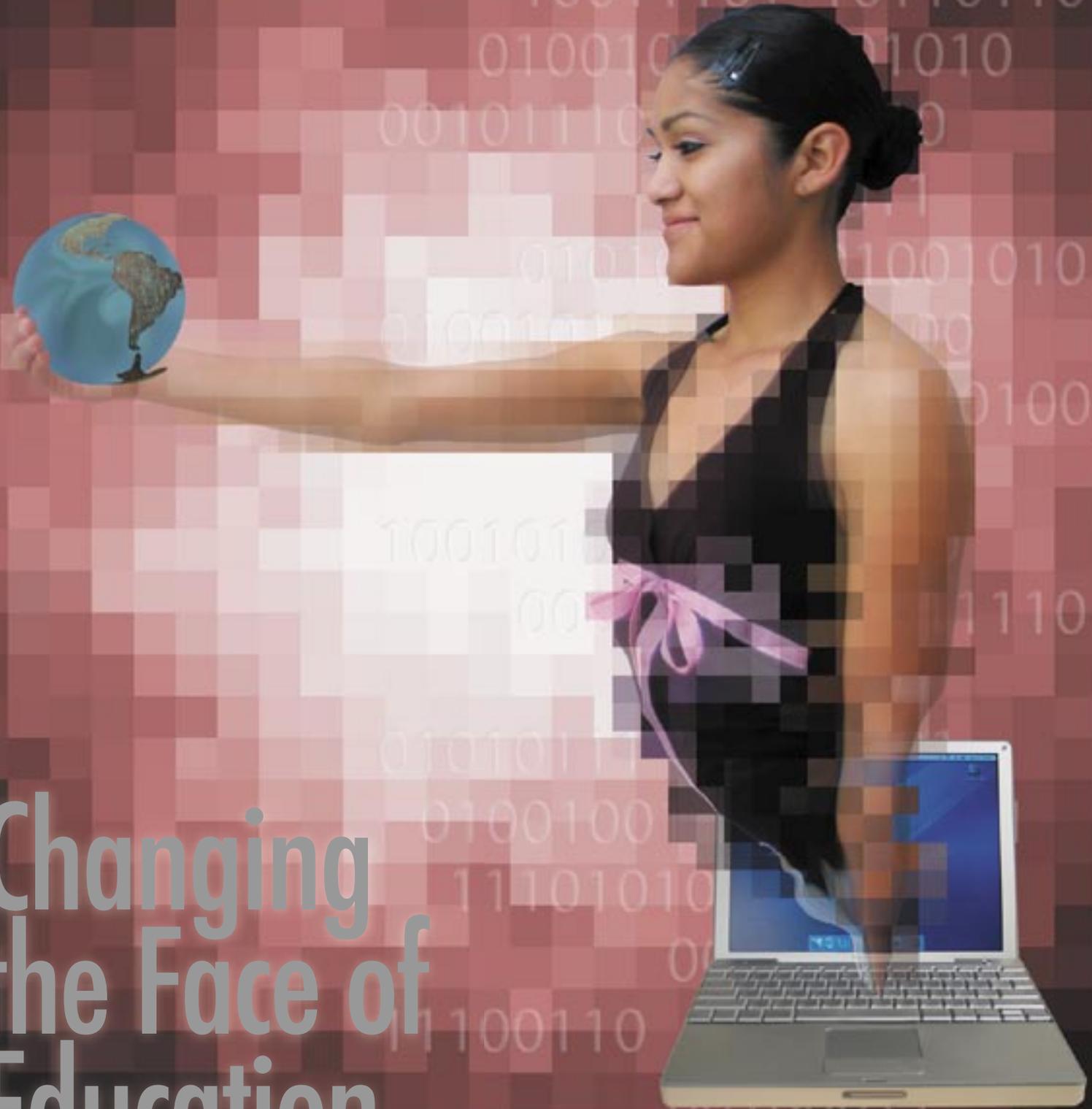


Fall 2004

# prism

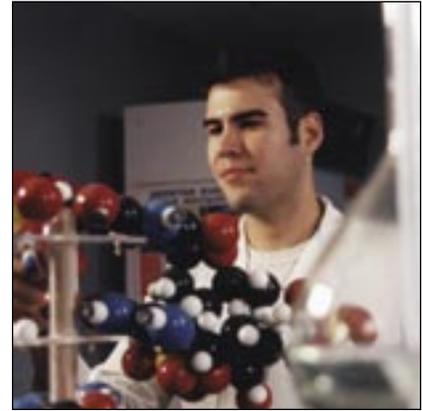
The Magazine of Texas A&M International University



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# Prism Magazine:

Dr. Ray M. Keck, III, President

Candy Hein, Publisher

Editor: Steve Harmon ('91)

Art Director: Ana P. Clamont ('00)

Cover Design: Eduardo X. García ('02)

Contributing Photographers:

Ana Clamont, Eduardo X. García,  
Steve Harmon, Jessica W. Ratliff,  
Guillermo Sosa

Contributing Writers:

Steve Harmon, Dr. Ray Keck III, Dan Lathey,  
Danny Martínez, Jessica W. Ratliff

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY:

Please send to

Office for Institutional Advancement

5201 University Boulevard,

Laredo, Texas 78041-1900

Telephone: 956.326.2175

Facsimile: 956.326.2174

E-mail: prism@tamui.edu

If you receive duplicate copies, kindly send  
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## OTHER MAGAZINE QUERIES:

Please send to

*Prism Magazine*,

Office of Public Affairs and  
Information Services

5201 University Boulevard,

Laredo, Texas 78041-1900

Telephone: 956.326.2180

Facsimile: 956.326.2179

E-mail: prism@tamui.edu

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By highlighting the University's life and that  
of its programs, faculty, students and alumni,  
*Prism* reflects the diverse educational excel-  
lence of Texas' fastest growing University.

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

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“A significant academic and intellectual benefit accrues, I think, to a four-year finish... It seems probable that memory of what one has studied becomes somewhat blurred for students whose course of study spans six years or more.”

Dr. Ray Keck III

## *On Being “On Time”*

In a recently published and enormously popular novel, *The Rule of Four*, the narrator describes how a university student perceives time.

*Strange thing, time. It weighs most on those who have it least. Nothing is lighter than being young with the world on your shoulders; it gives you a feeling of possibility so seductive, you know there must be something more important you could be doing than studying for exams.*

From the earliest days of the academy, recorded in exchanges between students and teachers in Plato’s dialogues, training of the mind has co-existed, uneasily, with the distracting exuberance of youth. Ingrained in our imagination, the carefree college student—young, hopeful, uncommitted—divides unevenly his or her energy between study and the more enticing allure of a world unknown, unfamiliar, untried. For a student, the light, imperceptible passing of collegiate time gives no warning of the rush and frenzy awaiting. Only those with little time—teachers, parents, professionals—can feel its weight. Today in Texas, however, the insouciant student may be an experience and a myth whose time has past.

