

Spring 2007

# prism

The Magazine of the Texas A&M International University

**TAMIU**  
goes green

“I’m getting  
what I want  
out of life!”

**Geoffrey,**  
*future doctor*

**Fall 2007  
Classes begin  
Monday, Aug. 27!**



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year for Texas A&M International University  
friends. By highlighting the University's life  
and that of 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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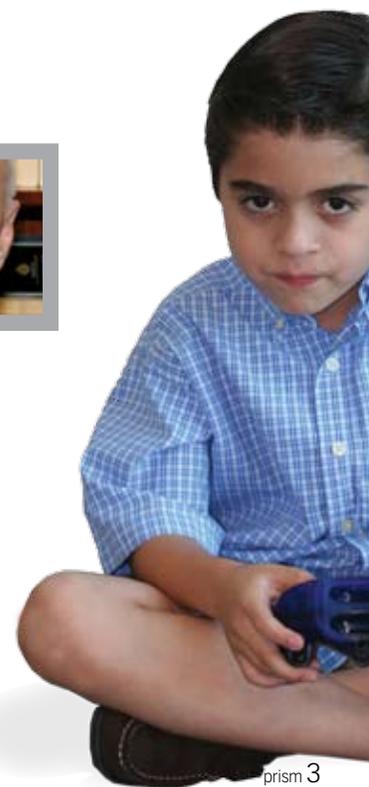
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### Is Paris worth a mass?

When in 1589 King Henri III died at the hand of an assassin, Henry of Navarre became, by French law, King of France. But because he was reared a Protestant, Henry's claim to the throne was violently resisted by Catholic factions. It was not until 1593, after an elaborate public profession of his Catholic faith, that Henry became King of France. His explanation of this apparent conversion remains one of history's most instructive disclaimers: *Paris vaut bien une messe*. Paris is well worth a mass.

But what is religion worth? What is the Church worth? Eternal life or eternal damnation? The identity of a nation? Henry's story unsettles those who yearn for the uncompromising truth, the rigid stance. The man who would be king set aside with an ironic shrug matters of heaven and hell; his reign nonetheless brought unprecedented social and political success for his nation. France was fortunate that Henry of Navarre seemed not excessively troubled by what Catholics or Protestants thought most holy.

Debates within the academy, whether about curricular or administrative issues, tend to provoke divisions as entrenched and rhetoric as fiery as Catholic-Protestant clashes in the 16th century. At the center of today's most unforgiving battle lies the question of accountability, together with its twin agents, outcomes and assessments. For some, outcomes and assessments offer the new sacramental system for higher education. To develop a strong model and to implement that model without deviation will ensure

that universities describe lucidly what they do, measuring or assessing the result. A zeal for institutional and curricular coherence drives these disciples of reform. For those who hold the contrarian position, outcomes and assessments resemble, in one especially plump account by Laurie Fendrich in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a "force-march [for] professors to a Maoist countryside where they are made to dig onions until they are exhausted...." What is now being implemented nationwide in the name of accountability amounts to "a wholesale abandonment of the very idea of higher education." Education is a holistic proposition; its value cannot be conveyed in numbers or units of measure. The bureaucrats, many faculty members believe, have killed education, laying "it out on a dissecting table as if it were a dead cat." Only second-rate teachers can be duped into thinking that "outcomes assessment has something to offer." Sadly, this civil war within the academy alienates the very constituencies we most look to for support.

Outcomes and assessments address two simple, reasonable questions posed by stakeholders from all sectors of modern society. First, what do you want your students to learn? These are the outcomes. Second, how will you know if they have learned it? Those are the assessments. Legislators and taxpayers, expecting simple answers for simple questions, express frustration when they hear evasive jargon from advocates of assessment and undisguised scorn from faculty. At the same time, responding to the inflexible

**“Can we assess a dream or measure a better world?  
And if we could, can we show that our teaching, our courses,  
the university experience itself somehow brought on those  
ultimate and most glorious outcomes?”**

**Dr. Ray Keck III,  
President**

demands of the accreditation process, universities rush to establish Offices of Institutional Effectiveness to identify the processes and gather the data to answer these two questions. What we have not thought about carefully, I would submit, is contained in two equally simple and reasonable questions. What part of learning do outcomes define? What part of learning do assessments measure?

Thirty-seven years in this profession teaches me that some learning is essential and immediate, conducive to assessment. At what level and to what degree are students proficient in mathematics? Can they express their thoughts in clear prose and comprehensible speech? Have they developed a general sense of the world, conveyed in whatever the university defines as its CORE courses? Do they have specialized knowledge of a particular discipline, what the university defines as a student’s “major?” Each professor, in planning his or her course, should define which general or specialized grasp of the whole a student is expected to acquire, and then employ a series of agreed-upon instruments or outputs to determine (assess) what has in fact been learned. This is neither complex nor exhausting, hardly a force-march to the onion fields or a dead cat awaiting dissection. To be sure, these outcomes are necessarily reductive, the most obvious and expected results for all students. They do not answer the question: What does this all mean for my life? Nor do these outcomes define all that a teacher holds dear and conveys in a course of study.

One exciting example shows both the necessity and the limits of assessments. This spring the first cohort of students in Early College High School, a collaborative between TAMU, Laredo Independent School District, the State of Texas, The Texas A&M University System, and the Gates and Dell Foundations, sat for the much-feared Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Ninety-two percent of those tested received passing scores on the mathematics, 96 percent on the writing, portions of the test. These results are indeed impressive and unambiguous. The overwhelming majority of these students have mastered essential math and verbal skills, ensuring a strong foundation for more complex study. But no one should suggest that this test discloses all we can now see or all we eventually hope to know of these students. The assessment reveals nothing of the students’ attitude toward their work. It does not tell us what sort of people they are or might become, nor does it reveal the role each teacher has played in her student’s success. And this crucial assessment does not suggest which of the skills now learned will in a decade remain a part of a student’s life.

We might, one day many years after graduation, assess the relevance and reach of the University experience for each graduate, conducting a survey to ask which parts—intellectual, co-curricular, personal—of their college life do they now find important, very important, or irrelevant.

*(continued on page 6)*

(continued from page 5)

It is these latter-day reflections that most interest faculty, having themselves invested a lifetime in the study and teaching of a discipline. Assessments of immediate gains seem to many an irksome waste of present time.

We in the University have perhaps ensnared ourselves in our own magnificent, soaring rhetoric. We publish mission statements which speak of "the great ends of education," abstractions around which we organize our efforts. Faculty members, administrators, and staff who give their lives in the university believe they are building a better world, a brighter future. These dreams are stated and restated, in catalogues and in institutional pronouncements, in inevitably predictable language; we hear them as clichés, repetitive affirmations too obvious to bear repeating.

Yet the purpose of these statements, themselves defiantly unquantifiable, mark off the physical and ideological lands we inhabit. Can we assess a dream or measure a better world? And if we could, can we show that our teaching, our courses, the University experience itself somehow brought on those ultimate and most glorious outcomes?

