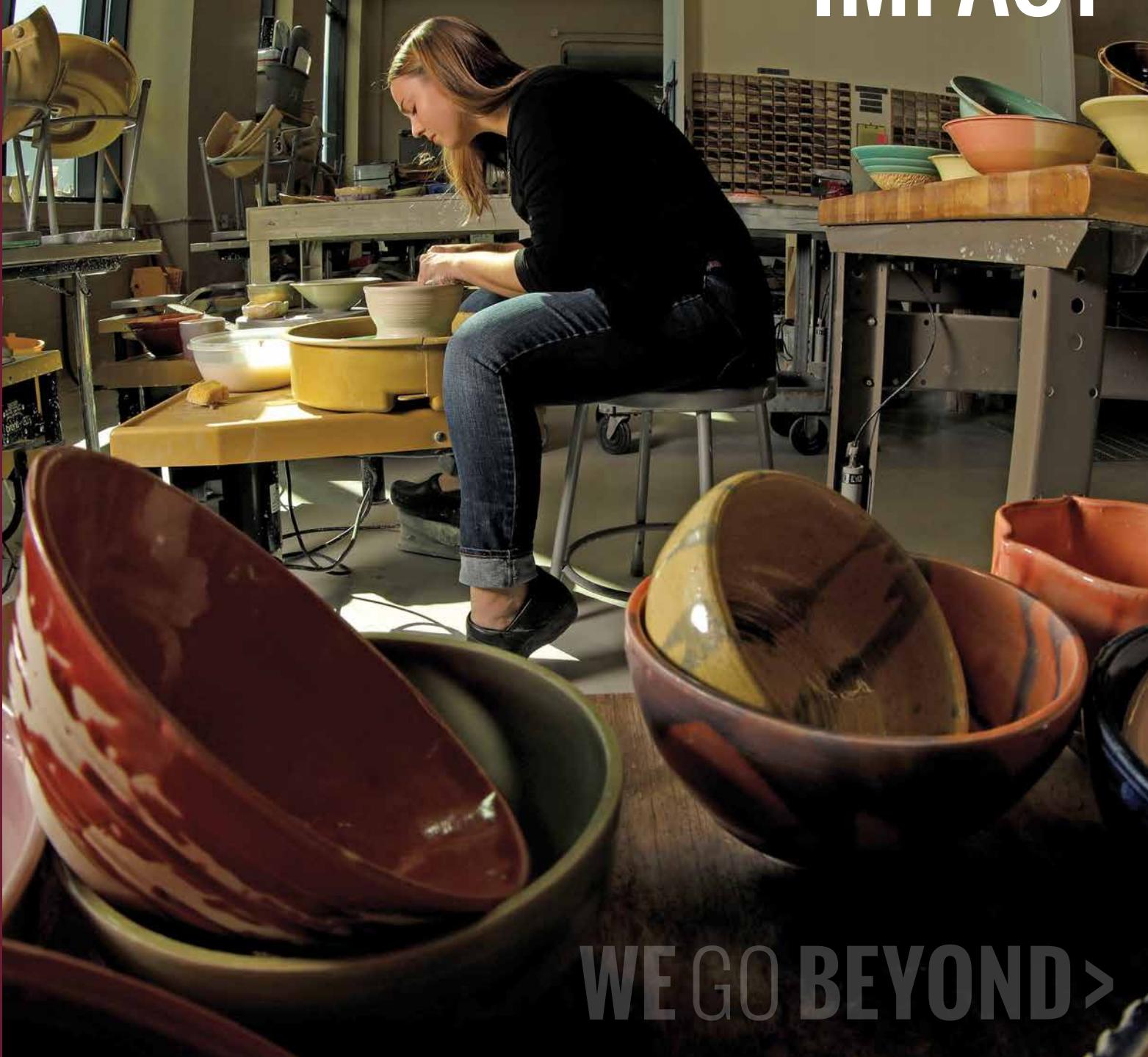


The Power of **IMPACT**



WE GO BEYOND >

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THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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TAMIU's Music Program Impacts Laredo Phil

In 1980, a group of visionary Laredoans dreamed of a day when orchestra music professionals would call Laredo home and form the core of the city's own Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Today, that dream is coming true. Buoyed by faculty, graduates and students in the music program at Texas A&M International University, the Laredo Phil now boasts a core group of some 25 TAMIU-affiliated musicians, creating the largest corps of professional-quality musicians in its history. Brendan Townsend, TAMIU faculty member and music director of the Laredo Phil, said he believes the University's relationship with the Laredo Phil has been integral to its growth and success.

"This is a source of tremendous excitement for us as we perform before our audiences, knowing that our Orchestra includes more TAMIU faculty members, students or graduates, and other gifted local music educators helping us deliver our seasons of sound," Townsend said.

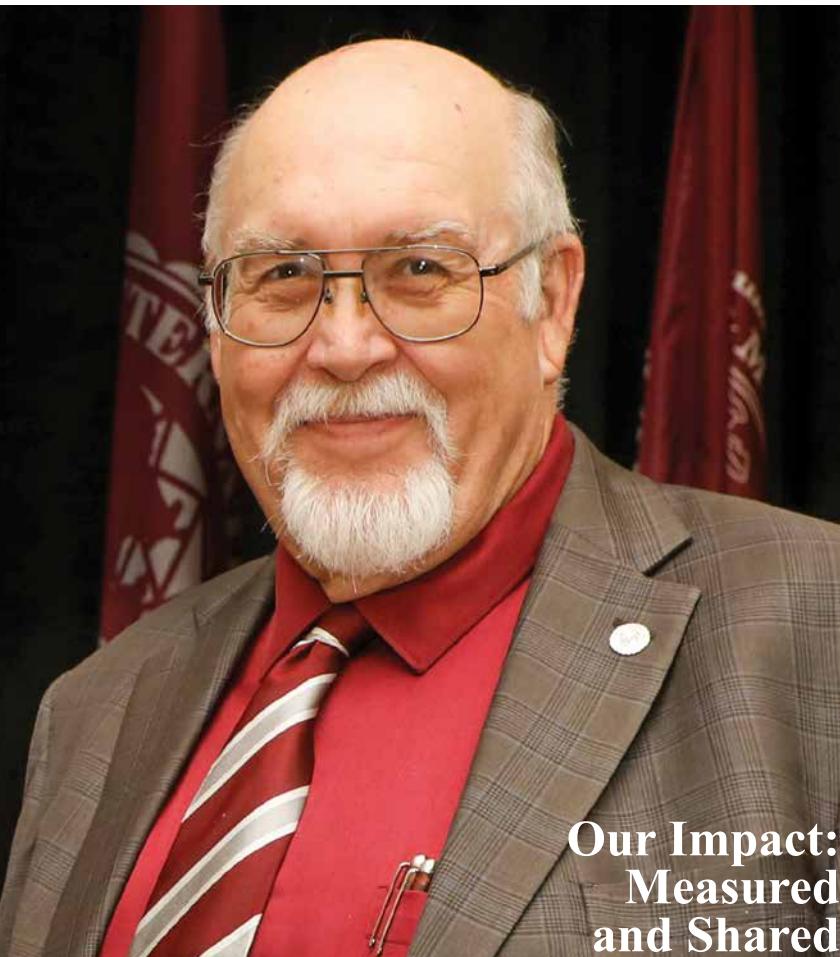
The Laredo Phil opened its 39th Concert Season in October at TAMIU's Center for the Fine and Performing Arts' Recital Hall. The season includes four orchestral concerts featuring six of TAMIU's full-time faculty, four adjunct faculty, seven students and numerous alums.