Even as we universally acknowledge the need for all citizens to participate in higher education, even as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) presses forward its “Closing the Gaps”

campaign to enroll an additional 500,000 students in colleges and universities by 2015, funding streams are stagnant and shrinking. At the same time, university study is more costly and stretches over more years than ever before. The traditional expectation of four years to complete a baccalaureate program is today, in public universities, a chimera. At UT-Austin, only 37.2% of undergraduates finish in four years; at A&M-College Station, 31.6%. At regional universities, serving non-traditional populations and large numbers of students who must care for their families and work as they study, graduation rates are substantially lower. At the University of Texas-El Paso, only 2.9% of students finish in four years; at UTSA, 7.5%; at UT-Pan American and A&M-Kingsville, 6.6%. In Laredo, at Texas A&M International University, 16.6% graduate in four years.

Faced with a growing population, static funding, and a conviction that education is a right and not a privilege for all Texans who meet admissions standards, Senator Judith Zaffirini authored (together with Senator Geanie Morrison) SB 4, “B-On-Time.” The idea of rewarding prompt and effective completion of undergraduate study was first proposed by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst. As a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Dewhurst suggested that student loans be forgiven for those who graduated in a timely fashion and with at least a B-average. Working with Mr. Dewhurst, Senators

Zaffirini and Morrison crafted a bill to provide student loans to cover budgeted items including tuition, fees, transportation, books, and living expenses, reviewed and approved by the Texas Higher Coordinating Board. Most important, for students who maintain a B-average and finish their baccalaureate degree in four years, the loans will be forgiven. In short, this program, if fully funded, will assist all Texans with the largest portion of their college costs provided they get in, get focused, get moving, and get out.

As the dismally low four-year graduation rates above show, however, “B-On-Time” would today reach only a few Texans. Senator Zaffirini, in speaking with students, faculty, and administrators at our University, urges us that “the time has come to initiate a paradigm shift in how we think of higher education in Texas. Students need to take advantage of all entitlements and scholarships, borrow additional funds if needed, and finish in four years. We cannot continue to fund a four-year education over 10 years. Timely graduation is cost-effective not only for students and their families. It results in completing degree requirements at a lower cost to everyone and ensures that graduates enter the workforce earlier while creating university vacancies for new students.” Her bill provides a substantial subsidy for those students able to move quickly through their degree plans and exit the University, to enter quickly the marketplace, freeing classroom space for a

burgeoning student population. Can a non-traditional population take advantage of B-On-Time? Can students who often must work while they attend class manage the challenge of finishing in four years?

Senator Zaffirini answers a most emphatic "yes." In fact, this group ultimately benefits most from state-sponsored support for a fleet and purposeful passage through the University. But much must change. Schools, colleges, and universities must together commit themselves to a new way of thinking and talking about higher education. High school counselors and teachers must encourage students to focus on probable majors even as they take advantage of dual enrollment opportunities and earn significant credit for university work before they begin post-secondary study. Colleges and universities must offer clear pathways in each discipline, helping students identify the most direct route to graduation. Most important, we must all help students understand the effort and sacrifice required to finish in four years will be more than offset by the economic and professional benefits of completing the bachelor's degree.

A significant academic and intellectual benefit accrues, I think, to a four-year finish. The undergraduate years are, for most of us, the most concentrated period of growth and maturity we experience. The growth and the energy of undergraduate life springs, in part, from the compression and intensity of the experience lived in four years. Because one studies many diverse disciplines at once and in a short space of time, analogies and relationships between precepts, axioms, ideas, and theories are easy to perceive. It seems probable that memory of what one has studied becomes somewhat blurred for students whose course of study spans six years or more.

Higher education in Texas is, I think, ready for the paradigm shift implicit in Senator Zaffirini's plan. Faster is better, at least for undergraduate studies. The expansive imagination, the ability to recollect in tranquility, the "small non-space of time at the very heart of time," as Hannah Arendt would have it—those loftiest and most sublime gifts of an education—become, ironically, easier to reach and then to grasp when we pick up the speed.



Dr. Ray M. Keck III,  
President

# Where in the U?

The Texas A&M International University seal is on parking permits, letterhead, and even the large billboard on Bob Bullock Loop 20. But maybe you haven't noticed the physical version of the seal, embedded in the concrete outside of the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, facing the flagpoles.

Every element in the seal has meaning. Each of the 23 border scallops represent one year of the University's existence prior to becoming



TAMIU on September 1, 1993.

The University's name circles a globe depicting the Americas, a suggestion of the international vision of TAMIU. The continents are traversed by a three-dimensional, futuristic, geodesic surface, in homage to the future provided by a higher education degree. Finally, the single star represents the University's membership in the Texas A&M University System and the State of Texas.

*Jessica Ratliff*

## Fall Calendar



# TAMIU

- TAMIU Symphonic Band  
Thursday, October 14, **7:30 p.m.**
- A.R. Sánchez Distinguished Lecture Series  
Dr. Rodolfo O. De la Garza:  
"The Latino Vote in the United States"  
Thursday, October 21, **7 p.m.**
- Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra at TAMIU  
Sunday, November 7, **4 p.m.**

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

# Hispanic Studies Ph.D. Dream Come True at TAMIU

At first, it was a dream, a wish for more -- but without a practical path to achievement. Then Texas A&M International University announced the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had approved its collaborative Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies, the first of its kind in Texas. Lola Orellano-Pérez, director of the TAMIU International Language Institute, knew the time was now.

As the first person to receive the Master of Arts in Spanish from TAMIU, Orellano-Pérez explained the Ph.D. was a logical continuation of her studies, but had always been out of reach.

"Even after I received my degree from TAMIU, I continued taking classes, doing research. I looked around for doctoral programs, but realistically, as a single mother with six children, I could not just pack up my family and move to another city," she said.

Selected as part of the program's first cohort, Orellano-Pérez will pursue a degree in one of four overlapping concentrations: Hispanic Language and Literature, Hispanic Cultural Studies, Linguistics and Pedagogy and Bilingual and Bicultural Studies. Courses will be taught at TAMIU and via distance education with faculty members from other A&M System schools, including Texas A&M University – College Station.

After completing their studies, students receive their doctorates from TAMU.

Lisa Flores, director of the Office of Student Activities and fellow first cohort member, said the new program would allow her to study with professors she might not otherwise meet.

"I'm excited that this opportunity will connect us to a wide variety of professors both here and throughout The Texas A&M University System. With their guidance, I hope to broaden my knowledge base in Hispanic Studies, so I can ultimately engage in teaching and research at the university level," said Flores.

Currently the executive director of the Office of Programs for Academic Support and Enrichment, Concepción Hickey has worked at TAMIU in some capacity for nearly 26 years. She is pursuing the advanced degree for self-enrichment, knowledge, and to continue to improve TAMIU.

"I will continue working and plan to be a part-time student. I am more interested in the learning process at my age than in acquiring any title," said Hickey, "My purpose is to grow

intellectually and gain knowledge that will be useful to the students I come in contact with and the programs I direct. I want to contribute to this university that has given me an enriching and rewarding work experience."

Dr. Nasser Momayezi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the degree would elevate the local community's interests to the highest academic level.

"The creation of the Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies indicates the growing importance of understanding and studying a much overlooked community. The work emerging from this program will be valuable not only to South Texas, but nationwide," said Dr. Momayezi.

