Texas A&M International University

Invest in Yourself

- More than 70 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral Degree Offerings
- Over 77% of students receive Financial Aid
- A Gifted Faculty from all over the world
- TAMU is one of the State’s Least Expensive universities
- Diverse Student Body, students from here and everywhere
- Females: 62% Males: 38%
- Study Abroad make the world yours
- On-Campus Housing
- Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Law Programs
- NCAA II Dustdevil Athletics
- Cultural Events on campus!

For more information or a campus tour, please call 956.326.2270 or visit tamiu.edu
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041-1900
## INSIDE THIS EDITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT’S THOUGHTS</strong>&lt;br&gt;MAKING THE IMPROBABLE REAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>OUR CAMPUS</strong>&lt;br&gt;NEW THEATRE BOWS WITH ‘MAN OF LA MANCHA’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>ANNUAL GIVING</strong>&lt;br&gt;16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>READING THE GLOBE</strong>&lt;br&gt;‘A LONG WAY’ IS SECOND ENTRY IN TAMU READING INITIATIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>40 YEARS</strong>&lt;br&gt;A LIFETIME OF CHANGE, A LEGACY OF IMPACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>OUR LEGACY</strong>&lt;br&gt;OUR LEGACY 14&lt;br&gt;KILLAM LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY NEWS AND LIFE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ALUMNI AWARDS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Prism Magazine:**
Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President
Candy Hein, Publisher

Editor: Steve Harmon ('91)

Art Director: Ana P. Clamont ('00)

Contributing Photographers:
Ana P. Clamont, Catarina Colunga, Dan Lathey, Rebecca M. Martinez ('08), Eugene Ruiz, Daniel Tijerina

Contributing Writers:
Mika Akikuni ('02), Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield, Steve Harmon, Dr. Ray Keck III, Rebecca M. Martinez, Jessica Rodríguez, Senator Judith Zaffirini

Cover Photo Illustration:
Ana P. Clamont

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY:**
Please send to
Office for Institutional Advancement
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900
Telephone: 956.326.4483
Facsimile: 956.326.2174
E-mail: prism@tamiu.edu
If you receive duplicate copies, kindly send both mailing labels to the above address.

**OTHER MAGAZINE QUERIES:**
Please send to
Prism Magazine
Office of Public Relations, Marketing and Information Services
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900
Telephone: 956.326.2180
Facsimile: 956.326.2179
E-mail: prism@tamiu.edu

All contents © 2009 Prism Magazine, except where noted. Opinions expressed in Prism are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its editors or policies of Texas A&M International University.

**POSTMASTER:**
Send address corrections to
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900.

**MISSION:** Prism is published twice a year for Texas A&M International University 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.
Since its appearance as a play in 1959 and then as a Broadway musical in 1965, "Man of La Mancha" has brought to a popular audience the enduring central message of Cervantes’s masterpiece. The impossible dream. Identity is a made thing. We can decide what and whom we will be. Hearts and minds can change and, even if the Earth does not move, the human spirit can soar far beyond its meager clothing of flesh, its bounded identity in time and place. We can even experience, against all rational expectations, reality altered by the power of the spirit, the conviction of the soul.

But the process is not an easy one. A quotidian dullness neutralizes heroic action; the hungry soul imagines dreams and truth to be one. In one of his first sallies, don Quijote, ablaze with the dream of his beautiful lady, stops a group of merchants on their way to market in Toledo and demands that they share his faith.

“What matters is that without seeing her (Dulcinea), you are to believe in her beauty, to confess, affirm, swear, and defend it. If not, I challenge you to combat,” don Quijote tells the startled merchants. Stupefied, the merchants ask before they are to swear for a picture of Dulcinea: “A small one will do, even if it is the size of a grain of sand.” Enraged at their insistence that a dream must assume a palpable presence before it can be acted upon, don Quijote charges the group. His nag stumbles. He falls and suffers a sound thrashing at the hands of a strong and slightly irritated young man.