TAMIU president, Dr. Pablo Arenaz, noted the historic collaboration shows the importance of dreaming big.

"In 2002, we launched this important collaboration. Our success today reminds us all of the importance of dreaming big and, as we say here at TAMIU, 'Going Beyond,'" Dr. Arenaz said.



The Laredo corps of musicians is supplemented by freelance musicians from San Antonio, Austin and Houston.



Our Impact: Measured and Shared

This last year certainly has been an exciting one for us at Texas A&M International University. Last fall, we enrolled over 7,600 students, a record. We also had the largest freshman class in our 24-year history on this campus. This Fall, we exceeded those numbers, increasing enrollment by over 4% to nearly 8,000 students. In addition, for the first time in our history, we were ranked in the U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges in the West."

Why am I talking about enrollment? Because I want to demonstrate the impact we have had on this region. This Annual Report is all about the IMPACT TAMIU has had on Laredo and the surrounding region...and we have had a major impact.

Message from the President

In 1970, when then-Texas A&I University at Laredo opened its doors, 285 students enrolled in three undergraduate programs. Today, nearly 8,000 students are enrolled and we offer 93 different undergraduate or graduate degrees. In 1972, we awarded 127 degrees; this past year, we presented nearly 1,500 diplomas.

So...what has been the impact of all those graduates? In 1990, only 11% of Laredoans over 25 had a Bachelor's degree or higher. By 2016, that number had increased by 58%. Another example of TAMIU's impact on the region is in upward income mobility. TAMIU has been recognized as one of the top three universities in the country for advancing upward income mobility of graduates. Most incoming students have a family income around \$30,000, which puts them in the bottom 40% for income. The income of the average graduate from TAMIU 10 years later is in the top 40%. One year after graduation, over 78% of our graduates are employed, a number well above the Texas average.

As you can see, the IMPACT TAMIU has had on Laredo and the region we so proudly serve is significant. Our gaze ahead remains fixed on a future rich in promise and lives forever changed. The broad spectrum of stories within this Annual Report attest to that impact.

To ensure that impact is extended and sustained, we've launched Imagine 2045, a committee of University and community members charged with developing a long-term vision for TAMIU. How might we extend our impact? What can we do to sustain this? What should we anticipate and how can we build and marshal forces to address variables seen and unseen? Imagine 2045's report will be unveiled during our 25/50 Anniversary Celebration next year. Look for more on our 50th Anniversary Celebration in the coming months. In the meantime, let's take a look back at an IMPACT measured and shared.

"In 1990, only 11% of Laredoans over 25 had a Bachelor's degree or higher. By 2016, that number had increased by 58%."

**Dr. Pablo Arenaz,
President**





“As I grew up and learned more, I wanted to be a police officer and help people. Their code is to protect and serve... and always put people first.”

-Rene Alvarado

Rene Alvarado, center, recipient of the Mary Lamar Leyendecker Scholarship, is majoring in Criminal Justice at TAMIU. Pictured with him from left to right are his cousin, Laredo Police Department (LPD) Officer Jose Roberto Alvarado; father, LPD Lt. Rene Rolando Alvarado; uncle, LPD Capt. Benito Alberto Martinez; and uncle, LPD Capt. Gabriel Ernesto Martinez.

Criminal Justice Student: Extending Family Legacy with Scholarship.

Sometimes help comes at just the right time...and in just the right place.

Rene Alvarado, a sophomore TAMIU Criminal Justice major, wants to be part of a family legacy in law enforcement. Thanks to the generous support he receives from the Mary Lamar Gallagher Leyendecker Endowed Scholarship, he's going to do just that.

Established by Laredo philanthropist Cliffe Killam to honor his mother, Mary Lamar Gallagher Leyendecker, and their family's legacy of service to the Laredo Police Department, the Scholarship Endowment helps make higher education more accessible to the children of the LPD.

Alvarado represents the third generation in his family to pursue a career in law enforcement. His grandfather, father and uncles have all worked for the LPD as officers.

The Alexander High School graduate said he applied for the Scholarship after his mother, Sonia Alvarado, read an article about it in the newspaper.

“I was very humbled, happy and appreciative when I was notified that I received the Scholarship,” he said, “It motivated me even more to finish college and to have a good attitude towards school. I didn’t like school before, but now that they were giving me an opportunity to go to college, I said, ‘I’m not going to take it for granted.’ ”

Alvarado’s mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and has medical bills to worry about, so he’s thankful for the Scholarship because he is able to pay for his own tuition, books and college expenses.

Growing up and watching his father wear a police officer uniform daily piqued his curiosity about a law enforcement career, Alvarado said.

“As I grew up and learned more, I wanted to be a police officer and help people,” he said, “Their code is to protect and serve... and always put people first.”

Upon graduation, Alvarado said he plans to apply for a job in LPD and eventually pursue a career as a federal law enforcement officer.

Dr. John Kilburn:

He asked for a ‘Spiritual Reassignment.’ He got a new Lesson in Life.

A man who will rise early in the morning to don an adult “Elf” costume to help encourage runners in a benefit scholarship event is up for anything.

Meet Dr. John Kilburn, TAMIU faculty member and associate vice president for Research and Sponsored Projects. The costume hints at the lengths the New Orleans native and Laredo fan will go to give back to a community he says has impacted him and nurtures his efforts to return the favor. He said his engagement in community has childhood roots.

“I’m the product of a working class family that taught me ‘if you don’t like something, address it or fix it,’ ” he revealed.

Couple that with a Jesuit school childhood and a doctorate degree in Sociology and you have a force to be reckoned with. Along the way, there have been some detours and some tough lessons, but they’ve all combined to create a force for change, a force for good.

“After I completed my graduate degrees with sizable student debt, I got into investing in the tech industry, making a fair amount of money. Soon I was teaching and consulting, but I lost my focus. At age 37, I had a stroke. It forced me

to re-evaluate my life. I co-founded a homeless shelter and I prayed to God... ‘put me where I’m needed and where I can make an impact.’ I wanted a ‘spiritual reassignment,’ preferably somewhere warm, ” he recalled.

“I had never heard of Laredo; my wife had. Here at TAMIU, there was a chance to build something new. I fell in love with Laredo on my first visit. I wandered around downtown and everywhere people were so open and receptive,” he said.

“My full recovery happened here. People helped me. Now I help others. My students do the same. Students can create change. One person can make a difference,” he assured.

Asked how he would measure his impact and the success of his spiritual reassignment, he quickly and simply said, “When I’m gone, if people should talk about me, I want them to smile. That’s all.”