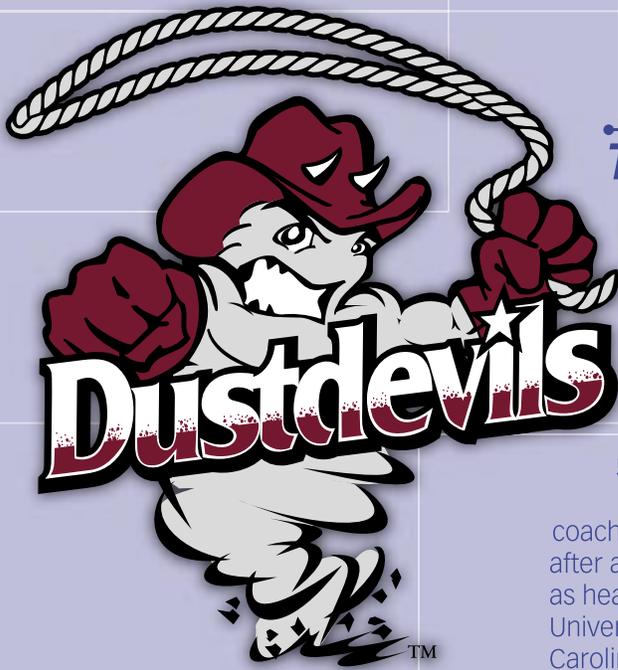
The first cohort will consist of the three TAMIU students, one student from Texas A&M University – Kingsville and eight students from Texas A&M University – College Station. All will begin classes in the Fall. TAMIU professors who will teach in the program include Dr. Kati Pletsch de García, acting program director at TAMIU, Dr. Ezra Engling and Dr. José Cardona-López.

For more information about the program, please contact Dr. Pletsch de García at 326.2614 or visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 428B.

*Jessica Ratliff*

Lisa Flores, Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Dr. Kati Pletsch de García, Conchita Hickey and Lola Orellano-Pérez





## KICK IT UP!

### TAMIU Athletics Season Ready to Roll

in Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) regular season play before sweeping two games in the conference tournament and advancing to the NAIA Region VI Tournament. TAMIU finished with an outstanding 17-5 overall record.

Claudio Arias takes over as head coach of the men's soccer program after a highly-successful four-year stint as head coach at Southern Wesleyan University, an NAIA school in South Carolina. He has recruited several outstanding student-athletes to go along with 10 returning letterwinners from last year's squad.

Amongst those returning to the squad are juniors Daniel Hermosillo and Jesús Sánchez. Hermosillo finished in the top-20 of the final NAIA statistical rankings last season in scoring, assists and total points while Sánchez earned RRAC Most Valuable Player and NAIA honorable mention All-American honors. The volleyball

team will try to achieve its third straight winning season in 2004. TAMIU has a combined 42-17 record in its first two seasons of competition. Last year's team went 19-11, advancing to the semifinal round of both the RRAC and NAIA Region VI postseason tournaments. TAMIU won the RRAC West Division title in the program's first year of existence in 2002.

Head coach Binny Canales has seven letterwinners returning from last year's squad, including senior

*Continues on page 8*

The 2004-05 Texas A&M International University Athletics season begins with a men's and women's home soccer doubleheader against St. Mary's University on Monday, Aug. 30. That doubleheader will kickoff what should be an exciting third year of competition for Dustdevil Athletics teams.

TAMIU Athletics is sponsoring nine sports for the upcoming academic year. Teams will compete in men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country and volleyball in the fall, men's and women's basketball in the winter and men's and women's golf in the spring.

The men's soccer team enters the 2004 season with a great deal of confidence after becoming the first TAMIU team to win a Conference championship last season. The Dustdevils recorded a perfect 8-0 record



**BRAVO**

NOTEWORTHY

**D**r. Sean Chadwell, assistant professor of English, was selected to attend the second National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers.

**D**r. Carlos Cuellar, assistant professor of history, was recently notified that due to high college classroom demand, his book Stories from the Barrio: A History of Mexican Fort Worth will be reprinted in paperback.

**J**annet García, director of International Education, was selected to serve as a panelist for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

**A**ssistant vice-president for International Programs Dr. Michael Gold-Biss' chapter on Nicaragua was included in the recently published Countries at the Crossroads.

**T**wo movements from associate professor of music and chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts Dr. Gilberto Soto's solo guitar piece entitled "The Rio Grande Suite" were performed during the state-wide television broadcast of the 2004 Miss Texas USA pageant.

Jessica Ratliff

## Continues from page 7

Jessica Vargas. After transferring from UT-Brownsville, Vargas achieved an outstanding inaugural season for the Dustdevils in 2003. In addition to earning RRAC first-team All-Conference honors she was named RRAC co-Newcomer of the Year and to the NAIA All-Region VI team.

After showing dramatic improvement from its first to second season the women's soccer team knows that 2004 can be very special. After going 3-16 in 2002 TAMIU recorded a 9-9-2 record last season, going 3-1-1 over the last five games of the season to reach the .500 mark.

A total of seven starters and 10 letterwinners return for head coach Sandra Forestier's team. Among returning starters are junior Erika Alcaráz and sophomore Iliana Rodela. Alcaráz is the team leader in goals over the last two seasons with 21 while Rodela led the team in scoring last season with 10 goals.

Head coach Javier Coronado has recruited a great deal of talent to blend with a solid corps of returnees as TAMIU enters its second season of men's and women's cross country competition. A total of six letterwinners will return for the women and three letterwinners for the men.

The top returnee for the men is senior Mark Vela, who qualified for the NAIA National Championships last season after a strong showing at the NAIA Region VI Championships. Sophomore Priscilla García and senior Anetra Matthews return for the women's team. García was TAMIU's top finisher in three of five races in which she competed last season while Matthews was TAMIU's top finisher at the NAIA Region VI meet.

Also playing in their second seasons of competition in 2004-05 will be the men's and women's basketball teams. Considering the success achieved by both teams last season, anticipation is high for the upcoming season, which tips off in November.

The women's basketball rebounded from a 1-14 start in its inaugural season with a 13-6 record over the last 19 games to finish with a 14-20 overall record. The Dustdevils advanced to the semifinal round of the RRAC postseason tournament after a quarterfinal round road win over Huston-Tillotson.

The men's basketball team won its final three games of the season to finish in double-figures in wins with a 10-22 overall record. The highlight of the season was a late-season road win over NCAA Division II foe Incarnate Word.

New golf coach Richard Marroquín, Jr. has enthusiastically embraced the process of building a collegiate golf program. Both Dustdevil golf teams will compete against the top small college teams in Texas next spring as they strive to establish winning programs.

