

Spring 2010

# prism

The Magazine of Texas A&M International University



**@txamiu  
navigating  
the waves of  
social media**



**iTunes**



**You Tube**



**connect**



**Saraquaeagle**

I Chose TAMIU because it's the 1 place that I can express myself intellectually through multi types of ways => plus de peeps r cool 2.  
@2:45 p.m., April 19

**Alysonloves**

I chose TAMIU, because it feels like home.  
@3:42 p.m., April 16

**Vintagenight**

I chose TAMIU because I felt I could have the right path shaped for my future.  
@9:32 a.m., April 20

**Alexlolz**

I love how easy it is to meet with professors here.  
@7:26 p.m., April 21.

**Herecam**

Because it's here, its close, its ours, and its my future.  
@1:15 p.m., April 19

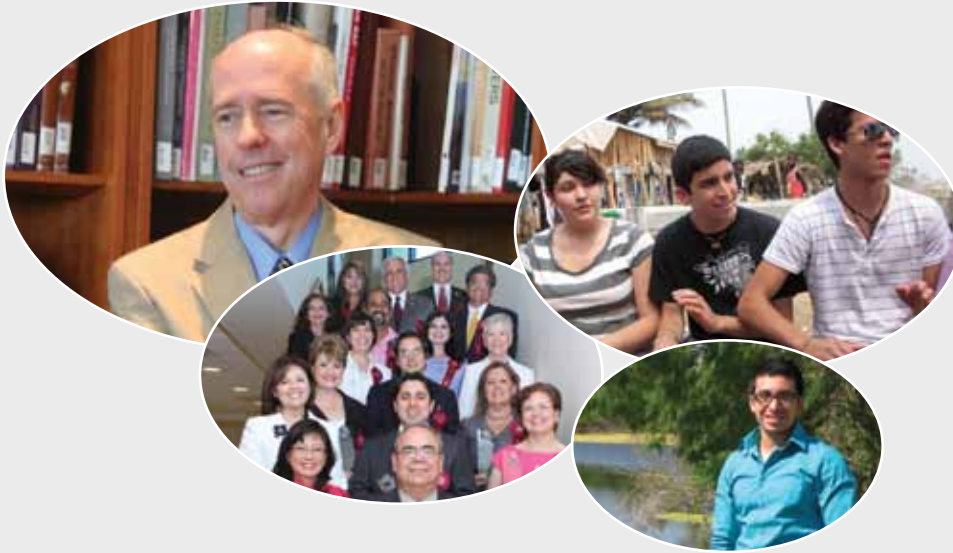
**Flicktime33**

TAMIU has the finest tools for any college students needs, I wouldn't go anywhere else  
@9:29 a.m., April 20

**Stefanyieribara**

As a Mexican Student I chose TAMIU because its gives incredible opportunities to international students like me to succeed in the USA.  
@10 a.m., April 20

# What TAMIU students are Tweeting!



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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.

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

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## PRANCERS ON THE PAGE

As is so often the case, Emily Dickinson said it best:

There is no Frigate like a Book  
To take us Lands away  
Nor any Coursers like a Page  
Of prancing Poetry—

Since the 16th century, books as we know them have facilitated, stimulated, and preserved our affective and intellectual life. And their intimate bond with humankind far predates Gutenberg's invention of movable type in the 1440s. I am sure each of us has his or her own list of famous encounters, in literature and in life, with books. In the 14th century, Paolo and Francesca, by their own admission, famously lost their souls because of what a book led them to do ("Galeotto fu'libro e chi lo scrisse.") In the 5th century, St. Augustine's life forever changed because an angel, in a dream, bade him take up a book and read ("Tolle, lege.") Don Quijote began as a satire of the power books might hold over our imagination. For me, the reading of Don Quijote during my sophomore year of college aroused a lifelong passion for Spanish literature.

The technological age has vastly enhanced and altered one of the primary responsibilities traditionally consigned to books: to preserve and store up knowledge for our use. One feels this change most felicitously when preparing any sort of document. Facts and dates, formerly bound in encyclopedias and often out of easy reach, now appear instantly at the bidding of Google. With authoritative clarity and speed, web searches recover for us phrases of poetry or famous utterances clouded by time or uncertain memory. Indeed, one can imagine that encyclopedias and dictionaries may soon cease to exist in print editions.

It is indeed exhilarating, especially for forays into literature and philosophy and history, to enjoy instant access to most of what has been written. I recently wanted to locate the passage in which Joseph Schumpeter articulates his famous theory of capitalism and "creative destruction." On another day, I wanted to find again Shakespeare's reference to golden lads and chimney sweeps. From the Internet's vast storehouse came, instantly, the famous passage in Schumpeter's *Capitalism* (1942) and *Cymbeline*, Act IV, scene ii. At no time in history have humans had at their disposition such a powerful tool to support and kindle thought. The screen never sleeps, is never exhausted nor exhaustible. At any moment, it magnificently feeds our need to know.

Yet humanists and bibliophiles together worry about the future of books. Will Google's plan to scan all the major libraries of the world one day make books obsolete,



as curious and exotic as a horse-drawn coach? I think not. The richest treasures of writing, human creativity in arts and letters, demand a long and thoughtful, a quiet and reflective relationship. Poetry, essays, novels, meditations, if they reach deeply into us, establish an intimacy most easily bound in a volume, held in our hands, housed on the shelves of our studies and sitting rooms. In moments both of joy and longing, we can hold the volume that contains the poem or phrases indispensable for equanimity of spirit. With great emotion we may bequeath that volume to a friend; it carries within its pages our mind and heart, words which capture and hold for us our most cherished experiences.

The goals and outcomes of a university experience have, in recent years, become increasingly concrete and measurable. We want the University to propel each graduate toward a job, a secure place in our economic and social order. We want to see acceptable scores on examinations; outcomes which allow continued study or entry into a profession. The principal tool for generating these outcomes is equally concrete and measurable. Vaster than Borges' Library of Babel, the worldwide web places the entire expanse of human knowledge at the disposal of anyone able to go online.

While this unbounded, virtual concordance/encyclopedia/dictionary helps us catalogue, file, and retrieve beauty, I hope each of our graduates carries, into life, in his or her hand a volume of writing, words arranged in that miraculous order we call art. The screen serves us the facts. But the prancers on the page awaken us to reflection, recovery, and a right spirit. ■

Dr. Ray M. Keck III,  
President

## A LEGACY SECURED: HELEN RICHTER WATSON GALLERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The late Laredo-born artist and educator Helen Richter Watson firmly believed that with determination, local students wishing to pursue a career in the arts could accomplish their dreams and make a contribution to the art world.

Her legacy and love for her community will be permanently celebrated through a magnificent glass structure now under construction that will encase the two-story breezeway under Texas A&M International University's Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library.

The Helen Richter Watson Art Gallery, as the glass-enclosed gallery will be known, will be constructed thanks to a generous gift of \$1 million from the Dolly Richter Watson Foundation.

