores
Samuel Flores '02
Anne R. Frey
María S. J. Gallegos '05
Charles A. Garay
Hugo L. García '99, '03
Janet W. García
María de los Ángeles García
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Melissa P. García
Nilda M. García '06
Sandra B. García
Verónica E. García
Vivian I. García
Dr. Kathleen Pletsch de García and Dr. Mario G. García-Ríos
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Julissa Garza
Romelia Garza
Dr. Sergio D. Garza
Sylvia A. Garza
Violeta N. Garza '04, '06
Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes '78, '79
Dr. Friedrich C. Gechter
Anna M. Girdwood
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María G. González
Roberto González, Jr.
Ruby L. González '95
Victor H. González, Jr.
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Dr. Stanley C. Green
Elizabeth A. Greninger
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Tina M. Griessel
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Rodolfo Guevara '06
San Juana H. Guzmán '08
Suzanne Hansen-Alford '92
Dr. Richard D. Hartley
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Bernardo Hernández, Jr.
Héctor M. Hernández '72
Patricia Hernández
Patricia H. Hernández

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Robert Hernández
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Dr. Phu D. Hoang
Destine D. Holmgreen '00
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Juan C. Ibarra
Dr. Weldon F. Ivy
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Dr. Eugenio Jaramillo
Javier Jasso
Sandra M. Jiménez
Dr. Tongdan Jin
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Federico Juárez III '92, '08
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Kourosh Khosraviyani '02, '03
Xochitl Rae Kladis-García
Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy
Irma A. Lara
Geraldine Laurel
Dr. Sukho H. Lee
Nora A. Lerma
Dr. Arturo Limón '90
Dr. Diana Linn '94
Juanita R. '77 and Dr. Juan R. Lira '75
Rebeca R. Litman
Javier Llanos
Alberto López
Patricia G. López
Selina Y. Lozano
Fen Lu
Norma G. Maciel
Sofía C. Maldonado '04, '06
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Dr. Hari D. Mandal
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Juan M. Martínez
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Roberto C. Martínez '06
John M. Maxstadt
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Linda McCreight
Julio C. Medina '04, '07
Marta L. Medina
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Norma C. Nuñez '06, '08
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Samuel Oliveros '84
Patricia Ornelas '04
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Amelia Palacios
Anabel Palacios
Jessica Palacios '03
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Dr. Mary A. Petron
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Dr. Alfredo Ramírez, Jr. '93, '98
Juan A. Ramírez '03
Norma S. Ramírez
Ricardo Ramírez
Elsa D. Ramos '05
Humberto Rangel
Christine M. Rebori
Pablo Reyes-Sarinana '03
Amelia V. Rodríguez
Heriberto Rodríguez
Juan T. Rodríguez
Lorenzo A. Rodríguez '94
María E. Romanos
Rafael Eduardo Romo '98
Maríánita Rosales '07
Siobhan A. Rosales
Víctor M. Rosas
Dr. Bonnie A. Rudolph
Lygia L. Ruedas '05
Eugenio Ruiz
Dr. Tagi Sagafi-Nejad
Yezmin D. Salazar
Idalia Karina '05, '08 and Christopher E. Saldivar
Idalia K. Moreno '05, '08
Dr. Claudio Salinas
Annie P. Salinas-Dodd '02
Miguel San Miguel-González
Claudia L. Sánchez
Sandra G. Sánchez '00
Kimberlee D. Sandoval
Celinda C. Sarabia '07
Nancy E. Saucedo '06
Denise L. Schuster
Debra K. Segovia
Francisco Segovia
Alan L. Seitel
Susana A. Serna
Taryn Shehab
Pamela A. Short
Cindy Solano
María Isabel Solis
María Thelma Solis '03
Carmen G. Soto
Dr. Joshua F. Stevenson
Dr. Kenneth J. Tobin
Marivic Torregosa
Julio César Tovar
Brendan S. Townsend
Maricela Valdéz
Sara A. Vallarta
María L. Valle
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Rafael Vázquez
Juan J. Vega
Guadalupe G. Vela
Homero R. Vela
María Irene Vela-Mendoza
José L. Velásquez '76
Nohemi Villalobos '05
Jessica S. Villanueva
Eduardo D. Villarreal
Firely V. and Daryl P. Vincent
Carlo P. Walker
María I. Woods '00
Dr. Marcus A. H. and Dr. Ruby A. Ynalvez