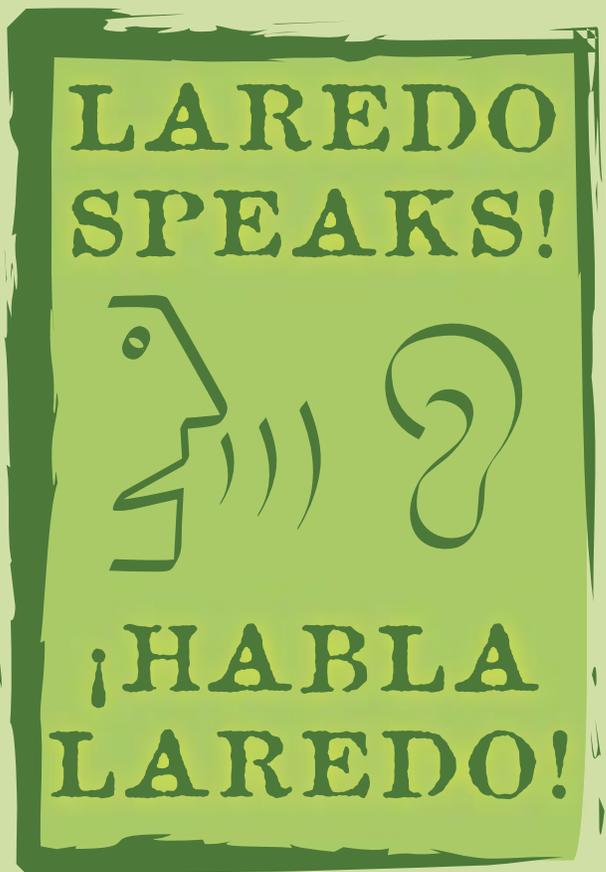
With nine programs and competition from late August until April there will be plenty of excitement surrounding Texas A&M International University Athletics

in 2004-05. The community is invited to join in the excitement as Laredo's hometown college teams shoot for conference championships and beyond.

For additional information, call TAMIU Athletics at 326.2891 or click on <http://www.tamiu.edu/athletics/>

Dan Lathey





be more? Finally, can the quality of that home and that extended community measurably enhance our lives?

These questions have helped guide the authors of an ambitious survey of Laredo conducted this summer by Texas A&M International University's Texas Center for Border Economics and Enterprise Development.

The survey, "Laredo Speaks/ Habla Laredo: A Community Survey," was intended to coincide with the city's 250th Anniversary and was presented throughout the month of July.

"It seemed a good time to pause and reflect on our community and give the community an opportunity to share their feelings. This is also a data-driven research vehicle that is in keeping with the University's research and

the development of a plan of action throughout October-November and an implementation of that plan in January, Dr. Patrick explained.

He said the survey, conducted by TAMIU students, involved multiple survey opportunities for community feedback.

"For example, our students did traditional intercept surveys at various stores and public gathering areas. In addition, we presented the survey to numerous local civic and social groups as well as the city's largest employers. Students were also involved in targeted phone surveys. Finally, a web site with the bilingual survey was available on the University's web site and was linked to from many of the community's most popular web sites including *The Laredo Morning Times*, City of Laredo, KGNS-TV, Laredo Development Foundation, Laredo Chamber of Commerce and Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Patrick said response to the survey has been heartening.

"These are difficult questions for any community to ask itself, but necessary in order to assure the community's growth, development and relevance to its citizenry. We've been very heartened by the community's response," he said.

Laredo Speaks/Habla Laredo was assisted by funding partnerships including The Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Laredo Development Foundation and *The Laredo Morning Times*.

(Editor's note: At the time of this writing, analysis of survey results was underway. Those results will be available to the public on the University's web site after Oct. 1.)

*Steve Harmon*

# University Survey Looks at Laredo

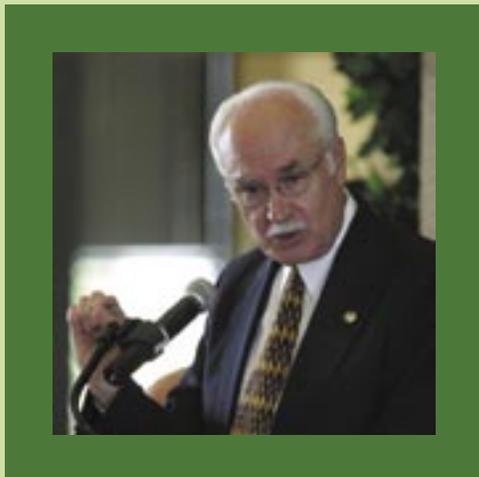
## *How do you define home?*

Is it the four walls that embrace us at the end of the day...or is it the larger community that we move through daily, extracting life and love as we make our way?

Whatever its definition, can a home be more and can or should a community

service mission. This is what universities do," said Dr. Michael Patrick, TCBEED director and survey leader.

The phased effort included data-gathering and analysis in August and September; community-based discussion groups that will meet in October;



Richard Pérez, Program Manager at the Texas Center for Border Economics and Enterprise Development at TAMIU.



Chris Miller, reference and government documents librarian.



TAMIU students assisted in the survey effort.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GUILLERMO SOSA/LAREDO MORNING TIMES

# BEING AN ALUM:

LIVING LIVES OF MEANING AND PURPOSE

## Now:

Since graduation, a social worker tending to the needs of children that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing neglect

## How Being An Alum Helps:

All of the jobs that I have had since I graduated have been

through my classmates from TAMIU. My current supervisor is also a TAMIU Alumni and through such networking, am able to secure my great position filling such a great purpose for many in need.

## Lessons Learned:

I have realized that there were many obstacles to overcome in my classes... those times have made me realize that in real life, we have tests almost every day. My college experience has helped me to overcome many obstacles.

## Biggest Surprise for Your Classmates:

What would surprise my classmates about me is the fact that I do not party as much as I used to at all.

## Proud of:

I am a proud Laredoan... I live in Laredo, and if I have to leave, it would be for very special reasons, but I would find ways to return to Laredo.

ROGER V. ALLEN

**2000, BS, Criminal Justice  
Foster Care Worker,  
Lutheran Social Services  
of the South, Inc.  
Laredo**



# JONATHAN WITHERSPOON

**1996, MBA-International Banking  
Vice President - Commercial  
Operations for JP Morgan Chase & Co  
Dallas**

## Now:

Vice President – Commercial Operations for JP Morgan Chase & Co.

## How Being an Alum Helps:

I was contacted prior to graduation by someone I had worked with previously. This person was leading a project and he felt that my MBA experience could benefit his project.

## Proud of:

That I've had the opportunity to develop friendships/work relationships with people whom I respect and that I aspire to be more like in my life (e.g. Sergio Alvarez whom I met at TAMIU). Getting involved in my community by being vice president of my town's Economic Development Corporation.

## Lessons Learned:

Try to keep in touch! I remember working closely with the professors on interesting research papers, working in the NAFTA research center, the food in Laredo, and the friends I made from all over the world... I wish I could know where they all are now - I hope this helps me get in touch with them!

## Biggest Surprise to Your Classmates:

My wife still has not realized that she can do better than me! I like to play golf and I like to do ranch work (riding horses and working cattle, sheep, and goats).

## Ever Get Back?

I have once. I'd like to more often.



**Now:**

My job entails identifying, researching and cultivating relationships with corporations and foundations to establish partnerships that financially support University programs and projects. I am also beginning school this fall at Loyola's Graduate School of Business, where I will work towards a Master of Business Administration in Marketing.

**How the University Helped:**

I received financial aid and scholarships from the D.D. Hachar Scholarship Fund and Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust. I truly appreciate the support these scholarships afforded me!

**Lessons Learned:**

Taking classes with Drs. Norma E. Cantú, Jeffrey Cass and Cecilia Garza. I greatly enjoyed and looked forward to their classes because they were so passionate about what they taught and challenged me to think more creatively.