Located at the University's center of activity and connecting two sides of the Killam Library, the Gallery will showcase the late artist's monumental ceramic work and serve as a reception area for the University. Also, a space next to the reception area will replicate a room in Watson's home, featuring her smaller artwork and furniture.

Construction is expected to be completed late this summer. ■



### EXPANDED CAREER EXPO FEATURES WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, NETWORKING AND FASHION

The University's Office of Career Services introduced a newly expanded Career Expo this March that featured career-enhancing workshops, corporate presentations, networking opportunities with employers and even a fashion show—all designed with opportunities an up and coming graduate seeks.

The four-day event, sponsored by H-E-B, was held March 1-4 and began with paper presentations, "Perspectives of Global and Border Economic Development" from A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business doctoral candidates and project presentations from members of the Students in Free Enterprise organization (SIFE) chapter. Audience members including TAMIU students and faculty and the local business community received a wealth of information on topics related to current economic trends.

Other events included a presentation by Sara Canaday, nationally-acclaimed image and leadership consultant, who shared the importance of branding a professional image and its impact on career possibilities for those seeking employment, a promotion, or even a raise.

A fashion show followed, highlighting business attire from JC Penney and Dillard's, sponsors of "Creating a Professional

Image" and the "Marketing your Image for Success" events. Currently enrolled TAMIU students receive a 10% discount with a valid ID card on business attire purchased from JC Penney – Laredo, including already reduced merchandise.

Students, University and community members learned of the benefits of an image makeover during "Marketing your Image for Success" as Dillard's cosmetic experts created polished and business ready make-up applications for women and provided men's mini-facials and valuable grooming tips from the Christian Dior line. A Dillard's product gift basket valued at over \$200 dollars was awarded and image makeover participants received a goody bag filled with sample products.

Job candidates had the opportunity to network with employers during a corporate mixer, gathering at the Lamar-Bruni Vergara Planetarium courtyard. Potential employers were also treated to a sampling of LBV Planetarium programming.

At the conclusion of Career Expo week, students, alumni, and community members attended the job fair held in the Student Center ballroom for informative corporate presentations and networking opportunities. ■



## LEGISLATORS TO DEBATE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

by Senator Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D.

Futurist Bruce Sterling perfectly described the rapidity of technological advancement when he said, “I used to think that cyberspace was 50 years away. What I thought was 50 years away, was only 10 years away. And what I thought was 10 years away...it was already here.”

Technology continues to revolutionize communications and education in ways many legislators struggle to comprehend, but comprehend we must.

As a communication specialist and as State Senator for Senate District 21, I prioritize utilizing new technology to interact effectively with constituents. Having Wi-Fi in my car and via a portable hotspot enhances my efficiency, as does having my computers at four work sites networked with my two laptops, Blackberry and iPhone. What a difference from my first legislative session, when I was limited to using a typewriter and land lines, and my having a home fax was considered unique!

It also is my pleasure to employ traditional media, coupled with online interactive meetings, email, websites, LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. (You

can “friend” me via [www.facebook.com/judith.zaffirini](http://www.facebook.com/judith.zaffirini).)

As Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee (SHEC), it also is my pleasure to collaborate with Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and our colleagues to bridge the gap between digital natives (those who were born into a world of technological marvels) and digital immigrants (those of us who were born before digital technology and mastered it later).

The lieutenant governor charged our higher education committee to “study and make recommendations regarding more effective means of using technology, including digital textbooks and online degree programs, to improve access, enhance quality, and reduce the cost of higher education while preserving excellence.”

Testimony will underscore how technology is changing the way we learn, the way we read, and the way we think. As an ardent bibliophile who also loves my Kindle and iPad, I look forward to the debate as we pursue the most cost-effective ways to strive for excellence in higher education.

We hope to hear from eTextbook publishers who are adding more

linked text to their products to appeal to students who prefer interactive content and from professors who are experimenting and enhancing their lectures with the latest technology in their classrooms.

As social media and an impressive array of technological alternatives change not only how we communicate, but also how we learn and teach, legislative debate about the role of technology in higher education will intensify. It will include distance learning; customized books; and issues related to privacy, integrity and interactivity.

Count on me to continue to seek ways to facilitate student success through the best use of technology. My prayer is that every student in Senate District 21 will have access to the technology and training he or she needs to excel. Together we can bridge the gap in higher education between digital natives and digital immigrants. ■

CHAIR OF THE SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Senator Judith Zaffirini, PhD, is the highest-ranking senator for the border region and Bexar County. Second in seniority, she works with President Ray Keck, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and other leaders to promote excellence in higher education.

## UCONNECT AT TAMIU BRINGS CAMPUS CLOSER

In 1910 E.M. Forster’s “Howard’s End” challenged the world to “only connect!” and ever since mankind has been rising to the challenge in new and wondrous ways.

One would think that a University community, bounded by a campus, defined by a common mission and encompassing a tidy village of learners and faculty would have no problem connecting...but the ability to truly connect can be as fleeting as the South Texas spring.

In truth, the University community is no different from the community that surrounds it. And the challenge to connect is similarly shared. Multiple options make connection possible, but they don’t insure that connection actually occurs.

At TAMIU, initially University e-mail seemed the perfect answer, but sending as many as 15,000 messages a day that might only have limited appeal to the recipient grew cumbersome. The human tendency to eventually ignore repetition begged a more intuitive solution.

That’s why the University opted to launch a single portal system, Uconnect, that makes the majority of online services and resources available via a single access point.

Students, faculty and staff log in at their desktop and instantly have access to University news and information, a dynamic calendar, an intranet of archived forms and templates, e-mail interface, self-selected content and specialized features such as the day’s weather and online class access to small discussion groups. The user’s role identifies content that is of specific interest to the user.

For example, a faculty member will have certain channels of information available to them while students and staff will have other channels available to them.

Uconnect can also strategically send messages to targeted audiences within the community. For example, news of a TAMIU scholarship opportunity open to Webb County residents majoring in biology who will be the first in their family to earn an undergraduate degree can be sent directly to qualified students. Uconnect is linked to the University’s Student Information System, making infinite strategic messaging possible. The portal was launched last year and now sees an average of 3,275 daily visits during peak periods.

While it has become the primary communications tool for the internal campus community, Uconnect is part of an arsenal of communication tools deployed by the University.

The University’s main Web, tamiu.edu reaches a global, external audience. A cellphone emergency alert system, DustyALRT, connects subscribers to emergency notifications by the University. TAMIU connects further through the recent activation of social media like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

“Only connecting” at TAMIU has become a passion that Forster might find quite intriguing. ■







## UNIVERSITY SUCCESS CENTER NEARS COMPLETION



The sounds of drills, pneumatic hammers and cranes have been commonplace at Texas A&M International University as the new University Success Center has been rising from the southeast corner of the campus.

But later this summer, those sounds will be replaced with doors gliding open, the shuffle of feet and, odds are, excited utterances of “Wow!”

That will be music to the ears of Dr. Minita Ramírez, TAMIU Dean of Student Success, who has monitored the progress of the Center from the first day earth was turned. She tours the site almost daily and said it will be perhaps the most important facility for students on campus.