A university is about an imagined future, a dreamed identity, a new life, laid hold of slowly as a student pursues his or her studies. It was a dream of new life for all South Texas that created Texas A&M International University. Long before Governor Ann Richards turned that initial spade of dirt in February 1994, Laredoans and South
Texans first imagined a better way and then, like don Quijote, set about to bring it into being. The obstacles, far more formidable than the merchants don Quijote faced, were attitudinal, material, political, a cyclical pattern of exclusion that had long kept the dream of higher education for this region a seemingly impossible one.

Like don Quijote, citizens and elected officials continued to push and to press, to rage and to insist, to plot and to promise, until the dream of new life began to acquire a body. And that body, this magnificent new campus, continues to grow and develop: hope given corporeal form, no longer impossible, just enormously difficult to create.

As we celebrate our 40th year, reflections upon the creation of Texas A&M International University assert forcefully a lesson well-known to Cervantes. The larger and more improbable, the more pharaonic the dream, the greater the possibility that it may become true. The task to build this University, the zeal to see it become real, awakened in Laredo both an energy and strength beyond anything seen since colonial days. Our legislators in Austin and leaders and philanthropists in the Laredo community imagined what could not be, and it was.

When contemplating our Laredo miracle, gazing over the beauty of these marvelous and fermosas salidas, a wise man captured well the dream, its challenge, and its fruition.

“It must be,” he said, “that the first 250 years are the hardest.”

Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President

DREAMS COME TRUE

An impossible dream comes true this October at Texas A&M International University as the beloved musical “Man of La Mancha” inaugurates the new Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre Oct. 15-18.

Dale Wasserman’s musical adaptation of his non-musical teleplay will be presented by the Laredo Theatre Guild International as part of the University’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Inspired by the 17th century masterpiece “Don Quixote” by Miguel de Cervantes, it details the adventures of “Don Quixote de la Mancha” and his weary “squire,” Sancho Panza.

The winner of five Tony Awards, it has been revived on Broadway four times, performed around the world, and was the basis for a popular movie starring Peter O’Toole and Sophia Loren (1972).

UPCOMING 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Oct. 14
New Theatre Ribbon Cutting / Champagne Toast
6:30 p.m.
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre (CFPA)

Oct. 15-17
“Man of La Mancha”
Laredo Theater Guild International
7:00 p.m.
CFPA Theatre

Oct. 18
Matinee – “Man of La Mancha”
3:00 p.m.
CFPA Theatre

For additional 40th Anniversary events, go to @TAMIU, our online calendar, available at tamiu.edu. Click on 40th Anniversary for an updated listing of year-round activities!
If all the world’s a stage, then this fall there’s a global addition to Texas A&M International University, with the opening of the new Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre.

The 472-seat theatre takes its bow as a state-of-the-art performance venue with a special production of “Man of La Mancha” in collaboration with the Laredo Theater Guild International, part of the University’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Bede Leyendecker, chair of the College of Arts and Sciences’ department of fine and performing arts, said the new theatre affords a remarkable setting for the University’s drama, musical theatre and dance productions.

“It’s an incredibly spacious stage, but there’s a real intimacy in the seating. I think our audiences are going to be dazzled by the venue, and equally impressed by the caliber of productions we’ll now be able to accommodate,” she said.

“It’s also a great place for us to nurture our theatre and dance programs and a fine home for our collaborative efforts with the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra, Laredo Philharmonic Chorale, and our latest collaboration with the Laredo Theatre Guild International, which is making the theatre its new home,” she added.

The cavernous theatre features a three-story fly space, a proscenium-style stage with trap door and a hydraulics-powered descending stage and orchestral pit.

A complex lighting system, including more than 250 lighting units, provides an impressive array of lighting possibilities and effects. The theatre’s sound system is a state-of-the-art Yamaha Digital System with some of the most advanced technology available in south Texas.

Both are located within the theatre, providing the University’s theatre staff with ideal control of all effects and capabilities.
Higher education leaders in general and those for Texas A&M International University in particular had much to celebrate when the Texas Legislature adjourned on June 1. Our actions were particularly important as our university celebrates its 40th Anniversary and considers new and exciting ways to deliver its mission.