**1995, BA, Sociology**  
**1998, MA, Sociology**  
**Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Loyola University, Chicago**

**NANCY GARZA**



**1996, MBA-International Trade**  
**Vice President and Project Manager for JP Morgan Chase & Co**  
**Dallas**

**Now:**

Vice President and Project Manager for JP Morgan Chase & Co. I am on the Board of Directors of Fine Arts Chamber Players, a non-profit organization that provides free concerts and music education programs to the Dallas-area community. Also, I am a classroom volunteer for Junior Achievement and a State Chairman for Daughters of the American Revolution.

**How Being An Alum Helps:**

Like my husband, I was contacted prior to graduation by someone I had worked with previously. He felt that my MBA experience could benefit his project.

**Lessons Learned:**

It was a wonderful experience attending graduate school with my husband Jonathan. We took many of the same courses, knew the same professors, had

**Biggest Surprise:**

The biggest surprise would be that I moved to Chicago.

**Proud of:**

I am mostly proud of being in a profession where I have the capacity to make a significant and broad impact in a non-profit organization. As a fundraiser, my work is vital in the creation of new programs, expansion and enhancement of existing programs, technology and capital improvements, and long-term sustainability of the organization.

I volunteer numerous hours throughout the year as Event Committee Member of the Latino Community Donor Awards, an annual event coordinated by Latino professional fundraisers and grant makers that honors Latinos who make financial contributions to Latino nonprofit organizations in Chicago.

**Get Back Here?**

I was born and raised in Laredo, but have been residing in Chicago since 1998. I travel to Laredo three to four times a year to visit family and friends.

**Every life has meaning. Every life has purpose.**

How we choose to bring our life to meaning and our life to purpose is as varied as the stars in the heaven.

TAMIU alumni are no exception. No matter when their degree was earned, or under which institutional identity, all find that their degrees help them to create lives of purpose and meaning. Whether those lives are meted out in classrooms or boardrooms, emergency rooms or time-out rooms, they offer a daily ramification of the importance of higher education.

Now over 9,000 strong with representatives around the corner and around the world, the University's alumni are force for change, a force for good and a force to be reckoned with.

Here, we profile four alumni and their lives of purpose.

the same friends and helped each other succeed. Also, I enjoyed working in the Office of the Registrar and making friends from around the world!

**Biggest Surprise for Your Classmates:**

I don't think there is anything about me that would surprise them! We go skiing every year in Colorado and we go to different islands to snorkel. I like to attend musicals and the symphony.

**Proud of:**

I am proud that I made the sacrifices I did to attend TAMIU.

ANNE WITHERSPOON

**T**he blackboard is curiously bare, anchoring a forgotten corner. No gentle dusting of chalk coats the floor. A single chalk stick rests safely cocooned in a lifetime of cobwebs. This classroom corner appears little used.

But the remainder of the room offers a colorful contrast. A constant swirl of lights, figures, formulas and images dance in mid-air on what appears to be a fluid screen floating at eye level. Seated students surround the display, their faces washed in an ever-changing glow, while a benevolent figure coordinates the apparently spontaneous exchanges among students, mentor and screen.

Fingertips touch the screen at various junctures and images cascade about with dizzying variety.

Is this a scene from a science fiction movie?

For the time being, perhaps. For the near future, perhaps not. Technology and higher education are linked more clearly now than palm pilots and daily to-do lists. And it's a marriage, that while uneasy at first, is destined for greater success.

At Texas A&M International University that marriage is being strengthened by a commitment to employing current and emerging technology to create educational experiences that are powerful, relevant and lasting.



# CHANGING THE FACE OF

Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs, said redefining higher education through technology has a curious and lengthy history.

"We can actually look back as far as the 1950's with the development of so-called 'sunrise semester classes,' television broadcasts of credit courses that aired early in the morning before the day's regular programming began. Through the years we've followed with correspondence courses, distance ed, compressed video and the Big Bang of the 90s, the internet and the virtual classroom. All are different, but similar in their desire to use technology to bridge distances, increase access and make learning possible anywhere and often, anytime," Dr. Jones said.

Today's TAMIU classroom is more likely to find professors and students exchanging information via dedicated web sites, using multi-media to enhance class learning and, in some cases, conducting the course completely on the internet with on-line sessions taking the place of face-to-face interaction.

"We call those classes that combine technologies supplemental courses and they comprise about 150 of our total Fall classes. Those classes that are completely on-line number about 10 or so for the Fall, but grow with each passing semester," Jones explained.

He said that continued growth seems a given with the University's dedication to helping faculty members and students embrace the emerging educational technologies.

"It's a brave new world, and one that requires adaptation on the part of both the faculty and student. We provide our faculty with support and training through our Education Technology Outreach office and help them to develop a technology comfort zone while supporting their development of content for the new teaching environment. We also help them to adapt their teaching style to an electronic environment. With students, we offer training materials, on-line support and workshops," Jones explained.

Is the on-line student different from the traditional classroom student?

"I would say not. Both need to be motivated, disciplined, appreciate the class structure and be invested in their program completion. However, some professors report that they do see increased class participation from on-line students who can be timid in traditional classrooms," he noted.

And what about the fear that on-line courses could somehow replace traditional classroom experience?

"A University without contact just isn't acceptable. There is so much about the University experience that simply cannot be replicated in an on-line environment. I don't think we can ever expect one to substitute for the other, but I would say that both have the capacity to support and inform the other," he said.

Jones said the University considers itself committed to emerging educational technologies and expects to grow with the field.

"We are already utilizing national standards for on-line instruction and are committed to keeping ahead of emerging technologies in the classroom. At this time we have amazing capabilities in place. Students have embraced this technology and I'm sure they'll help lead the charge that will help make its use more commonplace. There will certainly always be a place at the table for technology in higher education," he said.

What might the TAMIU classroom of the future bring?

"I certainly expect greater use of technology, but I believe it will be much less intrusive, more adaptable and more responsive to different levels of communication. I think we'll finally see technology more as friend than foe, a given versus an extra... and that it will redefine how we interact with each other in all aspects of life. I'm looking forward to seeing it," he smiled.

*Steve Harmon*

- In Spring 2004, 2,700 TAMIU students were enrolled in at least one class that was supported by some form of educational technology.
- This Fall, TAMIU will offer 10 courses conducted entirely online.
- In Spring of 2005, TAMIU will offer its first degree to be conducted entirely online...a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice.
- Utilizing collaborative technologies, TAMIU works with Texas A&M University, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University-Kingsville to deliver masters and doctoral degree classes so that students need to leave Laredo is less.
- Just as students learn by emerging technologies, faculty are also learning to embrace these technologies and the new pedagogy that they encourage. Some now refer to web-based teaching methods as "web-agogy."

# EDUCATION

## HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Texas A&M International University's campus has seen tremendous growth over the past years, and not just physically. Currently, TAMIU offers 58 undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees, 16 of which were added in the last five academic years.