“I fell in love with Laredo on my first visit. I wandered around downtown and everywhere people were so open and receptive.”

- Dr. John Kilburn







‘Kindness Goes a Long Way’: Student Logs 10,000+ Community Service Hours.

The holiday season has always been a special time for Mariana Rodríguez.

While most children spent time writing their letters to Santa Claus, Rodríguez collected gifts and donated them to local community groups organizing toy drives for children. As one of the first volunteer efforts Rodríguez ever participated in, she knew from an early age that serving her community would be a priority in her life.

Years later, Rodríguez, now a sophomore marketing major at TAMIU, continues to give back to her community and helps those in need in truly remarkable ways.

She is the recipient of the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award, a distinction recognizing individuals completing over 4,000 community service hours during their lifetime.

Mariana Rodríguez has volunteered at the Volunteers Serving the Need Thrift Store.

Rodríguez has recorded a whopping 10,273 community service hours for various local and international organizations, including the Laredo Center for the Arts, the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau, Volunteers Serving the Need, Serving Children and Adults in Need (SCAN), *Tapitas Por Una Sonrisa, Angeles Sin Fronteras*, and others.

As a Mexican-American student, Rodríguez felt that volunteering at both local and international organizations was especially important.

“Volunteering can change your life because now you think of ways to help people and how you can make an impact in their life. You become less selfish and start worrying about the needs of those that surround you,” said Rodríguez.

Through her efforts, Rodríguez knows she can solve difficulties faced by those in her community.

“[Volunteering] showed me that kindness goes a long way,” she reiterated.

She calls on her peers to commit themselves to engage and serve their local community.

“I encourage my fellow students to complete community service hours. By helping and giving back to your community, you’re also making a difference in the world,” said Rodríguez, “Volunteering is always worth it. People are always looking for help. It’s good to give back and it truly warms your heart to see the difference you’ve made in someone’s life.”

“Volunteering can change your life... you become less selfish and start worrying about the needs of those that surround you.”

- Mariana Rodríguez

Bowls of Love: Impacting Our Neighbors.

They are “thrown” with love but will someday land on someone’s table -- beautiful vessels ready to be filled with more love, ready to be shared in a place called home.

Created by TAMIU students in Natasha Hovey’s Ceramics classes, the 400 handcrafted bowls are part of an innovative Bowl-A-Thon collaboration with the South Texas Food Bank. The Bank uses the students’ bowls in its fundraising efforts. Bowls were created over the academic year and students imbued each with their individual spirit and style. Like the young artist who created it; each is unique.

“What is so wonderful about this effort is that our students donate their time and creative energy to create and glaze handmade bowls to help raise funds and awareness for many of the ‘empty bowls’ or hunger faced in our community. As artists we have the ability, and I would argue a responsibility, to utilize our talents and skills to help make an impact locally -- to care for our neighbors,” Hovey explained.

Art graduate and alumnus Diego Canales concurred.

“Participating in a Bowl-A-Thon event is a humbling experience. It is a moment where I can apply my skills in order to make every bowl as best as possible. Through every bowl I make, I am rewarded with

a development in my artistic skills along with the privilege to donate these personal milestones to the South Texas Food Bank. I hope my passion and dedication can be used to help the South Texas community to progress and have a positive impact on their lives.”

In ceramics, the making of workable mud (called clay or stoneware) is but one stage in the journey to final artwork.

From modest beginnings come beautiful ends, deep with impact and potential.

“As artists we have the ability, and I would argue a responsibility, to utilize our talents and skills to help make an impact locally – to care for our neighbors.”

- Natasha Hovey





Natasha Hovey and artist Diego Canales.

\$3.1 Million in Federal Grants to TAMIU Impacts Science, Nursing



Congressman Henry Cuellar ('82) recently announced more than \$3.1 million in federal funds in two separate grants for TAMIU.

The US Department of Education's Developing Hispanic-Serving Programs awarded \$1,937,380 for the University's ADVancing the Instruction of Science Educators (ADVISE) Project. It targets an increase in the pool of Hispanic Science teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration provided a \$1,169,368 grant for TAMIU's Advance Nursing Education Sexual Assault Nursing Examiner (SANE) Program. It will fund advanced nurse education to increase the number of trained and SANE-certified forensic nurses.

TAMIU Posts Record Enrollment

TAMIU's Fall enrollment is historic, driven by a record freshman class size, increased semester credit hours and a dramatic increase in graduate enrollment. Total combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment is 7,996, up 4.6% over last Fall.

Kappa Phi Inducts 87

TAMIU's Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) inducted 82 students and five faculty into PKP, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines in ceremonies this May. Presiding over the ceremony was TAMIU PKP Chapter president, Dr. James A. Norris.

TAMIU Student Debt One of Lowest in TX

TAMIU students graduate with one of the lowest average student loan debt figures in the entire United States, according to a study by online source, LendEDU which ranked TAMIU 6th for the State and 20th among similar schools in the nation. Some 1,080 institutions were analyzed for the ranking.

Dr. Bernat Gets Alumni Award



TAMIU professor Dr. Frances P. Bernat was selected as the recipient of the Criminal Justice and Criminology Outstanding Alumni Scholar Award for Washington State University, and served as Keynote Speaker for the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology's Award Ceremony and Luncheon at the Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center in Pullman, WA.

Planetarium Celebrates 13th Anniversary

Over the past 13 years, thousands have traveled to the stars at TAMIU's Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium. In May, the Planetarium hosted a heavenly Anniversary Celebration with a party highlighted by a showing of the popular film "Coco."

In Memoriam Dr. Siddharth Shankar



This past summer the University community was saddened to lose one of its bright faculty talents, Dr. Siddharth Shankar, who passed away unexpectedly. A brilliant teacher, researcher and student advocate, he was

much admired and respected by his colleagues and students. An associate professor of Finance, he first came to TAMIU in September 2008. He is survived by his wife, Wricha Mishra and sons, Neil and Ayaan.

Bragging Rights



For the third consecutive year TAMIU was ranked in the national Top Ten Best Bang for the Buck among Southern Colleges in the 2018 Washington Monthly College Guide. The Guide focuses on institutional affordability and how well universities do in graduating students.

US News and World Report's 2019 Best Colleges ranking noted TAMIU's discounted tuition, and placed it at 16th, the highest ranked regional Texas institution among Top Public Schools in its 15-state Regional Universities West ranking.

Financeopedia ranked TAMIU sixth among the best 30 Universities in Texas, noting "an almost impossible to beat net price."



Low cost is fueling enrollment growth, but the University also draws praise for its graduates' job success -- Zippia ranked TAMIU as one of "Texas' Best Colleges for Getting Jobs."

Utilizing Stanford University's Equality of Opportunity Project, the American Council on Education's Report "Minority Serving Institutions as Engines of Upward Mobility," recognized TAMIU as the top scoring Texas institution in its study for its high extended income mobility rate of 34.1 percent.

The University's impact on students' lives and, by extension, the communities in which they live and thrive, is being affirmed.