As Chair of the newly upgraded Senate Higher Education Committee, I prioritized legislation that increased access to higher education, improved student success and enhanced excellence at our universities and community colleges.

To address one of the most controversial issues of the session, the rising cost of tuition and fees, I authored Senate Bill (SB) 1443, which would have defined the shared responsibility among students and their families, the legislature and institutions to keep higher education affordable and accessible without sacrificing excellence. It would have capped total academic costs and linked them to formula funding. Because the bill exempted from caps universities whose total academic costs were below the state median, TAMIU would not have been impacted. The Senate passed my bill unanimously with the support of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, R-Houston, and with 26 co-sponsors, but it died in the House of Representatives during the explosive Voter ID debate.

Throughout the session we intensified our emphasis on prioritizing excellence and increased funding for all Texas universities.

My SB 9, the companion to House Bill (HB) 51 that I sponsored, for example, began with a focus on research for seven universities. It developed into a bill about excellence in higher education, with additional funding opportunities for all public universities in Texas.

Our new law focuses on student success, centers of excellence and the development and maintenance of excellent fields of study and programs. It offers matching funding for research expenditures and promotes research at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

It also provides $80 million in incentive funding for universities to increase the number of degrees awarded; and the number of degrees awarded to at-risk students and in critical fields, thereby reducing time-to-degree while simultaneously improving our workforce and the economy of the region. Because of its high-quality student success programs, TAMIU should secure some of these funds.

HB 51 also provides incentive grants for comprehensive universities, including TAMIU, that demonstrate success in developing or improving a designated program or field of study.

Because undergraduate research programs improve student retention and graduation rates while increasing students’ likelihood to pursue graduate studies, I authored and passed SB 44, which provides research opportunities for undergraduate students. My hope is that this new law will help prepare our future faculty by improving student success, especially by involving more students at TAMIU in research activities.

Impressively, during a difficult economy, funding for higher education was increased by $1.5 billion, 6.9 percent, for 2010-11. TAMIU’s funding was increased by $4.8 million, 8 percent. In spite of strong opposition, because Lt. Gov. Dewhurst intervened, TAMIU received an additional $2 million for student success in the supplemental appropriations bill.

The interim at-hand provides us opportunities to build upon our successes and to develop additional policies to enhance quality, improve student success and increase access. I look forward to working with President Ray Keck and other leaders, including students, to ensure that Texas A&M International University continues to grow and to excel.

My prayer is that our next 40 years will be even more productive and exciting!
The 2009 Fall semester sees the University welcome 33 new faculty members to its three Colleges and School. These latest additions to our gifted faculty come to us from all around the country and world, providing remarkable learning and research opportunities for our students and community at large.

A.R. Sanchez, Jr.
School of Business

Dr. George R. G. Clarke
Killam Distinguished Associate Professor of Economics
Ph.D., University of Rochester

Robert Evans
Visiting Assistant Professor of Marketing
M.B.A., Murray State University

Dr. Paul Madlock
Assistant Professor of Business Communication
Ph.D., West Virginia University

Dr. Abhijit Patwardhan
Assistant Professor of Marketing
Ph.D., University of Mississippi

Sandra Garrett
Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction
Ed.D., University of North Texas-Denton

Mayra Lee Peña
Assistant Professor of Teacher Preparation
CPDT Director
M.S., Texas A&M International University

Dr. Lynn M. Hemmer
Assistant Professor of Educational Administration
Ph.D., Texas A&M University-College Station

Veronica Garza
Instructor of Freshman Seminar
M.B.A., St. Edward’s University

College of Education

Dr. Regina C. Aune
Dean, Professor of Nursing
Ed.D., University of Utah

Rita Haber
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
M.S.N., Texas A&M International University

Jessie M. Mena
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
M.S.N., Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Dr. Rosemary Plank
Associate Professor of Nursing
Director of the PROF Center
Ph.D., University of California-San Francisco

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. R. Stephen Sears
Dean, Killam Professor of Finance
Ph.D. University of North Carolina

A.R. Sanchez, Jr.
School of Business
Dr. Alfred K. Addo-Mensah  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University

