

Spring 2005

prism

The Magazine of Texas A&M International University



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and that of its programs, faculty, students
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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.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS	4
WHERE IN THE U?	5
CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE	6
LIFE IN WARTIME: A JOURNEY BEGINS	7
IN THEIR OWN WORDS	9
LIFE OF PURPOSE AND MEANING	10
WE SEE STARS: TAMIU PLANETARIUM BRINGS HEAVEN CLOSER	12
WE CAN HELP: CAREER SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND GRADS	14
MOLDING IDENTITIES, JOURNEYS OUTSIDE CAN BRING US INSIDE	16
DREAMS DO COME TRUE: MSN COMES TO TAMIU	17
ON CAMPUS NEWS	18
\$2.3 MILLION TAMIU REGENTS II INITIATIVE TARGETS IMPROVED TEACHER PERFORMANCE	19
ANNUAL GIVING 2003-2004	22



“ We in the University are to widen the hearts of our students, to make them anew during their time with us, to give them a new sensibility and with it, a new life, a new world. ”

Dr. Ray Keck III

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

“If it can’t be measured, it can’t be managed.” Few dicta have in modern times enjoyed greater ascendancy. A precept first allied to the management of a business, the command to measure now pervades discussions in public life. Accountability, that word which so often seems to dominate our political discourse, is in truth a demand for measurements.

“You need to be accountable!” quickly becomes “Show us your numbers!” Any proposal or initiative of interest to the American public must begin with measurements, must develop under measurement, and will be labeled wise or foolish, a success or a failure, according to the final numbers. If it can’t be measured, it isn’t important; it isn’t necessary; and in education, it isn’t real learning. If in the end the advocates of standardized testing are not successful in embedding tests in all curricula—pre-college, university, and graduate—it will be because another means of relating learning to numbers will have been born.

When the history of education in this age begins to be told, one might well read that in 2005, we were living in the Age of Measurement. The Age of Reason, born in the 18th century, reached a robust maturity at the beginning of the 21st. Historians will first assert and then prove this assertion—with numbers!

To be sure, measurements and the numbers they publish confer upon human deliberations the comfortable aura of objectivity, explaining the present and giving form to the future. And measurements can be extremely reassuring. We know, for example, that the State of Texas has a great interest in higher education for this region because since 1990 and the advent of the South Texas Initiative, more than \$220,000,000 in buildings and Special Items has been appropriated to create Texas A&M International University.

The phenomenal growth of our student body, 235 percent since 1990, suggests that we have put that investment to good use. While we strive mightily to improve our rates of retention, of graduation, of programs adequate to the needs of entering students requiring developmental learning, we know our strategies are sound because we can compare our numbers with all other state universities in Texas.

Measurements can also disclose errors in our judgments or policies, pointing to the need for new modes of thought and action. For example, we in Texas describe the 35 public institutions which award a bachelor’s degree as “four-year” universities. The numbers, however, show that no public university, including our flagship institutions, can manage to graduate even 50 percent of its students in four years. Measurements reveal that at present, Texas is served by six-year, not four-year, universities. “B-On-Time,” a proposed state plan to reward students who finish their undergraduate studies in four years, sponsored by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and State Senator Judith Zaffirini, suddenly assumes a new urgency.

In Laredo, another measurement has spawned a new era of cooperation and collaboration between the community college, the University, and our two school districts. Measurements show that fewer than 10 percent of our graduating high school seniors are able to score “college-ready” on either one of two nation-wide tests. The response must be a united effort to examine our processes, evaluate our procedures, and align our curricula. I am confident that if strategies under discussion at present become reality, we will see a significant change in these disappointing numbers.

Measurements and their numbers both show us where we have been and where we might hope to journey in the future. But is the good health of the University assured

if its numbers, its measurements, indicate strength?

Is our primary charge, as faculty and administrators, to tend and enhance those measurements? When we speak of "Alma Mater," nurturing mother, we invoke a realm resistant to numbering, an experience of the heart.

Edna St. Vincent Millay describes our most profound charge as an institution:

The world stands out on either side,
no wider than the heart is wide . . .

We in the University are to widen the hearts of our students, to make them anew during their time with us, to give them a new sensibility and with it, a new life, a new world.

If we aspire to widen hearts, can we ever know if we have succeeded? Can we know our hearts as we begin our studies, and then measure them throughout our lives? Are there any measurements adequate to evaluate this goal? Perhaps.

A challenge or a triumph or a tragedy may call forth a discrete moment in our learning, a class whose meaning we now understand. An idea, a word, a method, studied absent a vital context, may suddenly take shape in our spirit, guiding our actions. But how can we measure a sudden feeling of illumination, of understanding?

It is the great end of education to make us new men and new women. But what becomes the acceptable measure of a new life? Perhaps our most cherished goal, a new spirit, is better described than measured.

Anthony Dronman, former dean of Yale Law School, has written that education should be the "expansion of a student's powers of sympathetic imagination."

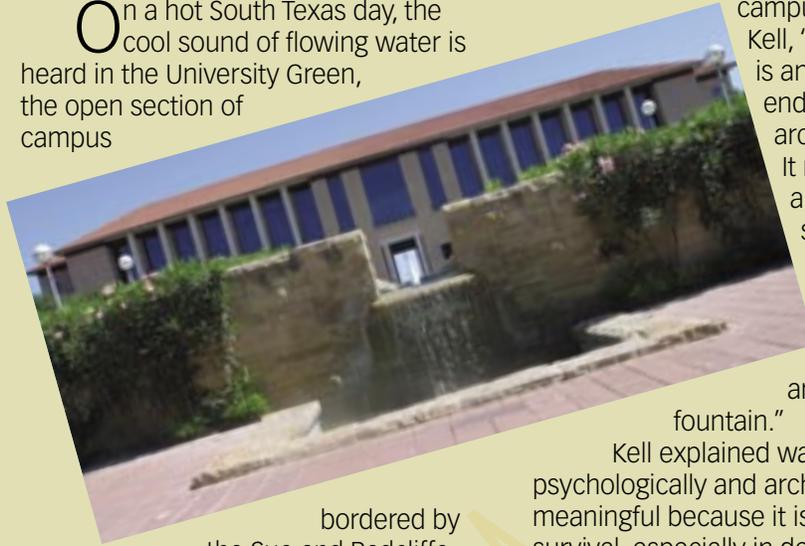
Could we ever measure, could we ever evaluate, the sympathetic imaginations of our students?



Dr. Ray M. Keck III,
President

Where in the U?

On a hot South Texas day, the cool sound of flowing water is heard in the University Green, the open section of campus



campus," explained Kell, "That major axis is anchored on one end by the grand arch of the Library. It needed another anchor farther south to tie the axis of the main buildings to the ground plane. That anchor is the

fountain."

Kell explained water is psychologically and architecturally meaningful because it is part of human survival, especially in desert climates.

"We used water in a minimalist fashion. It creates a beautiful and quiet sound. It's a peaceful, reflective and regenerative spot in the middle of the hubbub of campus," said Kell.

The design recalls early irrigation, said Kell, "We used Texas limestone in the fountain to recall the limestone used to line the water-bearing ditches, called *acequias*, that transported water around South Texas ranches and towns."

Now, the stone brings peace to the TAMU campus.

Jessica Ratliff

Spring Calendar



- Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra at TAMU
Sunday, April 17, **4 p.m.**
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall
- TAMU Seventh Annual Fiesta de Mariachi Gala Concert
Saturday, April 23, **8 p.m.**
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall
- TAMU Spring 2005 Commencement
Saturday, May 14, **8 p.m.**
University Green

These are only some of the events that are part of our spring calendar. For more information or to find out about other events, go to <http://www.tamtu.edu/calendar>

As if going to class, studying, writing papers and developing their minds weren't enough, a dedicated group of students is working on the weekends so area families can realize the dream of homeownership.

