While several majors show significant growth over this period, the growth of Pre-Engineering and Systems Engineering majors is especially noteworthy, considering that SP 11 is only the third semester in which the majors could be tracked. And, it is interesting to compare the growth of COAS declared majors over the period (1589 in FA 05; 3170 in SP 11, +99.5%) to other colleges: Business (816 to 761, -6.7%), Education (690 to 1149, +66.5%), and Nursing (239 to 449, +87.9%). As of this Spring 2011, 57.3% of all students with declared majors at the university were enrolled in COAS disciplines, with numbers of majors breaking out like this:

While several majors show significant growth over this period, the growth of Pre-Engineering and Systems Engineering majors is especially noteworthy, considering that SP 11 is only the third semester in which the majors could be tracked. And, it is interesting to compare the growth of COAS declared majors over the period (1589 in FA 05; 3170 in SP 11, +99.5%) to other colleges: Business (816 to 761, -6.7%), Education (690 to 1149, +66.5%), and Nursing (239 to 449, +87.9%). So, while numbers like those above only tell part of a story, the trend is generally consistent; COAS is not only the largest, but it is also the fastest growing college at TAMU.

There are many reasons to be proud of being part of the COAS family, and we plan to tout many of these in upcoming issues of The COAS Perspective. Again, we welcome everyone, both new friends and familiar ones; this should be a great semester!
Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Kelly Frailing  
Assistant Professor  
B.A. in Psychology, Grinnell College  
M.A. in Criminal Justice, Loyola University  
Ph.D. in Criminology, University of Cambridge  

Specialization: Mental health courts and crime and criminal justice in disaster.  
Previously: Research Assistant, University of Cambridge

Dr. Maria Romero-Ramirez  
Assistant Professor  
B.S. in Psychology, University of Texas-Pan American  
M.S. in Rehabilitation Education, University of Texas-Pan American  
Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  

Specialization: Psychosocial aspect of disability; Racial/ethnic minority & Mental Health and Rehabilitation counseling  
Previously: Assistant Professor, California State University

Dr. Caroline Kellogg  
Assistant Professor  
B.A. in Biology, Smith College  
Ph.D. in Botany, Cornell University  

Specialization: Plant Systematic and Molecular Evolution  
Previously: Adjunct Professor, Texas A & M International University

Social Sciences

Ms. Alia Paroo  
Assistant Professor  
B.A. in History, York University, Canada  
M.A. in History, York University, Canada  
Ph.D. in History, York University, Canada—ABD  

Specialization: African and Islamic History  
Previously: Academic Director, ITREB Canada
The COAS PERSPECTIVE

2011 New Faculty

**Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics**

**Dr. Fernando Gonzalez**  
*Assistant Professor*  
B.S. in Computer Science, Florida International University  
M.A. in Electrical Engineering, Florida International University  
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois  

*Specialization:* Discrete event modeling and simulation robotics and automation  
*Previously:* Computer Science Technical Staff Member, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Dr. Namwon Kim**  
*Assistant Professor*  
B.S. in Engineering, Kangwaon National University, Republic of Korea  
Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Louisiana State University  

*Specialization:* Mechanical Engineering  
*Previously:* Postdoctoral Researcher, Columbia University

**Ms. Teresa N. Nguyen**  
*Instructor*  
B.S. in Computer Science, The University of Texas at Dallas  
M.S in Mathematics, The University of Texas-Pan American

*Specialization:* Instruction  
*Previously:* Math Instructor, The University of Texas-Pan American

**Ms. Andrea Vazquez**  
*Assistant Professor*  
MF.A. in Dance, The College of Brockport, State University of New York Brockport  
B.F.A. Choreography, The National Ballet & Modern Dance School of the National Institute of the Arts, Mexico

*Specialization:* Choreography & Dance  
*Previously:* Graduate Teaching Assistant, The College at Brockport

**Mr. William Nolen**  
*Visiting Instructor*  
B.A. in Philosophy, University of Texas  
M.A. in Philosophy, Boston College  
M.A. in English, Texas A&M International University –In process

*Specialization:* English and Philosophy  
*Previously:* English Instructor, Laredo Community College

**Fine and Performing Arts**

**Language and Literature**
The COAS PERSPECTIVE  
2011 Awards

COAS Teacher of the Year

“Dr. Claudia San Miguel is an Assistant Professor and a valued member of the Behavioral Sciences Department’s faculty since 2005. As the Director of the Criminal Justice program, Dr. San Miguel provides academic leadership for the program’s undergraduate curriculum and online master’s degree. She consistently receives high praise from her students and has been honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Teaching in 2011. In addition to her program leadership, Dr. San Miguel has served on numerous committees devoted to teaching excellence and has overseen WIN courses, Core Curriculum courses and written reports for TEC and other program evaluation and articulation matters. As a teacher-scholar, Dr. San Miguel has co-authored a book on the death penalty, and has over ten journal articles/book chapters.” —Chair, Dr. Bernat

COAS Scholar of the Year

“Dr. Michael Kidd is beginning his 3rd year at TAMIU, coming to us from his post-doctoral position at UT Austin. Dr. Kidd has proven to be an outstanding instructor and researcher for the department. He has not only received the most outstanding student evaluations in the department, he has established a world class fish facility to support his research on the genetic components of reproductive behavior. His teaching extends into the graduate program, with 6 graduate students, the first of which finished their masters degree this summer. We are indeed fortunate to a teacher and scientist of Dr. Kidd’s caliber join us.” —Chair, Dr. Mott