CPUPC Project Shares Value of Texas Higher Education

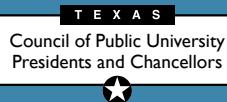
The Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) includes the chief executive officers of Texas' publicly-supported general academic universities, two Lamar State Colleges and the Lamar Institute of Technology, System offices, and Health Science Centers.

A&M System Chancellor John Sharp and TAMIU President Pablo Arenaz are members.

The Council recently released a series of infographics highlighting the value of Texas Higher Education. They affirm that higher education in Texas positively impacts the economy and workforce, benefits our communities, increases lifetime prosperity and leads to healthier lifestyles.

Established over 20 years ago, the Council provides a forum for discussing the mutual needs, concerns and issues facing public universities in Texas and encourages inter-institutional cooperation in meeting the higher education goals of the State.

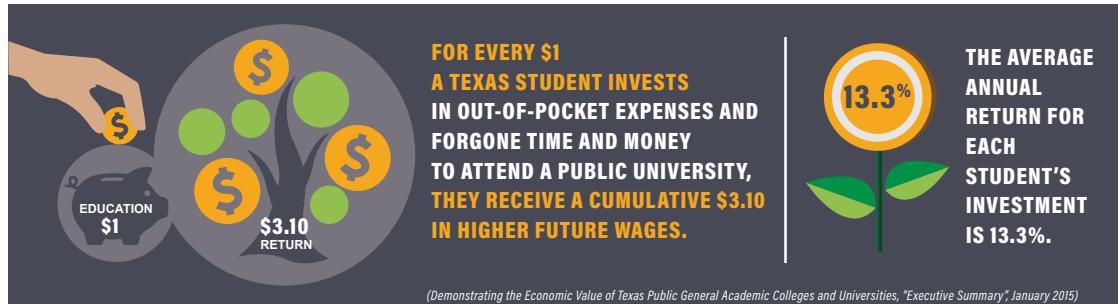
For more on the project, including downloadable infographics, visit <http://www.cpupc.org>



A COLLEGE EDUCATION PROVIDES A LIFETIME OF VALUE

A COLLEGE EDUCATION SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES LIFETIME PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR TEXANS.

Texans with a college education earn, on average, more each year and over their lifetimes than those with a high school diploma.



MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

(in 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars)

Texans with a **high school education** (includes equivalency):

\$27,534

Texans with a **bachelor's degree**:

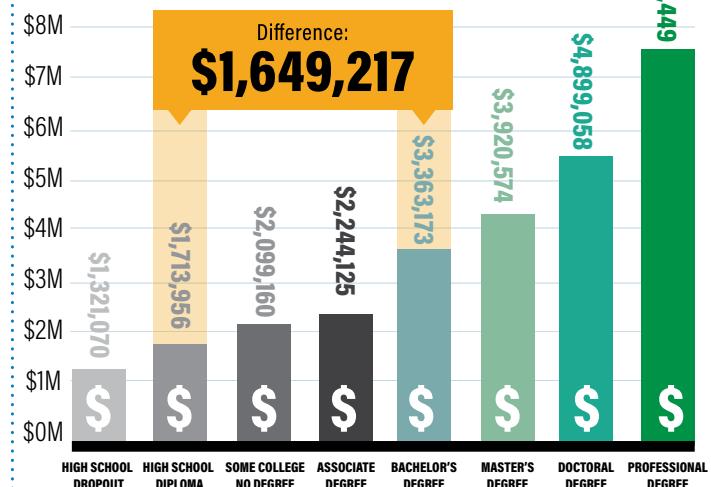
\$52,134

Texans with a **graduate or professional degree**:

\$68,165

(2016 www.factfinder.census.gov)

LIFETIME EARNINGS FROM AGE 25 TO 64 RAPIDLY INCREASE WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Communities Survey, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

3-Year average inflation-adjusted earnings summed for ages 25 to 64 by educational attainment for those working more than 32 hours per week and 49 weeks per year.

First Staggs Academy Grad Makes History



It's not often that a 19-year-old makes history, but Analyssa Ayala may be getting accustomed to doing just that.

Ayala was in the first cohort of students to graduate from the TAMIU Frank and Julieta Staggs Academy

of International and STEM Studies...and also the first graduate to earn a bachelor's degree from TAMIU last December. Ayala earned a degree in Psychology from TAMIU, and said attending the Texas Academy was beneficial to her as she was able to save on tuition costs while accelerating her degree attainment.

"In addition to saving money, another benefit to attending the Texas Academy is the experiences the school provides," she said, "You can participate in all the extracurricular activities TAMIU offers, do research with amazing professors, and Study Abroad."

She continued, "TAMIU transformed me as a person by making me a responsible and mature adult. Since I started college at such a young age, I had to leave the high school mentality aside. The Academy allowed me to develop the right habits of mind and molded me into a responsible individual in order for me to do well in my studies."

She is currently completing a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She intends to pursue a future in Counseling Psychology and become a licensed professional counselor.

"I am going to pursue my life-long goal of opening my own counseling practice," she said.

"TAMIU transformed me as a person by making me a responsible and mature adult."