“It really is going to be a marvelous space that will embrace new and potential students and help them to frame their higher education experience here,” she affirmed.

Her team worked closely with project architects and designers to

create a space that is soaring, light filled and focused on a singular destination: the future.

“This is where our students’ dreams really get charged and where they get a chance to preview the future that we’re going to help make possible for them. It had to be a remarkable place because it’s giving flight to dreams,” Dr. Ramírez said.

She said her team was initially convinced the University was building a mall because the space seemed more like a mall.

“It really is mall-like,” she smiled, “but our ground floor is an information mall with storefront-style offices all radiating off a central, light-filled corridor. In addition to a communications hub, we’ll also have computer kiosks available and relaxing areas as well as multi-purpose rooms that can be reconfigured for a variety of needs,” she said.

With an approximate cost of \$25 million, the new Center will house

offices for the University’s Admissions, Financial Aid, Bursar, Enrollment Management/Recruitment Office, Bookstore, Registrar, OneCard, Dean for Student Success, Testing Center, University College and First Year Success offices or programs. These offices are currently housed in three different buildings around campus.

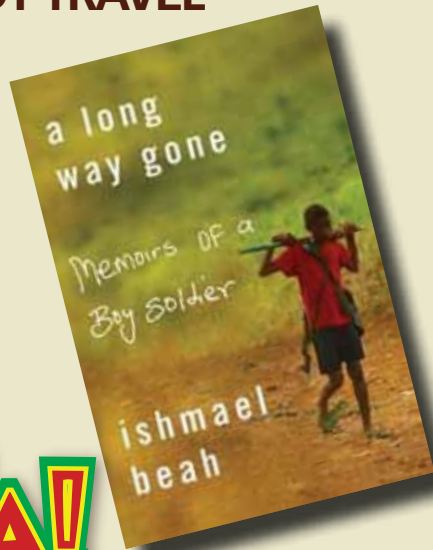
The Center’s future orientation extends beyond its design – it is powered in part by solar panels on the building’s west side as part of its utilization of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards.

As crews bustle about installing finishes and lighting, Ramírez is directing plans for the building’s debut, but offering only one clue.

“I can guarantee that it’ll be a great time for a great time in the University’s life,” she smiled. ■



## STUDENTS TRAVEL TO GHANA FOR RARE STUDY-TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY



**GOIN' TO GHANA!**

*“It was a world away and a world apart.”*

That’s how one TAMIU student summarized the trip to Ghana in West Africa this past December by 15 students, all part of the second “Reading the Globe: A Campus-wide Reading Initiative,” competitive study-travel option directed by the University College’s “Reading the Globe” Campus-wide Reading Initiative.

The students visited Accra, Ghana’s capital city, and attended lectures on political and tribal governance and learned about Ghanaian culture. They also completed a community service-learning project.

They were selected for the study-travel opportunity based on application, interview and personal essays they submitted on this year’s selected text, Ishmael Beah’s “A Long Way Gone,” set in Sierra Leone, near Ghana.

Program students were Miriam Abrego, Phillip Andrew Balli, Caitlin Barnes, Alejandro Gabriel Barrera, Barbara Irene Benavides, Carolina Liliana González, Juan Carlos Hernández Ibarra, Gustavo Alberto Herrera Jr., Laura Martínez Turrubiates, Diana Alicia Morales, Italia Rebecca Moreno, Michelle Lizette Muñoz, Julio Cesar Obscura, Sandra Karina Pruneda and Jacqueline Rochelle Verastegui.

The students created an online blog with images and impressions of their trip, accessed at [tamiu.edu/spotlight/ghana](http://tamiu.edu/spotlight/ghana). Their travel was made possible in part by the generosity of the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation of Laredo.

In Spring 2009, 15 students went to Poland as part of their “Reading the Globe” experience. ■



Read student blogs and see more images at: [tamiu.edu/spotlight/ghana](http://tamiu.edu/spotlight/ghana)

# NEWS



## Student Gets Top Army ROTC Award

A TAMIU student has been named the recipient of the United States Army ROTC's George Catlett Marshall Army ROTC Award.



José Mario Hinojosa Jr. received the Award at ceremonies held at the George C. Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Va. The Award included a three-day seminar featuring major addresses from military and civilian leaders.

The Award recognizes Cadet Hinojosa as the top ROTC cadet at TAMIU, an honor accorded because of his excellence in the pursuit of military and academic studies, leadership potential and professional development.

Hinojosa is the first TAMIU ROTC cadet to receive the Marshall Award. A psychology major, he completes his bachelor's degree in July and will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

**For more go, to: [tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-22-10/article8.shtml](http://tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-22-10/article8.shtml)**

## You May be Older, But You've Still Got Personality!

If a leopard cannot change its spots, can adults change their personalities? Not really, according to a recently published meta-analysis by TAMIU's Dr. Christopher J. Ferguson, associate professor, psychology.



The study, "A Meta-Analysis of Normal and Disordered Personality Across the Life Span," appears in the "Journal of Personality and Social Psychology," 2010 Volume 98, Issue 4 (April).

"Basically, personality is more stable across the lifespan than some scholars had thought. Even individuals in therapy don't experience much personality change," said Dr. Ferguson.

**For more, go to [tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-15-10/article10.shtml](http://tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-15-10/article10.shtml)**

## Green Technology Research Earns Prof Research Award

The Korea Institute of Science and Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), a prestigious science funding agency, announced the award of \$40,000 to Dr. Young Jun Kim, A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business assistant professor, for research on businesses involved in green technology.

Dr. Kim's research is "Exploring Energy and Environmental Technology (EET) Firms in U.S. and México: Search for a Sustainable Green Technology Policy."

"The main objective of the project is to create a database and analyze the origins, finance, research and development, strategy and performance, innovation in green technology, other innovation activities, economic impact, development issues, and some consideration of trade opportunities of Energy and Environmental Technology (EET) firms in U.S. and México," explained Dr. Kim.

**For more go, to: [tamiu.edu/newsinfo/03-25-10/article4.shtml](http://tamiu.edu/newsinfo/03-25-10/article4.shtml)**

## TAMIU Professor Gets Fulbright Award

Dr. Peter Fuseini Haruna, TAMIU associate professor of Public Administration and director of the Master of Public Administration program, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and research at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in Accra, Ghana during the 2010-2011 academic year.



Dr. Haruna will teach graduate seminar courses at GIMPA, an internationally recognized institution of higher learning in Africa, on public administration. He will also conduct nation-wide research on connecting good governance ideals and principles to professional public service education and training in a cross-cultural setting.

As most of his research has focused on Ghana, the Fulbright award presents an opportunity for him to build on and expand on his teaching about and research of governance reform there, he said.

