

ange



Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, shows off the intricacies of the new Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ to students in the TAMIU-LISD Early College High School. The students, who've already got their sights set on majors include (L to R) Rosario Garza (opthalmology), Stephanie Valle (adolescent psychology), Eddie Ortíz (social work), Clarissa Hernández (photography) and Andrew Carranco (medicine or civil engineering). All will graduate from the Early College High School in 2010.

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

I know what I want out of life!

Christopher Swan, Los Angeles "I will be an entrepreneur"

I want ...

78 degrees from bachelors to doctoral An international student body and faculty A new campus that grows with me

A vibrant community that welcomes me

For more information, call the Office of Recruitment at 956.326.2270 or visit www.tamiu.edu 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Prism Magazine:

Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President

Candy Hein, Publisher

Editor: Steve Harmon ('91)

Art Director: Ana P. Clamont ('00)

Contributing Photographers: Ana Clamont, Catarina Colunga, Eduardo X. García ('02), Rebecca M. Martínez, Eugene Ruiz, Miguel Treviño

Contributing Writers: Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield, Steve Harmon, Dr. Ray Keck III, Dan Lathey, Rebecca Martínez

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@tamiu.edu If you receive duplicate copies, kindly send both mailing labels to the above address.

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

All contents © 2006 Prism Magazine, except where noted. Opinions expressed in *Prism* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its editors or policies of Texas A&M International University. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to 5201 University Boulevard Laredo, Texas 78041-1900.

MISSION: Prism is published twice a year for Texas A&M International University friends. By highlighting the University's life and that of its programs, faculty, students and alumni, Prism reflects the diverse educational excellence of Texas' fastest growing University.

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





President's Thoughts

There is very little that can't be repaired, settled or resown.

Academic Growth

TAMIU's International Reach Adds Egypt, China

Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ A Joyful Noise Signals A Brigther Future 14

Our Students

New TV Campaign Portravs TAMIU's Student Diversity, Success

From the Capitol

Senator Judith Zaffirini shares the State funding journey for TAMIU

The Trip of A Lifetime:

A View from Abroad





4

9



Inside

All Things are Within Repair ... Almost



Of the many poems and wise sayings that might guide us in our journey together, this little poem of Emily Dickinson has much to offer:

> "All but Death, can be Adjusted— Dynasties repaired— Systems—settled in their Sockets— Citadels—dissolved—

Wastes of Lives—resown with Colors By Succeeding Springs— Death—unto itself—Exception— Is exempt from Change—"

Contrary to the somber tone of the first line, these verses describe our formidable powers of creation. Always a poet of nouns and verbs and with enormous economy of expression, Dickinson weds substantive and action to assert improvement, growth, renewal: a dynasty repaired, a system settled, a citadel dissolved, a life resown.

Impermanence, often thought to define our finitude, here liberates. For we who read the poem can, if we wish, convert these passive constructions to action. We can make it better; we can dismantle the fortress. We can adjust all we see and all we do. Only death remains beyond our control. Great teachers embed Dickinson's message in every moment they spend with their students. Indeed, these verses convey the great aims of education. University study, well done, prepares us for countless future encounters when affective, material, and physical health will hinge upon our ability to repair, to settle, to dissolve, to resow. The conviction that change is always possible, and the capacity and courage to undertake change, undergird everything we say and do in the University.

As if to safeguard in a permanent vessel the elixir of transformation, universities themselves have remained among our most conservative institutions. Enclosed precincts, high walls, iron gates, and sacred traditions have for centuries been the markers of University life, little altered since the Middle Ages. And society rewards this perceived stability which also interrogates and champions change.

A 2006 survey by the American Association of University Professors found that 41.6% of Americans have "a lot of confidence" in American colleges and universities. The White House, by contrast, enjoys the confidence of 20.7% of Americans, organized religion 29.9%, and the press 10.8%. The "only public institution with a higher percentage of public support than colleges and universities was the military, with 53.9%." Most important, public support is linked to the role universities play in promoting that very American version of change—upward social mobility.