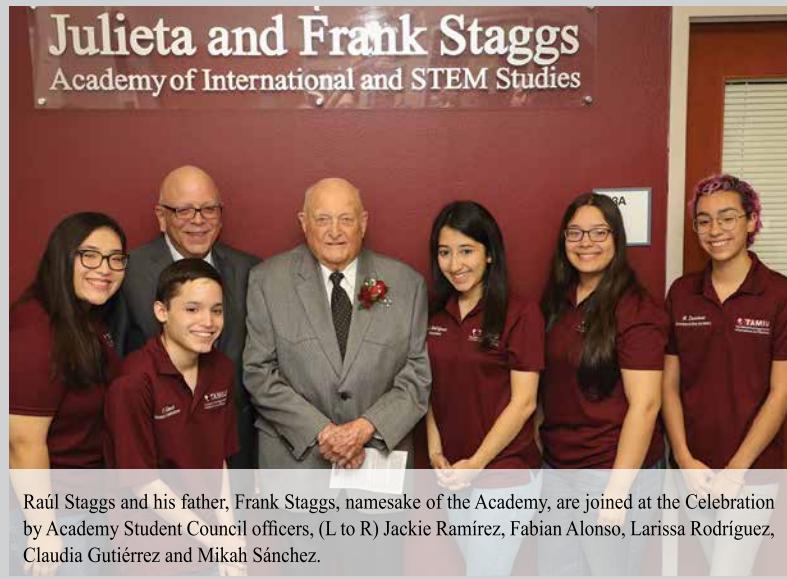
-Analyssa Ayala

New Academy Name Honors Julieta and Frank Staggs

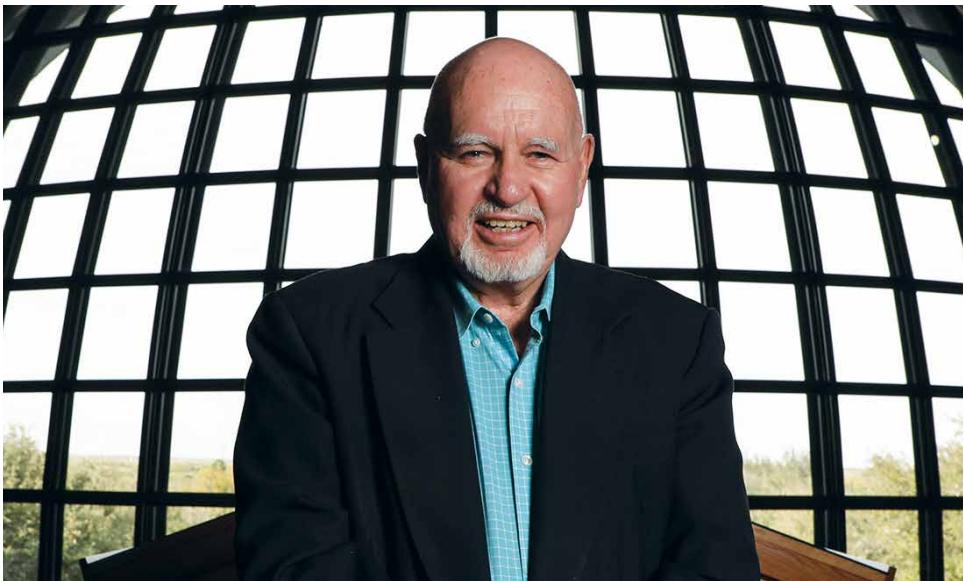
TAMIU celebrated the unveiling of The Julieta and Frank Staggs Academy of International and STEM Studies this past September.

Previously known as the Texas Academy of International and STEM Studies, the Academy's name change honors the longtime impact of benefactors Frank Staggs and his late wife, Julieta.

Created by State Senator Judith Zaffirini and authorized by the 79th Texas Legislature in 2005, the Academy is an innovative, University-level institution on the TAMIU campus. It is designed for highly gifted and motivated high school juniors and seniors focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and International Studies.



Raúl Staggs and his father, Frank Staggs, namesake of the Academy, are joined at the Celebration by Academy Student Council officers, (L to R) Jackie Ramírez, Fabian Alonso, Larissa Rodríguez, Claudia Gutiérrez and Mikah Sánchez.



Thompson's Historical Impact is Simply Award-winning

One of TAMIU's most prolific authors, Regents Professor Dr. Jerry D. Thompson, is the recipient of four prestigious awards, one from the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), another from the Texas Institute of Letters (TIL), a third from the Webb County Heritage Foundation and a fourth from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

The TSHA named Dr. Thompson its recipient of the Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award.

Thompson is also among a select group of 2018 TIL Prize winners. His "Tejano Tiger: José de los Santos Benavides and the Texas-México Borderlands, 1823-1891," received the Ramírez Family Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book. "Tejano Tiger" was also a Pulitzer Prize nominee.

Last May, the Webb County Heritage Foundation also named him its recipient of the Elizabeth Gill and Sam Johnson, III Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of an individual making significant contributions to the preservation of Webb County Heritage on a continuous basis.

This September, Thompson was named one of 12 Laredoans to receive the prestigious 2018 Tejano Achievement Award presented by Laredo's LULAC Council No. 12 for his service to Tejano history.

He has been a cherished TAMIU faculty member since 1987 and is one of the country's leading experts on the Civil War in the Southwest. Thompson has taught in Laredo over 50 years and is the author or editor of 26-plus books on the US-México borderlands.

Retired TAMIU Professor A 'North Star' for Others



If the measure of a life is a measure of love and respect, 45-year veteran of Laredo's higher education profession, Dr. Julio F. Madrigal, is indeed loved and respected.

This past January, Dr. Madrigal, former Texas A&M International University executive director of Special Programs, celebrated his retirement among friends and colleagues at TAMIU's Helen Richter Watson Gallery in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library.

TAMIU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs Dr. Tom Mitchell said Madrigal's lifetime impact on education here defies measure.

"In the remarkable arc of his years of educating and leading, his impact is beyond measure. His students have gone from classrooms to research laboratories and boardrooms, leading change and vastly improving their quality of life and that of the communities they now serve, many in our Laredo-Webb County area. His passion, drawn from his own life experience, encouraged students to find their way, without limits, regardless of perceived barriers. This is the epitome of what educators strive for: to help students realize their true potential, and then reach further still.

"He is an inspiration to us all and will be the North Star that others must follow to achieve and exceed," Dr. Mitchell said.

Principals Give Thumbs Up to TAMIU College of Education Grads, First Year Teachers



TAMIU College of Education graduates working as first-year teachers in Texas are impressing school principals with their high level of professional readiness.

Results were gleaned from a survey of 57 participating principals.

The report further indicates that the percentage of first-year teachers appraised as Sufficiently or Well

They scored above the State's average in the latest Texas Education Agency (TEA) survey that gauges principals' satisfaction level with teachers' preparedness.

In the 2016-2017 TEA Principal Appraisal of First Year Teachers, TAMIU College of Education graduates' results, which were 81 percent, exceeded the State benchmark of 70 percent and the State average of 73 percent.

Prepared from 2015 to 2017 has also increased overall by six percent from 2014 in these areas: Classroom Environment, Instruction, Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, Technology Integration and Using Technology with Data.

TAMIU College of Education dean Dr. James O'Meara said the Educator Preparation program at TAMIU is distinctive because it prepares educators to achieve quality learning outcomes in Hispanic-serving schools districts with some of the highest levels of economically disadvantaged, at-risk, English Language Learners in the state.

"This preparation includes a degree plan for timely completion, a certification plan for career readiness, and the opportunity to earn micro-credentials by completing free online modules," he noted, "Collectively, these innovative program elements contribute to the majority, or 80% of TAMIU graduates being career educators employed locally and remaining employed in Texas public schools for at least 10 years."

College of Nursing and Health Science, Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing Class of 2017 recipients of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) graduate degree posted a 100% passing rate on their first attempt on Board Exams from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board. This is the third consecutive year that TAMIU FNP graduates score 100% success on their Board Exams on first attempt. Front row from left to right: Eunyoung Lee, Maria Vinegar, Kurt Cuellar, Chantilly Mae Demasiado, and Ana Laura Cantú. Back row left to right: Miranda Ramírez, Jesús Jiménez Sánchez, Mario Ramírez, Alex Cavazos, and Ricardo Rodríguez.





Local Chef Cooks Up Scholarship Funding

Chef Pete Mims has been pleasing Laredo palates for years. But lately, he's found a way to 'plate up' his talents in support of scholarship funds for summer programs offered by TAMIU's Office of Continuing Education.

"The Cooking Series with Chef Mims" has proven a tasty way to share lifelong learning with the community, while also offering generous program support. To date, Chef Mims has offered three distinct cooking demonstrations, including a Thanksgiving-themed event, a Paella Night (TAMIU president Dr. Pablo Arenaz assisted!) and, most recently, an Italian Night which featured homemade pasta.

Guests sampled starters to desserts and received a special recipe booklet.