**For more, go to [tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-1-10/article8.shtml](http://tamiu.edu/newsinfo/4-1-10/article8.shtml)**

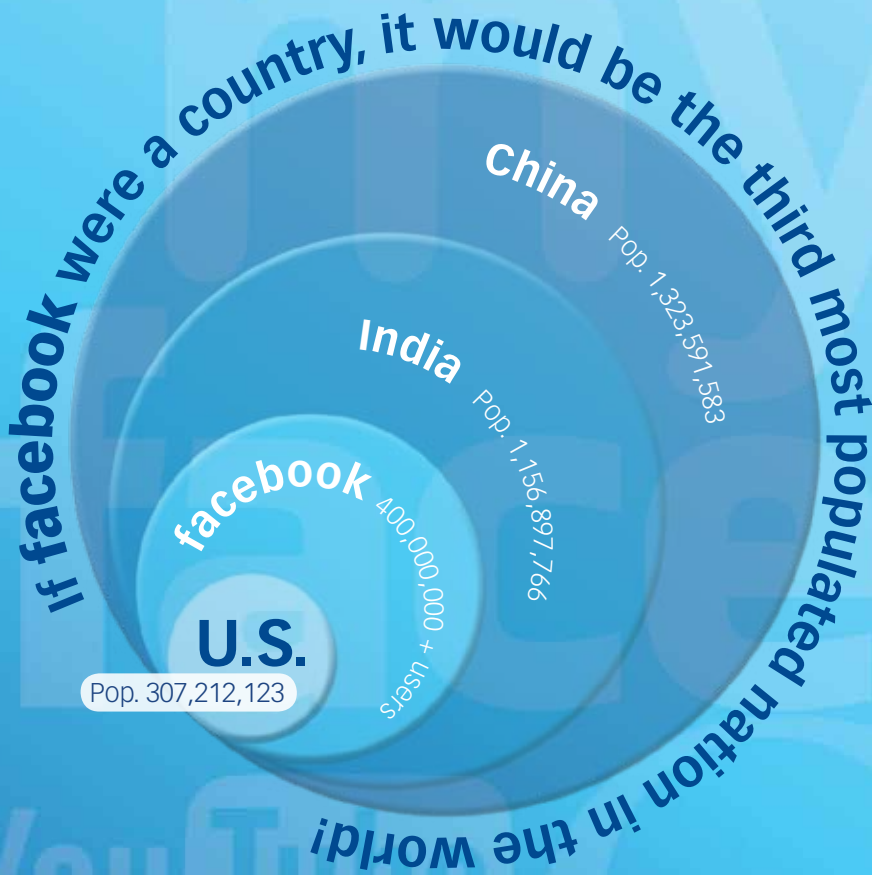
Reaching more than 15,000 Texas A&M International University alumni and thousands of prospective students spread around the world sounds overwhelming, but with today's social media platforms, telling the University's story is only a click away.

"Fifteen years ago, if someone wanted to get information online about the University, they could go to our website. Our interaction was basically one-sided," said Steve Harmon, director, Office of Public Relations, Marketing and Information Services.

"Today's Web surfers expect immediate responses to their questions if they need more information. They want to interact with someone and the best way to do that is to connect with them through social media," Harmon continued.

Currently, TAMIU has five "Pages" on Facebook, two on Twitter, one on MySpace, one on TwitPic and a channel on YouTube—all social media platforms.

"The University currently has more than 6,000 students, 15,000 alumni and many donors that we interact with. That doesn't include visitors, whether they're taking a campus tour, going to the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium, attending any of the Athletics games, taking in fine arts events or taking part in any of the many services the University



iTunes

YouTube

BlackBerry



provides. Social media has allowed us to build stronger relationships with people we don't interact with daily or even weekly," he explained.

"One of the benefits of following us or 'liking' our pages is that we post items that are not exclusive to press releases. We keep the tone casual and friendly yet completely integrated in University life," Harmon noted.

Visitors to the University's pages can view pictures, videos and reminders of upcoming events. Facebook users who "Like" the University can even post photos, comments and videos on the TAMIU page.

To view the main University's tweets, follow TAMIU at [twitter.com/txamiu](https://twitter.com/txamiu) and view photos at [twitpic.com/txamiu](https://twitpic.com/txamiu). Follow TAMIU on Facebook at [facebook.com/txamiu](https://facebook.com/txamiu). To "Tune in to TxAMIU," the University's channel, go to [youtube.com/txamiu](https://youtube.com/txamiu).

For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations, Marketing and Information Services at 326.2180, e-mail [prmis@tamiu.edu](mailto:prmis@tamiu.edu) or visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 268. ■



@txamiu  
navigating  
the waves of  
social media



**Other University pages include:**

**Office of Student Affairs**, [facebook.com/txamiu.osa](https://facebook.com/txamiu.osa)

**Office of Career Services**, [facebook.com/txamiu.career.services](https://facebook.com/txamiu.career.services)

**University Honors Program**, [facebook.com/txamiu.honors](https://facebook.com/txamiu.honors) and  
[myspace.com/txamiu\\_honors\\_program](https://myspace.com/txamiu_honors_program)

**Campus Card Services**, [facebook.com/txamiu.cardservices](https://facebook.com/txamiu.cardservices)

**Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library**, [twitter.com/killamlibrary](https://twitter.com/killamlibrary).



## BARRIER-BREAKING DUSTDEVIL SOCCER LEADER SEES BRIGHT TEAM FUTURE

Soamy Gautista is poised to lead.

Texas A&M International University's men's soccer program made a quick adjustment to the NCAA Division II level. The Dustdevils finished in third place in the Heartland Conference two straight years since becoming an active DII member in 2008.

A big factor in TAMIU's two straight upper-division finishes is a tough-minded defense that has finished in the top three in goals against in conference play both years. The Dustdevils have posted eight shutouts in Heartland Conference play that past two seasons with a total of 10 overall shutouts.

While a third place finish in an established conference is a positive sign for any young program, senior to be and two-time All-Heartland Conference defender Soamy Bautista said he believes he and his teammates can take it to the next level in 2010.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we can accomplish a Heartland Conference championship even though many new players are coming into the picture," Bautista said.

"We have the core set up and as a leader I will make sure that the newcomers know what is expected from our team and will work together and hard to accomplish that goal from day one. With the veteran players we have and the new players, which I trust that coach Arias is bringing guys with the same mind set, we can go as far as we want and we want to go beyond a conference championship to compete for a national championship," he added.

It is not surprising that Bautista possesses a supreme confidence in his team and a vision for his life that extends beyond his playing days. The native Honduran has broken many barriers in his life to arrive at the brink of his senior season and a bachelor's degree in business administration.

When he was just nine years old, Bautista made a perilous 21-day journey from Honduras to Houston to join his mother, María M. Morán, whom he had not seen in three years. Although he describes the journey as a harrowing experience, Bautista says it was well worth it.

Calling his mother the biggest influence in his life, Bautista attributes her perseverance and hard work as the foundation on which he lives his own life.