Habitat for Humanity International, parent organization to the Texas A&M International University Habitat for Humanity Club, seeks to eliminate poverty housing throughout the world. The TAMIU Club is currently working with Habitat for Humanity of Laredo on the remaining four houses in their "Building Dreams in Rio Bravo" project and will also assist on the development of a new subdivision in the Highway 359 area.

Dr. Randall Parish, assistant professor at TAMIU and one of the faculty sponsors for the Club, explained this is one of the most ambitious Habitat projects in the country, and a great increase for the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

He explained Habitat for Humanity builds houses with donated money, materials and labor, such as the TAMIU Club's efforts.

"The other key aspect is the help of the homeowner families. The houses we build are sold at no profit, with no-interest loans. The homeowner families are required to donate their own labor, building their own



home and other Habitat houses, creating 'sweat equity,'" explained Dr. Parish.

He said the Club really got under way when the Laredo Habitat for Humanity affiliate began five new homes in Rio Bravo during Collegiate Challenge last spring.

"Collegiate Challenge takes place during Spring Break, when college students travel to help build Habitat houses across the United States as well as overseas. Last March over 200 students from six universities around the country came to work on five new houses in Rio Bravo. Some lived in Salvador García Middle School in Rio Bravo, where several TAMIU students joined them, and others stayed in local churches," Parish said.

He said the Campus Chapter's most recent project was a *tamalada* fund-raiser, where TAMIU students made and sold hundreds of dozens of *tamales* to raise money for the next Collegiate Challenge.

He feels volunteer work is valuable to students, giving them experiences and skills they will use throughout their lives.

"They learn to plan and organize activities — hands-on learning, but also through Habitat for Humanity training. For example, seven students attended workshops at the annual Habitat for Humanity Middle States Regional Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in October, where they learned a variety of management skills," said Parish, "They get to meet and work with students from around the country who come here to build in 'Collegiate Challenge,' as well as traveling themselves to build in other areas. Finally, Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization that provides students with a way to serve the Lord by helping their neighbors."

Dr. Jackie Jeffrey, assistant professor, is also a faculty sponsor and she thinks the experience is good, allowing students to stretch more than their minds.

"Given the opportunity, they relish the chance to get out of their own heads and do something for others, especially something that is physical, hands-on, and where the results are immediately apparent," Dr. Jeffrey said.



“ . . . Although I am one person, and my skills are somewhat limited, there is still much I can contribute. I CAN help make a difference, ”

Marisa Lacey

Mario Martínez, Club president, said he feels honored to share the skills he's learned in life with the homeowners working on their houses.

"I find that this partnership, between the homeowner and us, instills a certain amount of pride in the homeowner, as they partake in the construction of their homes and at the same time learn new useful skills that they too can later put to good use," said Martínez.

Marisa Lacey, a Club member, said she had been looking for a volunteer opportunity where she could participate in a truly "hands on" way.

"The most significant thing I've learned through my work with Habitat for Humanity is that although I am one person, and my skills are somewhat limited, there is still much I can contribute. I CAN help make a difference," said Lacey.

Martínez said he would like to see more students involved in the Club.

"We need volunteers. If your spirit is calling for an adventure or a challenge of a different kind, if you want to contribute to society or create social change, then your place is with us. Give of yourselves so that others may live a more fruitful life," explained Martínez.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Dr. Randall Parish at 956.326.2528, visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 434A or e-mail rparish@tamiu.edu.

Jessica Ratliff





Life in Wartime: A Journey Begins

The plaza in front of the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library is usually a crossroads of class changes and on-the-run conversations between college students. On Sunday, Feb. 20, it marked the beginning of a journey for 50-plus members of the 3rd Battalion 141st Infantry of the Texas Army National Guard who were deploying to Afghanistan.

Twelve of those deploying on the Operation Enduring Freedom mission are TAMIU students.

The mood was somber with families and friends gathering to wish their sons Godspeed. For many in the audience, the event became a personalized revelation of a life now lived in wartime.

Some recalled the wars and sacrifices of the past, when the nation's sons and daughters also marched off in uncertainty. All were clearly moved by the sight of the 50-plus soldiers standing erect in the center of the plaza, their camouflage uniforms offering the only color on an otherwise overcast day.

A panel of guest speakers wished the Battalion members well, including Congressman Henry Cuellar, State Representative Richard Raymond, County Judge Louis Bruni, Laredo Mayor Betty Flores, TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck, and vice president for finance and administration Joe García. All moved through the assembled troops, wishing each Battalion member well.

"I will never forget the sight of you standing here on this campus, a campus which is itself a symbol of the importance of the freedoms you represent so admirably," Dr. Keck noted, "...and all of us will be here awaiting your safe return."

At the south end of the plaza, two young boys played near the fountain as history played out before them.

Steve Harmon



Gabriela Mendoza-García, adjunct professor of dance, recently published her third article in the national magazine *Dance Teacher*.

Dr. Michael Patrick, TAMIU professor of economics and director of the Texas Center for Border

Economics and Enterprise Development, was named a Regents Professor by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. He is one of 12 TAMUS faculty members to receive this honor, which recognizes exemplary contributions to the University and State of Texas.

The research of Dr. Ned Kock, associate professor and interim chair of the Department of Management Information Systems and Decision Science, was featured in a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* focusing on academic plagiarism.

Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy, associate professor of biology, recently co-edited *Water for Texas*, a collection of papers on water resource issues. Her co-editors include Dr. Jim Norwine, Texas A&M-Kingsville Regents Professor, and Dr. John R. Giardino, dean of Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University.

Women and Gender Studies at TAMIU received a grant from Humanities Texas to bring to TAMIU "Tres Vidas," a theatrical production based on the lives of three Latin American women: Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist Rufina Amaya and Argentinean poet Alfonsina Storni. Drs. Mehnaaz Momen and Phoebe Godfrey are the principles for this event.

Dr. Michael Landeck received the 2005 Outstanding Educator Award of the Academy of International Business - U.S. Southwest Chapter.

When Texas A&M International University alumna María Moreno ('04) was called in for a special presentation in October at Santa María Elementary School along with the rest of the teachers, staff and students, she didn't expect to leave \$25,000 richer.

"It was all a surprise — big time. The only ones who knew about the award were the superintendent, principal and vice-principal," recalled Moreno, "I had never heard of the award. I thought somebody else won, but when I heard my name, I couldn't walk. It was unreal."

The award Moreno referred to is the Milken National Educator Award. It is awarded annually to 100 educators nationally and carries with it a \$25,000 cash prize which can be used any way the recipient desires.

Called the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher Magazine*, the Milken National Educator Awards have awarded more than \$50 million since the program's inception in 1985.

“I started teaching 16 years ago in Eagle Pass,”

María Moreno

"Even now, months later, it feels like it really didn't happen. It hasn't clicked yet. I guess it'll finally hit me when I finally receive the money. It's unreal. Maybe once I see it in my hands, then it'll be different so we'll find out how I feel in May when I get it," added Moreno.

She and the other recipients will travel to Washington, D.C. to collect their reward in an all-expenses-paid professional development conference.

Moreno, who received her masters in educational administration, now works as a literacy coach at Santa María Elementary School after teaching third grade for three years. She's no novice, though.

"I started teaching 16 years ago in Eagle Pass," explained Moreno.

California businessman Lowell Milken, chairman and co-founder of the Milken Family Foundation, created the award to celebrate some of the nation's most outstanding teachers, principals and specialists in K-12 education.

Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield



TAMIU Alum's Teaching Excellence Earns
MILKEN TEACHER AWARD



Tsunamis: A View from Home

Something quite unusual occurred in Laredo this past Christmas. It snowed! It was the first white Christmas in Laredo in 30-odd years. Visiting my parents in my home country of Thailand, I was relieved to learn that I was able to escape the unusually harsh weather in Laredo. Comfortably basking in the tropical sunlight in Bangkok, I seemed to think that I had managed to stay one step ahead of Mother Nature. Little did I realize that I was just about to witness the devastating consequences of her powerful forces.