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María A. Ruiz '84, '00

Scholar's Circle

Dr. Norma G. García '85
María Ángela Holliday '73
Virginia C. Muller '76

Partner's Circle

Jesús J. Amezcua '90, '94, '01
Henry P. Flores '72, '77
Gerardo D. Gómez '92
Cristina J. Hernández
Ana N. Ochoa '86
Tano E. Tijerina '02

Century Circle

Toni N. Cantú '91
Imelda G. Chapa '02, '06
Carlos E. Díaz '82
Irma O. Flores '73, '77
Diana M. '97, '04 and
Jesús J. González '84, '03
The Honorable Rosalva Guerra '84, '06
Leticia B. Guzmán '87
Minnie Dora B. '77 and
Juvenal J. Haynes '77
Conrado M. Hein, Jr. '78
Karla Hensman '99
María A. Juárez '87
Clara Lockridge '72, '75
Amy I. Marshall '07
Elizabeth Martínez '97
Gina G. '87 and Mario A. Mejía '92
Patricia R. '00, '04 and
David D. Pérez '90, '95
Cynthia H. Ramírez '79
Marcos Ramírez '06
Ernestina G. Treviño '77
Alicia C. Valdéz
Dr. Yvonne S. Valdéz '79

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Amanda G. Alemán '06
Daisy J. Almanza '06
Azalea Almaraz '06
Barbara Ida Arredondo '02
Alejandra L. Artega '06
Abby Ayala '06
America Baez '00
Edward Baltazar '06
Roberto Barrera '06
Adriana F. Benavides '06
Regina J. Bustillos '06
Jennifer D. Butcher '06
César S. Caballero '06
Ángela M. Cabriales '06
Dolores L. Campos '77, '79
Olivia Y. Canales '97
Daniel Cantú '06
Wenceslado Cantú, III '08
Melissa A. Cárdenas '06

Verónica Garza Cárdenas '99
Diamantina O. Carreón '06
Rosa Casiano '06
Sandra A. Castillo '06
Mirelda Cavazos '04, '06
Aney Chávez '06
Rocio R. Chávez '06
Mónica T. Contreras '06
Juan R. Cordova '06
Sylvia F. Cortéz '82
Gina A. Cox '06
Asa L. Cuéllar '95
José A. Cuéllar, Jr. '06
Leticia G. Trejo '80, '96
Melissa de Jesús '00
Catalina de la Rosa '06
Liliana Díaz-Lozano '06
Rosario A. Elizondo '98
Gerardo J. Escobedo '06
Rubén R. Espinola, Jr. '02
Jorge A. Espitia '06
Erick Esquivel '06
María E. Fjelstad '07
Federico Flores-Zertuche '05
Ofelia M. Fonseca '90
Evan R. Foster '85
María C. Gallegos '06
Christine R. '06 and
Héctor E. García '03
Clarissa I. García '06
Erica García '06
Laura E. García '04, '06, '07
Marcos M. García '00
Elizabeth J. García-López '06
Adrián Garza '06
Diana L. Garza '06
Elia R. Garza '06
Francisco G. Garza '06
Nancy J. Garza '95, '98
Ricardo Garza '04
Xochitl Y. Garza '06
Cayetana González '06
Hilda V. González '99
Homero González, III '06
José A. González '06
Sandra '07 and
Tomas J. González, III '06
Petra A. Gregory '06
María T. Guardiola '77, '81
Humberto Guerra, Jr. '06
María R. Guerra '81, '85
Andrea L. Guerrero '06
Damiana Guerrero '06
María E. Guerrero-Parker '06
Gabriela V. Gutiérrez '06
Karen K. Hasette, Sr. '97
Alejandra Hernández '06
David Hernández '06
Juan F. Hernández '05, '07
Kristina K. Hernández '06
Marco A. Hernández '06
Claudia Herrera '06
Trisha A. Hill '06
Susana Hinojosa '00