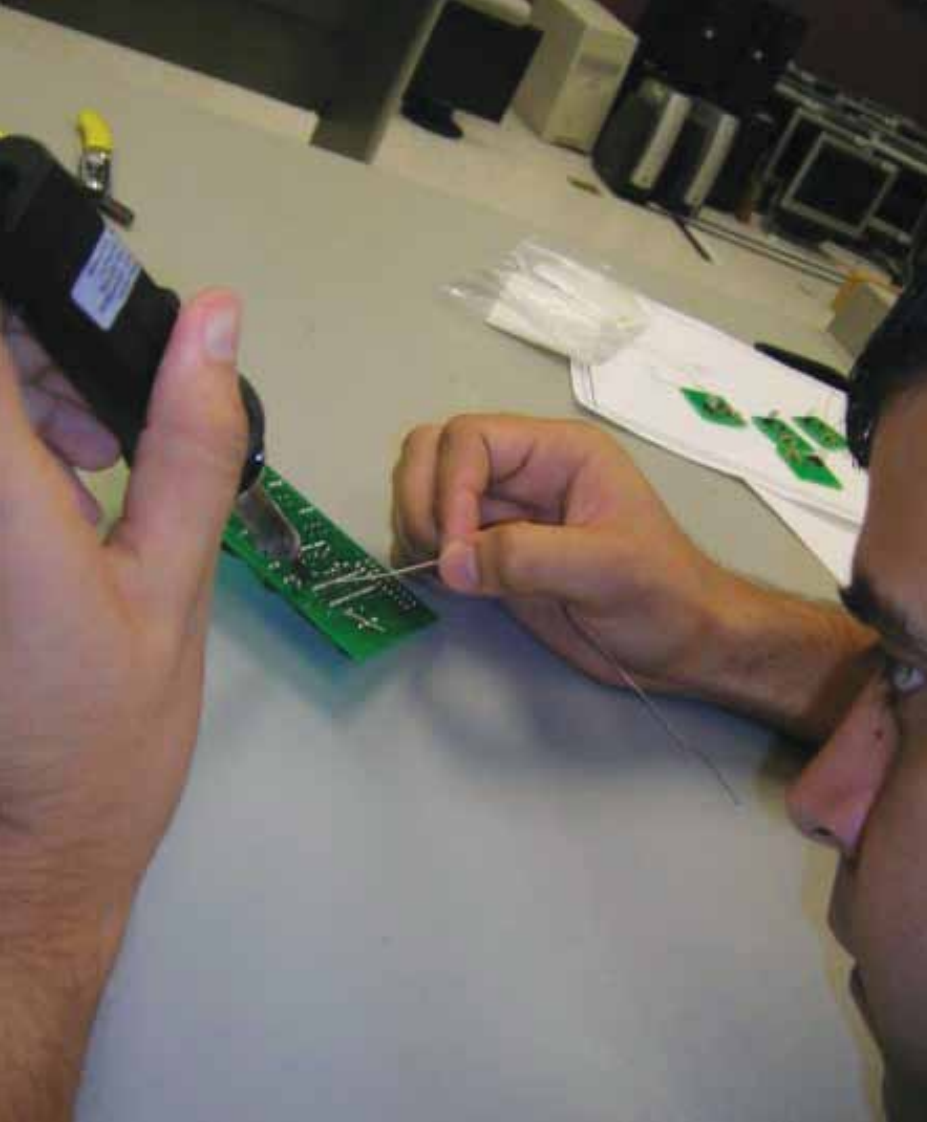
As for five years in the future, Bautista foresees a life centered around what has made him successful thus far.

"After graduating from TAMIU I want to be running my own restaurant alongside with my mother and starting a family. I also want to encourage my younger siblings to do what I did after all the long years of hard work from both me and my mother letting them know that nothing is impossible and if you put your mind to it and never give up."

Luckily for TAMIU soccer fans, Bautista's plans for the immediate future are to lead the Dustdevils to new heights in his senior season. Considering his drive and passion for everything he does, no one will be surprised if he achieves that that lofty goal. ■

By Dan Lathey

## THIS 'STEW' IS ENGINEERING GREAT FUTURES



Enrique Villarreal



Jeffrey González

The Summer Transfer Engineering Workshop (STEW) introduces Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) pre-engineering students to engineering degree programs offered at Texas A&M University (TAMU) Dwight Look College of Engineering. STEW is part of the TAMIU-TAMU Transfer Agreement, which facilitates the admission and academic transfer of students from TAMIU into TAMU engineering degree programs.

The agreement gives Laredo students the opportunity to attend one of the best engineering programs in the world. Students attend the first two years of core and engineering courses at TAMIU, based on performance, can then be admitted to the engineering program of their choice at TAMU.

The two-week residential program is offered during the summer after the students' first year at TAMIU. A group of 19 TAMIU pre-engineering students participated in the first STEW program offered in July 2009. Students lived on the TAMU campus and got an outlook of what life would be like attending an engineering program at TAMU.

"During the two weeks, I had the chance to learn about the Texas A&M campus, and get an idea of what it's going to be like living there," said Enrique Villarreal, STEW 2009 participant.

During the program at TAMU, participants interacted with department faculty, staff, and students through various activities. They attended tours, viewed demonstrations of engineering laboratories and facilities, participated in discussions with industry representatives and faculty members, viewed presentations about future trends in different engineering disciplines and career options for students, and worked on interdisciplinary design projects.

"The program helped me explore each engineering field and narrow down branches of engineering that are of interest to me," said Villarreal, who has now decided on civil or industrial engineering as a result of the workshop.

STEW students also participated in hands-on design projects that included flight simulation, rocket launching, robot demonstrations, sketch recognition, a nuclear reactor tour, and bioenergy and biofuel exploration.

"After exploring the possibilities offered by STEW, I knew my decision to go into Robotic Engineering, was right for me," said Jeffrey González, STEW 2009 participant. ■



**TAMIU'S BI-NATIONAL CENTER**

**A NEW CONCEPT BRINGING NATIONS TOGETHER**

Texas A&M International University's Bi-National Center for Leadership, Education and Public Service is a newly created Center and concept that aims to bring together governments and non-governmental organizations on both sides of the Rio Grande to enhance the quality of life in both communities.

Dr. Carol Waters, Center director, said the United States and México, though separated by national boundaries, have much to learn from each other and contribute together through research, education, leadership and public service.

"Even though the two countries are separated by national boundaries, we are united through business relations as well as our hearts, spirits and a common culture," Dr. Waters said, "The Center is here to enhance the communication, cultural and educational opportunities in the border region and create a place where our

challenges and opportunities are discussed."

While the Center is less than a year old, it has already conducted a series of projects including educational programs for non-profit organizations, senior executive seminars for government leaders in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, and efforts to facilitate faculty research for university scholars in the United States and Mexico, Waters said.

Upcoming projects include the creation of a TAMIU student organization for bi-national leadership, partnerships with Mexican universities for collaborative activities, a multi-day seminar designed to develop mentors for non-profit organizations, and an academic conference open to scholars interested in studying border issues, Waters said.

"Some of the realizations that I have had since we have started this Center is understanding that the way

things work in México are different from how things work here. México has different laws, including tax laws. But we have to know that we are equal partners and not go into it with pre-conceptions," Waters said, "I have been so encouraged and inspired to meet people in México who are community minded and are working aggressively to improve their community. The more exchanges we have, the more we learn from each other."