In the morning of December 26, 2004, the day after Christmas, two tectonic plates under the Indian Ocean around Sumatra Island, Indonesia, pushed against each other, creating a gigantic undersea earthquake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale. Although it was well-known that Indonesia was vulnerable to earthquakes, a seismic movement of this magnitude had occurred only infrequently. The vertical movement of the tectonic plates produced enormous upward pressure — nearly invisible on the surface in deep sea but rising sharply in shallow water as it approached coastal areas, forming giant tidal waves — *The Tsunami*.

One hour after the earthquake took place, several provinces in the south of Thailand were hit by the tsunami. In fact, the entire coastline of South Asia had been affected. Initially, it was not clear what the casualties were. The early figures were just a couple of hundreds. Then, as time went by, more dead bodies were discovered — 5,000 in Thailand alone and over 130,000 for the entire region. In Thailand, approximately half of the casualties were foreign tourists celebrating Christmas in a tropical paradise just a day earlier. Christmas 2004 would go down in history as the deadliest Christmas ever.

Needless to say, the atmosphere in Thailand was melancholic, almost all New Year celebrations cancelled. For me, a distant acquaintance of mine was killed while taking a vacation in the South. Search and rescue operations continued for several days after the disaster. Those who were fortunate enough to survive the Tsunami had to live knowing that their loved ones had perished, their properties completely destroyed. Donations poured in from all over the country. Volunteers traveled to the South to offer assistance any way they could. Since a large number of the injured were foreigners, interpreters were needed who knew English, French, German etc. I would have gone down to help, but a sufficient number of volunteers who spoke English had already shown up.

Although I did not experience the disaster first-hand, we had an active discussion in our family (my dad happens to be a professor of oceanography and was familiar with tsunamis). My family decided that the best way to contribute was to make financial donations. In a matter of days, millions of baht had been collected and sent to the South for the relief efforts. Our best qualities tend to show up in the worst circumstances. I suppose this is one of those situations. The Government of Thailand and the Army moved swiftly and deployed hundreds of rescue workers to the affected areas—a prompt response praised by both local and international observers.

As the rescue operations unfolded in several countries, it turned out that the casualties in Thailand were relatively low. Indonesia and Sri Lanka suffered substantially more casualties. Several wealthy countries pledged to contribute financially. Japan made the largest donations as it considered Asia its sphere of influence. Several European nations offered financial aid as well, for many of their citizens were victims of the Tsunami. The U.S. not only pledged humanitarian assistance, but also sent Collin Powell and Paul Wolfowitz to inspect the affected areas. Finally, efforts are being made to install an early warning system in the Indian Ocean for tsunamis. Such a system has existed for many years in Hawaii (which was struck by a tsunamis earlier in the century).

So, for those of you who thought you suffered harsh weather in Laredo over the Christmas holidays, bear in mind that, around the same time, halfway around the world, Mother Nature unleashed much more of her power in the Indian Ocean. In retrospect, what we had in Laredo appears to have been merely a trivial display of power by Mother Nature. I hope the tragic tsunami disaster helps us realize how fortunate we are to live where natural disasters rarely strike. In spite of any shortcomings, Laredo is not particularly prone to any type of natural disaster — a comforting fact that we should take solace in. For me, I will never forget, even in old age, where I was on the morning of December 26, 2004.

(Pornsit Jiraporn is assistant professor in the College of Business Administration's department of Accounting, Economics and Finance. He joined the TAMIU faculty in 2002)



Receding waters from tsunami, Kalutara Beach, Sri Lanka. Satellite photo collected December 26, 2004 by Digitalglobe.

“ I will never forget, even in old age, where I was on the morning of December 26, 2004.”

Pornsit Jiraporn, Ph.D.

in their own words . . .

International Diversity Grows with Student-Athletes

No matter the country or the traditions, one thing every student at Texas A&M International University faces is a distinctive Laredo culture. International students from all over the world find opportunities at TAMIU that combine an academic study abroad experience and a regimented athletic program offering a unique cultural immersion.

Thousands of miles away from home, international student-athletes at TAMIU must learn to adjust in order to succeed.

Since launching athletics in 2002, TAMIU has grown to sponsor nine athletic teams. Sponsored sports for the 2004-2005 academic year are men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, volleyball, men's and women's basketball and men's and women's golf.

For its 2004-2005 athletic season, TAMIU has signed international athletes from countries including England, Ireland and Kenya.

International athletes use different methods to establish contact with TAMIU.

Philip Liversedge, men's soccer defensive midfielder and a native of Darlington, England, arrived at TAMIU through a scholarship agency. Adapting to Laredo's heat has been his greatest challenge, but his experience has been solid nonetheless.

"TAMIU's Office of Admissions, my coaches and team members have been really good to me. I'd like for there to be a bit more international students. Although it is sometimes good being in the minority," Liversedge stated.

Claudio Arias, men's soccer coach, said it is important to have international student-athletes because they represent the principles for which the University stands.

"I think there's always



"I'd like for there to be a bit more international students. Although it is sometimes good being in the minority."

Philip Liversedge

something beautiful in diversity, and in sports it brings a different point of view of the game and also an academic different point of view in learning. It brings out ideas a little different than the ones we are accustomed to. There is richness in diversity and an opportunity to understand a little bit of the world and different cultures," Arias said.

Currently six percent of 131 student-athletes are international at TAMIU. Arias said he is working with the athletic program to improve this proportion in order to better represent the University and its international nature.

"I would like to see more diversity by bringing more students from Mexico, South America, and Europe, but at the same time not lose that Laredo flavor of students that develops here," Arias added.

Arias also mentioned he would like to see the program help enhance TAMIU's reputation of bringing and challenging students from all over the world academically.

Most international athletes have not had much contact with the American way of living, so once they make the big move they have a lot to get used to, said

"Just not being from Laredo or belonging to a particular race is a bit difficult at times, but I have run into some nice people,"
Kyle Edwards

Arias, but the majority like the academic and cultural experience they have received at TAMIU and Laredo.

Kyle Edwards, men's basketball center and Grand Freeport, Bahamas native, transferred from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He said it has been somewhat challenging to get used to the culture.

"Just not being from Laredo or belonging to a particular race is a bit difficult at times, but I have run into some nice people," Edwards testified.

Dan Lathey, associate director of athletics, said as international students deal with change the University is bettered by their presence.

He noted that as it is not possible for coaches to travel overseas to recruit players, the Internet and word of mouth have proven to be most beneficial for TAMIU's athletic program.

"It's not easy to get international students to come to Laredo. The bottom line is to get players that want to come here and contribute to the team," Lathey announced.

He said these players not only bring discipline skills, but add diversity and personality to TAMIU. Both American and international student-athletes learn about teamwork, respect and understanding of other cultures.

"Having international athletes gives us a greater view of the world. Sports give students an idea that the world goes beyond the court or the field," Lathey explained.

For more information on TAMIU Athletics, please contact Daniel Lathey at 326.2892, e-mail dlathey@tamiu.edu, or visit offices in the Kinesiology-Convocation Building, room 107.

Rodolfo Zúñiga,
Student Intern



LIFE ON PLANET TAMIU

Up until last August, Texas A&M International University students didn't have access to University-run on-campus housing. But now the University's Residential Learning Community (RLC) offers students the chance not only to sleep on one of the 424 beds, but also gives them access to a whole new experience and outlook on college life not available to previous students.

David Crawford, a confident-looking sophomore communications major, was among the first group of people to move into the RLC.

"I'm from Converse, which is northeast of San Antonio, and I learned about TAMIU from student council conventions. I got a job as an RA [residential assistant] and I've been here since August. I love it. I'm independent and I get to meet a lot of people," explained Crawford.

For local students yearning for independence, the RLC provides an alternative to living at home.

"I chose to live there because I needed to see what it was like to live on my own," said freshman computer information systems major Freddy González.