Rebecca Hughes '84, '06
Carmen K. Humphries '07
Elaine M. Ibarra '92
Sreekar Jakkula '06
Melisa V. Jasso-Almanza '06
Joanne Jiménez '06
Juan D. Juanes '06
Sivaram C. Jujavarapu '06
Vinod Kakarla '06
Rosalinda Lancon '06
Steve Landin
Selina M. Lara '06
María E. Leal '06
Lori A. Leyendecker '06
María C. Liad '06
Patricia Liendo '06
Brenda L. Niño '03, '05
Nilda E. Lira '06
Janel R. Longoria '06
Teresa G. López '82, '94
Mayra M. Lugo '06
Julio Lujano '02, '06
Edgar M. Luna '06
Amelia A. Magallanes-Nora '02, '06
Junaid A. Malik '02
Lizette Mancha '06
María G. Manzano '89
Juan F. Mares '06
Sergio A. Márquez '06
Antonio Martínez, Jr. '06
Belinda Martínez '06
Cynthia D. Martínez '06
María M. Martínez '06
Maricela E. Martínez '07
Michael Martínez '06
Ruth E. Martínez-Carvajal '06
Anna M. Mastee '07
Dina M. Mastee '08
San Juanita R. '06 and
Julio C. Medina '04, '07
Ricardo Medrano '02
Martha L. Mejía-Carrillo '06
Daniel Méndez '06
George Méndez '07
Rebecca J. Méndez '06
Mariceli G. Mendoza '06
Marissa C. Meza '06
Roberta S. Meza '06
Sivonney A. Molina '06
Selina E. Moncivais '02, '06
Jennifer A. Morrison '06
Mija A. Mota '06
Mónica Muriel '06
Leonor G. Narváez '99
Lila J. Negrete '06
Sylvia A. Nidey '06
Ninfa O. Nieto '89
Reuben S. Njaa '06
Mónica Ochoa '97
Jesús Olivares, Jr. '06
Ignacio Ortiz, Jr. '08
Homero Palacios '06
Erika C. Peña
Agapito Pérez '06
Cynthia L. Pérez '04
Jesús D. Pérez '06
Nancy R. Pérez '06
Ramiro Pérez, III '06
Sonia A. Prado '06
Orani A. Palomo '01, '06
Luis F. Quijano '06
Elda G. Quintero '06

Arturo Ramírez '77
Claudia I. Ramírez '06
Pedro Ramírez '06
Claudia E. Ramos '06
José M. Ramos '06
Juan C. Ramos '06
Rosa M. Ramos '99, '06
Antonio R. Rangel '74
Leslie A. Rangel '06
Luis R. Rendon '06
Francisco J. Reyes '06
Maricela C. Reyes '77, '06
Roxanna R. Ríos '06
Cindy Rodríguez '07
Dolores '82 and Ramiro Rodríguez '79
Héctor Rodríguez, Jr. '06
María L. Rodríguez '02, '07
Melissa Rodríguez '06
Ricardo Rodríguez, Jr. '06
Betzaida Rojas '06
Brenda Ruiz '06
Dhanesh S Rupaní '97, '01
Erin M. Nieto '05, '08 and
Alfredo Salinas '02, '06
Blanca N. Salinas '06
Cecilia I. Salinas '06
Ricardo Salinas Jr. '03
Ashley Sánchez
Oswaldo Sánchez '06
Sherri L. Sánchez '06
Karina Sandoval '06 and
Jose F. Esqueda '06
Ramiro Santos '05
Calixto Seca, Jr. '88
Yolanda Seibert '04, '06
Rebecca C. Sepúlveda '03
Nestor R. Serrato '06
Edward C. Sherwood '93
Jesús G. Sifuentes '06
Dulce M. Solano Domínguez '06
Stephanie Solís-Schnyder '06
Nicodemus Soliz, Jr. '03
Marta C. Speer '89
Sheethal Surendran '06
Gladys O. Tijerina '03, '06
Homero Tijerina, Jr. '06
Erasmio J. Tobias '02
Tania L. Tovar '06
Dora E. Trujillo '06
Lisa J. Trujillo '06
Raúl Uribe '06
Sashidhar V. Valavala
Diana C. Valdéz '06
Kristie Valdéz '06
Verónica Valdéz '06
Lourdes K. Valenciano '06
Lydia S. Valenzuela '06
Fernando B. Vargas '06
María A. Vásquez '07
Rosario L. Vásquez '06
Lizeth Vázquez '05, '06
Ociel Vázquez '06
Erica Vela '06
Jorge L. Vela '02
Martha E. Cortés '95, '97 and
Eduardo X. Vela '71, '78
Janette Velazco '06
Sonia M. Vera '99, '04
Claudia I. Villa '06
Virginia M. Villalobos '08
Edith Villarreal '06
Tanni M. Villarreal '04