Dr. Alison L. Bory  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance  
Ph.D., University of California-Riverside

Dr. Manuel Broncano-Rodríguez  
Chair, Language and Literature  
Professor of American Literature  
Ph.D., University of Salamanca

Dr. Irma L. Cantú  
Assistant Professor of Spanish  
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Anna B. Cieslicka  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., Adam Mickiewicz University

Dr. John E. Dean  
Visiting Assistant Professor of English  
Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. David García  
Assistant Professor of Music  
Ph.D., Ohio State University

Michael P. Harrington  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
M.S., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dr. Michael R. Kidd  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Ph.D., University of New Hampshire

Mark A. Menaldo  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science  
B.A., Colorado College

Dr. Mónica O. Méndez  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Ph.D., University of Arizona

Dr. David K. Milovich  
Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Young-Man Kim  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Engineering  
Ph.D., Wichita State University

Andrea L. Moon  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Art  
M.F.A., Texas Tech University

Jerry Quintero  
Visiting Instructor of Music  
M.S., Texas A&M International University

Joaquina M. Reed  
Visiting Instructor of Communication  
M.A., University of Louisiana - Monroe

Megan Smith  
Visiting Instructor of Communication  
M.A., University of Louisiana - Monroe

Dr. Penny Viagopoulos  
Visiting Assistant Professor of English  
Ph.D., Columbia University

Dr. Brittan Anne Wilson  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Boston

Shudong Zhang  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
M.A., University of Missouri-Columbia
There are some new faces on campus this Fall at Texas A&M International University and they’re quite furry. They’re TAMIU students’ service dogs.

A service dog is a specially trained assistance dog that is trained to perform tasks to help a person who has a disability. The addition of assistance dogs to the campus has prompted an on-campus change in etiquette.

When coming in contact with service dogs it’s important to follow certain etiquette, because you’re not dealing with just a dog, explained Rita Hernández, counselor, TAMIU Office of Student Counseling Services.

“It’s proper etiquette to speak to the service dog owner before thinking of greeting the dog. It is also not in the best interest to pet the service dog or touch its owner without asking permission. Touching the service dog might distract it from its work and touching the person might be interpreted as an assault by the service dog, explained Hernández.

Hernández said there are certain things one should do when approaching a service dog.

“When coming across the service dog, please resist the temptation to treat the service dog as you would a regular pet. Refrain from offering the dog treats or making noises such as barking, meowing, whistling, and making any other rude noises, it just makes you look silly,” she said.

“At TAMIU we aim to foster greater awareness both of, and for, persons with disabilities in our multilingual, multicultural and international environment,” said Hernández.

“Counseling and Disability Services for Students at TAMIU combines its efforts to help students with challenges and disabilities to complete their academic career. Services have been created to make sure that every attempt is made to grant equal access to students with permanent or temporary disabilities, explained Hernández.

For more information about service dogs at TAMIU, call the Office of Counseling and Disability Services for Students at 326.2230, or visit offices located in the Student Center, room 124.
Technology Helps Students Connect and Community Connect

Starting this semester at Texas A&M International University, students can reach University services through a single doorway; community members and visitors can be instantly alerted to the riches of the University’s cultural and artistic offerings and anyone can make purchases or donations without ever leaving the comfort of home.

Through an aggressive embrace of technology, the University has placed itself shoulder-to-shoulder with the nation’s top universities as all work to effectively increase availability, boost responsiveness and underscore relevance.

That technology includes:
- The University’s portal entry to University content and services for enrolled students, faculty and staff. Uconnect truly connects the campus community through strategic, targeted messaging, self-tailored content and single-point access to University services.
- The University’s online event calendar, gives visitors a chance to make a date with a robust calendar that can be downloaded to one’s desktop, send e-mail or text alert reminders or provide RSS feeds.
  @TAMIU: http://www.tamiu.edu/calendar/
- The University’s online store, it provides an opportunity for visitors to review and purchase merchandise or make a contribution to the University.

So get to your keyboard, click your mouse and bring your University home.