For more information, please call 326.2834, e-mail [binationalcenter@tamiu.edu](mailto:binationalcenter@tamiu.edu) or visit offices located in the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, room 201. More information is also available at [tamiu.edu/binationalcenter](http://tamiu.edu/binationalcenter)

Dr. Carol Waters, director of the Bi-National Center (second from left), is joined by her staff, María Eugenia Calderón, program director (left); Ahleyda Guerra, program manager (right); María Isabel Salazar, staff assistant (rear left); and Melissa Limón, student research assistant (rear right).



## TAMIU NAMES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



Photo by Guillermo Sosa

For over four decades, Texas A&M International University has changed countless minds, hearts and futures.

As a testament to its rich trajectory and history, the University recently named its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award winners from nominations submitted by colleagues, friends and family members.

The 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards winners are Juan Gerardo Alfaro '03; Lupita R. Canales '83; Mary G. Capello '85; Dr. Sara Carrasco '96; Sandra Cavazos '82; Carlos Evaristo Flores '00; Norma G. García '85, David González, Sr. '05; Juvenal "JJ" Haynes '77; Dr. Belinda Villarreal Jordan '91; Gina Tsai Mejía '87; Dr. Homero Aguirre Milling '77; Dr. Linda Marie García Mitchell '77, '82; José Angel Moreno '81; Dr. Elsa Cantú Ruíz '76, '82; Martha Speer '89; Mary Treviño '72; Victor Villarreal '99; Yolanda Castillo-Yzquierdo '03, '09; and Dr. Jovannelly Zaragoza '00.

Candy Hein, vice president for Institutional Advancement, said the University is proud to cap its 40th Anniversary Celebration by announcing the winners of this prestigious award.

"The successes of our alumni and students are what make TAMIU what it is today," Hein said, "We honor and thank this year's Award winners for their contributions to our community and the other communities they call home. They are truly ambassadors of our University and the ones who will help carry TAMIU's legacy to the future."

A committee made up of alumni members reviewed the nominations and selected recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award, Hein said.

They were chosen on several criteria including humanitarian services, achievements and accomplishments, volunteerism, involvement in TAMIU-sponsored events and programs, contributions toward Alumni Association programs and events, and display of positive image of TAMIU in their respective communities.

Winners were recognized at a special reception in May.

TAMIU's 40th Anniversary Celebration, which began last year, has included numerous events such as the Dusty's Birthday Party, the AutMus Fest, 40th Anniversary Gala, A.R. Sanchez Distinguished Lecture Series, Western Hemispheric Keynote Speaker Series, and the Western Hemispheric and Global Recovery: Trade and Investment Conference.

Hein said that TAMIU's Office for Institutional Advancement is continuously working with students and alumni to establish lasting traditions at the University.

For more information, please contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at 326.4483, e-mail [candy.hein@tamiu.edu](mailto:candy.hein@tamiu.edu) or visit offices located in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 261. ■



### STUDENT FINDS CHANCE, HOPE THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

Being a University student has by no means, been easy for Jorge Aguilar, a junior political science major and a recipient of the Antonio R. and María J. Sanchez Scholarship at TAMIU.

Aguilar, whose family faced severe financial struggles recently, assists his three younger siblings with their living expenses, including paying part of his younger brother's college education in San Antonio from the funds remaining on his scholarship and financial aid after his own tuition and books are paid.

But Aguilar, who plans to attend law school upon graduation, said he is grateful for the opportunities he has been provided in life, including the A.R. Sanchez Scholarship.

He said he also wishes to give back to the community some day by setting up his own scholarship fund for future University students who need financial help.

"I'd rather give than receive," he said, "I'd rather see someone else being happier because at the end, I will feel happy that someone else feels better."

Aguilar said higher education has allowed him to reach his fullest potential.

"As small as an institution TAMIU is, people don't realize that professors here push you and mentor you," he said, "I'm thankful for having been given this opportunity. It's given me a chance and hope." ■



### STUDENT-ATHLETE MAKING HISTORY ON AND OFF COURT

José Alicea, a native of Puerto Rico, has had everything a University student could wish for.

At 22, he is pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at TAMIU on a basketball scholarship and has made history as the first intercollegiate basketball athlete to complete four years in TAMIU's basketball program. He maintains a solid, 4.0 GPA in his classes.

He says he feels propelled to excel as both a student and an athlete because he knows he is fulfilling the desire of many Puerto Rican youths who also wish to study in the United States.

"Puerto Rico is a paradise island, but it's overpopulated with almost 4 million people and a relatively high crime rate," Alicea explained, "So, given that, you know people struggle. Going to America and getting a university degree is some people's dreams there, which are never accomplished."

Upon graduation, Alicea said he has several options he would like to explore. They include returning to Puerto Rico and opening a small business as well as entering the Puerto Rican professional basketball league. Also, returning to TAMIU to apply for admission in its Ph.D. in International Business Administration program is one of his long-term goals. ■

## STEP ONE FOR FITNESS: VISIT TAMIU REC CENTER

TAMIU is fast becoming a hotbed of recreational sport enthusiasts. A visit to the shiny 45,000 square-foot Rec Center will find gym-goers of all ages and abilities challenging themselves to better their physical fitness.

"It all starts with one step. That's our approach. We think everyone is capable of improving their fitness, one step at a time," encouraged Denise Schuster, associate director of fitness and wellness.

Popular with students, faculty and staff, the Center also has its share of alumni and community members enjoying open recreation areas for indoor sports and exercise as well as scheduled fitness and intramural programming.

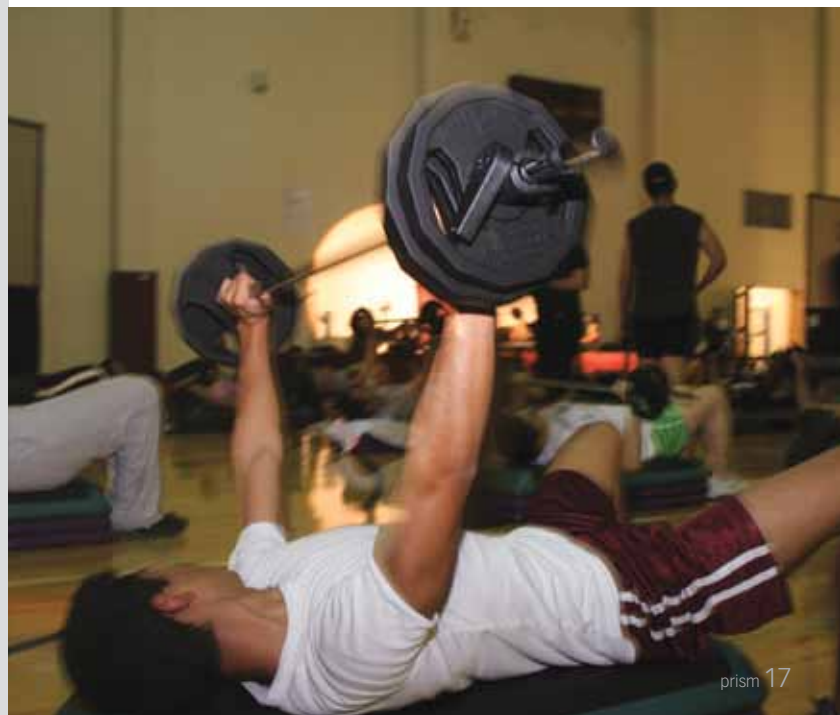
The Rec Center provides programs, facilities, and services that promote active participation, allowing the opportunity to achieve individual potential while having fun, relieving stress, and promoting community and spirit.