Harvey Mansfield, Harvard Professor of Political Science and author of 14 books which include studies and translations of Machiavelli and de Tocqueville, in an interview conducted by Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, suggested that the purpose of an education is to create "a beautiful soul." We don't even agree as to whether or not souls exist, and yet I would suspect that most professors, students, and citizens would share Professor Mansfield's lofty hope.

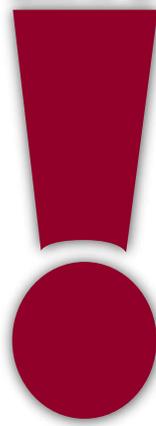
For Henry of Navarre, becoming a Catholic was the necessary first step to becoming King of France. His famous remark reveals the most important point: both the Protestant and the Catholic Henry received the crown. So, too, are both sides of the assessment debate essential components of a healthy University. Assessments guide, frame, improve our work. They shadow and inform our first steps—planned, measured, numbered—toward the widest and most satisfying outcomes.

But how far can outcomes and assessments guide our way? Must we finally, like Dante leaving Virgil, part from these companions which have ordered our journey, our visions? Freud famously observed that life is love and work. An intriguing summation of the human experience, to be sure.

But can we assess the validity of this assertion? We might scrutinize our love, identifying, enumerating, measuring outcomes. We might attempt the same for our work. Alas, the assertion itself, like a beautiful soul, lies beyond our measure.



**BRAVO**



**T**AMIU students **Marc Andres** and **Mónica Treviño** received the best undergraduate poster award for "Influence of Fish on Ecosystem Properties in an Urban Wetland in Laredo, Texas," at the Texas A&M University Eighth Annual Integration Symposium.

**N**atalie Burkhalter, Texas A&M International University's incoming interim director of the Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing, has been named an Ambassador for the National League for Nursing (NLN).

**D**r. **Annette Olsen-Fazi**, TAMIU associate professor of English and French, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture/research at the University of Sousse in Tunisia during the 2007-2008 academic year.



**S**tudent **Sarah Jenkins** was honored with an award for research she presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Anaheim, Calif. Her research examined efficient methods for blueberry infusion.

**T**AMIU president **Dr. Ray Keck** was featured in the national education magazine *The Greentree Gazette* in an interview focused on the challenges of higher education in South Texas.



**D**r. **Ned Kock**, TAMIU associate professor and chair of the Division of International Business and Technology Studies in the College of Business Administration, was recently interviewed by Information Management on his book *Emerging E-Collaboration Concepts and Applications*.

**S**tudent **Sofia Maldonado's** essay, "From Revolutionary to Businessman," was accepted for its presentation at the 22nd Annual National Undergraduate Literature Conference in Ogden, Utah.

**D**r. **Jacky So**, dean of TAMIU's College of Business Administration, was named the first Laredo National Bank/BBVA Group Distinguished Professor of International Finance.



**D**r. **Jerry Thompson**, Regents Professor of History, was awarded The Texas Institute of Letters' "Best Scholarly Book Published in 2006 Award" for his *Civil War to the Bloody End: The Life and Times of Major General Samuel P. Heintzelman*.

## New Grant Brings History Home, Accessible to All

**“All history is, after all, local, and this project affirms and celebrates this.”**

Dr. Stanley Green



If, as Thomas Carlyle maintained, “History is the message, verbal or written, which everyman delivers to everyman,” then its message is well delivered in Laredo.

That’s because of an innovative grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education which will enrich teachers’ and students’ lives while developing an instantly accessible database for “everyman.”

“We’re quite proud of this success,” said Dr. Stanley Green, Texas A&M International University professor of history, “it’s a phenomenal opportunity to improve our teachers’ knowledge of American history, introduce constructive pedagogical practices, and establish guidelines for documenting and archiving history available to all.”

Green said Elias Alonzo III, Laredo Independent School District (LISD) dean of Social Studies, developed the grant, which has been awarded for three years and is subject to renewal.

U.S. Rep. Congressman Henry Cuellar (‘82), was crucial to the grant’s development, working closely with the authors to facilitate its submission.

Alonzo and Green worked closely

with TAMIU’s Dr. Jerry Thompson and Dr. Jaclyn Jeffrey, the Laredo Public Library and the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

“In working together, we found consensus for a project that would not only address the needs of our teaching staff, but also design an instructional vehicle that could make history relevant to our staff, our students and, ultimately, our community,” Alonzo explained.

Initially, the grant will be delivered through a series of summer institutes, monthly staff development sessions and regular “coaching” sessions with TAMIU faculty.

The first cohort of LISD educators will number 25. Additional staff development opportunities throughout the grant period will raise the number of teachers impacted to more than 300.

Designated district master teachers will assist and all will have access to National Archives’ digital classrooms, colloquia and to an interactive Web site hosted by the University. The Web site will also offer the public an opportunity to link to it and examine research resources which offer a timeline of American history as experienced by Laredoans.

“As we watch public education change through the years, we’ve been disturbed to see a continued erosion of the value of history and its importance to all. This project will afford us a chance to halt that erosion. Perhaps most importantly, we’ll be taking the known American history and tracing its direct impact to Laredo. All history is, after all, local, and this project affirms and celebrates this. Eventually, it will record and preserve these linkages for all to access and study,” Dr. Green said.

Alonzo said the grant’s awarding and the resulting project represents a life-long dream.

“I’ve always been fascinated by our place in history. We tend to forget that we walk on the graves of a past that has made our present possible. I’m reminded of the words of Robert Penn Warren, who noted, ‘History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves and our common humanity, so that we can better face the future.’ ”

## University Transitions: Three Who Made a Difference

A University's life is measured in many ways: the number of graduates, the number of programs...for some, the number of cars in the parking lot.

But truly, the University's life is perhaps best measured by the lifetimes changed, the minds expanded and the brighter futures secured by the University's gifted faculty.

With this issue, we salute the robust records of accomplishments and service provided by three key faculty who now head on to different futures and, for some, different locations.

Combined and individually, they have made a measurable difference.



**Dr. Michael Patrick**, professor of economics and Regents Professor, has accepted a position at New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, where he will be working with that state's extension service to promote economic development. Dr. Patrick served TAMIU for over 13 years.



**Dr. Jeffrey Cass**, associate provost and professor of English, has accepted a position as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Dr. Cass served TAMIU for over 17 years.



**Dr. Susan Walker**, director of the Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing, retired at the end of May after more than 12 years of service here. Dr. Walker fashioned the School of Nursing into one of the preeminent programs in the state. A national search for her replacement is under way.

*Happy trails!*

## TAMIU Looks Within to Look Out for its Future



Growing pains aren't just reserved for suddenly maturing teens.

Universities also experience growing pains that signal the need for contemplation or change.

That's why Texas A&M International University is casting a careful eye at growth and development for the future, said TAMIU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dan Jones.