Rebeca S. Walker '06
Janet Wamsley '95
Charles A. Whitfield '87
José L. Zamora, Jr. '06
Noe Zapata '06
Arturo Zavala '75
Liquan Zhao '92
Sara A. Zúñiga '92

Memorials

*Though nothing can
bring back the hour of
splendor in the grass,
glory in the flower we
will grieve not; rather
find strength in what
remains behind.*

—William Wordsworth

TAMIU
extends its
deepest
sympathies to
the families
of our alumni.

Marisa Barajas '06
Aaron Bazan
Guillermo E. Farias '04
Maricela García '76, '89
Ollie M. Gunnoe '81
Lucinda Huff '87
Humberto Jacinto, Jr. '76
Lacey Cigarroa Keck
Eloy Martínez '81
Edward P. Matos '01
Paula C. Mercado '85
Dr. Joseph H. Meredith
Edna D. Noriega '90
Carol J. Renner '81
Juanita M. Rodríguez '04
Elia Vela '72

TAMIU University Life

TAMIU received a \$100,000 donation from The Matias de Llano Charitable Trust for and endowment for the University's Ph.D. program. Eliza González, IBC first vice president, Daniel B. Hastings, Jr., IBC board member, Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, Dr. William C. Gruben, Ph.D. Program director and Edward J. Farias, IBC executive vice president.



ConocoPhillips generously donated \$35,000 to the University. These funds will be matched by the A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business Challenge Grant for a total of \$70,000 being donated to create an endowed fund in ConocoPhillips' name. Included in the photo are Randy Black, ConocoPhillips operations manager for South Texas, Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, Candy Hein, vice president of institutional advancement, and Becky L. Garcia, director of foundation and donor relations.



Union Pacific, and the Union Pacific Foundation, made a gift of \$5,000 to the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium in May to provide assistance in purchasing new educational programs and technology. The typical purchase price for a new education program ranges from \$10,000 to \$25,000.



Ford AutMus Fest Cashes In

Ford AutMus Fest is a TAMIU Alumni Association sponsored event to raise monies for student scholarships. The all-day, annual music concert is a much anticipated regional event taking place the first Saturday before Columbus Day each year. This year, \$150,000 was raised and there were more than 8,000 people in attendance.





The Washington Birthday Celebration Association recently had a Laredo delegation visit Washington, D.C. to invite the U.S. Congressmen to the February festivities. Joining our host Congressman Henry Cuellar '82, were Jessica Hein '98, Leonardo López '98, Dr. Ray Keck, portraying George Washington this year, Victoria Vergara '85, Tammy Treviño '05, Gerry Zapiain '88 and Dr. Minita R. Ramírez '83.



Joining the WBCA delegation for dinner at Mount Vernon were left to right: Ana García '06, Celia Rivas, Fabian Mendive '02, Dr. Ray M. Keck TAMIU president, Guillermo Treviño WBCA president, Liz Sandoval '06 and Josue Manuel Barrera.

Visiting with the WBCA delegation from Laredo in Washington D.C. were The Honorable Hector "Tito" Garcia Laredo City Councilman, The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House, Leonardo Lopez '98, Dr. Ray Keck TAMIU president and Victoria Vergara '85.



In appreciation to the volunteers who participated in the Ford AutMus Fest, the TAMIU Alumni Association gave away a Gibson guitar autographed by all the performers. L to r: Mike Cortéz '82, Ford AutMus Fest Entertainment Committee Chairman; winner Priscilla Rubio, sophomore; Raquel Juárez '00, secretary, TAMIU Alumni Association and Perla Nieto '01, Ford AutMus Fest Entertainment Committee Member.