In December 2005, Texas A&M International University completed the re-accreditation process for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). There are no prizes or honorable mentions for extraordinarily good performance, only recommendations and directives to correct deficiencies. To emerge, as we did, without comments is to complete successfully the exercise. But we are, as a result of that re-accreditation process, a profoundly altered institution.

Implementation of current standards for accreditation demanded that we institutionalize systems of accountability and disclosure, planning and measurement, which must frame both the academic and administrative environment. Such procedures are familiar to business and not difficult to attach to administrative practices. For teaching and learning, however, SACS's new requirements are generating significant changes in universities throughout the country.

of assessment. Student evaluations of teaching and learning are not sufficient, as they tell only what a student thinks or feels he or she has learned.

Higher education's traditional mission, the one clearly understood and embraced by faculty, is difficult to fit into a model structured around outcomes and assessments. And yet the visionary, often elusive goals of a liberal arts education remain at the core of traditional University curricula: to nurture an informed and compassionate electorate; to arm graduates with the twin capacities to think critically and act strategically; to awaken minds for a lifetime energized by curiosity and a love of learning; to preserve the knowledge we have received; to increase our understanding of ourselves and the world.

Modern institutions, especially public ones, must pursue a more complex charge. The training and credentialing of professionals able to consume goods and services and

"University study, well done, prepares us for countless future encounters when affective, material, and physical health will hinge upon our ability to repair, to settle, to dissolve, to resow. "

--- Dr. Ray Keck III

As they plan programs of study and courses, faculty must address the following questions: What do you wish your students to learn? How will you know that your students learned what you intended? How will you measure their learning? How does what you are teaching link to the program of study in your discipline, your department, your college?

In national directives widely viewed by University faculty as invasive, the new model prescribes learning outcomes for every course, clearly stated on the syllabus, together with the means of assessing those outcomes. While still free to teach whatever he or she thinks best, each professor must nonetheless align the published outcomes for each course with programmatic outcomes for an academic department.

Even more difficult than alignment of outcomes is the question of assessment. The grade a student receives is, surprisingly, no longer considered a means of assessing student learning. In the past, judgments about what a student had or had not learned derived from the grade assigned and recorded by the teacher. "If he (she) receives a B from me, that means he (she) has learned the material!"

The new model links learning to a wider audience. National achievement tests, especially in mathematics and the sciences, are helpful in benchmarking student learning within a large population and hence offer a preferred means pay taxes is now central to University study. And though it will perdure as an inescapable component of all study, assessment-its role and its bounds-remains the subject of strenuous debate. We can assess the professional competence of an accountant or a nurse or a teacher. How can we know, except at the end or in unexpected moments, whether or not University study enhanced our ability to think, to act, to live?

One might easily conclude that the opposing demands to change and to hold fast, and then to assess and to explain, present universities an impossible devoir. Politicians, the business community, and most citizens expect us to lead the way for improvement in public education, to address social concerns, to foster research for advances in science and medicine, to promote historical preservation and urban renewal, and to encourage rural development.

Emily Dickinson summarized our freedom to act, which is also our task. Repair, settle, dissolve, resow. Only death continues beyond our reach.

Ray M. Keck III,

President

Where In The U?

What are they?

These unique light pendant fixtures are found throughout the hallways of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center. These custom-designed and fabricated glass diffusers are held together and suspended from the ceiling by a stainless steel armature.

How were they made?

To create the fixtures, a custom-designed mold was made in order to achieve the textured effect you see. Molten glass was then poured in the mold, cooled and then coated with a Dichroic coating to achieve the interesting color shifting effect on the final piece.

Who contributed to the concept design?

The idea for the fixtures was conceived and designed by Kell Muñoz Architects. The glass pieces were fabricated by Joel Berman Glass Studio in Vancouver, British Columbia. A company, Dichromagic, then applied the Dichroic coating and transferred the pieces to Laredo. They were installed in the building by Texas Glass & Tinting.

What is the significance of these fixtures?