"Those who have watched the dizzying pace of this University's growth can attest to a first decade marked by fast-paced growth on many fronts: student enrollment, degree programs, faculty, classroom buildings, residential facilities, all part of a long list. Our faculty recall developing multiple degree program proposals each year, while simultaneously helping plan buildings, hire colleagues, and recruit students. It was truly an amazing, energizing period, marked by crushing workloads and instantly gratifying results," Dr. Jones noted.

Now, he says, it's time to pause and reflect on the future of TAMIU.

"We have now entered a new phase in our development as a regional, comprehensive University. We expect continued growth in some areas like enrollment, but a leveling-off in other respects. After completion of our Student Success Building, construction will slow. We believe we may no longer reasonably expect to continue receiving the kind of special funding from the Legislature that resulted in TAMIU's geometric growth over the past 12 years. More likely, our funding picture will more closely resemble Texas peer institutions that rely more heavily on traditional funding formulas," he explained.

Jones said the University is widely accustomed to using assessment and planning processes to guide expansion through new resources. Now, it must use the same skills to guide stewardship: how to efficiently and effectively allocate existing resources.

"For example, one area in particular that we must critically examine is our academic program inventory. We now offer a total of 78 bachelors, masters or doctoral degrees, a very generous assortment of degree options

for a University of fewer than 5000 students. This number of degrees may be difficult for us to reasonably sustain at a consistently high level of quality, given the budget constraints within which we operate," he said.

The University is now beginning a process to complete a careful and considered review of all academic programs, Jones said.



**Dr. Dan Jones**

"We have begun assembling a set of guidelines and criteria to be used in the review of all of our academic programs. Through this review, we want to ensure that our healthiest programs continue to receive the funding they need to flourish, while considering for deletion those programs whose long-term viability is questionable," he indicated.

Jones said five general considerations would be used in assessing programs:

- Student demand as measured by growth in majors and semester credit hours over the last five years
- Growth potential within the next three to five years by historical trends and anticipated demand from prospective students
- Relationship of the program to other offerings measured by semester credit hours delivered to majors and non-majors
- Marketability of graduates
- Relationship of the program to the University's core mission and offerings.

He said the University's administration and faculty will jointly review completed findings.

Jones said the University is fortunate that its growing pains are not complicated by any financial crisis that would force program cuts.

"The University is not in a financial crisis, and the goal of this effort is not to simply cut programs. It is to ensure that we are making the wisest possible use of resources that have been entrusted to us to deliver the highest-quality education for our students," he concluded.



## TAMIU Baseball Posts Impressive Season

Texas A&M International University's baseball team achieved a lot in its inaugural season of competition, finishing with an impressive 32-18-1 overall record. The Dustdevils played a full Heartland Conference schedule as a NCAA Division II provisional member, posting an 8-7 record against conference opponents.

Highlights of the season include a 13-game winning streak and a 2-1 series win over Heartland power St. Edward's, which was ranked #19 in the NCAA Division II baseball poll at the time. TAMIU also swept South Texas rival Texas A&M-Kingsville in a two-game season series.

Two players achieved second-team All-Heartland Conference honors for the Dustdevils. Sophomore Ryan Flynn earned the honor at second base and junior Angel Encinas was named as a utility player.

Flynn finished with a .374 batting average (49-for-131), ranking second on the squad with 40 RBI. He also totaled eight doubles and 39 runs scored.

Encinas led the team with a .423 batting average (47-for-111), tying for the team lead with 11 doubles. He also made nine pitching appearances, leading the team with three saves.

Encinas joined the baseball team after an outstanding two-year basketball career for the Dustdevils. He earned honorable mention All-Heartland Conference honors as a senior, finishing as the school career leader in assists and steals.

Also contributing to TAMIU's solid first season was Tony Ramos, a senior who transferred back to his hometown to conclude his collegiate baseball career. The Nixon High School graduate finished with a .292 batting average (42-for-144) with nine doubles and 37 RBI.

Ramos was also one of the team's top pitchers with a 6-1 record and 3.66 ERA. He tied for the team lead with four complete games.

**Dan Lathey**

# SPORTS CALENDAR



## 2007 Fall Home Schedules

### Men's Soccer

| Date  | Opponent           | Time      |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|
| 8/25  | Schreiner#         | 2 p.m.    |
| 8/27  | UT-Brownsville#    | 4 p.m.    |
| 9/3   | Texas Lutheran     | 4:30 p.m. |
| 9/5   | UT-Permian Basin*  | 4 p.m.    |
| 9/7   | Newman*            | 4 p.m.    |
| 9/14  | Eastern New Mexico | 4 p.m.    |
| 9/27  | St. Thomas         | 5 p.m.    |
| 10/26 | St. Edward's*      | 3 p.m.    |
| 10/28 | West Texas A&M     | 1 p.m.    |
| 11/2  | St. Mary's*        | 3 p.m.    |
| 11/4  | Incarnate Word*    | 2 p.m.    |

### Women's Soccer

| Date | Opponent          | Time      |
|------|-------------------|-----------|
| 8/27 | UT-Brownsville    | 2 p.m.    |
| 9/3  | Texas Lutheran    | 2:30 p.m. |
| 9/7  | Angelo State      | 2 p.m.    |
| 9/23 | Incarnate Word*   | 3 p.m.    |
| 9/28 | Midwestern State  | 3 p.m.    |
| 9/30 | Newman*           | 2 p.m.    |
| 10/4 | UT-Permian Basin* | 3 p.m.    |
| 10/6 | Dallas Baptist*   | 1 p.m.    |
| 11/2 | St. Mary's*       | 1 p.m.    |
| 11/4 | St. Edward's*     | Noon      |

### Volleyball

| Date | Opponent                  | Time   |
|------|---------------------------|--------|
| 9/13 | UT-Permian Basin*         | 7 p.m. |
| 9/15 | Dallas Baptist*           | 2 p.m. |
| 9/20 | Incarnate Word*           | 7 p.m. |
| 9/22 | St. Mary's*               | 2 p.m. |
| 9/25 | Huston-Tillotson          | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Southwestern              | 7 p.m. |
| 10/3 | St. Edward's*             | 7 p.m. |
| 10/4 | Texas A&M-Kingsville      | 7 p.m. |
| 11/1 | Newman*                   | 7 p.m. |
| 11/3 | Oklahoma Panhandle State* | Noon   |

# Indicates Scrimmage

\* Indicates Heartland Conference contests.

Check out [godustdevils.com](http://godustdevils.com)



Dr. Debbie Snell

Texas A&M International University Athletics will be competing in its second season as a provisional member of the NCAA Division II Heartland Conference in 2007-08. And there'll soon be a new Web site, [www.godustdevils.com](http://www.godustdevils.com).

It will provide up-to-date and expanded information on all 11 sports and feature links for a media brochure, photo galleries and statistics.

Gametracker, a real-time stats feature, will be available for men's and women's basketball, providing play-by-play, stats and scores of live basketball games. You'll also find recruiting, camps and facilities links. Others will highlight community service projects by TAMIU student-athletes or Department personnel.

Athletics Director Dr. Debbie Snell says that the new Web site is a huge step forward for the program.