Proceeds fund special scholarships that enable foster children to attend Dusty's Junior University and the TAMIU Programming Summer Camp.

Tech Solution Puts Course Scheduling in Students' Hands

A frequent source of student headaches at TAMIU is no more.

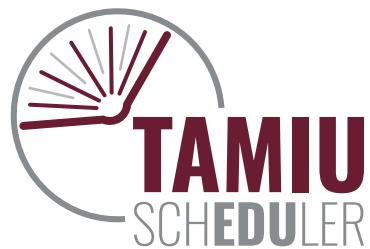
Using an innovative online system, TAMIU has made it possible for students to create their own course schedule from the convenience of their desktop, smartphone or tablet.

Dubbed TAMIU SchEDUler, the free of charge service was launched this Spring and has proven popular with students who can build their schedules, accommodating outside obligations and preferred learning times with a few keystrokes.

University Registrar Juan Gilberto García, Jr. said TAMIU SchEDUler has made scheduling seamless, reduced registration frustrations and accommodated student preferences, all within a mobile-friendly interface.

"This is the first major change in our registration process in some time, and it puts students first. We wanted to impact students with a solution native to them: taking control of their needs from a desktop, smartphone or tablet. We know that schedules optimized for a student actually boost credit hours, increase student retention, and accelerate degree completion -- critical for all students and for the University. When the student builds a schedule that works for them, this flexibility helps them balance learning and life...and build on their success," Garcia said.

The University collaborated with Civitas Learning, a student success company that has partnered strategically with more than 325 colleges and universities like TAMIU, serving nearly 8 million students.





Meadows Foundation Awards \$150,000 Grant

TAMIU will continue to strengthen its coordinated and integrated healthcare delivery network in Laredo, Jim Hogg and Zapata counties thanks to a \$150,000 continuation grant the Meadows Foundation awarded to The Texas A&M University System.

The Grant supports the *Sí Texas Juntos for Better Health Grant* administered by TAMIU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences' Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing dean Dr. Glenda Walker, grant principal investigator.

"This Grant from The Meadows Foundation provides vital support to help to continue to realize our *Sí Texas - Juntos for Better Health Grant* objectives through a linked constellation of education, outreach and services," Dr. Walker said.

She said the program operates through an approach featuring comprehensive healthcare and patient engagement.

"We also deploy a Traveling Health Care Team (THCT), a critical community outreach initiative that emphasizes primary screening and links to a medical home or mental health services," Walker explained.

Students Create BIG Impact During The Big Event

Four hours.

It's the average approximate Super Bowl watch time and the average daily time spent using media like computers, tablets and smartphones.

But for a group of 350 TAMIU students, four hours spent at the Santo Niño neighborhood equated 1,400 community service hours, generating an in-kind monetary impact of \$30,800.

This year, student volunteers representing six countries and all student classifications participated in The Big Event. Held March 24, the annual community service initiative is a dedicated effort for universities to serve their communities.

TAMIU projects included graffiti removal, house painting, a mulch project, park restoration and pet vaccinations.



In total, 2,300 residents benefited with four yards cleaned, eight houses painted, 150 animals vaccinated and 21.79 tons of trash picked up.

Mayra Hernández, director of TAMIU's Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement, lauded the tremendous impact students made in such a short time span.

"It's an exciting opportunity. TAMIU students want to 'pay it forward' -- to become effective leaders, responsible constituents and serve their community. They believe it's a shared obligation to give back to a community that has given them so much," Hernández said.

The Big Event began at Texas A&M University in College Station in 1982. Since its inception at TAMIU in 2010, students have generated more than \$4 million in equivalent economic impact and more than 220,000 total service hours.

TAMIU, LTGI Stage Historic Spanish Language Production



Cassandra Canales ('11) as Yerma • Photo by: Ferch

Moving, awe-inspiring, unforgettable – these are just a few of the words used by social media users when describing performances of Federico García Lorca's drama "Yerma" which made its two-weekend debut in January at TAMIU.

The production, made possible through an ongoing partnership between the Laredo Theater Guild International (LTGI) and TAMIU, served as the opening production of LTGI's ninth season.

Lauded as the first LTGI production delivered entirely in Spanish, "Yerma" featured a cast of 25 actors. The production was heralded for its impressive use of stage scenery and emotionally-charged character portrayals. "Yerma" serves as a timeless story of marriage, motherhood and societal pressures faced by women living in rural Spain during the early 20th Century.

Through its renewed Memorandum of Understanding, LTGI and TAMIU have established a framework for their collaborative efforts. This includes the use of University facilities for rehearsal and performances, as well as student engagement in LTGI productions.

Past collaborative efforts between the University and TAMIU have resulted in several outstanding community productions and educational offerings for the popular Class on Stage Series.

In addition to "Yerma," the University and LTGI have staged two other major theatrical productions this year, with performances of Tennessee William's "The Glass Menagerie," and Lin-Manuel Miranda's iconic "In the Heights."

Reading the Globe Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

With nearly 75,000 miles traveled and 15 countries visited in the past 10 years, the TAMIU Reading the Globe (RTG) program has certainly left a stamp on the lives of students, faculty and staff.

Since 2008, the initiative has impacted TAMIU and Laredo by creating a common, academically-oriented intellectual activity.

"This creates an opportunity for discourse about issues relevant to students, and raises social awareness on a local and global scale. Faculty and staff also participate in the Common Read, fostering and strengthening the growth of an intellectual community in and around TAMIU that supports students' academic development," explained Dr. Conchita Hickey, Dean Emeritus.

Author Loung Ung's unforgettable novel, "First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers," served as this year's common read for the University's freshman class.

Ung shared her story with a captivated audience during a presentation this October.

The novel was also selected by Laredo Public Libraries' One City, One Book program, as part of the joint program with TAMIU funded in part by Humanities Texas.

The 10th-anniversary celebration of RTG offered an array of activities commemorating the global travels made by student ambassadors. An evening gala was attended by 23 former RTG ambassadors. Film and documentary screenings and a commemorative, 10-foot standing exhibit helped trace the impressive global travels of RTG ambassadors.



Loung Ung



Students Complete National Internships

Summertime for TAMIU students often translates into impactful opportunities – like the chance to travel and study abroad, or to complete an extra course and get ahead on their degree plan schedule.

For students Pauline Arredondo, María Jacobo and Cesar Villarreal, a 10-week-long summer internship through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program helped further their career prospects and bolster their skills.

Arredondo, a business administration major, worked out of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Chief Financial Officer in Washington, D.C.

Jacobo, a sophomore accounting major, completed an internship at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, also in Washington. Villarreal, a senior system engineering major, traveled to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services Office in Knoxville, Tenn.

Established in 1986, HACU represents over 470 colleges and universities across the U.S.



Earth Week Celebration Impacts Future Sustainability

When your University president is also a research biologist, don't be surprised if he shows a keen interest in science and its impact on campus. TAMIU president Dr. Pablo Arenaz said the University is tightly focused on campus sustainability and so dedicates a weekly observance to Earth Week on campus...and yes, Maroon is the new Green.