Geof Edwards AIA, Chief Operating Officer of Kell Muñoz Architects, Inc. said, "In designing the fixtures, Kell Muñoz Architects felt that the centuriesold technique of casting glass would be an interesting juxtaposition with the cutting edge technology of the Dichroic coating."

"This same kind of juxtaposition was used in designing the Planetarium which both refers to the current scientific astronomical process as well as the ancient pre-Columbian pyramids. Many other juxtapositions occur throughout the building, honoring the advanced science being studied, while acknowledging the history and connection of the scientific processes in our culture and our region," he concluded.

-- Rebecca M. Martínez, Student Intern

Our thanks to Geof Edwards AIA, Chief Operating Officer of Kell Muñoz Architects, Inc. for his assistance with this.





Dr. Jerry Thompson, Regents Professor of history, published his 20th book — *Civil War to the Bloody End: The Life & Times of Major General Samuel P. Heintzelman*. Thompson delved into countless historical archives and Heintzelman's pocket diaries, journals and records to tell the story of one of the most fascinating military figures of the 19th Century.

Dr. Yu-Mei Huang, assistant professor of music, performed in Taipei, Taiwan and also taught a master class in violin there.

Dr. Christopher J. Ferguson, assistant professor of psychology, along with co-authors, presented two papers to mostly academic and criminal psychologists in Greece in July on how people respond to the personal characteristics of people accused of various types of violent crimes; the second looked at the validity of a laboratory test of aggression commonly used in media violence studies.

Ruby Smith González, TAMIU disability service coordinator, was awarded a \$1,000 grant for her work with TAMIU students with disabilities by The Texas A&M University System Disability Training Network.

Dr. Susan Berdahl, associate professor of music, directed the Third International Flute Festival for Central Americans in Tegucigalpa, Honduras this summer and performed there as a soloist playing the Bach b minor Suite with the Leipzig Bach Camerata Orchestra. She also directed a large flute orchestra in concerts and various locales throughout Honduras.

Marcela Morán, TAMIU assistant professor of communication, has had her film, "Casa del Migrante," exploring human rights violations towards Central American migrants traveling through México, selected for inclusion in the 10th annual Los Angeles International Short Film Festival (LA Shorts Fest), the New York City Downtown Short Film Festival, the Harlem International Film Festival and Austin's 9th Annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival.

Dr. Christy S. Teranishi, assistant professor of psychology, presented the results of her study "Implementing the pedagogy of experiential learning: Integrating service learning and study abroad," at the 18th Annual International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology in Greece in July. The article she wrote based on this study was accepted for the January 2007 volume of the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

Our Growth

Rec Sp¶rts TAMIU

Groundbreaking for New Kinesiology Expansion Held

TAMIU students were welcomed back to the University this Fall with a groundbreaking for the expansion of the Kinesiology-Convocation Building.

State Senator Judith Zaffirini was keynote speaker and shared with students, faculty and community guests the often challenging journey to successfully secure funding for the facility.

The approximately \$12.5 million new facility will be constructed next to the existing Kinesiology-Convocation Building and will be sized at 45,000 gross square feet and includes classroom space, instructional sport space and activity rooms.

Featured are a large aerobics/cardio area, activity rooms, weight/fitness rooms, locker rooms and a multi-

p u r p o s e gymnasium. Most importantly, it will provide the instructional space needed for the University's growing fitness and sports program, a major available from the College of Education.

Following the Groundbreaking Ceremony, students celebrated Campus Recreation Day, part of the Welcome Week activities hosted by the Office of Student Affairs.

Students enjoyed a Wild Rapid Water Ride, human gyroscope, Frisbee disc golf, obstacle course races, rock climbing wall, and fun snacks in the nearby Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden.



Legislative Update



Gov. Perry, Lt. Gov. Dewhurst Bring Historic TRB Gift to TAMIU

The State's two top leaders visited Texas A&M International University this summer to help bring the campus-changing realities of House Bill 153 (HB153) home.