"This move will allow us to promote the accomplishments and character of our department and student-athletes in a first-class manner," Snell said, "while providing a platform to promote the University in general. There are a lot of great things happening here and this is a tremendous tool to help spread the message."

## Where In The U?



### Is that a block of cement?

No, it contains a time capsule.

### Where is it?

It's located on the northeast side of the breezeway by the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library.

### What's in it?

According to José García, vice president of finance and administration and keeper of the combination, there are newspaper articles, pictures and University mementoes spanning TAMIU's history at the time.

The University also gave employees forms and asked them if they wanted to include personal notes. Many employees took advantage of the opportunity.

### When is the big reveal?

Keep your calendars open for April 2045; that's when University officials will open the time capsule.

## TAMIU at Casa Ortiz

Texas A&M International University has a new home at Casa Ortiz that promises to be a valued nexus for the arts, culture and all-important business revitalization for downtown Laredo.

Located at 915 Zaragoza, Casa Ortiz will house TAMIU outreach efforts focused on cultural preservation, downtown revitalization and economic development.

Constructed in 1830, it was acquired by the County of Webb through an innovative agreement by the County Commissioners Court which has provided the recognized historical landmark to TAMIU and the Webb County Heritage Foundation (WCHF). Former Commissioner Judith Gutierrez championed the effort.

A traditional *palacio*, Casa Ortiz has been fully restored, its warm architecture framing a carefully edited collection of period furniture. It features a charming courtyard overlooking the Mexico shore of the shared Rio Grande. Looming above the bougainvillea-circled courtyard is the San Agustin Church steeple.

With more than 200 years of colorful history, Casa Ortiz offers a unique opportunity to step back in time, its historical setting a telling stage for cultural awareness and preservation, said TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck.

"It's a truly beautiful place to link economic development, cultural events, and education. This is progressive government at its best... and imagine studying art in a setting that is itself a work of art," Dr. Keck said.

Dedicated this Spring, Casa Ortiz is now home to the TAMIU Small Business Development Center and WCHF support offices.

For more information, call Casa Ortiz at 326.3200.



## Video Game Study Bias Takes Hit by TAMIU Professor

Video games are emerging from their bad reputation and not to blame for aggressive behavior in children and adults who play them according to a newly published article in *Aggression and Violent Behavior*.

The article, based on a meta-analytic study conducted and written by Dr. Christopher J. Ferguson, Texas A&M International University assistant professor of psychology, concludes that over the past 10 years, published studies on the effects of video game violence and behavior and the effects of video games on aggressive behavior may be exaggerating the link between video games and aggression.

The study, in the July/August issue, is available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

"The results of the review revealed that publication bias issues and the use of non-standardized measures of aggression may have inflated estimates of video game effects on aggressive behavior. The current body of research on violent video game effects does not support a correlational or causal relationship with aggressive behavior," explained Dr. Ferguson.

"Video games are an emerging form of entertainment that remain rather poorly understood. There have been a number of studies coming out over the past few years on the potential effects of video games, both positive and negative. Some studies suggest video games may lead to positive results such as better visuo-spatial cognition, better eyesight and improved sense of well-being, but much concern remains in regards to whether violent games increase aggression," Ferguson added.

A controversial subject, commercial video games have only been around for a little more than 30 years and have been blamed for producing violence in children and desensitizing them to violence.

"Given the inconsistency of the studies on video games and to some degree of 'moral panic' that surrounds them, I was concerned this field may have been particularly susceptible to publication bias. The scientific discipline ends up telling people more or less what they want or expect to hear—'media violence' in general as an explanation for aggressive behavior, and thus violent crime," Ferguson said.



According to Ferguson, better standardized measures of aggression, measures that are used the same way every time in each study, would yield more reliable and valid results because they do not allow authors unreasonable flexibility.

"As such, there's no standardization and authors may select the way of measuring aggression that best supports their hypothesis and ignore all other methods. Many measures of aggression used in video game studies are not standardized," he explained.

Essentially, it is up to parents to play an active role in deciding what games are appropriate for their family values and adults will decide for themselves what kind of games they enjoy playing.

"Parents shouldn't feel any pressure to allow their children to play games they feel are morally inappropriate. This is ultimately a moral choice, not a scientific one, and parents should be encouraged to be comfortable in making these decisions based on their own feelings," Ferguson reinforced.

He also suggested consumers ask questions about the quality of research and be more aware that many studies find results that do not have any actual impact on people's day-to-day lives, scientific publications tend to produce findings that are consistent with preconceived ideas and many studies can't be used to infer causality.

"This meta-analysis included both males and females and included studies with all age groups. The results are consistent for males and females and across all age groups. Studies seem to find a larger effect for adults than for children, although in all cases, the results are quite weak," he concluded.

For more information, please contact Ferguson at 326.2636 or [cferguson@tamiu.edu](mailto:cferguson@tamiu.edu) or visit offices in Dr. F.M. Canseco Hall, room 312F.

# TAMIU

## goes green

The ever-sage Shakespeare wrote “One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.” At Texas A&M International University, a soft “green touch” is aimed at deftly helping kin to become kindred.

TAMIU is keenly pursuing a Campus Sustainability Initiative which will expand on green practices already in place to render a campus that’s more energy efficient and environmentally sensitive.

From simple practices like raising building temperatures to complex undertakings like working towards incorporating LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in new buildings, the University aim is true: a greener TAMIU.

### **Doing Its Share**

“We’re all being asked to conserve and concentrate our resources, and the University is no different. We can all do something in our daily lives to reduce our impact on our environment, to lessen our carbon footprint on the world. Through education, research and leadership, a University must do more,” said Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president.

Dr. Keck recalled a previous energy saving effort that hinged on a four-day work week in summer 2003.

“Acting on the Governor’s request, we sought to reduce our energy expenses by reducing our presence here. After 15 weeks, we only saved about \$6000 and inconvenienced our programs and operations. Our buildings are so energy efficient that this experiment was quite doomed,” he recalled.