Rec Center patrons can try informal recreation, organized competitions (Intramurals and Sport Clubs), structured group/personal fitness opportunities (Fitness), or participate in healthy lifestyle habits seminars and demonstrations (Wellness). The University's Fitness and Sports major, offered through the College of Education, often provides special lectures and guest speakers of interest as well.

Schuster said the best way to see how you can get in step with fitness is to visit the Center.

"If you're interested in getting in shape or staying in shape, come tour our facility or call us at 956.326.3015," she said.

For information about classes, equipment available and hours of operation, click [ontamiu.edu/recsports/forms/Membership\\_Announcements.pdf](http://ontamiu.edu/recsports/forms/Membership_Announcements.pdf) ■



## SENIOR FINDS CAREER PATH THROUGH STUDENT ASSISTANTSHIP

Juan Espinoza, senior social studies major at TAMIU, says he knows he has found his future career path thanks to a student assistantship he began last year at U.S. Customs and Homeland Security in Laredo.

"It completely changed my career path," Espinoza said, "Law school has always been my goal, but first I wanted to be a teacher. Because I started working for U.S. Customs and Homeland Security, now, I want to work for the government and contribute towards my country."

Espinoza, also a recipient of the TAMIU Scholarship, the Judge Carroll and Anabel Summers Scholarship and the Kenedy Memorial Scholarship, said he learned of the assistantship while a student assistant at the Office for Institutional Advancement. He said he hopes to become a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) or a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent someday.

As a child, Espinoza said he grew up in a home that respected the law and the consequences of not following it. Hence, his interest in becoming a law enforcement officer developed over the years.

"I've always been taught the law is something you always respect and I believe that you have to follow the law in order for you to have a civil society," he said, "I don't like corruption. I hate corruption. I'm just one person but I think I can help bring an end to corruption."

Espinoza said that being a student at TAMIU has helped him realize where he wants to head in the future.

"Education is a must and I'm glad I came to TAMIU," Espinoza said, "If I didn't come here, I wouldn't have known what I wanted out of life. Because I came to TAMIU, I got this assistantship opportunity. Everything happens for a reason." ■



## NEW AUTISM INTERVENTIONS CENTER BRINGING HOPE TO LAREDO

Autism affects 1 in 110 children and 1 in 70 boys. It is a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions. Until recently, Laredoans seeking the specialized screening services used in diagnosis had to travel to San Antonio or Corpus Christi for assistance.

Those long journeys can end now. This February, TAMIU opened its new Autism Interventions Center in Dr. Billy F. Cowart Hall.

Joined by U. S. Congressman Henry Cuéllar ('82), who was crucial in helping to secure U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding support for the Center, members of the local Autism community joined to cut the ribbon on the historic offering.

"I applaud the lead that TAMIU is taking with this program because they are raising the bar and setting the standard on how best to address the needs of students with autism," said Congressman Henry Cuéllar (TX-28), "Once fully developed, this model program will be able to be used by other colleges and universities."

When fully operational, the Center, in collaboration with the Autism Treatment Center (ATC) in San Antonio, will be able to provide specialized screening services. Among services available at the Center are diagnostics, function-based assessments, behavior analyses, and interventions.

It will also be part of the College of Education's new Master's Degree in Education Interventions with Autism program.

TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck said the Program has the potential to impact many.

"The Center will establish a model plan to evaluate teacher effectiveness with students. As part of the program, TAMIU will design and implement a research-based master's program, and develop a teacher quality evaluation model to use with candidates in the degree program," Dr. Keck explained.

Dr. Humberto González, dean of the College of Education, noted that the Center also helps to underscore how program development and research at the University can positively impact its service community.

"Autism is very much a part of our Laredo community and one of our most challenging arenas for both teachers and families. We look forward to an opportunity to work with Laredo families to meet the challenges of autism today," Dr. González said.

Dr. Candace K. Baker, associate professor in TAMIU's College of Education, department of Professional Programs, will direct the Center and its outreach efforts.

For additional information and scheduling appointments, please contact Dr. Baker at 326.HOPE (4673) or visit offices located in Cowart Hall, Room 125. ■



## TAMIU HOLDS SPECIAL FACULTY BOOK AUTHOR RECEPTION



Left to right, Dr. Pablo Arenaz, provost; Dr. Paul Madlock; Dr. Ned Koch; Dr. Jerry D. Thompson; Rodney Webb, Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library director; Dr. Stephen Duffy; Dr. Judith Warner; Dr. Ray Keck, president; Dr. Tagi Sagafi-nejad and Dr. Kamal D. Parhizgar.

The research and scholarly efforts of TAMIU faculty members were celebrated by the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library at its "TAMIU Faculty Book Author Recognition," a 40th Anniversary Celebration event, held in February.

The event was free of charge and open to the public.

It served to recognize the University's faculty who have authored books published in 2008-2009 and will also launched a web-based TAMIU Faculty Authored Books (FAB) Collection online. The FAB Collection web pages are fully functional with historical content from the University's 40-year lifetime being added and featured.

Faculty honorees for the event were Dr. Stephen Duffy, Dr. Ned Koch, Dr. Paul Madlock and Dr. Kamal Parhizgar, Dr. Tagi Sagafi-nejad, Dr. Jerry D. Thompson and Dr. Judith Warner. Combined, the group has penned over 10 books during 2008-2009.

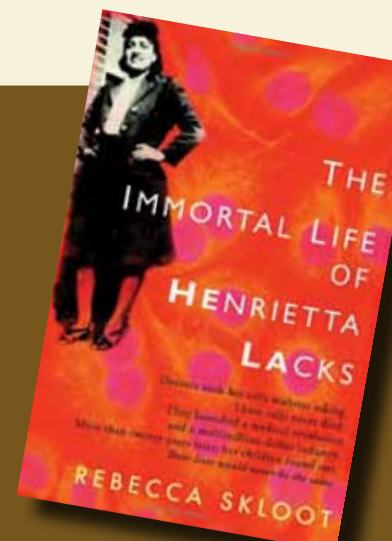
Visitors had an opportunity to visit with the authors and learn about their recognized efforts.