Below are the most recently added degrees and semester first offered:

Masters of Public Administration .....	Fall 99
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science .....	Fall 99
Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction .....	Fall 99*
Bachelors of Social Work .....	Spring 00
Masters in Generic Special Education .....	Summer 00
Bachelors of Arts in Urban Studies .....	Fall 00
Masters in Curriculum & Instruction .....	Summer 01
Bachelors of Arts in Latin American Studies .....	Fall 01
Bachelors of Arts in Music .....	Fall 02
Bachelors of Music .....	Fall 02
Bachelors of Music with all level certification .....	Fall 02
Bachelors of Arts in Art .....	Fall 03
Ph.D. in International Business .....	Spring 04
Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies .....	Spring 04*
Ph.D. in English .....	Spring 04*
Masters of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner .....	Fall 04

\* denotes a joint degree program with Texas A&M University – College Station.

TAMIU will continue to add degrees and programs to ensure South Texans can get what they want out of life.

Jessica Ratliff



## Science Center Closer to Heaven: The New Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center

Soon, a pyramid sheathed in shimmering glass will glow on the Texas A&M

International University campus. Within, a mirrored orb will encase a room that can take us all on a journey to the stars.

The new Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, scheduled to open next Spring, may become the University's most striking architectural feature, and perhaps its most

visited building. The Science Center will be home to a planetarium, the only facility of its kind for much of South Texas.

It honors the memory of the late Lamar Bruni Vergara, a Laredo philanthropist whose vision of assisting higher education has been continued by the trustees of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust. The Trust provided a generous gift of \$2 million in support of the Center. It has also offered stunning support for other University programs, student scholarships and, most recently, the lush Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden that fronts the TAMIU Student Center.

"It's going to be an inspirational setting for students, faculty and our community," assured Dr. Nasser Momayezi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Home to the College's growing science programs, the Center will feature offices, and some 30 labs to enable both research and teaching components. The Center makes possible expanded programming in biology, chemistry, geology, earth sciences and engineering.

"We are expanding our offerings and our faculty to accommodate a dramatic

# Little Card Brings Big Changes to TAMIU

Change is coming to Texas A&M International University, but this time it's small, small enough to fit in your wallet. The new TAMIU OneCard, replacing all old TAMIU ID cards and required for all students faculty and staff, will be in use starting Fall 2004.

Albert Chávez, ID system administrator, said although it looks like a redesigned ID card, the difference is more than skin deep, offering increased convenience and excellent record tracking.

"With the OneCard, you can make purchases without carrying cash or getting money from the ATM," explained Chávez, "You can use the card at any of the campus eateries, at the library to make copies or pay fines, and to pay for parking permits with the University Police. In addition, you can get a report of all your transactions on-line, so you'll know how much money is left on the card and where it all went."

With a magnetic strip, the OneCard utilizes a prepaid, stored-value account containing "Dusty Dollars," a convenient, cashless way to pay for goods and services on campus, said Chávez. Money can be added in one of three ways: at the Business Office; by using a self-serve Value Transfer Station located throughout campus; or online at <http://onecard.tamiau.edu>, where a credit card will be required.

For current students the OneCard is included in tuition and for faculty and staff, replacing an old ID card with the OneCard will be free. Thereafter, lost or misused cards can be replaced with a \$7 fee.

New students will receive OneCards when they register, and current students, faculty and staff will be able to replace their

old IDs at the start of the Fall 2004 semester.

For more information, please contact Albert Chávez at 326.2877 or e-mail [onecard@tamiau.edu](mailto:onecard@tamiau.edu). University office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Jessica Ratliff

increase in interest in the sciences," Momayezi explained, "For example, this Fall we will have 225 students that have declared majors in biology."

Momayezi said the new Center will also make possible planned expansions into engineering which he believes will find rapid interest from current and future students.

"We plan to offer an engineering degree with initial specializations in industrial, mechanical and systems engineering, but have a five-year goal of bringing a full School of Engineering to TAMIU...something we believe will have remarkable relevance here," he smiled.

Momayezi is also excited by the centralized opportunity for faculty and student exchange that the Center makes possible.

"For the first time, labs and offices

and classrooms in the sciences will be centrally located in one building. We are incorporating all sciences, including the social sciences, so I believe this will create a unique dynamic for faculty and students," he said.

Still, he seems to reserve his most energetic appraisal of the 77,920 gross-square-foot project for its 85-seat planetarium. He animatedly reveals that only one other Texas A&M University System campus: Tarleton State University in Stephenville, has an operating planetarium.

"I think the planetarium will be a popular destination on campus, and for Laredo and South Texas. We're looking at a special series of weekly shows, educational programs that take advantage of our strong partnerships with local school districts and group showings for visitors to the campus. A search for a planetarium director is now underway. The director will also have a faculty appointment. We believe we could easily welcome some 20,000 visitors to our campus in our first year of operation," he said.

A special opening for the new Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center is scheduled for March of next year.

For additional information, contact the Office of Public Affairs and Information Services at 956.326.2180, click on [tamiau.edu](http://tamiau.edu) or e-mail [pais@tamiau.edu](mailto:pais@tamiau.edu)



# New Housing Creates New Opportunities at TAMIU



The opening of the new 424-bed Residential Learning Community will signal a new era at Texas A&M International University. Both the new facility and the existing 254-bed University Village will be managed by TAMIU and no longer by outside contractors and the feel and make up of the campus will experience a change once more undergraduate students reside on campus 24 hours a day.

enjoy the Performing Arts Floor, which should resonate with music, art and theater. The Wellness/Substance Free Floor will group students who want a healthy lifestyle and we'll also be offering a female only floor." The new residential learning community opened in August. For more information, call 956.326.0160, click on [www.laredovillage.com](http://www.laredovillage.com) or e-mail [info@laredovillage.com](mailto:info@laredovillage.com)

Jessica Ratliff

Dr. Tom Corti, vice president for Student Affairs, said both innovations will be good for the campus.

"We're committed to making student housing an extension of the learning continuum. We're all looking forward to creating a dynamic environment for living and learning," Dr. Corti explained.

He said the benefits of living on campus may appear obvious at first: a short walk to classes, the library, or professors' office hours.

"Even non-scholarly activities, such as having a cappuccino with a friend, or enjoying a night out are made easier through TAMIU's convenient location," said Corti, "But the real benefits of on-campus living are actually invisible. Studies show on-campus students have higher GPAs and a more successful collegiate experience. By absorbing the University atmosphere, we hope our residential students will learn more, both during class and afterwards."

Corti explained the University strives to make residential life supportive and fun, and has created five themed floors.

"We created the themed floors to help students get the most out of the residential life experience. The 24-hour Quiet Floor is for students who are serious about academics and want to live with others who feel the same. There will be fun times, but the focus is on studying," explained Corti, "The Health Professions Floor will put those planning a future in the medical profession in close proximity. Anyone interested in the arts will



"We're committed to making student housing an extension of the learning continuum. We're all looking forward to creating a dynamic environment for living and learning,"

Dr. Tom Corti

CLICK ON HOME/NEW TAMIU WEB



The Texas A&M International University homepage has long been both guide and portal to a vast amount of information for University students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Whether you're in Finland or Freer, Cadiz or Chicago, with tamiau.edu you're home... and with well over 72 million successful hits (since Oct. 2002), people certainly do come home.

But like all homes, sometimes there's a need for a little refreshing. And a dab of paint just won't do. So we're proud to present the new tamiau.edu, launched this summer.

To refresh tamiau.edu, our team combined equal parts of great design, streamlined navigation and rich, relevant content. That design, much more than visuals, graphics image formats, sound files, and typography, also requires planning that knows and reaches our audience.