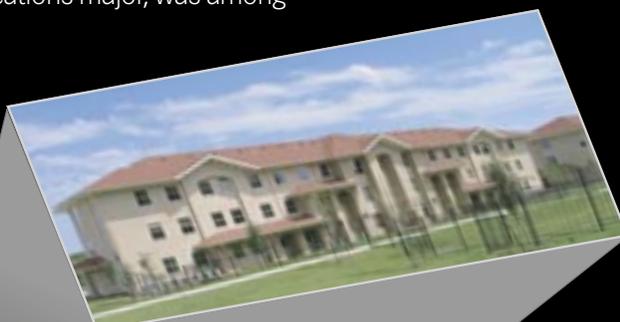
González, who lived with his grandmother and later his aunt, had the option to stay with his aunt. But when the opportunity to live in the RLC came up, he knew without a doubt that he would live there.

"I didn't really think about it. I knew I would become a better person. I thought I would grow up faster than other kids my age," added González.

"I have friends who graduated in my class at Martin High School and they tell me about all the stuff they buy, like cars. But they can afford it because they live at home. Yeah, it would be nice to have all those luxuries and I think, 'Why am I sacrificing?' But I have to live on my own, grow up and become an adult," admitted González.

"Some of the students get homesick. Some are expecting higher grades and others are experiencing growing pains. But you have everything you need here. You have the lounge areas; you can work out; there's cable and a pool; plus the electricity and water are paid. You also have RAs who can answer the students' questions or find someone who can. These are things you don't have access to if you live off campus," Crawford explained.

One thing traditionally cash-strapped students don't need to worry about is



buying furniture or appliances, paying utilities, or any of the other responsibilities associated with leasing an apartment or house. The RLC features furnished living rooms, individual leases and a micro-fridge. Bedrooms are furnished with a twin bed, study desk and chair, closet, high-speed Internet and cable, and are individually keyed for added privacy.

If that's not enough to entice, beyond the smell of fresh paint lie other amenities. Community features include a plasma TV with cable in the social lounge, 24-hour laundry room with new washers and driers, computer center with high-speed Internet access, study rooms on each floor, and a TV lounge, study rooms and community kitchen on each floor. There's also a classroom on site.

For those who like to spend time outside, but are cautious of the 100+ weather, there is a lighted basketball court and two lighted sand volleyball courts. Other outdoor features include a swimming pool with sun deck, barbeque grills, and card-controlled access to buildings.

In addition to the amenities, younger students get a chance to be surrounded by a group of people who are going through the same issues and experiences. They have someone they can identify with.

"I think I've grown a bit. You gain a lot of experience in a residence hall. At home, you can't grow. Here you get to meet people from all over. Plus, it's a new building," recalled Crawford.

"To anyone thinking about moving in the RLC, I'd tell them that they should. It's a good experience. It's possible to be all alone and lonely, but you have to go out there and get involved with the people around. People might have stereotypes, but those are dismissed when you meet all the different people," advised González.

"I could live at home rent-free and buy whatever I wanted, but I wouldn't be happy. I'd feel like a burden. I want to be on my own and explore by myself," he smiled.

For more information about on-campus housing, call 956.326.1300 or visit <http://housing.tamiau.edu/>

Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield

A university campus might be perceived as primarily benefiting students, but Texas A&M International University's impact on Laredo and South Texas has been profound. Since groundbreaking in 1995, the continual expansion of the 300-acre campus has brought unique experiences to anyone willing to travel the short distance down Loop 20.

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, scheduled to open in April 2005, continues this tradition, particularly with the construction of the 81-seat Planetarium. The Center will provide more than space to pursue required classes, or offices for professors.

Dr. John Winfrey, the recently hired Planetarium director, explained the facility can ignite passion for science in children, rekindle the love of teaching in teachers, and answer questions for the general public, in addition to helping TAMIU students and professors.

Dr. Winfrey described how the science learning center and planetarium at his previous position energized visitors.

"I was amazed at the constant stream of public school students through the Planetarium. Students came out bubbling with enthusiasm," said Winfrey, "My own borderline students were sent to the Center and had to write one page about the feature that impressed them the most. Again, students came back glowing, renewed, and invigorated."

His objectives for the TAMIU Planetarium are outreach, enrichment, recruitment, and education, and he sees three distinct community audiences: the general public, public school children and University students, each with different needs.

"The general public has, I claim, a need to know where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. The two places one looks for these answers are religion and science. My intent is to have time to answer such questions available at every show," said Winfrey, "For public school students, there is currently, and projected to become increasingly worse, a shortage of Americans going into science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Researchers found a major cause is a lack of initial and sustained excitement in these areas during preparatory schooling. An early exposure to such a science learning center excitement would be the goal of public school shows, as well as meeting benchmarks in their current level of science training."

For TAMIU students, the opportunities available through an on-campus planetarium are quite staggering, said Winfrey.

"There is nothing like direct exposure to the materials being taught to make mind-pictures upon which to hang information. The great, great advantage of the facility at TAMIU is that one can leave Earth and virtually travel throughout the mapped universe."

That said, Winfrey stressed TAMIU's Planetarium will not just be for astronomy.

"This Planetarium is for education and enjoyment in a broad range of media and of venues. In the opening month, the public will be shown a sampler from a variety of formats so that they can choose their favorites in the future," explained Winfrey.

While discussing the possibilities of the Planetarium, Winfrey relates a story demonstrating his belief in the importance and value of a science learning center such as the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center.

"One time, I was leaving campus for the day. There were two busloads of six year-old Hispanic children sitting on the curb and two very frazzled teachers. When I enquired, the teachers said that both the Planetarium and the buses were broken, and they were stuck for several hours," relates Winfrey, "Somebody had to

do something! So, I took them to a physics laboratory and brought out some of the more spectacular pieces of demonstration equipment, passing things around for students to manipulate. Teachers were taking turns translating like mad. Time flew by. When they were leaving, the teachers thanked me, not for the filling of time, but for the fact that these students lit up, and the prognosis was that 'some who had never been taught they could do science might now pursue a science career.' That is one of the greatest powers of a Science Learning Center."

In the future, Winfrey hopes to expand the objectives of the Planetarium to include entertainment.

"Two additional types of programs that provide release from the everyday stresses of life are laser shows and music shows. At Clark Planetarium, a major producer of planetarium software, the evening shows are in a sequence of music themes," said Winfrey, "The audience comes to hear music from their chosen theme, such as rock or classical, provided by a DJ, and there is a synchronized light show. Remember, this projector is 3-D, and some amazing visual effects can be achieved!"

Winfrey hopes all of the community will come to appreciate the Science Center and the Planetarium as a rare gem of knowledge and excitement in the area.

For more information, please contact the College of Arts and Sciences at 326.2460, or visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 429.

Jessica Ratliff



There is *nothing* like direct exposure to the materials being taught to make mind-pictures upon which to hang information. The great, great advantage of the facility at TAMU is that one can leave Earth and virtually travel throughout the mapped universe.”

Dr. John Winfrey



rs: **TAMU Planetarium**
Brings Heaven Closer

Photo by Guillermo Sosa

We can help: Career Services for Students and Grads

Feel concerned about your future or even unsure about how to start a career?

Cassandra Wheeler, director of Texas A&M International University's Office of Career Services, said she and the office staff are readily available with information for students and alumni to help make intelligent, informed decisions when searching for a job or internship, choosing a major or career, continuing education and much more.

Some of those services include cover letter and résumé critique, mock interviews, and one-on-one career counseling, to name only a few.

Wheeler said online skills inventory assessment tools, such as the Myers-Briggs and Self-Directed Search (SDS) tests, are also available to help gain insight into what one might be passionate about occupationally.

"These tests can help identify and clarify areas of interest and relate them to potential majors and careers," said Wheeler.

Students can also take advantage of an online resume referral system called College Central. Wheeler suggested it is similar to www.monster.com, a comprehensive Internet job search engine, where students can submit their application and look at employers and their job openings (part-time, full-time, seasonal, or internships). This system allows employers to look at students' résumés by major or other criteria as well.

Wheeler noted while University departments ensure students are ready academically, Career Services makes sure students are ready in other areas.