"Sustainability is an important lesson for everyone, and Earth Week helps students learn how they can make a difference in their lives now and in the future. We're fortunate to leverage our energy budget to fund much-needed energy and infrastructure upgrades designed to save money and improve our students' learning environment," Dr. Arenaz said.

The week-long observation takes place in April and includes a pond clean-up, a recycling extravaganza and water conservation event, on-campus Community Garden beautification, a recycled bench dedication and more. Behind the scenes, there's also some serious energy saving strategies at work with TAMIU partner Schneider Electric. Existing electric and chilled water metering systems have been upgraded, interior and exterior LED retrofits have taken place, HVAC equipment at the Residential Learning Community upgraded and campus water conservation optimized with domestic water fixtures and an irrigation well. And there's more green, erm, maroon to come.

"In 2019, we'll initiate our Conserve My Planet Student Engagement Program aimed at generating over \$14 million in guaranteed savings over the life of the project and reducing energy consumption by 4,080,836 kWh per year -- an impact equivalent to removing 1,500,643 pounds of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere," Dr. Arenaz concluded.



Completing Degree ‘Closer than Ever’ with New Initiative

They’re out there... students who have been unable to complete their undergraduate degree but have made substantial progress. Perhaps life became busy, new obligations emerged, or priorities shifted. TAMIU launched a new initiative this Fall to help former students complete their undergraduate degree. Dubbed the “Closer than Ever” Initiative, TAMIU is reaching out to engage with former students and help them conclude their degree journey.

“Some of our former students are actually mere hours, or a handful of classes away from securing their Bachelor’s degree. With accessible and flexible programs and online options, these students are closer than ever before to degree completion,” said TAMIU registrar Juan Gilberto García, Jr.

University Among Nation’s Tops at Advancing Income Mobility

A new study reveals that lower-income students who attend the nation’s minority-serving universities are more likely to advance their economic status or income mobility.



García said the University reaches out to former students through social media and direct, targeted outreach to encourage them to renew ties with the University and establish next steps.



“We have a simple online form that enables us to collect some basic information to retrieve the student’s academic history, establish contact and discuss options that can be tailored to them. There is also the possibility of limited financial assistance,” García explained.

Interested students can take their first steps forward to completing their degree by visiting a dedicated TAMIU website, located at: <http://www.tamiu.edu/closerthanever/>

“We encourage our former students to explore the new options available to them,” García concluded, “There’s no time like the present, and they really are closer than they think.”

TAMIU was the top scoring Texas institution highlighted in the study.

TAMIU president Dr. Pablo Arenaz said this national report once again affirms the University’s impact on students’ lives and, by extension, the communities in which they live and thrive.

“This is the third national assessment that measures our impact, that shows how we truly help our students and graduates to ‘Go Beyond,’ as we say. As the University approaches our 50th Anniversary in 2019, it’s especially gratifying to know that we daily deliver our cherished mission of serving an under-served population, impacting them with the highest quality of education delivered by a gifted, global faculty,” Dr. Arenaz said.

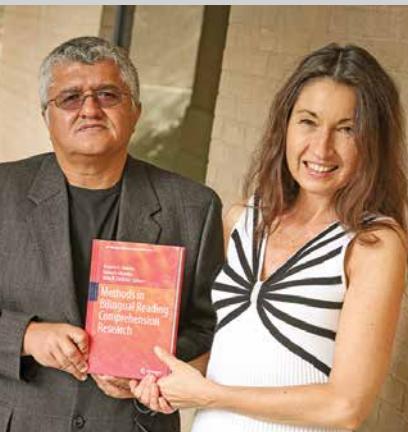
Faculty Continue Vital Bilingual Research

TAMIU faculty members are providing the most up-to-date insights on how bilinguals comprehend and store information with their release of two published books.

TAMIU Regents Professor Dr. Roberto R. Heredia and Dr. Anna Cieślicka, associate professor of psychology, together with Dr. Alfredo Ardila, professor of communication sciences and disorders at Florida International University, and Mónica Rosselli, professor and assistant chair of psychology at Florida Atlantic University, authored “*Psychology of Bilingualism: The Cognitive and Emotional World of Bilinguals*.”

The book analyzes the psychological world of bilinguals and cognitive milestones faced throughout their lifespan. It also integrates up-to-date bilingualism research, focusing on cognitive and emotional experiences of bilinguals.

It's the fifth volume in Springer's “*Bilingual Mind and Brain Book Series*,” which Drs. Heredia and Cieślicka co-founded and co-edit.



Measure of a Son Traces Impact of a Mother

A mother's birthday is a great opportunity to acknowledge an impact often beyond measure. For one son, the chance to honor that impact has created a new measure with generational dimensions.

Carlos Zaffirini, son of Senator Judith Zaffirini, initiated a Teachers' College Student Loan Debt Grant Program in her name, announcing it in advance of her Feb. 13 birthday in ceremonies at TAMIU. It will continue through 2020.

Five Laredo educators received \$2,000 grants towards their college student loan debts. To qualify, teachers must have taught in Laredo for at least five years, have a college student loan debt of at least \$5,000, and be selected by his or her institution. Zaffirini shared his motivation.

“My mother completed three degrees at The University of Texas at Austin only because of a National Defense Student Loan,” Zaffirini, Jr. said, “and she paid it largely through teacher loan forgiveness programs.”

“Her passion since then has been to make higher education accessible and affordable for all Texans, especially South Texans. What better way to honor her than to help teachers pay their college student loan debts? This is my way of saying ‘thank you’ to her, but also to those who made her education possible through student loans,” he explained.

Zaffirini, an attorney, businessperson and philanthropist, is president and CEO of Adelanto Health Care Ventures (AHCV), LLC, a healthcare finance consulting firm.

Since 2012, he has honored his mother annually with endowed gifts including scholarships at TAMIU, UT-Austin, and the Baylor College of Medicine; the Access to Justice Initiative at the UT Law School, and a family patient suite at the UT Dell Seton Medical Center.



77% STUDENT
ATHLETE
VOLUNTEER
PARTICIPATION

1,412 HOURS
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

40 EVENTS
ATTENDED
23 ORGANIZATIONS
HELPED

49 INSTITUTION
IMPACT SCORE

TOP ORGANIZATIONS SERVED:
VOLUNTEERS
SERVING THE NEED
SOUTH TEXAS
FOOD BANK



TAMIU women's basketball has completed 248 community service hours this year, with many of those hours served at the South Texas Food Bank.



TAMIU softball and volleyball student-athletes served as judges for the Laredo Big Bad BBQ competition on Nov. 9-10 at Uni-Trade Stadium. The event, organized by TAMIU Building Homes for Heroes Baseball BBQ pit master Tony Vedia, brought the best BBQ in South Texas to the community with the proceeds benefitting Operation Peacemaker, a local nonprofit that assists police officers in times of emergency.



TAMIU Student-Athletes honor local military veterans through service with Volunteers Serving The Need (VSTN), a local nonprofit that provides essential services to financially disadvantaged veterans. Here, cross country athletes are performing warehouse duties for a VSTN Work Day.