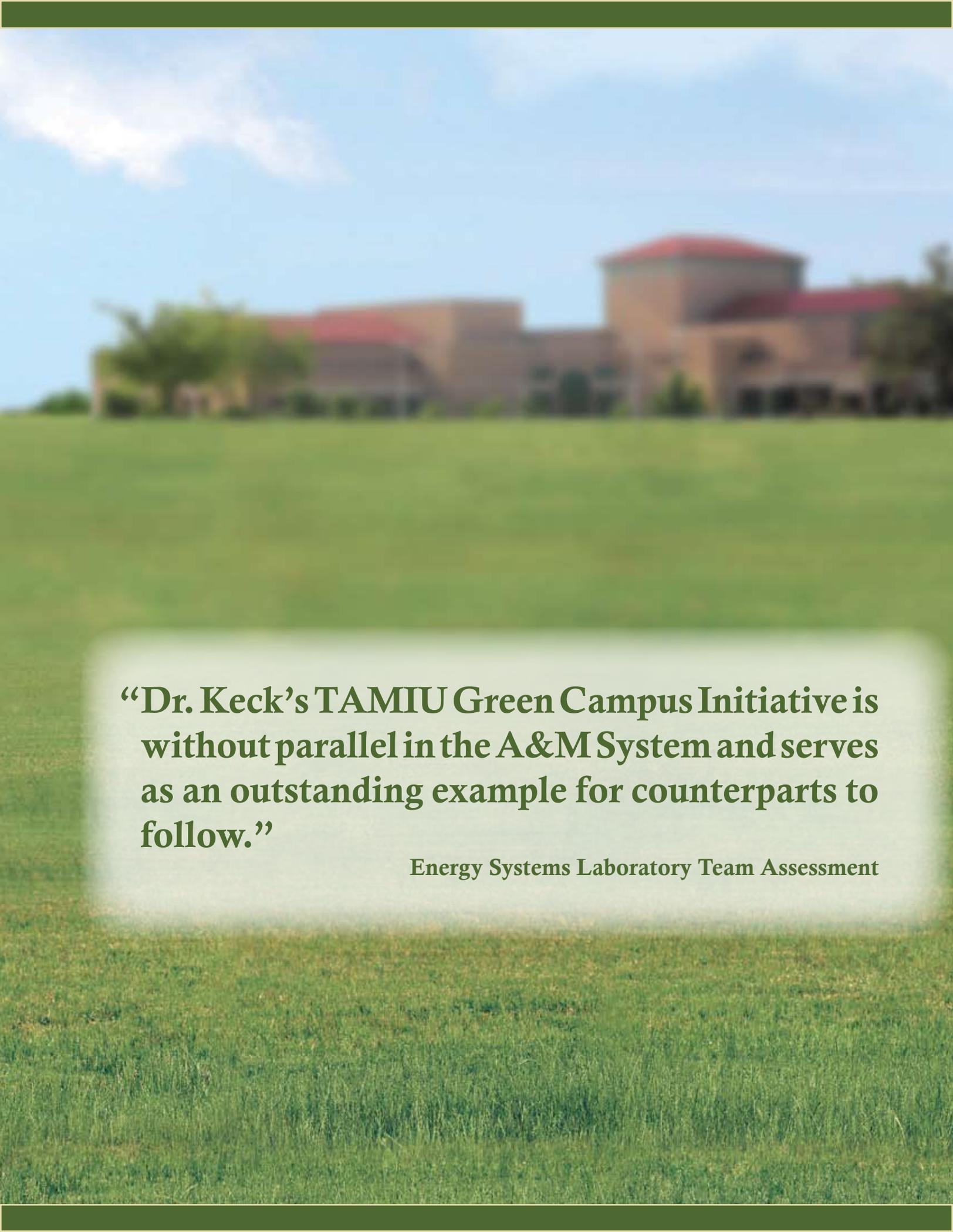
This year, the University began to explore other options for savings and sustainability.

“We have been working closely with The Texas A&M University System’s Texas Engineering Experiment Station’s Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL), which conducted a sustainability assessment here. We were impressed that so many of our ‘small’ efforts actually combine to create a powerful pre-emptive commitment to sustainability.

“The ESL assessment has provided us with a roadmap for a green campus initiative that we are eager to support as possible with appropriate budget, impact and interest considerations. Our ‘Green Team,’ including faculty, administration and students are spearheading our effort,” Keck said.

ESL’s TAMIU assessment by researchers Dr. David Claridge, P.E., professor of mechanical engineering, and Malcolm Verdict, C.E.M., associate director, was positive, noting strong TAMIU efforts already in place.

*(continued on page 19)*



**“Dr. Keck’s TAMIU Green Campus Initiative is without parallel in the A&M System and serves as an outstanding example for counterparts to follow.”**

**Energy Systems Laboratory Team Assessment**

(continued from page 17)

## Green Push in Place

Among those: an automated irrigation control system, ongoing water conservation research, drought-tolerant vegetation, low-flow shower heads and toilets used in student housing, active recycling of all paper, metal, cardboard, and plastic as well as batteries, lights, and phones. TAMIU computers are recycled through a state program that sends them to a correctional facility.

In addition, the University has an energy conservation campaign in place, strengthened by automatic lighting controls in all classrooms and most offices. It purchases recycled content paper for the entire campus and maintains a no-smoking policy around buildings. TAMIU is a 100% asbestos-free campus, researchers noted.

Campus grounds boast a great deal of preserved green space including substantial tree planting, campus lighting that minimizes light pollution and grounds maintenance that incorporates an Integrated Pest Management System with complete tracking and some use of organic pest control options.

The campus' Master Plan through 2014 focuses on the campus' core not infringing on the natural, open space, while maintaining a reserved a "Green Space" border around campus that will keep this area in its natural state. Researchers noted that the campus remains home to wildlife including a rich array of birds, white-tailed deer and javelinas.

## Green Space: Green Mind

The ESL team's assessment revealed that the campus' green push even extends to areas not commonly considered "green" outposts...like dining services.

The assessment notes that TAMIU Dining Services has healthy options such as a salad bar in the main dining facility and a Subway sandwich vendor, while organic foods are available for catered events and a wellness committee is active on campus.



Perhaps most importantly for an institution of higher education, the "green" spirit is already part of TAMIU teaching and learning.

The assessment noted that TAMIU sustainability-related courses include *Environmental Science* and *Environmental Geology*; while various sustainability-related research is already in progress, an engineering curriculum is started. Professors are willing to integrate sustainability into core courses, while students are getting involved through course project participation.

The assessment authors observed, "While TAMIU is well on its way to becoming a sustainable campus leader, there is much opportunity for improvement... this is only the beginning of a long, rewarding, more sustainable path for the University, now and in the future."

## Setting A Green Standard

"Dr. Keck's TAMIU Green Campus Initiative is without parallel in the A&M System and serves as an outstanding example for counterparts to follow. It will also serve as a model for The Texas A&M University System and the surrounding community to subscribe," the team notes.

Keck said both assessment and roadmap for the future are exciting and challenging.

"Over the next 10 years, our campus will probably double in size, affording us a significant challenge to expand on our efforts to create a green TAMIU.

"The benefits are many: reduced utility expenses, improved air quality, improved learning environment and reduced air, land and water impacts on environment. We can become a regional and national leader in sustainable educational advances. Most importantly, what great institution of learning would not want to help create a new generation of kindred resource and energy-conscious graduates? "By thinking green now, we can live green for generations to come," Dr. Keck said.



# Don't be a Carbon Bigfoot

## How big is your carbon footprint?

That's the measure of the amount of carbon dioxide – considered by many the leading man-made global warming greenhouse gas – that you help release into the atmosphere as you go about your daily life.

Some especially bothersome activities that are thought to enlarge your carbon footprint: Air travel, driving a gas-guzzler, leaving lights on, single-pane windows in your home...and not having a home garden.