Members of the Alumni Association gathered to welcome TAMIU's Class of 2012 during orientation. Pictured from left to right: Liz Dovalina '08, Fernando Morales, Jr. '06 TAMIU Alumni Association president; Ronnie Gonzalez, director for Alumni Relations; Vanessa Neylan Byrd '05, and Joseph Byrd '05.

Big!





A donation was received from Walgreens earlier this month. Attending the grand opening are: Dr. André E. Rivas-Chávez, assistant professor, International Banking & Finance Studies; Jesse González, III '06, program manager, Texas Center for Border Economics and Enterprise Development; Beatriz Flores, Rosa Moreno, Roberto Valencia, regional vice president, Walgreens; Charles Wolf, area manager, Walgreens; Kesia Rodríguez; Gerardo Castellanos assistant manager, Walgreens; Lee Webb, Elsy D. Borgstedte, Melissa Cárdenas, Elena Solano, Heidi Arias; front row: Danny Pérez, and Karina Saucedo.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Takes on Community Projects

SIFE is a national nonprofit organization that gives students the tools to learn the free enterprise system in a real working situation. SIFE challenges students in more than 800 college campuses nationwide to take what they are learning in the classroom, such as budgeting, accounting, and supply and demand and use their knowledge to better their communities. The SIFE program honors the late Samuel M. Walton, Walmart's co-founder.

Acquiring organizational, leadership, and social skills are an enormous part of working in any organization. SIFE has chosen to participate in community projects as a way of instruction. From project conceptualization to implementation, students acquire the skills needed to succeed in today's organizations.

The community projects, 10 planned for this year, are divided into six themes: market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business ethics and environmental sustainability. Some of the projects will help families raise their credit scores, teach younger students about stocks through virtual reality, help a small business owner improve the existing business and promote the importance of global climate change.

Competitiveness is part of every student's life; whether they compete for an athletic team, for promotion at work, or for a better grade. Every year SIFE gives students the opportunity to showcase each chapter's accomplishments. There are three types of

recognized competitions: regional level, national level and the final which is the SIFE World Cup. At the World Cup, winning SIFE Teams from all over the world come together to prove they have the leadership skills to be the ultimate team. This year, the World Cup will be held in Singapore.

Winners since founding. The SIFE TAMIU chapter was established in Laredo approximately four years ago, and since founding has earned trophies at the different levels. SIFE members truly represent TAMIU at its best not just locally, but nationally as well.

SIFE officers are president Elsy Borgstedte, vice-president Verónica Ollervides, secretary Rosa Moreno, treasurer Pedro Luis García, project coordinators Gerardo Castellanos and Kesia B. Rodríguez, and historians Dawn Ferrer and Jerry González.

The team is guided by Jesse González, III '06 and Dr. Andrés E. Rivas-Chávez.



TAMIU Athletics Introduce New Mascot

"Dusty" is hanging up his gloves and kicking off his boots for good. There's a new mascot in town.

Over the years, Texas A&M International University's "Dusty" mascot has marked many milestones in the University's history. As the University enters its first year as an active member of NCAA Division II, it is introducing a new mascot for TAMIU Athletics.

The 'Dustdevil,' TAMIU Athletics' new official mascot, was unveiled during the TAMIU Hoops Madness Festival. The annual Festival serves to introduce TAMIU's Men's and Women's basketball teams. It featured music, food, a 3 point shootout, a slam-dunk contest and a community-wide 3 on 3 tournament. Entrance to the family-friendly event is free and community members of all ages are invited to attend.

"Our intention as we enter our first year of active membership in the NCAA Division II is to bring all of our top-quality athletic teams as well as our pep band and cheerleaders in one place and welcome our new Dustdevil," Dr. Snell said, "The Hoops Madness Festival is a perfect venue to showcase the talent that exists at TAMIU."