“Dr. Christopher Ferguson is an Associate Professor and a valued member of the Behavioral Sciences Department’s faculty since 2005. As a licensed Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Ferguson engages in research and assessments of issues pertaining to mental health diagnoses, cognitive disabilities, neuropsychological impairments and assessments of issues pertaining to mental health diagnoses, cognitive disabilities, neuropsychological impairments and, media and violence. He consistently publishes in peer reviewed journals and recently published “Violent Crime: Clinical and Social Implications” (Sage Publications). In the past year, his research was the focus of an amicus brief presented to the U.S. Supreme Court that argues that video gaming does not create violent propensities in youth. A prolific scholar, he has over 20 journal and book chapter publications that are forthcoming or in print since 2010.”— Chair, Dr. Bernat

“Dr. Gilberto Soto has done a great deal of work in bilingual music education for elementary students. His work with McGraw-Hill’s ‘Spotlight on Music’ has been highlighted in ‘Fiesta de Canciones,’ bringing to life some of the rich Hispanic Folklore and Tradition through music.”

—Chair, Ms. Leyendecker
The COAS PERSPECTIVE

2010 Awards

**COAS Teacher of the Year**

“**Dr. Jaclyn Jeffrey** is an exceptional and respected teacher in our university. She makes her lectures interesting and intellectually stimulating. She encourages her students to learn and think outside of the box. Her classes are popular and students speak very highly of her. She earned and deserved to be the University Teacher of the Year for the academic year 2010-2011 and on behalf of my colleagues we wish her more success. She is indeed a great asset to the department of social sciences.”

- Chair, Dr. Ben-Ruwin

“**Dr. Monica Muñoz** is truly an exceptional, caring and up-to-date instructor in her field of Experimental Social Psychology and Psychology in general. She truly enjoys the learning process and is very open to suggestions on how to further improve her teaching methods. Her former and current students speak highly of her excellent teaching skills. As a TAMIU alumnus, she is a role model for our younger generation seeking higher education.”

— Chair, Dr. Heredia

**COAS Scholar of the Year**

“**Dr. Runchang Lin** earned his Ph. D. degree in Mathematics from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He joined Texas A&M International University as an Assistant Professor in 2005, and visited Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Spring of 2009 semester. Dr. Lin’s research interests include Numerical Analysis and Applied Mathematics. He has published 15 research articles in journals and conference proceedings, including prestigious journals such as *Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations, Numerical Mathematic*, and *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*. Dr. Lin is serving as PI/Co-PI of the NSF DUE #0630865 and NSF CBET #0820919 programs.

— Interim Chair, Dr. Goonatilake

“**Dr. Marcus Ynalvez** is an exceptional researcher with a lot of potential to significantly contribute to the field of Sociology. He is a meticulous scientist with expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods, and with an impressive knowledge of high order statistics. Marcus is the recipient of highly competitive grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) which is known for funding only the best research proposals in the nations.”

— Chair, Dr. Heredia
“Dr. Juan Hinojosa is a highly respected teacher and an expert in using educational technology. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Geophysics from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Hinojosa joined The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 1987, and subsequently joined Texas A&M International University in 1991. Dr. Hinojosa’s research interests include planetary physics, potential theory, gravity gradient tensor analysis, thermal convection, and numerical modeling. Dr. Hinojosa’s current research deals with analyzing and modeling the gravitational field and topography of the planets Venus and Mars in the spectral domain. Theoretical admittance functions are used to model the gravitational response to surface and subsurface loading at different wavelengths to determine the physical properties of the planetary lithospheres, and to determine the thermal structure of the planetary interiors.”

—Chair, Dr. R. Bachnak

“Dr. Fernando Quintana has been extremely successful as a teacher while teaching the largest class in the department, 120 students. He is a thoughtful instructor who is willing to take chances to improve the learning of his students. His students have been successful in the nursing program and often mention what we already knew, that he is a kind gentleman, who works hard for the students”

—Chair, Dr. Daniel Mott

“Dr. Robert Haynes was faculty Senate President in 2008-2009. In 2009, he has published or will publish four journal articles and a book chapter and will complete a book on the playwright/screenwriter Horton Foote. His memorial poem of Mr. Foote, who died in March of 2009, will appear in the next issue of The Horton Foot Review. He teaches Shakespeare and Early British literature and encourages students to proceed with the inevitable Laredo Renaissance.”

—Co-Chair, Dr. K. Lindberg

“Dr. Qingwen Ni is an accomplished researcher and educator. He earned a Ph. D in Solid-State Physics and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) from the University of North Texas in 1991; His experience includes Postdoctoral associate at Purdue University for two years and eight years at Southwest Research Institute. He joined TAMIU in 2001. His scholarly accomplishments include: granted four (4) U.S. patents; published one (1) book chapter; thirteen (13) papers in peer review journals and numerous papers in conferencing ; NSF grant, South Texas Border Mathematics and Pre-Engineering Graduated, 2003-08; NSF grant, Major Research Instrument (MRI): Acquisition of a Low-Field NMR for Research/Education at Texas A&M International University, 2008-2011. Dr. Ni continues to develop nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) related research for the university and students.”

—Chair, Dr. R Bachnak
The COAS PERSPECTIVE

2011 Promotion & Tenure

Dr. Jose A. Martinez-Samos
Associate Professor
Department of Language and Literature

Dr. Runchang Lin
Associate Professor
Department of Engineering, Mathematics and Physics

Dr. Yu-Mei Huang
Associate Professor
Department of Fine & Performing Arts