Winning web design works hand in hand with the functionality and navigation of the site. In its latest incarnation, the TAMIU homepage has been re-designed for potential and current students and potential and current partners.

Along the way, a broad-based campus group of students, faculty and staff balanced functions with content that is accessible for all visitors.

Ultimately, we've designed an embracing site that celebrates TAMIU with an open and browser-friendly design.

You'll find a navigation menu that groups needs in a logical pairing of information, providing easier access that dramatically reduces the number of user clicks and page loads. For more on design and content features, see the diagram above and at right.

The University's web site includes a staggering 28,000-plus active pages and grows daily. With but a few clicks, potential students can springboard to explore how TAMIU can impact their higher education. Potential partners can learn about Texas' newest University and its remarkable mission in South Texas.

But perhaps most importantly, the new design provides a way to a new home for some and an old home for others...and a confirmation that you truly can click home.

Daniel Martínez

## HOT SPOTS

- 1 Now harnessing the power and technology of **Google**, our website will find what you're looking for.
- 2 This **banner** links you to what's hot on campus.
- 3 The TAMIU **Calendar** is expanded to include Academic, Athletics, Arts, and Community events.
- 4 Our new **navigation menu** logically groups info for current and potential students, partners and alumni.
- 5 The University's integrated marketing theme, "**What Do You Want Out of Life,**" comes to life.
- 6 TAMIU **News** lets you know what's goin' on.
- 7 Send an electronic **postcard** from TAMIU around the corner or around the world, showing everyone your favorite campus!
- 8 Take a **virtual tour** of TAMIU from your desktop!



# NEWS

## TAMIU Nursing Graduates Excel

Texas A&M International University's Dr. F.M. Canseco School of Nursing graduates are excelling, demonstrating a hometown education can help you get what you want out of life.

Dr. Susan Baker, director of the School of Nursing, reported 93% of this Spring's Bachelor's of Science Nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), the national licensure examination required for entry into practice as a Registered Nurse, on their first attempt.

"We're above the national average pass rate for graduates, which is only 86.9%," said Baker.

"This particular graduating class really stepped up to the challenge—they waited to start work until they had tested; they continued to study as hard or harder from the day they graduated until the day they tested; they bought new review books, met in study groups, coached and nagged each other, came to the campus to work on our computer programs and review videos and ask faculty questions about areas of doubt," she explained.

## 'TAMIU Unplugged' Continues Expansion

Texas A&M International University students now have another wireless site on campus to connect to the Internet. "TAMIU Unplugged," the University's wireless network, has now been expanded to the Student Center.

This past Spring, the University launched "TAMIU Unplugged" with service throughout Killam Library. By doing so, TAMIU joined only 60 percent of cutting-edge universities across the nation that have designated wireless areas of their campuses for student, faculty and administrative use.

Lakshmana Viswanath, director of the University's Computer Telecommunications Services, said the expansion is the latest in a planned series of wireless access sites on campus.

## TAMIU has International Honor Society in Education

Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), the International Honor Society in Education, now has a charter in place at Texas A&M International University.

In ceremonies this May at the TAMIU Student Center, the new Chapter was launched by Dr. Sherry Field, KDP vice president. Chapter initiates included 47 University undergraduates, graduates and members of the TAMIU College of Education faculty.

## University Launches English Collaborative Ph.D.

Texas A&M International University launched a fourth collaborative Ph.D. with Texas A&M University as lead partner in ceremonies held in April in the Western Hemispheric Trade Center foyer. Joining University representatives for the announcement was Robert Gates, president of Texas A&M University.

The Ph.D. will be in English and is being coordinated by the TAMIU department of English and the TAMIU department of language and literature.

The University's other collaborative Ph.D. programs include Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Leadership and Hispanic Studies. The University's first stand-alone Ph.D. in International Business Administration will be awarded by the College of Business Administration.

## TAMIU Students Honor Senator Judith Zaffirini

During the ninth annual Texas A&M International University Life Awards Ceremony, hosted by the TAMIU Student Government Association (SGA), State Senator Dr. Judith Zaffirini was presented with a special recognition in appreciation of her hard work and dedication by SGA president, Carlos Ramos.

Ramos said the event was a great success, with more than 250 students in attendance, and the highlight of the event was Senator Zaffirini's heartfelt and emotionally moving speech to the students.

"Throughout her nearly 18 years in the Legislature, Senator Zaffirini has authored and passed the majority of legislation that has helped bring TAMIU to its current state," said Ramos, "As a result of her working on the Appropriations Conference Committee, she has been able to secure over \$324 million for TAMIU. Many of the current facilities on the TAMIU campus were built as a result of these state dollars."

## Remarkable \$500,000 Gift from LBV Trust

Trustees of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust presented Texas A&M International University officials with \$500,000, the final installment of a \$2 million pledge, in ceremonies held at TAMIU in late July. The funds will support the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, now nearing completion.

The Science Center, part of the University's Phase IV expansion, will house a growing science program, labs, classrooms and faculty offices. Some 30 labs will offer both research and teaching components and make possible expanded programming in biology, chemistry, geology, earth sciences and engineering.

Interest in the sciences at TAMIU by students is considerable, with 225 students declaring majors in biology.

Texas A&I University at Laredo \* Laredo State University \* Texas A&M International University

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More than 300 supporters have proved their commitment to higher education by becoming members of the Heritage Society or Circle of Excellence:

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(\*) Deceased

## Matching Gifts

SBC Foundation  
Bank One Foundation

## 2004 TAMIU Alumni

### Golf Tournament Sponsors

American Campus Communities  
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### 2004 Mariachi Festival Sponsors

Astro Vending of Laredo Inc.  
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*For additional information on these listings, please contact Candy Hein at 956.326.2175.*

## 2004 YES Camp Sponsors

H. E. Butt Grocery Co.  
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Laredo Chamber of Commerce  
Laredo Development Foundation  
Laredo Manufacturers Association  
The Laredo National Bank  
Sánchez Oil & Gas Corporation  
South Texas National Bank  
Zapata Independent School District

### Donations were received from friends in honor of:

Howard and Mary Butt  
The Honorable Solomon Casseb, Jr.  
Anita Ligarde Martin  
Suzy Neel Mayo  
Selma J. (Cricket) Neel  
Hazel Kepley Powell  
Beatrice Fisher Rose  
Mrs. Carroll E. Summers, Sr.  
Marjorie Powell Zachry

### The University and friends extend their sympathy to the families of the following individuals:

Aurora Alexander  
Jack R. Brown  
Eva Deutsch  
Carlos Castellón  
Esther M. López  
Max Newsom  
Wiley Pope  
Dee Michelle Rudolph  
Carol Griffin Scoville  
Ann Shanks  
Helen R. Watson



**TAMIU**  
**ALUMNI**

## Welcome members!

You're a member! As a former student of Texas A&M International University, Texas A&I University at Laredo or Laredo State University, whether a graduate or not, you are a member of the TAMIU Alumni Association.