New Home for TAMIU Student Success Coming

In the summer of 2010, Texas A&M International University students will find a new Student Success Center that will function as their primary entry point to the University.

Being built at an approximate cost of $25 million, the new Center will centralize 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 and programs. These offices are currently housed in three different buildings around campus.

The first floor of the Student Success Center is styled as an “information mall” with storefront-style offices facing a central, light-filled corridor.

“It’s going to be a spectacular building that celebrates students and clearly addresses their needs with open, welcoming spaces,” said Dean of Student Success Dr. Minita Ramírez. “The first floor is a central communications hub that provides support and directs students to the appropriate service office. This area also includes computer kiosks and seating areas. We’ll also have multi-purpose rooms that can be easily reconfigured to accommodate a variety of needs,” she continued.

Of special interest is that the new Student Success Center is being designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards — powered in part by solar panels on the west side of the building and incorporating an educational exhibit on solar energy.

With the opening of the Student Success Center, the current Student Center will see campus bookstore and food service areas expanded to provide additional store and seating capacity respectively.
While every anniversary is important, there’s something especially powerful about the 40th Anniversary of a University. The arc of years in a University’s life easily encompasses generations of students, faculty and thousands of lives measurably changed.

For Texas A&M International University, the 40-year span of history has propelled South Texas forward and advanced both individual lives and the overall quality of life for the region. From its initial inception in a study carrel at the former Laredo Junior College to a pair of buildings at the West End of Washington, and the eventual construction of a new cherished campus in northeast Laredo, the University’s default has been change…some days on a daily basis.

Locations aside, there have been some other changes:

Name Changes: Texas A&I University at Laredo…Laredo State University…Texas A&M International University.

Mission Changes: The University moved from a hybrid upper-division University only offering junior, senior and
graduate study to a full four-year University.

And then there are changes that have elevated the University’s role and presence.

Now, a mascot cheers on an NCAA Division II Athletics Program with 11 sports teams. Honors Programs flourish and the ’09 entering freshmen class includes students from 75 regional high schools and 32 countries. Early Medical School and professional school admissions programs are well-established and students now have access to the University’s first Ph.D. degree in International Business and four other doctoral programs offered in collaboration with other members of the Texas A&M University System.

The 40th Anniversary also encompasses some of the University’s struggles and challenges: efforts to expand programs that bucked the standards of the day; to make a voice for South Texas heard in important funding discussions; to rally public support when the first drumbeats of possible closure began to sound.

(continued on p. 12)
At every juncture, University, students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners joined hands and strengthened their commitment to a future that would always include Laredo’s university.

It’s no mistake that one of the most visible events of the 40th Anniversary Celebration will be the presentation of the time-honored classic, “Man of La Mancha,” in an impressive new theatre that anchors the University’s Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

While no windmills tilt on campus, Don Quixote’s impossible dream has special resonance for a University that has indeed had its challenges, but clearly has earned its triumphs and made possible many dreams.

(continued from p. 11)
The Finance Committee approves name change to Texas A&M International University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees &amp; Payroll*</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>34.8m</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>19.3m</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>54.1m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance*</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>11.2m</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>6.2m</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>17.4m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures – Construction *</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>18.6m</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>10.3m</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>28.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Spending*</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5.7m</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>3.2m</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>8.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Spending*</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1.3m</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.7m</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>71.6m</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>39.7m</td>
<td>2,924</td>
<td>111.3m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Assuming that 85% of spending is local, 15% outside of Laredo/Webb Co. area

TAMIU employees: 1,075 (636 full-time, 439 part-time)
TAMIU payroll: $40.9 million
TAMIU expenditures on operations & maintenance: $13.2 million
TAMIU expenditures on construction: $21.9 million
Student enrollment: 5,707
Student spending: $5.7 million
Visitor spending: $1.3 million
TAMIU Alumni living in Laredo/Webb County area: 8,643

Summary
In 2009, TAMIU economic impact (direct and indirect) on Laredo included 2,924 jobs and $111.3 million. Through the “multiplier effect” employee, student, and visitor spending and university expenditures on operations and maintenance and construction during 2009, TAMIU created an additional 1,591 jobs and $39.7 million in spending in Laredo.