## What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

- Turn it off when it's not in use
- Turn down your central heating slightly and your central cooling up slightly
- Hang out your wash to dry
- Use energy saving light bulbs
- Carpool to work
- Take a bus or train rather than a car
- Recycle as much as possible
- Print your documents double-sided!

## Calculate the size of your carbon footprint at:

[www.carbonfootprint.com/USA/calculator.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/USA/calculator.html)

### For more information, visit:

[sopglobalwarming.org](http://sopglobalwarming.org)

[cleanair-coolplanet.org](http://cleanair-coolplanet.org)

## TAMIU Small Business Development Center Provides Key Support to Current and Future Business Owners

For years, Becky García, owner of Restoration Medical Equipment and Supply, a medical equipment and orthopedic supply company on McPherson Road, worked as a retail manager for famous boutiques in San Antonio.

But García said she felt she wanted to accomplish more by starting her own business. Although her brother-in-law, an orthopedic surgeon in Laredo, had offered to assist her and her husband in opening a medical supply company in Laredo, she did not know how to start. As soon as she decided to move to Laredo five years ago, she enlisted the help of the Small Business Development Center.

“Many times, you think you can do it all by yourself, but you need to know how to handle accounting and the administrative aspects of operating a business,” García said.

Today, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is housed at Texas A&M International University. García, whose profitable business has allowed her and her husband to purchase a new store location instead of renting, recommends future small business entrepreneurs take advantage of this free service.

“They (SBDC) are incredible,” García said, “This is a service available to the public so that they can do a remarkable job at running a business.”

Located at TAMIU’s Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade, the SBDC serves as a resource for Webb, Zapata and Jim Hogg County small business entrepreneurs who either would like to start a new business or already own one.

Araceli Lozano, assistant director of the TAMIU SBDC, urged anyone contemplating starting a small business to visit the Center.

Those visiting the Center can expect to receive a one-on-one counseling session with a business advisor as well as sign up for orientations and entrepreneurship seminars.

The Center can also assist in writing business plans that are often needed to secure loans from banks, Lozano said.

García, who said SBDC staff took the time to go to her business to instruct her on a bookkeeping program on her computer, said the SBDC walked her through important entrepreneurship steps she would not have known otherwise.

“The Center’s such a great find if somebody’s looking for help. And this is all available to the public,” she said.

For further information on the SBDC or to schedule an appointment, please call 956.326.2827, e-mail [alozano@tamiu.edu](mailto:alozano@tamiu.edu), click on [tamiu.edu](http://tamiu.edu) or visit the SBDC at WHTC 223C.



### SBDC Success

Becky García (left) and her husband, Robert García (right), look over business records at their business, Restoration Medical Equipment & Supply Co. The two entrepreneurs received assistance from the TAMIU-SBDC before opening their business at the McPherson Medical Plaza.



### Our Spice Girls!

TAMIU professor Dr. Annette Olsen-Fazi shows student Maggie Blasco some traditional Provence spices in an open air market tour during a TAMIU-sponsored Study

Abroad course in the Spring in France. (See page 24 for feature).

### With the Governor

Members of the D. D. Hachar Honors Program had an opportunity to meet with Texas State Governor Rick Perry during a recent visit to Austin. Pictured, left to right: Késia Rodríguez, James Cortéz, Cristina Hernández, Cindy Gallardo, Dr. Deborah Blackwell, Gov. Perry, Kimberly Compean, Gabriela Díaz, Vanessa González, Priscilla Hernández, Rodrigo Corral, Gerry Laurel and Dr. William Riggs.



### Going International!

The Texas A&M University System Chancellor Dr. Michael D. McKinney joins TAMIU MBA graduate Juliet Diong, her parents Diong Ging-Leong and

Ling Mee-Leng and other TAMIU administrators for a special International Student Reception held in May by the Division of International Programs. From Left, Dr. Jaime Ortiz, associate vice president for International Programs; Dr. Dan Jones, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Dr. McKinney; Ling Mee-Leng; Dr. Ray Keck, president and Diong Ging-Leong.

### Bonitos Recuerdos

Dr. Ray Keck shows Dr. Lynn Stamoulis, TAMIU associate vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, one of the special prints in the King Romance Seminar room during dedication ceremonies for the 8000-volume King Collection in June at the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library. The event also served to launch the Memorial Library Fund and Friends of the Library.



**A.R. SANCHEZ, SR**  
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

*Celebrates 10th Anniversary*

The Texas A&M International University College of Arts and Sciences A. R. Sánchez, Sr. Distinguished Lecture Series will celebrate its 10th anniversary this Fall. All lectures, which are free and open to the public, will be held at the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall and start at 7 p.m.

Kicking off the Lecture Series is a dynamic teacher and distinguished lecturer, **Dr. Martin J. Sherwin**. Dr. Sherwin's "Robert Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project," is an account of the man known as the father of the atomic bomb. The lecture is scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007**.

The following lecture in the Series features **Dr. Alan Lightman**, a novelist, essayist, physicist and professor. He will present, "Einstein in the 21st Century" on **Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007**. Dr. Lightman has been publishing essays about science, the human side of science, and the "mind of science" for more than 25 years.

The "Wonderful World of Engineering" is the topic for **Dr. Natalie Jeremijenko's** lecture. Dr. Jeremijenko is a design engineer and digital pioneer and a new media artist who works at the intersection of contemporary art, science and engineering. Her lecture, scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4, 2008** addresses information politics, the examination and development of new modes of information technologies, in particular regarding the production of knowledge, tangible media and distributed computing elements.

The Series concludes on **Wednesday, April 9, 2008** with a lecture by **Dr. Jerry D. Thompson**, Texas A&M International University Regents Professor of History. His lecture, "Defending the Mexican Name in Texas: The Incredible Life of Juan Cortina," explores the life of Mexican folk hero and outlaw, Juan Cortina. Dr. Thompson's *Cortina: Defending the Mexican Name in Texas* will be published in Fall 2007 by The Texas A&M University Press.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at 956.326.2460.



**The First**

First parents to participate in the University's annual giving campaign are Mr. and Mrs. Filiberto J. Trujillo, Jr.. They are the proud parents of May graduate Stacey Trujillo.



**Welcome to Our Casa!**

On hand to usher in the historic opening of Casa Ortiz as TAMIU's downtown center were, left to right, María Eugenia Calderón, Webb County Heritage Foundation president and initiative partner; former County Commissioner Judith Gutierrez, who helped secure the project, and TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck. (See story page 12)



**Excellent!**

The College of Education held its first Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony on May 12 to recognize undergraduate and graduate students, alumni and community leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the field of education. The event was attended by faculty, staff, parents and family members at the Western Hemispheric Trade Center.

**Sames Collaboration**

Sames Scholars recently celebrated their sixth year in existence. Hank and Elizabeth Sames started a unique mentorship program at Texas A&M International University through a donation that matches high school freshmen with University faculty mentors.