Current and past faculty members and staff or any person who has a genuine interest in the welfare of the University are also invited to be members.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

TAMIU is celebrating 10 years on the Loop 20 site.  
Make plans to attend our next quarterly gathering:

**October 6, 2004 • IBC Lago del Río • 6 - 9 p.m. • Membership is free!**

For information call: Patty Canseco at 956.326.2175 or e-mail alumni@tamiu.edu.

# SANCHEZ FAMILY FOUNDATION Supports TAMIU Students Scholarships



New Sánchez Scholars at Texas A&M International University meet Antonio R. "Tony" Sánchez, María G. "Tani" Sánchez and their daughter, Ana Lee (seated, front) at a reception announcing the Sánchez Family Foundation's scholarship gift. Left to right, back, are Scholars: Karla Garza, Sonia Pelico, Claudia Sierra, Lucy Speer, Karla Linero, Nora García, Andrea López, Gustavo Rojo, Michael Salas and Daniel Segovia.

A select group of 20 incoming freshmen at Texas A&M International University are the first students to benefit from a \$400,000 scholarship gift from the Sánchez Family Foundation.

Starting this Fall, the students, known as Sánchez Scholars, will receive the Antonio R. and María G. Sánchez Family scholarships.

This summer, the students met with Foundation members Antonio R. "Tony" Sánchez, wife María G. "Tani" Sánchez and their daughter, Ana Lee to express their appreciation to the family.

All were uniform in their gratitude, and in their pledge to merit the Sánchez' blessing on their lives. Some candidly admitted that were it not for the scholarship, they would not have been able to continue their education.

Antonio Sánchez, clearly moved by the students' words, said the Foundation's gift should be considered an investment by the Foundation in the future of Texas.

"We have long maintained that higher education is the only true catalyst to

change. The scholarships reflect a commitment to the city and state that has been a home to us for generations and that continues to bless us," Sánchez explained.

The scholarships provide books, fees and tuition for a four-year degree program completion.

For additional information, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 956.326.2225, visit offices in Killam Library 158 or e-mail [financialaid@tamiu.edu](mailto:financialaid@tamiu.edu)

## G I F T S H E L P T A M I U

# Ramírez Gift Opens Doors to TAMIU Students

Some people graciously open doors so that others may walk through. Sometimes, those who open such doors change lives.

Zapata banker and philanthropist Renato Ramírez is one such person. This summer, he pledged Texas A&M International University a gift of \$1 million in support of student scholarships.

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the gift was generous and will have an impact for years to come.

"This is truly an astounding act of generosity that will impact our students' lives for generations to come. Mr. Ramírez' philanthropy is legendary in South Texas and beyond and we are much blessed by his including this University in his giving," Dr. Keck said.

Ramírez said his gift acknowledges his own pride as a graduate of Texas A&M University and desire to help TAMIU, part of The Texas A&M University System.

"I graduated from A&M in 1961 in Mechanical Engineering and the academic and life lessons I learned there have helped form my career and life. Aggies are remarkably giving and, as an Aggie, I wanted to help new generations of students whose lives will be bettered by attending TAMIU," Ramírez said.

The gift establishes the Renato and Patricia Ramírez Scholars, and recognizes Ramírez and his wife of 40 years, Patricia.

For additional information on the Renato and Patricia Ramírez Scholars Scholarship, please contact the TAMIU Financial Aid office at 956.326.2225 or e-mail [financialaid@tamiu.edu](mailto:financialaid@tamiu.edu)

Renato Ramírez, Candy Hein and Dr. Ray Keck III



**HONDY!**



Representing Webb County in the Miss Texas Pageant is Margaret Garza, a freshman at TAMU. Jorge Váidez '01 and Lizette Mendive '02, TAMU alumni, help welcome her.

**ALUMNI TEED-UP**



Tournament participants await final results of the 2004 TAMU Alumni Golf Tournament. From left to right are: Trey Hughes; Jeremiah Cabrera; Peter Palacios; Carlos F. (Kiko) Treviño; Carlos De León, Tournament chairman; Dr. Ray Keck; and Imelda Navarro '81, TAMU Alumni president.

**SA ALUMNI**



A gathering of San Antonio TAMU alums was held on August 18, 2004 at Duke's. Pictured are Lower right hand corner: Patty Canseco '01, Director of Alumni Relations; Second Row, left to right: Ian Schmehl '00; Arturo Cuellar, Jr. '99; Nelia Gil '96; Rose Delgado '99; Dr. Ray Keck, President; Hilda Arnold '99, Ana M. González '94; Alma Mendez '01; Zoila Zambrano '99 and spouse Jay Zambrano holding Vicky Zambrano; Top Row, left to right: Candy Hein, VP for Institutional Advancement; Barbara Mathieu, executive director of Development; Ann Rodríguez-Martínez '00; Ileana R. Aleman '01; Sarah Sánchez '99; José Barajas '97; Estella Rodríguez '00; Veronica Barrientos-Carrillo '00; Jo Ann Martínez '98; Ivan Ramírez '01; and Sunita Treviño '93.

**PLANNED GIVING!**



Leah Longoria is among the first to establish a planned giving gift to TAMU. Ms. Longoria has bequeathed a portion of her estate to be used to establish future student scholarships. The fund will be known as the Leah Fields Longoria Scholarship Fund.

**AT THE PARADE**



Dr. and Mrs. Ray Keck smile proudly while riding the TAMU float in the 2004 Washington's Birthday Celebration Parade.

**AHUA!**



Enjoying the 2004 Mariachi Festival are Ford sponsor representatives, Mike Cortez; Hank and Elizabeth Sames with guest David Killam.

**DISTINGUISHED VISITOR**



Dr. Raymund Paredes, (far left) new Commissioner of Higher Education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is welcomed to TAMU by State Senator Judith Zaffirini; Texas A&M University System Board of Regents member John White and Dr. Ray Keck, TAMU president. Dr. Paredes provided the Commencement Address at this summer's graduation exercises.

**MASTERING THINGS**



Dr. Antonio Rodríguez, TAMU College of Business Administration associate dean, assists new College dean Dr. Jacky So in the hooding of Masters in Business Administration in Management recipient Gloria Madrigal in a special combined college Hooding Ceremony held for Summer graduates and their families.

**BUILDING DREAMS**



Members of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust joined University officials at the special presentation of the final installment of a \$2 million pledge in support of the new Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center. Left to right are Trustee J.C. Martin III, Trustee Solomon Casseb, president Dr. Ray Keck, provost Dr. Dan Jones and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Nasser Momayezi.

**BRIGHTER FUTURES**



New TAMU grads ready for brighter futures at Summer Commencement Exercises held in front of the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library. Left to right are Prisma Karina López, Priscilla Martínez and Luis Oscar Mata, Jr.

**BIG MAN ON CAMPUS**



Dr. Steve Garippa, TAMU athletic director, welcomes "Ice-Man" George Gervin and Hugo Chaparro, a Dustdevil Alliance advisor and fan of the year for 2003-2004, to the Annual Sports Memorabilia Auction.

**EN ESPAÑOL!**



TAMU Summer 2004 MA (Spanish) Graduates with their professors; L-R: Dr. Ezra Engling, Rafael Huacuja, Blanca Yruegas, Ana Cristina Martínez, Dr. Kati Pletsch de García, Ramón Talavera. Graduates are wearing the stole and cords of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society.

[www.tamui.edu](http://www.tamui.edu)



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