"We make sure their skills match what the industry wants. Not only students who are looking for jobs off campus, but also students who are work-study and work on campus. We make sure that they have developed skills that they can transfer to the job market," indicated Wheeler.

TAMIU students do in fact have a distinct advantage in the market.

"For instance, General Electric in Monterrey approached TAMIU. Their premise was they wanted TAMIU students because most want to stay in the area. The jobs listed will not be in any newspapers or online. They were specifically for TAMIU students," explained Wheeler.

According to Wheeler, most students view Career Services as a place to go when they need a job and do not see the other services that are offered. She said Career Services helps students develop a strategic job search with reference materials and contact information, allowing for strategic targeting.

"We have a nice resource library. We have information for those students interested in attending graduate school, law school, medical school, plus more. We have information on different industries in the area, catalogues on undergraduate and graduate programs. And we have applications and brochure materials from different companies," added Wheeler.

Some important skill sets Wheeler wants to work with students in the future include writing, public speaking and working in teams.

She also wants to bring students and industries together by inviting *maquiladoras* to a special job fair and developing workshops and presentations to ensure students get those skills they need to be better prepared for the job market.

Wheeler said she is always looking at different ways of improving services for students. She says student and alumni feedback is very important as it lets them know whether they are providing all with the proper services.

"I'm always interested in feedback, not only from students and alumni, but from the University community as well of how we can work together closely with other departments and what we can do to better serve our students," said Wheeler.

Career Services hosted its Spring 2005 Career Expo on Thursday, March 31 in the Student Center Ballroom. This event was an opportunity for students, alumni and/or Laredo community members to explore career options related to their academic studies.

For more information on Career Services, please contact 326.2260, visit offices in the Student Center, room 114, or visit Career Services' home page at <http://www.tamiu.edu/affairs/career>

Rodolfo Zúñiga, Student Intern



Who's



that girl?

Her face graces the big maroon and silver TAMIU bus that zips around north Laredo. With a smile that radiates confidence, this TAMIU alum is really going places.

So *who* is that girl?

Name: Claudia Flores-Aguirre

Degree: BBA, Marketing (2000)

Working: She's an International Business Development Manager for Menlo World Wide Forwarding, a UPS Company.

Big News: She's been married to Ricardo for six months and they've just moved into their new house.

Fun times: One of the University's first Twisters, she still enjoys dancing (when she can find time) and both enjoy traveling.

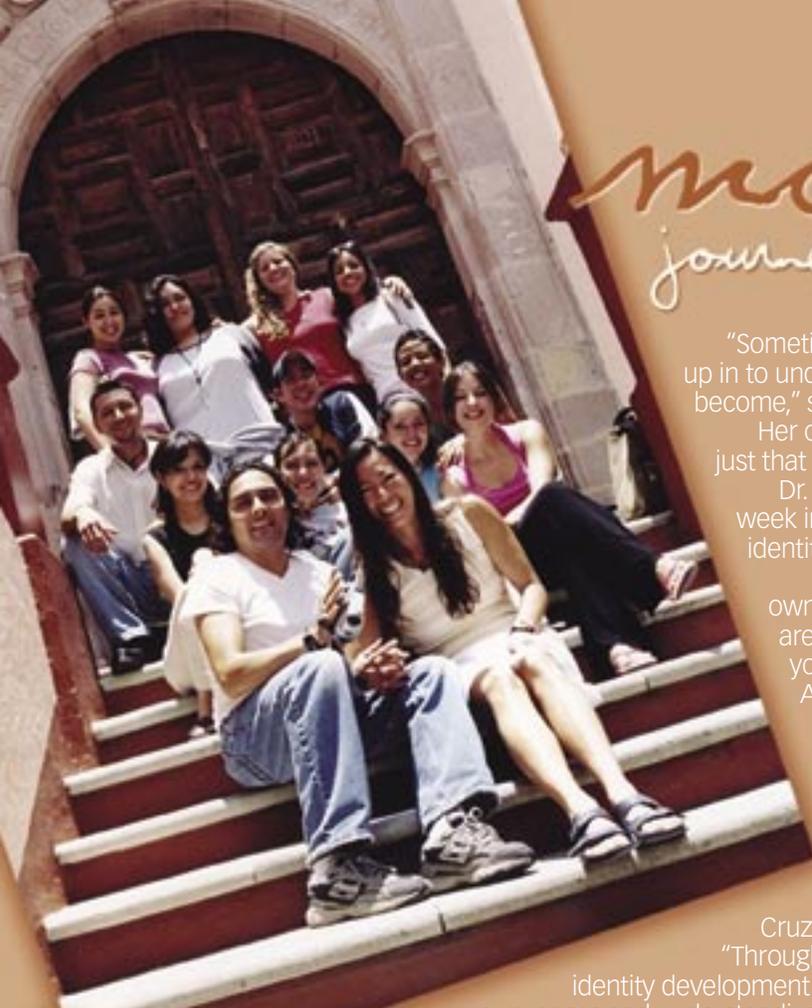
How Does She Feel About Being on the Bus?:
"I'm really proud to represent the University. It changed my life and I'm glad to encourage others to do the same."

Interesting Tidbit: Claudia was a student worker in the University's Office of Public Affairs and Information Services.



molding of identity

journeys outside can bring us inside



"Sometimes we must travel outside of the cultural community that we grew up in to understand who we are and how our culture has an impact on who we become," smiles Dr. Christy Teranishi, TAMIU assistant professor of Psychology.

Her office walls are thickly covered with photos of her students doing just that in cities such as Guanajuato, Mexico City and San Miguel de Allende.

Dr. Teranishi leads a popular TAMIU study program which offers a four-week immersion experience focused on understanding Latino identity development.

"I grew up in a Latino community where my family owned a Mexican restaurant and many of my friends are Latino so people often ask me, 'What are you?' Although I am fourth-generation Japanese American, I sometimes feel that my cultural identity is more Latino. I use the term 'Latisian' to describe my ethnic identity. This stimulated my interest in conducting my dissertation research on ethnic identity and I developed a course entitled 'Latino Identity Development' at the University of California, Santa

Cruz.

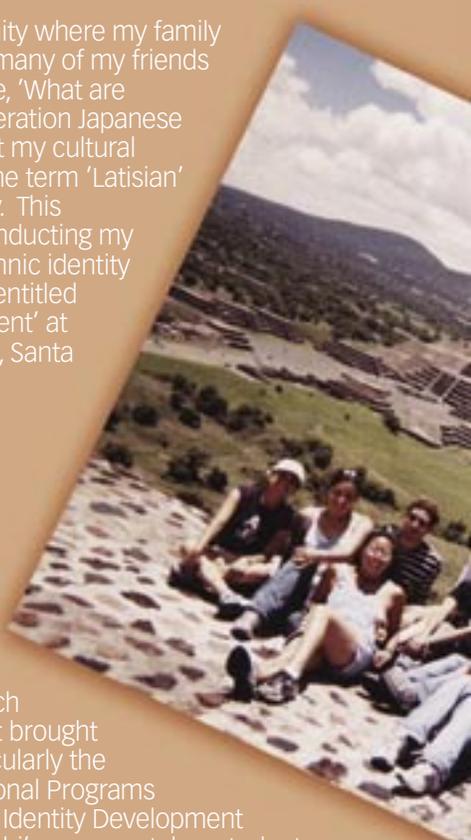
"Through my research, I've found that identity development is predictably tied to self-awareness and understanding of how our identities develop over time and across contexts. We weave our identities through the shared sense of goals, values and expectations across the contexts of our families, friends, school, work and neighborhoods," she explained.

It was this passion for research and teaching of Latino identity that brought her to TAMIU from California, particularly the fact that TAMIU's Office of International Programs encouraged her to teach her Latino Identity Development course abroad in Mexico. Dr. Teranishi's program takes students, most of whom are Latino, to Mexico to study at the university there and to immerse themselves in the food, language and culture while living with Mexican families.