TAMIU’s economic impact on Laredo results from (direct) employee spending and university expenditures (for operations and maintenance and construction) on goods and services provided by local businesses. Local businesses engage in subsequent (indirect) rounds of spending to produce and provide the goods and services purchased by TAMIU, further stimulating the local economy through the “multiplier effect.”

1) The Kazen College Center at then-Laredo Junior College was a hub of shared life for Texas A&I University at Laredo and Laredo State University. (1978)
2.) University Hall was one of two buildings owned by then-Laredo State University at the West End of Washington Street. (1982)
3.) Construction cranes at work on the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library as Texas A&M International University begins to grow. (1994)
4.) A rarely seen view of the centerpiece of the Killam Library, a two-story apse that fronts the Great Room. (1994)
5.) The Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, a Phase III addition, shines like a beacon in the night. (2003)
6.) Workmen add the luminous pearl-like coating to the Planetarium Dome that anchors the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center. (2003)
7.) Leaders gather to break ground on the Kinesiology and Convocation Center (2006)
You can become a part of a long-lasting legacy of supporting education by donating archival materials or donating monetary contributions, suggests Texas A&M International University Killam Library Special Collections and Archives Librarian Jeanette Hatcher.

“By donating to the Killam Library Special Collections and Archives, you become a part of a lasting legacy of supporting education for our local and global communities,” Hatcher said.

The Special Collections and Archives is a specific repository within the Library that stores materials of a special nature, including rare books, archives and collected manuscripts. They are valuable, rare, unique or fragile.

“We are very interested in collecting material documenting all aspects of our regional history—maps, photos, journals, books and other types of material. Selection for inclusion to the Special Collections is based on individual assessment,” Hatcher explained.

One example of that type of acquisition is the Laurie Mann Guerrero Viejo Exhibit that features a series of 20 large, black and white photographs taken of Guerrero Viejo, Tamaulipas, México.

“The subject of this exhibit is a town of regional historical significance because Laredo and Guerrero Viejo have a shared history,” she said.

The Special Collections and Archives also acquired the 8,000-plus books that form the Edmund L. and Willard F. King Collection.

“Besides a wide range of works in Hispanic literature, the King Collection has concentrations on the life and works of Gabriel Miró, Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer and Lópe de Vega and includes the only original paper copy in the U.S. of Miró’s ‘La mujer de Ojeda,’” Hatcher added.

In 2006, the Library’s Special Collections and Archives was designated a Regional Historical Resource Depository (RHRD). It serves as a depository for a six-county region that includes Webb, Zapata, Zavala, Dimmit, La Salle and Maverick counties.

The designation helped further develop the Special Collections and Archives as a center for regional historical research.

These items are accessible to everyone in the community. The Special Collections area consists of closed stacks and items are usually non-circulating.

For more information, contact Hatcher at jhatcher@tamiu.edu or call 326.2404.

For more information on TAMIU’s Special Collections and Archives, click on library.tamiu.edu.
Our alumni

Two Texas A&M International University graduates, Imelda Navarro (‘81) and Kristina Cavazos (‘06), have recently received top honors for their accomplishments.

Imelda Navarro, Senior Executive VP, CFO, COO and a 29-year employee of International Bank of Commerce, has been recognized as one of the top 25 finalists in the country for Hispanic Business Magazine’s 7th annual Woman of the Year Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of successful Hispanic women and the challenges they have overcome in their personal and professional life. Navarro was honored as a finalist at a June dinner gala in Houston.

“IT is truly an honor to be recognized as a finalist among such a talented, well-educated and strong group of women who have all made a positive impact as Hispanic role models in varying industries,” Navarro said, “IBC Bank has provided me with the opportunity and tools to become a leader and I am grateful for the bank’s continued support throughout my years of service in the financial industry.”

Kristina R. Cavazos and her family have been named the 2009 Ambassador Family by the March of Dimes chapter in Laredo for sharing the miracle story of their youngest child, Carlos, who was born at 23 weeks weighing no more than one pound.