"We are entering the next stage of our growth as an NCAA Division II member and introducing the Dustdevil to represent TAMIU in athletics and off-campus community events," Snell said, "As we do this, we realize the historical role that 'Dusty' played over the years and we have asked the University to appropriately archive and display 'Dusty' at a permanent location at the KCB."

For Dustdevil Athletics schedules, stats, team profiles, community events and more, visit GoDustdevils.com.



Texas Legislature to Focus on Higher Education

by Senator
Judith Zaffirini, PhD

**Senator Judith Zaffirini, PhD,
TAMIU president
Dr. Ray M. Keck and
Lt. Governor David Dewhurst
at the 2008 Fall Convocation.**

When the 81st Texas Legislature convenes on Tuesday, January 13, the focus will be on higher education. As chair of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee and of the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, I look forward to working not only with Texas A&M International University representatives, but also with everyone who shares our passion for higher education and our pride in our record of success for our students. You are respectfully invited to participate in the process.

Our priorities will include establishing tax holidays for college textbooks. I plan to re-introduce my bill that would provide two ten-day periods during which students can purchase books tax-free.

Our likelihood of success will be enhanced if we garner the support of local officials. Because some mayors and city council members worry about losing sales tax revenue, we must convince them that many students cannot afford to buy textbooks or are buying them online and not paying local sales taxes anyway. What's more, city officials who support this bill can create goodwill with students and express their appreciation for the economic benefits derived locally because of the higher education community.

It also will be my pleasure to continue to work with Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to enhance the affordability of higher education. We will continue to strive for increased funding for financial aid, including scholarships, grants, loans and work/study opportunities.

On a related note, we will use every opportunity to remind students and their families that the best way to reduce the cost of earning a college degree is to complete requirements in the shortest time possible. Students who complete a four-year degree in four years instead of in five or six, for example, preclude additional

costs associated with transportation, room and board, and other living expenses.

Dual-credit and advanced placement courses are incredibly important ways to reduce degree-completion periods. Tuition rebate programs and the Graduate on Time program also offer valuable incentives for timely degree completion. The tuition rebate program provides a \$1,000 tuition rebate to a student who is graduated timely and with no more than three semester credit hours in excess of his or her degree program. The Graduate on Time program allows universities to contract with students to promote timely graduation, such as the university will either pay the tuition and fees for an unavailable course or allow a student to substitute another course or independent study.

Keenly aware that many collegians hold part-time or full-time jobs, we will renew our efforts to promote internships and other programs that allow working students to earn academic credit for their work-related experiences. This can be done through independent study and research courses, especially when they include mentoring.

As vice chair of the Senate Finance Committee I will continue to champion significantly higher funding for higher education in general and for TAMIU in particular. The most effective way to preclude tuition increases is to increase state funding for our colleges and universities.

The road to higher education begins with appropriate early education. Accordingly, we will consider the recommendations of the P-16 Council and underscore anew the importance of collaboration among educators at all levels. What's more, I will continue to champion legislation to expand quality pre-K programs that are important educational building blocks.

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*"TAMU is really a
place where you
can dream, and it's
helping me to realize
my dreams."*

*— Nancy de la Fuente
TAMU Senior*



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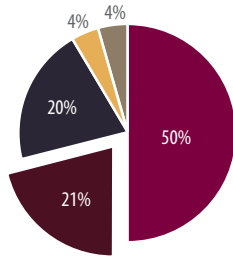
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2007-2008 Financial Review

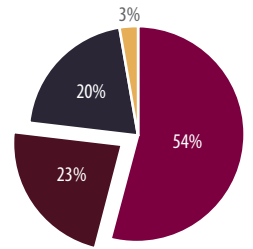
Sources of Revenue

State Appropriations	\$37,423,000	50.5%
Tuition	\$15,498,000	21.5%
Contracts and Grants	\$15,269,000	20.0%
Gifts	\$3,056,000	4.0%
Other Income	\$3,290,000	4.0%
TOTAL	\$98,750,000	100%



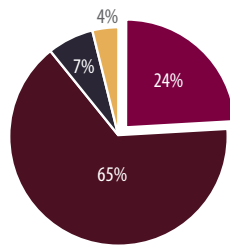
Sources of Expenditures

Wages, Salaries & Benefits	\$33,548,000	54%
Operating Expenses and Equipment	\$14,056,000	23%
Net Student Aid	\$12,626,000	20%
Other Expenditures	\$1,715,000	3%
TOTAL	\$61,945,000	100%