"It's quite amazing. Within the four-week study abroad program students develop a greater awareness, improve their communication skills and begin to reflect on how their own ethnic and cultural identities develop over time and change across contexts," she observed.

"Most TAMIU students

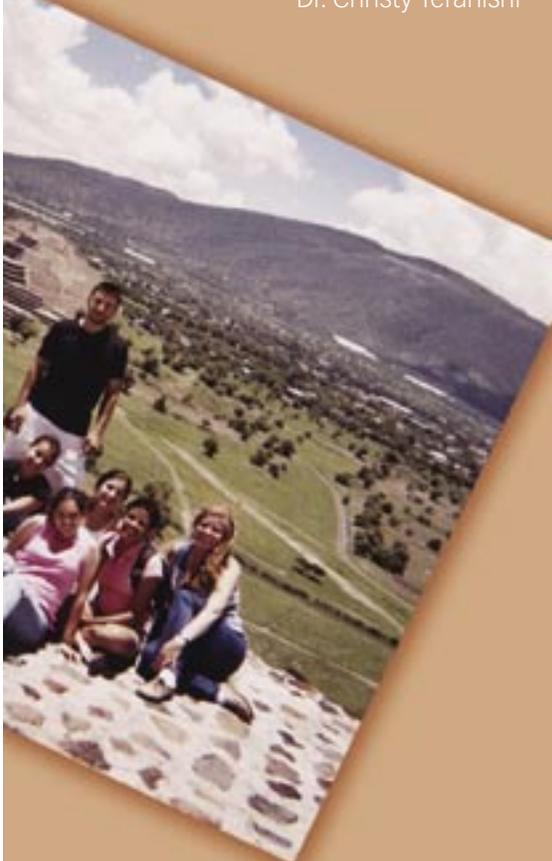
come from homogeneous communities like Laredo with little to make them feel out of their familiar element. One of the students who completed the program told me, 'Now I'm like the fish that just realized I am a fish – I never realized what being Mexican meant to me until I looked outside the bowl,'" she recalled.



entities

“ Although I am fourth-generation Japanese American, I sometimes I feel that my cultural identity is more Latino.”

Dr. Christy Teranishi



Teranishi said that today the need to belong is often challenged by a society that daily fragments identity through acculturation and assimilation.

“It’s so easy to lose our sense of self, our history, our shared legacies. For us to understand where we can go, we need to understand who we are, where we came from, and what opportunities lie ahead. It’s important to explore various pathways to identity development,” she concluded.

For information on Dr. Teranishi’s Latino Identity Development course being offered this summer, e-mail her at cteranishi@tamiu.edu.

After years of hard work, the dream of a Masters of Science in Nursing was finally realized at Texas A&M International University this past July.

After getting final approval from the State Board of Nurse Examiners, Dr. Susan Walker, director of the Dr. F.M. Canseco School of Nursing, has seen the Family Nurse Practitioner program flourish.

“At present, we have 19 students enrolled, and we plan to admit 15 to 20 each Fall Semester. We focus our recruitment efforts locally, admitting local and rural minority and underserved students whenever possible,” said Dr. Walker.

She explained the curriculum at TAMIU is designed to prepare highly qualified nurses for the community, working with the distinctive aspects of border life.

“Because of our unique location and in keeping with the international character of the University, the curriculum emphasizes the diverse beliefs people have about health and illness and how to work with those beliefs to support people’s health and health care decisions,” said Walker.

She said the program prepares nurses to practice collaboratively with physicians, and work with people’s beliefs and preferences.

“Wherever possible, a dialogue is encouraged that attempts to bridge the gap that may arise between the values of the client and the provider. By training the nurses to work collaboratively, we address the need for primary care practitioners,

reduce client waiting times and increase accessibility to health care,” explained Walker.

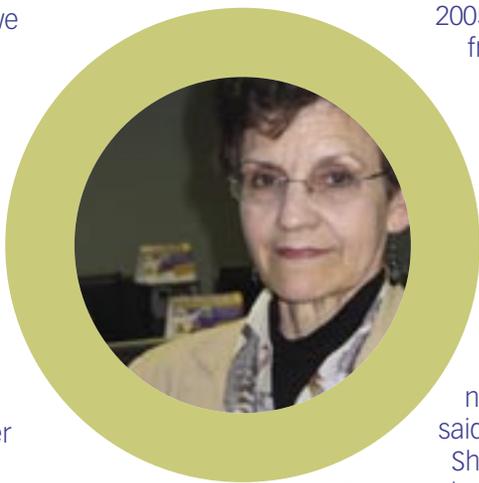
She said offering a Masters in nursing was the next logical step for the University, based on the consistent growth of interest in the discipline.

“The Canseco School of Nursing celebrated its 10th anniversary in January 2005. We’ve grown from 32 RN/BSN to 253 basic, RN and MSN students. The region, and the nation as a whole, needs these graduates to offset the continuing nursing shortage,” said Walker.

She said the Masters degree program would not have been possible without tremendous and ongoing community support. “We’ve had terrific support from the University family, and from the Laredo community. We energetically pursue Federal and foundation funding to realize the goals of the School,” said Walker.

She explained sixty percent of the approximately \$1 million program, or \$600,000, was funded through a grant from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. The remainder will be funded by the State of Texas (30 percent or \$300,000) and other local funds (10 percent or \$100,000).

For more information, please contact the Canseco School of Nursing at 326.2450 or click on <http://www.tamiu.edu/cost/son/>



“We’ve had terrific support from the University family, and from the Laredo community.”

-- Dr. Susan Walker

Jessica Ratliff



NEWS

Health in Spotlight at TAMIU

For the first time, KLRN, San Antonio's PBS station, in partnership with Texas A&M International University, brought its popular Women's Health Conference to Laredo Jan. 28.

The KLRN Laredo Women's Health Conference was designed to empower women with knowledge to help them make informed choices about their health. The event was made possible in part by a generous gift from the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust. More than 400 attended.

Organizers are hoping to make the event annual.

Alum, Cong. Cuellar Backs Higher Education

TAMIU alum Dr. Henry Cuellar (MBA, '82), is now Congressman Henry Cuellar, representing the 28th District.

He met with higher education leaders at TAMIU this Spring to discuss the impact of proposed federal higher education cuts to local higher education

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said proposed reductions could undermine educational growth in the area.

"Our message is simple: reductions in funding will also reduce the number of students who are able to participate in higher education," Dr. Keck said.

Cuellar, long a proponent of higher education, shared his perspective, noting that Washington politics are challenging, but he remains committed to higher education.

"I will continue to fight for higher education and to bring more federal monies to Laredo. I'm also encouraging higher education institutions to continue to aggressively explore federal granting opportunities," he said.

No More Lines at TAMIU

You might recall your registration stays at TAMIU... you waited in line. Nowadays, there's no lines, just online registration. This past Spring Semester, the University converted to an online registration system, known as LASSO.

"Enrollment utilizing LASSO, our online registration program, has seen a 503% increase over this time last year," said University registrar Oscar Reyna, "This request for greater online access to information came from our students and they apparently like what we've done in response."

Cutting line is now truly a thing of the past!

TAMIU Leads Local State Employee Giving

TAMIU employees continue a tradition of giving in their community through their record contributions to the annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC).

The SECC benefits various charitable organizations in Laredo, the surrounding area and the State.

TAMIU led the 30 state agencies participating with a donation of more than \$38,500. Overall, the Laredo SECC campaign generated \$109,899, with more than 1,127 state employees contributing.

Campaign co-chair and TAMIU associate vice president for administration summed up the University's commitment: "We live here. We give here... it's that simple!"

Last year, statewide SECC campaigns generated slightly over \$8 million for charitable programs and support.



Touting Higher Ed.

Joining Congressman Cuellar to discuss higher education needs are, left to right, Joe García, vice president for finance and administration; Minita Ramirez, executive director of enrollment management; Congressman Cuellar; Candy Hein, vice president for institutional advancement; Laura Elizondo, director of financial aid and Dr. Thomas Corti, vice president of student affairs.