**Salute to Education**

The 2007 Salute to Education program awarded 75 high-school seniors a \$500 scholarship in recognition of the services the students have provided to their communities. The awards ceremony was held at TAMIU in May. Ford Salute to Education is sponsored by Hank Sames' local Ford and Lincoln Mercury dealerships with additional financial support from Ford Credit and Ford Motor Company.



**College of Education Scholarship**

ConocoPhillips, an international integrated energy company, presented Texas A&M International University with an endowed scholarship to the College of Education in the amount of \$25,000. The funds were matched by a federal grant that matches any corporate-sponsored donation toward the education of teachers. This donation increased their endowment to \$100,000. Pictured are: Marina Hensley; Dr. Humberto González, dean, College of Education; Marvin Hensley; Calvin Evans; Dr. Ray M. Keck, III, TAMIU President, and Sonia Molina. ConocoPhillips also gave \$3,000 for TAMIU Athletics.



**Cowart Award Winners**

The College of Education recently awarded the Billy F. Cowart Award to José Coss '03 (not pictured), Ramiro Ramírez '76, Mayra Peña '05, Linda E. Mora Zardenetta '75, and Manuel Enrique Juarez '98.

# State Senator Judith Zaffirini

## Zaffirini Reports 2007 Legislative Session Success for TAMIU



Senator Zaffirini

When Lt. Governor David Dewhurst accepted the Mr. South Texas award for 2007, he expressed a shared vision to provide our South Texas families and community with excellent higher education opportunities. "I want to paint the landscape of these borderlands," he said, "with the bright colors of our children's dreams."

As chair of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee and as a member of the Appropriations Conference Committee that writes the state's final budget, I am delighted to continue to work with him and Representatives Richard Raymond and Ryan Guillen to make a difference for higher education and for Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

The \$153 billion budget adopted by the Legislature for 2008-09 includes \$91.2 million for TAMIU, a \$14 million (18.4 percent) increase. This includes \$2 million for faculty enhancement, particularly through our business Ph.D. program and joint degree program with the Laredo Campus Extension of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. What's more, this funding is intended to support the University's International Academy and a small business development center with the University of Texas at San Antonio.

We also appropriated \$314 million for the debt service for \$1.9 billion in tuition revenue bonds authorized by my HB 153 (2006), including \$6.6 million in debt service for TAMIU's \$37.6 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs). Funding the debt service ensures our constructing the University's Student Success Center, completing the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts and infrastructure priorities.

While justifiably proud of this increased funding, I am exceedingly disappointed that Governor Rick Perry vetoed \$5 million in funding for our Student Success program. His veto message was TAMIU "receives a disproportionate share of

special items and excellence funding. Special Items represent 48.3 percent of its total general revenue budget, less tuition revenue bond debt service, compared to the university statewide average of 18.4 percent. If this initiative is a priority, the University can use its \$31.3 million appropriated for Institutional Enhancement."

This is incredible because special item and excellence funding are critical to small institutions like TAMIU, which receives only 30 percent of its funding through formula funding. The \$5 million that Governor Perry vetoed represents approximately six percent of the University's total budget. It had been approved overwhelmingly because of support from Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and legislators who understand our institution's efforts to meet the goals of "Closing the Gaps," especially to provide educational opportunities for low-income and minority students.

Because the formulas are imperfect, during the interim we will strive to improve methods for funding higher education more fairly and wisely.

TAMIU and UT-Austin, the only universities authorized to offer joint degrees with foreign universities, will benefit from my SB 1051, sponsored by Rep. Guillen. It allows institutions that offer joint degrees with foreign universities to offer foreign students a four-hour course titled *The American Way* in lieu of the required 12 hours of history and government. Designed to provide familiarity with and understanding of U.S. government and civic life, the course will include a field trip to the Texas Capitol.

In spite of the governor's veto, we have much cause to celebrate. The interim at hand offers us countless opportunities to strive for even loftier goals for the institution we love and support, Texas A&M International University.

*Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D.*



Dr. Christine Bernardas, second from left, is TAMIU's first Ph.D. In International Business Administration Program graduate. She is joined by, left, TAMIU's Dr. Jacques Verville, dissertation advisor; Dr. Jackie So, dean, College of Business Administration, and Dr. Ray Keck, president.

## An Historic Journey of a Lifetime: TAMIU's First Ph.D. Graduate Christine Bernardas

Some might say there's nobody quite like Christine Bernardas. They'd be right.

Bernardas is the first Texas A&M International University student to earn the University's first Ph.D. in International Business Administration.

A native of France, Bernardas walked into history at this Spring's Commencement Exercises. Fittingly, her degree was presented by State Senator Dr. Judith Zaffirini, who led the charge to create the University's first Ph.D.

program, and Dr. Jacques Verville, TAMIU associate professor and chair of her Ph.D. committee.

At rehearsal prior to the evening graduation, the affable Bernardas smiled and said that finally receiving the degree was cathartic.

"I have to admit, I feel much more relieved now. It's been a real journey, but I have enjoyed it thoroughly," she said.

Bernadas said she planned to join a University faculty and continue teaching and research. While she said she'd like to stay in the U.S., her job search will be international.

In addition to her Ph.D. she holds an M.B.A. from University Laval of Quebec, Canada, a Master of Data Processing Methods Applied to Enterprise Management from the University of Aix-Marseille III en Aix-en-Provence, France and a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics, also from the University of Aix-Marseille III.



Dr. So congratulates Dr. Bernardas as Dr. Verville assists in hooding.

**"It's been a real journey, but I have enjoyed it thoroughly."**

**Dr. Christine Bernardas**



# My Experience Abroad: J'ai aimé la France!

By Rebecca Martínez

Traveling abroad was something I always wanted to do during my college experience. Even though I went to all the Study Abroad fairs and requested more information, I didn't follow up after I received the information.

Chance stepped in once again when I, as student intern, was assigned to write a press release encouraging students to register for a French class that included a trip to France. As I read the background information, I thought, "This trip is going to be great for whoever goes because it's such a good deal; it sounds like a great experience."

After talking with my mom, I decided to sign up for the class and trip.

I talked to Dr. Annette Olsen-Fazi, associate professor of English and French, and thought she was so nice and funny. Her enthusiasm for the trip was contagious and I was excited with anticipation about joining the group.

To my surprise, it was a very simple process. I signed up and got all the necessary signatures. Not expecting much, I applied for two scholarships and received them both, which really helped financially.

I was nervous about going on the trip because I was worried that I wouldn't know anyone, but I was wrong. I recognized many of the other students during orientation and the others seemed nice too. I left orientation feeling more excited than ever. This was my first trip to Europe and the first time leaving the country without my parents.

Our trip started in Paris where I saw the beautiful and historic Notre Dame Cathedral, experienced the Eiffel Tower at night and gazed upon the Mona Lisa in the Louvre. After spending three days in Paris, we took the train and made our way to the south of France. We stopped at some of the most beautiful little cities in France that became my favorites—Cassis, Arles, and Saint Paul de Vence.

The rewarding trip gave me the chance to see beautiful places that I might otherwise have not had the chance to see. I met incredible people from all different backgrounds and I learned that I can be independent.