For additional information, contact the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library at 326.2400, visit offices on the Library's second floor (room KL 216), e-mail [rwebb@tamiu.edu](mailto:rwebb@tamiu.edu) or click on [library.tamiu.edu](http://library.tamiu.edu) ■

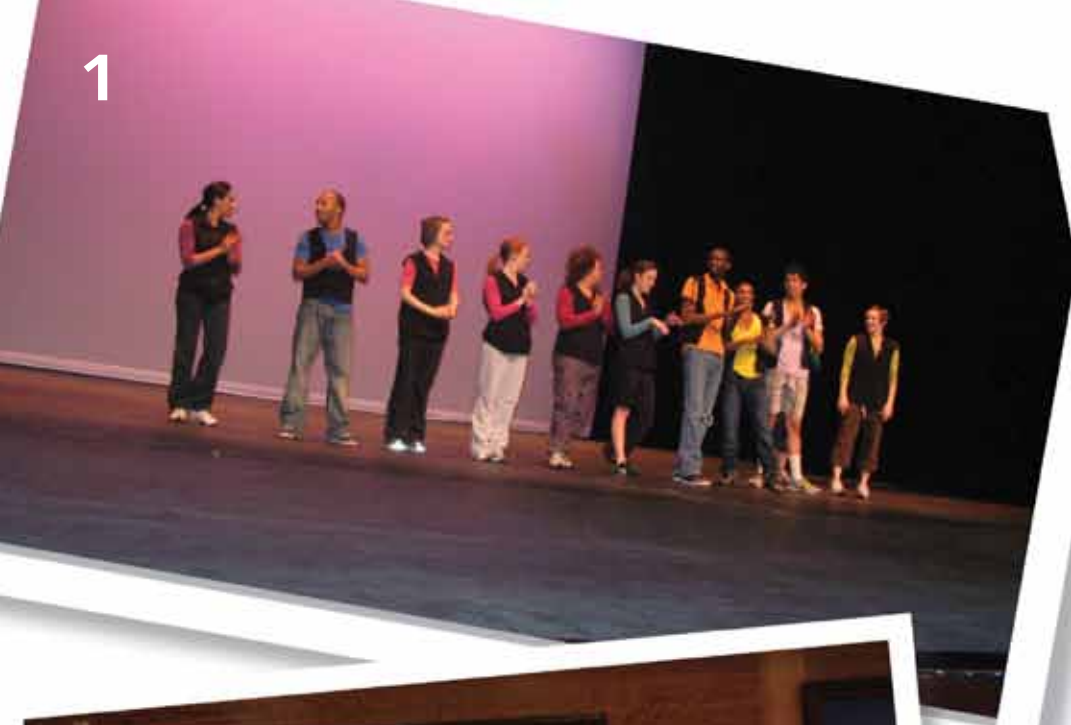
### RECOMMENDED BOOK

#### The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Rebecca Skloot offers up a fascinating account of the origin of HeLa cells that have made some of the most pivotal moments in modern science real. Henrietta Lacks (HeLa) was a poor African American migrant worker who died from cancer at the age of 30 in 1951. Her cells are harvested without her or her family's consent -- eventually providing a cell template for innumerable medical breakthroughs, including the cure for polio. Her family never knew of their mother's immortal legacy.



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### 1. Let's Dance

Members of the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company took center stage at the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (CFPA) Theatre in March to offer a workshop for students. The troupe also performed "The Met Unbound," a concert featuring an artful blend of athletic and technically virtuosic mixes of ballet, jazz, modern and contemporary dance.

### 2. Walking for Autism

TAMIU members of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and the University's Communication Disorders Clinic hosted the first-ever Autism Walk this April to help bring about increased awareness to Autism in our community. Proceeds supported an Autism Conference at TAMIU. TAMIU is now home to a new Autism Intervention Center.



### 3. Helping Students

Members of the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation continue their strong support of the University's popular Study Abroad Program with a scholarship gift of \$300,000. Left to right are Jannet García, director of International Education, Robert J. González, Foundation Treasurer, Shirley González, Foundation President and Dr. Jaime Ortiz, associate vice president for International Education.

### 4. New Baseball Field at TAMIU

A memorable occasion was marked on May 1, 2010, with the naming of our baseball field the Jorge Haynes Field. Jorge Haynes coached little league for many years and touched the lives of many Laredoans. Pictured are his children: (l to r) Juvenal J. "J.J." Haynes, Jorge Haynes, Roberto L. Haynes, Cynthia Haynes Ramirez, Chad Porter, TAMIU's Men's Baseball Coach, and Larry Haynes.

### 5. Cool Cat Jazz

The TAMIU Jazz Band under the direction of Dr. David M. Garcia presented a Jazz Fest in April, bringing cool cat jams to new life. The special evening including guest performances by the Vidal M. Treviño Guitar Combo, United High School Vocal Jazz, Cigarroa High School Jazz Ensemble, United High School Jazz Ensemble, LBJ High School, and United High School Jazz Ensemble.



### 6. SIFE Group Earns Honors

TAMIU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) took top honors in two regional competitions and will represent the University at two upcoming national competitions in May. They presented seven projects that implemented sustainable programs on market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, environmental sustainability and business ethics.

### 7. Stepping Up at the Relay for Life

Team TAMIU, a group of Texas A&M International University students, faculty and staff, took part in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in April in front of TAMIU's Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library. The overnight Relay, now in its fourth year at TAMIU, works to raise awareness and support for cancer education.

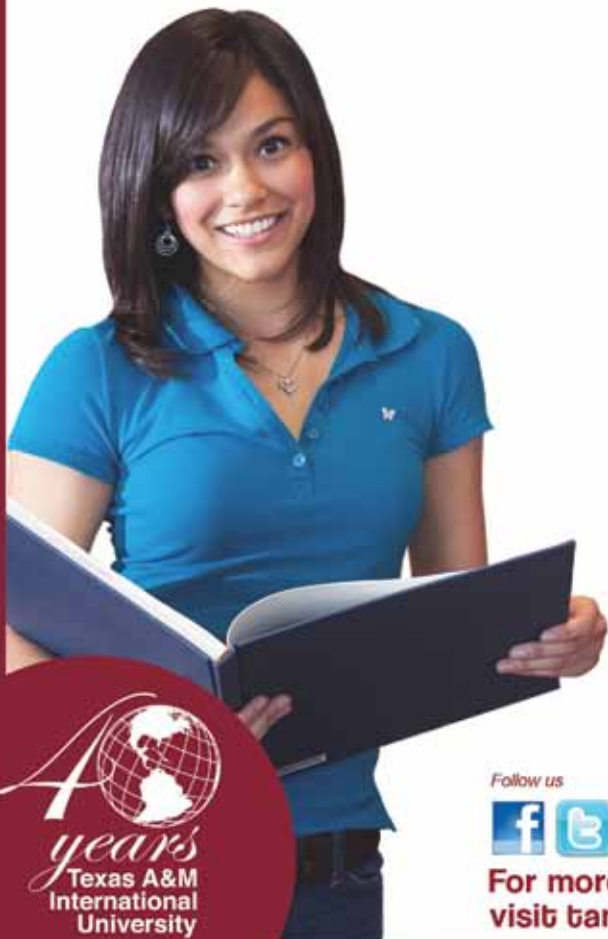


### 8. Art from the Heart

Senior Art majors offered an exhibit of artwork in all media at their "Super Fantastic Mega Awesome Art Show" in the CFPA Gallery this April. The Show, sponsored by Guillermo Benavides Z., included a reception and performance by musical guest, La Mata.

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