\$2.3 Million TAMIU Regents II Initiative

In an effort to improve academic performances at area schools, Texas A&M International University has announced its Regents II Initiative — a partnership between local and area school districts and TAMIU.

“The Regents I initiative was an internal collaborative effort within and between colleges of the University that was geared to produce more and better teachers. With the Regents II Initiative, we will add an external group, the public schools. We will work with them to see how we can improve their student scores in the state mandated assessments as well as teacher development,” explained Dr. Humberto González, TAMIU dean of the College of Education.

The Texas Education Agency is covering the costs of the \$2.3 million project.

All the universities within the Texas A&M University System have identical projects.

“We will be working exclusively with the schools that are part of the P-16 Education Improvement Consortia (PEIC). We have three school facilitators who work as coaches and a data specialist. We are currently talking to the principals, assistant principals and counselors and asking them what their needs are,” said Gloria Flores, director of School/University Partnerships.

Sixteen schools from Laredo Independent School District, United ISD, Zapata ISD, and Mirando City ISD are part of the PEIC project.

PEIC schools were invited to participate based on student academic performance, and identified as high potential schools in math, science and English Language Learners (ELL).

High potential schools generally have a high percentage of low socio-economic students or disadvantaged students.

The first goal of the five-year project aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the A&M System teacher preparation programs. This includes continuing to

improve quality and effectiveness of the A&M

System teacher preparation programs and creating successful novice teacher experiences within the partnering public schools.

“We are primarily interested in novice teachers. We will ask them where and how they received their certificates and what kind of training they received. Some of them might have received their certificates through an alternative certification program or through regular certification.

Then we’ll share the information with the University. That is the connection between the public schools and the University.

We are interested in helping them become better teachers,” explained Flores.

The second goal seeks to improve student performances in University service areas. This includes increasing federal (AYP) and state (TAKS) accountability performances in participating schools.

“We already have a lot of information in writing from the schools. The first year we will focus on improving math scores and science the second year,” added Flores.

Other goals include increasing completion rates in participating high schools, community colleges and A&M System universities.

“This will be the first time the College of Education works directly with school districts in a concerted effort to improve student academic success in selected schools. The students and the University will be the ultimate benefactors because many of these students will be able to access a higher education degree if they stay in school and receive a high school diploma,” explained Dr. González.

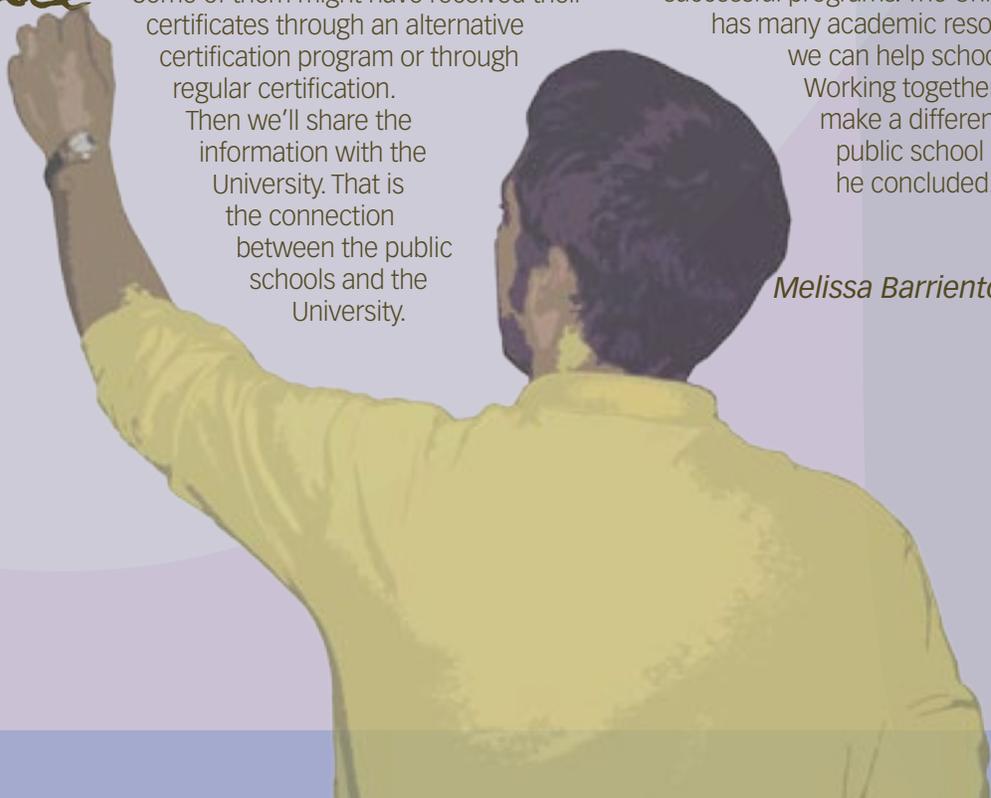
“We also want to encourage novice teachers to remain in teaching by making sure that they have the district and University support to make their first three years in teaching successful. We will work directly with the teachers and principals to help them develop successful programs. The University

has many academic resources that we can help schools access.

Working together we can make a difference for our public school students,” he concluded.

Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield

targets
improved
teacher
performance





1. From left, co-editors Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy, associate professor of biology at Texas A&M International University, and Texas A&M-Kingsville Regents Professor of geography Dr. Jim Norwine, and the book's foreword author Dr. Leo Sayavedra, Texas A&M University System vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, joined to sign "Water for Texas." **2.** TAMIU faculty members and guests join after a session celebrating Black History Month on campus. In addition to lectures, films and guest panelist, the celebration also included musical performances and special readings. **3.** Dr. Rafael Lecuona, TAMIU professor emeritus, autographs a copy of his translation of "Ernesto Lecuona: the Genius and his Music," which details the life of his famed uncle, one of Cubas' most revered composers. **4.** Over 2000 students visited the TAMIU campus this Spring for the University's popular Financial Aid Fair. The fair made the most of the campus' central plaza and perfect weather. **5.** Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs, is joined by Dr. Rafael Maldonado, LCC vice president for instruction and student development, for the signing of an agreement which makes joint admission at LCC and TAMIU possible for qualified students. **6.** A new agreement between TAMIU and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio makes possible facilitated admissions between the two universities. Left to right are Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa, UTHSCSA president; Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president; Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Dan Mott, TAMIU associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Richard García, assistant vice president for South Texas Programs, UTHSCSA, and Dr. David Jones, associate dean for Admissions, School of Medicine, UTHSCSA.



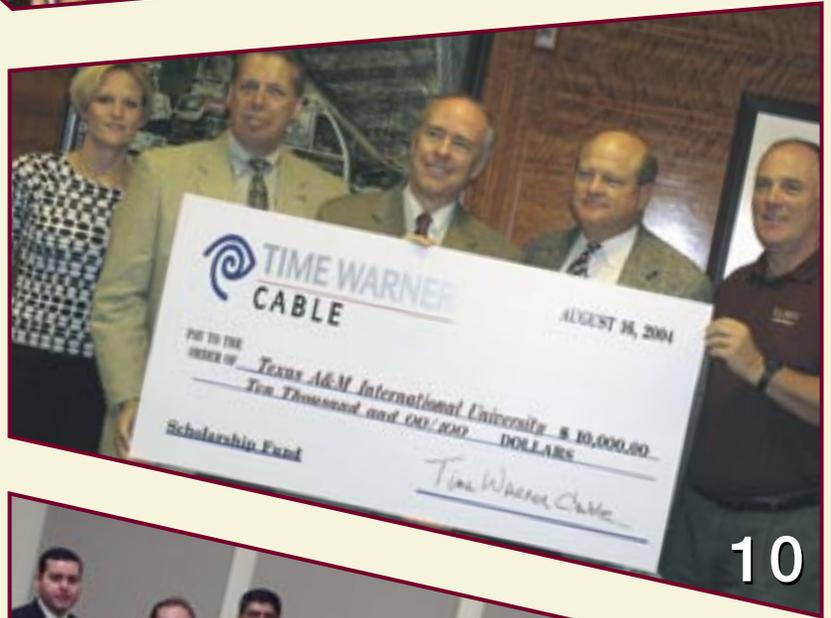
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13