Studying abroad taught me more about others and myself. I highly recommend it to everyone because it will be a trip of a lifetime and something you will never forget. It's also surprisingly easy to do.

For more information on studying abroad, please contact Jannet García at 326.2565 or [studyabroad@tamiu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@tamiu.edu) or visit the Office of International Education at Anthony J and Georgia A. Pellegrino Hall room 301.

*Rebecca M. Martínez is a senior student majoring in Communication. Her study abroad experience was assisted by scholarship assistance provided by the International Education Fee Scholarship and The Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez International Fellows Scholarship. She is completing her student internship in the University's Office of Public Relations, Marketing and Information Services.*

### Paris in Spring!

TAMIU students enjoyed Spring Break in Paris as part of their Study Abroad course which explored culture, history and language. Here's the famed Arc d'Triomphe and some of the students who enjoyed the course offering.



## 'Fellow Traveler' Railsback Moves Forward with Distance

"I am not a teacher; only a fellow traveler of whom you asked the way. I pointed ahead—ahead of myself as well as of you."

This quote by George Bernard Shaw, a British dramatist, critic, and writer reminds me of Dr. Lem Londos Railsback, professor of education at Texas A&M International University. Always interested in the idea of distance learning, Railsback, no stranger to distance learning himself, started taking distance-learning courses as correspondence courses, which were then done by mail.

It wasn't until attending a seminar in Hawaii that he was introduced to the idea of distance learning classes through the Internet. He learned that it was possible to put an entire junior college curriculum onto a small disk, no matter the major.

Amazed by the concept of distance-learning, Railsback explored this process by taking a course from Grossmont College in California on how to design distance-learning courses at the university level.

Astonished by what he learned, "That was the bug that bit me, and I was very interested," said Railsback. The class helped Dr. Railsback start developing his own distance education courses of instruction.

Dr. Railsback was named TAMIU distance educator of the year in 2004 for his design and implementation of several distance education courses at TAMIU. Other courses are still in development. These distance education courses are online courses taught and completed through the Internet. Railsback wrote all courses and revised one in 2004.

Although the majority of his classes have been taught face-to-face, about every other semester he teaches a course online. Railsback, a huge supporter of distance learning, said he feels it is the wave of the future, especially for smaller universities. It helps with enrollment and allows students to take courses that may not be offered. Someday, a TAMIU student may conclude a degree program entirely through distance learning.

*(continued on page 26)*

**Dr. Railsback was named "Distance Educator of the Year in 2004" for his design and implementation of several distance education courses at TAMIU.**



(continued from page 25)

While working to construct and improve distance-learning courses here at TAMIU, Railsback has also still been continuing his own education. His most recent degree, a master's in multicultural education, from the University of Texas in Brownsville, was completed through distance-learning. A degree, which he admits, he accidentally found.

Railsback has been a constant student, continuing his education throughout his life. He holds a Ph.D. in Compensatory Curriculum and Instruction in Linguistics and Reading of all levels from the University of Texas in Austin. He also has two masters degrees, the first a Master of Arts in English from Sul Ross State University and the second in Educational Technology from the University of Texas at Brownsville (acquired through a distance-learning program). His bachelor's degree is in English.

He has also received numerous certifications and diplomas in assorted areas of interest and completed 33 graduate semester credit hours from Southwest Texas State University in educational administration and supervision.

Railsback's eagerness has helped his success as a student, as has his willingness to explore topics and put in the full effort needed. He says he learned from an early age that learning was very pleasurable for him.

Dr. Railsback is a lifelong learner and an inspiration to anyone thinking of continuing their education. His life shows that it's never too late to expand your knowledge and improve yourself.

After teaching for 48 years, Dr. Railsback feels lucky to still be teaching and glad that he will be finishing his teaching career at TAMIU.

*Rebecca M. Martínez, Student Intern*



## In Memoriam: Dr. Stephen E. Lunce



**Dr. Stephen E. Lunce**, 59, died May 4, 2007 of complications from a traffic accident. He was professor and department chair of Management Information Systems at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Dr. Lunce served on the TAMIU faculty for more than 11 years. He is survived by Barbara Lunce, former TAMIU Registrar, and son Stephen of Arlington.

A tireless advocate of students and their opportunities for growth, he led students to national MIS competitions. He was pivotal in re-energizing the Faculty Senate and worked diligently to help secure the College of Business Administration's path to AACSB Accreditation.

With students, he helped lead the development of tamiu.edu, and was a strong supporter of the Alumni Association's Golf Tournament to raise student scholarship funds.

He was an early and vocal fan of ice hockey in Laredo and helped out the Bucks as an off-ice official for the Central Hockey League.

*Rest in peace, Professor Lunce.*



# NEWS

## Counseling Center Gets IACS Accreditation

Texas A&M International University's Student Counseling and Disability Services for Students has been accredited by the International Association for University and College Counseling Services (IACS).

Dr. Jesus Aros, TAMIU's director of Student Counseling and Disability Services, was notified of the approval by IACS executive officer Nancy E. Ronchetti.

In her notification, Ronchetti said accreditation indicates adherence to professionally approved counseling practices. Accreditation is only open to University and four-year College Counseling Services.

"IACS commends your center for maintaining the high standards that qualify it for Full Accreditation and anticipates continued excellence of performance," Ronchetti wrote.

## C'est Manifique! France Comes to TAMIU

5,377 miles really is too far to travel to see a French film. But this past May, France moved closer to Laredo!

Texas A&M International University presented its first "La Vie En France French Film Series" throughout the month. It proved popular with both students and community members.

Organizers hope to renew the series next year and expand it to include other countries.

The Series was made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Smithsonian Exhibit Success at TAMIU

More than 4,000 Laredoans and visitors had a chance to learn about a future president, a revered labor leader and a Nobel-Prize-winning chemist by experiencing "Our Journeys, Our Stories: Portraits of Latino Achievement," a special three-month long exhibition at TAMIU's Student Center.

Developed by the Smithsonian Latino Center, it included narratives and portraits of 24 individuals and one extended family that provided a look at the experiences of U.S. Latinos who have made significant contributions to American life.

The exhibition, its national tour and related programs was made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund.



## What's going at TAMIU?

- Art
- Athletics
- Lectures
- Music
- FUN!

For a complete online guide to all things TAMIU, Visit [tamiu.edu](http://www.tamiu.edu) and click on "TAMIU Events" or bookmark:

<http://www.tamiu.edu/calendar/month.php>

## University Posts Spring Enrollment Gains

More students got what they wanted out of life at Texas A&M International University this Spring, according to official enrollment figures reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Final enrollment figures showed TAMIU Spring enrollment was 4,672, up 6.7% from last Spring's 4,380 students.

Semester Credit Hours, upon which State funding is based, totaled 46,171 — up 5% from last Spring's 43,981.



# AUTMUS FEST

TAMIU  
ALUMNI  
EVENT



TAMIU GROUNDS, LAREDO, TEXAS    SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007    3 P.M. - 12 A.M.

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