Photo by: Dr. Arturo Limón

Veterans (L to R, front) Heriberto Saldivar, David Rankin and Manuel Ramírez are joined by TAMIU student-athletes.

Student-Athletes Expand Giving Tradition

TAMIU student-athletes have a long tradition of giving back to the community and that commitment is as strong as ever as evidenced by the continuing community outreach efforts being made by these dedicated young people. Dustdevil student-athletes have recorded over 1,400 community service hours since January, attending 40 events serving 23 different community partners.

Dustdevil student-athletes have benefited through interaction and service-learning with long-standing partnerships with community partners such as the South Texas Food Bank, Volunteers Serving the Need and the Bethany House. New partnerships are constantly being explored with the intention of exposing athletes to new service-learning opportunities.

TAMIU Athletics also supports two annual mainstay philanthropic causes, the Voz De Niños Christmas Toy Drive and TAMIU Baseball BBQ Military Appreciation event. Last April's Baseball BBQ raised a record \$2,360 for Building Homes for Heroes, a nonprofit organization that provides mortgage free homes to severely injured military members.

TAMIU student-athletes have honored older military veterans by serving as hosts at the Laredo Veterans Heroes Flight Bon Voyage Ceremony at the Laredo International Airport for the last two years. The Hero Flight sends three Laredo veterans to Washington D.C. for an escorted tour of our great nation's monuments and historical sites along with a visit with our federal representatives.

Dustdevil student-athletes greet attendees of the Bon Voyage Ceremony, visit with the honorees and represent TAMIU Athletics in the community at large.

TAMIU softball and men's basketball athletes participated in the latest Hero Flight Ceremony in September.

Making the trip on this year's flight were World War II veteran David Rankin, Korean War veteran and P.O.W. Manuel Ramírez and Vietnam War veteran Heriberto Saldivar.

ANNUAL GIVING 2017-2018

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TAMIU assistant professor of Engineering Dr. Tariq Tashtoush has received national recognitions at a furious pace this year alongside students he advises.

Dr. Tashtoush was recently selected as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) advisor-at-large. He was also selected as the SHPE National 2018 Convention Vice-Chair for the Advisors Conference.



"I found giving to be very satisfactory at the personal level and the institutional level. I feel that giving demonstrates a collective effort and commitment to education to the well-being and careers of our students. To give means to build... to build a community of giving."

- Dr. Peter Haruna

Dr. Peter Haruna, TAMIU professor of Public Administration and Government, directs the University's National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration-accredited graduate program in Public Administration.

A Fulbright Scholar, he holds both his Ph.D. in Public Administration with a specialization in leadership and Master of Public Administration degree from The University of Akron, Ohio. His Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Administration was earned at GIMPA in Ghana and his honors Bachelor's degree was earned at the University of Ghana, Accra.

TAMIU Faculty and Staff make their impact in and outside the classroom through financial gifts that impact students. TAMIU's annual 30-day giving campaign, #VIVATAMIU, included 297 employees who contributed \$51,119 in gifts to TAMIU.

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Dental Society Scholarships Give TAMIU Students Something to Smile About



Left to right, LDDS members Dr. Christian Cabello, Dr. Claudia Cavazos, and TAMIU recipients Ana Laura Gomez-Vazquez and Alyson Miller; LDDS president Dr. Alessandro Vallone, and Dr. Joey Casarez, Texas Dental Association president. Not pictured is the third TAMIU scholarship recipient, Laura Lomeli.

This past March, three TAMIU Pre-Dental students had something to smile about as beneficiaries of scholarships from the Laredo District Dental Society, District 23.

The three TAMIU Pre-Dental students: Ana Laura Gomez-Vasquez, Laura Lomeli and Alyson Miller, each received \$750 scholarships. All three were accepted into Dental School and began their studies this Fall 2018.

Gomez-Vasquez attends The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry. Lomeli enrolled at the Texas A&M University School of Dentistry and Miller attends The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Dentistry.

Dr. Alessandro Vallone, president of the Laredo District Dental Society, said the Society's scholarship program is focused on helping students achieve their degree and perhaps return as Laredo District dentists.

"We understand the process of obtaining a DDS degree can be a challenging, expensive, and long one. Our goal is to plant a seed by helping our local Pre-Dental students achieve that Dental degree with initial financial aid assistance via these scholarships, and perhaps one day having these future Dentists return to their roots and communities here in South Texas to provide an invaluable health service to an underserved area," Dr. Vallone said.

The group plans to make this an annual award, and that's something to smile about all over again.

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TAMIU's Walk of Fame is located on the south end of the native stone water fountain that graces the plaza in the center of campus. Purchase of the inscribed bricks is great way for students, organizations, parents, alumni, and community supporters to be part of a permanent tribute that supports TAMIU.

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"We see the University as a forum for discussion and learning and we wanted to help make that possible. We realize that as an international university, TAMIU is a natural setting for these important discussions."

-- **Ninfa Cantú Deandar, El Mañana**

In October, El Mañana hosted a visiting lecture by Tatiana Clouthier, the campaign manager for the successful campaign of México's incoming President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.



"I've always been intrigued by the science of black holes and wanted to be able to make possible a special lecture by an esteemed scientist right here at TAMIU."

-- **Guillermo Benavides Z.**

In September, Dr. Eva Noyola, of The University of Texas at Austin's department of Astronomy and the famed McDonald Observatory, lectured on "How Do We Observe Black Holes" at the TAMIU Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre.

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STUDENT PROFILE

7,996

STUDENTS
ENROLLED
THIS FALL



67 YEARS
OLD
OLDEST STUDENT

13 YEARS
OLD
YOUNGEST STUDENT



7,013 UNDERGRADUATE
983 GRADUATE



22 DOCTORAL
STUDENTS

16% GRADUATE SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT INCREASE

COMING FROM



30
DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES



27
DIFFERENT
STATES



66
DIFFERENT
COUNTIES

STUDY/TRAVEL



1,457,561

MILES TRAVELED
ABROAD BY STUDENTS
TO 24 COUNTRIES

VOLUNTEERING



\$5.8+MM
VOLUNTEER HOURS
MONETARY IMPACT
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55,444+
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1,100 STUDENT
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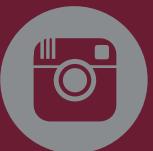
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TWITTER
MENTIONS

31+K
FACEBOOK FANS



200+K
INSTAGRAM IMPRESSIONS



VISITS TO TAMIU.EDU
FROM 203 COUNTRIES



SOCIAL MEDIA
FANS FROM
45 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES

FINANCIAL AID



\$65+MM
AWARDED IN
FINANCIAL AID



82.7%
STUDENTS ON
FINANCIAL AID



20%
OF INCOMING FRESHMAN STUDENTS
RECEIVE THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

CAMPUS VIEW



219
FACULTY
MEMBERS

442
STAFF
MEMBERS



TOTAL
DEGREES
OFFERED
93



89
STUDENT CLUBS/
ORGANIZATIONS





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5201 University Boulevard
Laredo TX 78041-1900

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