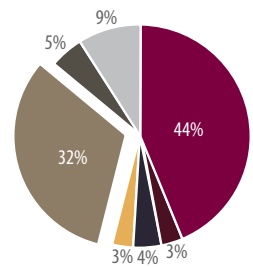
Foundation and Corporate Grants FY 2008

VP Academic Affairs for Scholarships	\$330,000.00	65%
Sanchez School of Business	\$120,500.00	24%
Other Campus Programs	\$34,087.00	7%
College of Arts and Sciences	\$19,196.95	4%
TOTAL	\$503,783.95	100%

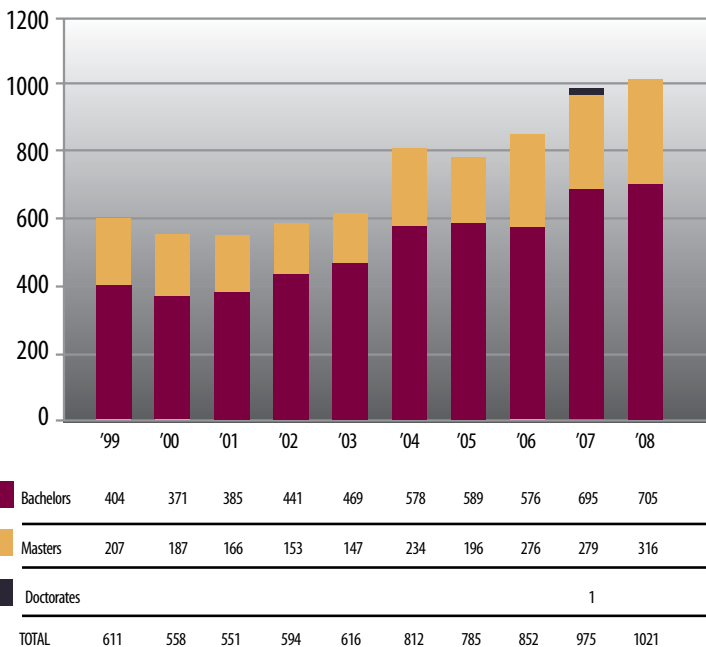


Federal and State Grants FY 2008

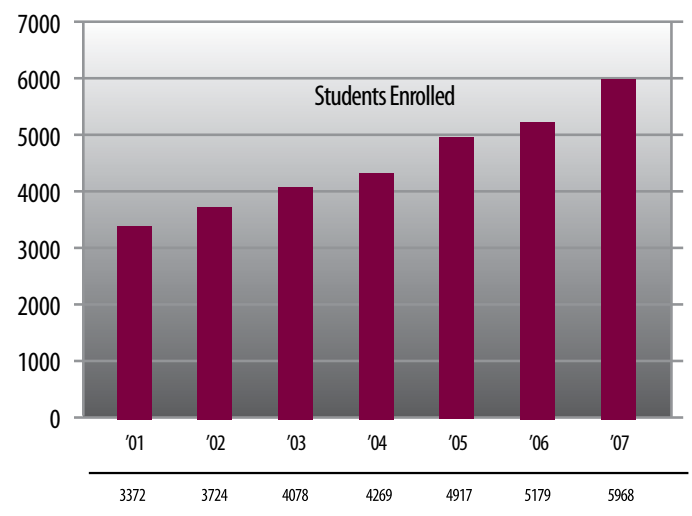
College of Arts and Sciences	\$1,637,456	32%
Sanchez School of Business	275,541	5%
College of Education	436,469	9%
VP Academic Affairs	2,274,500	44%
College of Nursing and Health Sciences	134,724	3%
Other Campus Programs	223,923	4%
Programs for Academic Support and Enrichment (PASE)	130,000	3%
TOTAL	\$5,112,613	100%



Degrees Awarded by Level



Enrollment Growth



Joe García, former TAMIU
Chief Financial Officer
recently retired after 27
years with his wife, Gloria,
by his side.



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