14

7. The Rio Grande Valley Alums Carlos J. Villarreal '80, Bibiana Guerra '03, and Magda Ramirez '01 gathered at Applebee's, Harlingen, Texas for a reunion. **8.** The Laredo Alums met at Lago del Rio on October 6, where the 2005 TAMIU Alumni Scholarship Recipients were introduced. Israel Juárez '00, President Elect; Deborah A. Garibay, Scholarship Recipient; Adriana Chapa '04 Senior Class Gift Rep; Imelda Navarro '81, President; Patty G. Canseco '01, Director of Alumni Relations; Ritachi W. Nwabueze, Scholarship Recipient; and Mario Mejia '92, Treasurer. **9.** Sam Johnson, third from left, is shown a prototype of a bust that will be part of the Sam Johnson Black Box Theatre dedicated this past Fall. From left are Charles Johnson, Dr. Ray Keck, Johnson, and artist Armando Hinojosa. **10.** Dawn Ashworth and Harlan Johnson, Time Warner Cable District Manager (2nd from right) present a \$10,000 check for golf scholarships to (l to r) Dr. Tomas Corti, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Ray Keck, III, President; and Dr. Steve Garippa, Athletic Director. **11.** Former Laredoan Roberto Garcia, Jr., takes a moment from the opening of his art show FORMS held at the University Art Gallery to pose with local artist Mary Quiroz, his former teacher Connie Kazen and friend Dr. Ray M. Keck, III. **12.** Laredo Area Alumni attended a luncheon for Financial and Estate Planners hosted by President Keck in December. Seated (left to right) Lilia Elizondo, Gina Mejia '87; Sylvia Gutiérrez '02; Patty Canseco, '01, Director of Alumni Relations; Minita Ramirez, Executive Director of Enrollment Services; Eliza González; and Guadalupe Brosig '05. Standing: (left to right) Juan José Garza '04; Ron Eichorst '90, '97, TAMIU Comptroller; Fred Juárez '92 TAMIU Director of Budgets, Payroll, Grants and Contracts; Juan Manuel Rodríguez '96; Carlos Brosig '82; Javier Elizondo '93; Mike Dickerson '98, Jorge F. González '87; Dr. Ray Keck, III. **13.** Alumni residing in Dallas met with TAMIU's Vice President Candy Hein and Sylvia Garza, from the Office of Institutional Advancement for an update on University happenings. Standing: Rolando Gutiérrez '76, Valentín Aguilar '96, Rene Barrera '98; seated: Candy Hein, former Laredoan Irma Armendariz, and Sylvia Garza. **14.** Elizabeth Sames (center) welcomes the fourth cohort of Sames Scholars and mentors at a recent orientation meeting at TAMIU. While in high school, these students will meet regularly with their assigned mentor and upon graduation will receive a four-year scholarship to TAMIU.

Annual Giving 2003-2004

Platinum Society - (\$1,000,000.00 +)

Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust

Silver Society - (\$250,000.00 +)

D. D. Hachar Charitable Trust

Bronze Society - (\$100,000.00 +)

H. E. Butt Grocery Co.
R&P Ramirez, LTD
Sánchez Family Foundation

Pewter Society - (\$50,000.00 +)

Anonymous
Mrs. Elizabeth J. Gill
Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Mr. William N. Mayo
Mr. and Mrs. Hank Sames, III
The E. H. Corrigan Foundation
Time Warner Communications

Copper Society - (\$25,000.00 +)

The Honorable Carlos Y. Benavides, Jr.
and Mrs. Benavides
Meadows Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Person

President's Circle - (\$10,000.00 +)

City of Laredo \Convention and
Visitors Bureau\Public Library
Daniel B. Hastings, Inc.
Directorate of Social
Welfare, Maharashtra
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Guerra
Intercultural Development
Research Association
International Bank of Commerce
Lakeside Subdivision, L.L.C.
Laredo Bucks
Laredo Independent School District
Educational Foundation
Leyendecker Construction, Inc.
Mall Del Norte
South Texas Higher
Education Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll E. Summers, Jr.
TAMU Alumni Association
Tejas Foundation
Texas Association of
Developing Colleges
The Canseco Foundation
Time Warner Cable Ad Sales

Dean's Circle - (\$5,000.00 +)

4-G Investments, Ltd.
Anonymous
Apex Construction Services
Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Inc.
Commerce Bank
Doctors Hospital Auxiliary
Falcon International Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Juvenal J. Haynes
IBC Foundation
International Good Neighbor Council-
Laredo Chapter
Laredo Development Foundation
Laredo Manufacturers Association
Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra
Mercy Health Plans
Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
Navajo Nation
Sánchez Oil & Gas Corporation
Scholarship America
Sony Electronics, Inc.
Texas Guaranteed Student
Loan Corporation
The Laredo National Bank
Uni-Trade Forwarding, L. C.
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Zapata County Independent
School District

Scholar's Circle - (\$1,000.00 +)

Adelante! U. S. Education
Leadership Fund
AEP - American Electric Power
John B. Alexander High School
American Campus Communities

Army Emergency Relief
Astro Vending of Laredo, Inc.
BARBCO, Inc.
Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc.
Beringer Blass Wine Estates
Cinco de Mayo
Coastal Conservation Association
Laredo Chapter
Constructors, Inc.
County of Webb
Delphi Automotive Systems
Don Krueger Construction Company
Dr. Leo Cigarroa High School
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Escamilla & Poneck, Inc.
Estate of Rudolph Hafernik
Ford Salute to Education
Foundation of the 1st Cavalry
Division Association
Dr. and Mrs. George H. García
GEO Mortgage Services
Mr. William B. Green
Greenville County Schools
Guerra Communications
Mrs. Annabelle Hall
Hispanic College Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Holiday, Jr.
Holloway's Bakery
Dr. and Mrs. J. Charles Jennett
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Ray Keck, III
Kristi-Lin's Academy, Inc.
L.I.F.E. Scholarship Fund
Laredo Borderplex Area Wide
Phone Book

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce
Laredo Community College
Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club
Laredo Gateway Rotary Club
Laurel Insurance Company
Leadership Laredo
Lewis Petro Properties, Inc.
Lone Star Lease Service
Los Cuernos de Tejas
Mr. and Mrs. Mercurio Martínez, Jr.
Maverick County Hospital District
Mr. and Mrs. James Elliott Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Moreno
Ms. Hortense Offerle
Pan American Round Table of Laredo
Patria Office Supply
Pi Sigma Alpha
Mr. and Mrs. Evan J. Quiros
Dr. Lem L. Railsback
Mr. Arnulfo G. Ramirez
Renato Zapata & Co., Inc.
Robert Haynes Real Estate
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Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Salido
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SBC Foundation
Scholarship Program
Administrators, Inc.
J. E. Serrine High School
Scholarship Fund
South Texas National Bank
Sprint PCS
Stoneworks Construction
TAMU Administrative
Advisory Council
The Next Step Magazine
The Ronald McDonald House
Charities of San Antonio, Texas
The Trull Foundation
TRASHCO, Inc.
United South High School
United Water Laredo LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Valls, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Jorge Verdúzco
Mr. and Mrs. Horace E. Watson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Abe S. Wilson
Women's City Club
Ms. Gloria N. Zúñiga

Partner's Circle - (\$500.00 +)

ACT Corporation
Dr. Susan M. Berdahl

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Bruni, Jr.
C. H. Robinson
The Chickasaw Nation
Christen Middle School
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Cahill
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Coastal Community and Teachers
Credit Union
Mr. Sergio Contreras
Copy Connection, Inc.
Corpus Christi Independent
School District
Ms. Peggy Dietrick
Mr. and Mrs. Félix R. Elizalde
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Flores
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