After Carlos’ birth, the Cavazos Ramírez family unexpectedly became part of life that often characterizes many preemies: severe health complications with little expectations for survival. For several months, Kristina and her husband Ismael witnessed Carlos fighting for his life in an incubator.

However, after first being told that he would not survive more than a day to a week, a glimmer of hope began to emerge as Carlos pushed through several stormy months. Kristina explained that Carlos “is a little fighter,” which has motivated the family to keep looking forward.

It has now been over a year and a half since that difficult time, and both Carlos’ older siblings, Alexa and Ismael Jr., have welcomed the baby as full-time sibling at home.

Today, the family celebrates the regularity of home life and each other. Kristina has returned to work as a teacher at Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary and Carlos attends his daily therapy sessions.

“I’m so blessed with my family,” exclaimed Kristina.

IMELDA NAVARRO

KRISTINA R. CAZAVOS AND HER FAMILY
1 TAMIU students, faculty, staff and alumni joined in partnership with Operation Homefront of Texas for the first-ever Freedom Walk on campus Sept. 11, 2009.

2 Go Dustdevils! Dr. Ray Keck welcomes new Women’s Basketball Head Coach David Beaver at a special news conference at the Kinesiology Convocation Center.

3 Texas A&M International University information systems students David Santos, Juan Reyes, and Manuel Castañeda (left to right), recently won First Place in an international video-making contest that promotes the field of information systems. The contest drew 12 participating international student groups.

4 Jorge Verduzco, executive vice president for sales and marketing for International Bank of Commerce (left); TAMIU President Dr. Ray Keck (center); and Claudio Arias, TAMIU Head Men’s Soccer Coach (right), dedicated the new TAMIU Men’s Soccer scoreboard at a recent Men’s Soccer exhibition game against Our Lady of the Lake University. The scoreboard was purchased thanks to a generous donation from IBC. TAMIU and IBC Cheerleaders pictured from left to right are: Jessica Alvarado (TAMIU), Esmeralda González (IBC), and Julie Medina (TAMIU).

5 The Trustees of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust have provided Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) with a generous gift of $1 million that will endow a scholarship fund to provide emergency financial assistance to qualified TAMIU students. Left to right, Trustee J. C. Martin III; TAMIU president Ray Keck; Trust secretary Dana Orfila; Judge Solomon Casseb Jr. and Candy Hein, TAMIU vice president for Institutional Advancement.

6 Shane Rinner assumes head coaching duties for the first time after serving as the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Alaska Anchorage the last six years.

7 State Senator Judith Zaffirini was on hand to present a special award of $635,895 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Commissioner, Dr. Raymund A. Paredes in support of the Math, Science and Technology Teacher Preparation Academy at TAMIU. Left to right are College of Education dean Dr. Humberto González, COE faculty members and project directors Dr. Arturo Limón and Dr. Aleta Belcher; State Sen. Zaffirini and TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck.
The TAMIU Alumni Association has formed a committee to assist the University in recognizing the accomplishments of its alumni and their personal, professional and community contributions. Ten alumni will be selected as TAMIU Distinguished and recognized at a Spring ceremony.

**Nominations can be made by anyone: family, friends and TAMIU employees.**

**Nominees must meet the following criteria.**
- Provide humanitarian services and contributions to society.
- Involved in TAMIU-sponsored events or programs.
- Provided significant contributions to creating, implementing or maintaining an Alumni Association program or event.
- Display positive image of TAMIU for community.
- Achieved outstanding or noteworthy incident/activity.
- Accomplishments in his/her chosen field of endeavor or life’s work.
- Volunteer or civic involvement.

**Other requirements for the nomination:**
- Nominees must be living graduates of TAMIU, holding a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree.
- Nominees must be able to attend the awards ceremony.
- Current TAMIU faculty, staff, and administration are not eligible

Provide your nomination online at [www.tamiu.edu/alumni](http://www.tamiu.edu/alumni) or mail to:

Texas A&M International University  
Office of Alumni Relations  
Alumni Selection Committee  
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041  
For more information, call 956.326.GIVE (4483)

Texas A&M International University  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900