On July 11, Texas Governor Rick Perry conducted a ceremonial signing of House Bill 153, which will provide \$1.9 billion in Tuition Revenue Bond (TRB) funding to 48 universities and colleges statewide. TAMIU is receiving \$37.5 million. Gov. Perry noted the signing represented the largest outlay of tuition revenue bonds in the history of the State.

During Perry's visit, he lauded the University's growth and leadership, noting that TAMIU's enrollment growth last year was five times higher than the State average.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst visited the campus July 21 as part of a special luncheon honoring him and State Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

Dewhurst's visit was highlighted by a chance to hear from TAMIU students who thanked both the Lt. Governor and State Senator for their efforts to transform Laredo and South Texas with higher education.

Also on hand for the occasions was State Representative Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City.

The TAMIU funding will enable the University to build a \$25 million Student Success Center, complete a perimeter road and upgrade its air-conditioning systems, (\$7.6 million) and complete a theatre in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (\$4.9 million.)

Since opening its 300-acre campus in northeast Laredo in 1995, TAMIU has received \$140.7 million in construction TRBs.

Academic Growth



Chances are that some day you may bump into an alumnus of Texas A&M International University who calls Egypt or China home. That's because the University is extending its international programming reach to these countries ... and others.

These efforts primarily feature programs offered by the University's College of Business Administration that have been developed to address the needs of the requesting countries and their schools, said Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"These opportunities for the University have grown from our involvement in the Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC) and will focus on delivery by our College of Business Administration of an Executive MBA Program in Egypt and, later, similar programs in China. The Egypt program will begin this Fall while the Chinese program is planned for January 2007," Dr. Jones said.

Above: Dr. Mohamed Rabieh Nasser, chancellor of the Delta Academy of Science, joins Texas A&M International University provost and vice president for academic affairs Dr. Dan Jones and the dean of the College of Business Administration Dr. Jacky So as they review agreements governing TAMIU's executive MBA program in Egypt.

He said the programs are highly innovative and have the potential to impact the University on multiple fronts.

"Clearly, this expands the University's international visibility, adds additional foreign students and visiting scholars to our educational environment, and provides both direct and indirect economic benefits to our campus and our community. It's interesting to note that no state monies are used to maintain these programs, which will be virtually self-sustaining," he said.

Jones said there are other intangible benefits.

"There is a long and highly significant correlation between foreign students studying at US universities and future leadership roles in their home country. As Education USA, a US Department of Education agency that promotes US higher education, notes, 'foreign students yesterday, world leaders today.' TAMIU will be part of that tradition and that most significant form of quiet diplomacy. A US higher education continues to be the gold standard of the world, and we are confident that we offer a special currency to that standard with our international programs and foci," he explained.

(cont'd on page 10)

(cont'd from page 9)

The Egyptian program, offered in direct partnership with the private Delta Academy of Sciences in Mansoura, has affiliated branches in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Yemen and Sudan. The effort also includes two state Universities in the cities of Benha and Mansoura, with 40,000 and 100,000 students respectively.

The TAMIU program will offer an Executive Master of Business Administration and begin with a minimum cohort of 15 and a maximum of 35 students. The coursework will be offered online and at TAMIU and Egyptian campuses.

Drs. Jones, Jacky So (dean, College of Business Administration) and Jaime Ortíz (associate vice president, Division of International Programs) visited the Egyptian campuses this past summer.

TAMIU will soon partner with prospective universities in China and Taiwan to offer its Executive MBA, said Dr. So.

"There is a huge middle class population that realizes

that the way to realize the late Deng Xiaoping's saying 'to get rich is glorious,' is through quality higher education. The MBA is considered the most relevant degree for this huge population," he explained, noting that the China program will feature a start up cohort of about 15, growing to a maximum of 35.

Dr. Ortíz said the Egyptian and Chinese programs have special relevance for TAMIU's on-campus students.

"Our students today are the global graduates of tomorrow. For them, integrating the diversity of other cultures and countries will be the standard expectation. Having students and faculty members from these programs interacting with our students affords richly relevant opportunities for learning and building global networking teams," Ortíz noted.

To date, the University has over 20 agreements with foreign universities that provide for study abroad and faculty exchange/research in Asia, Central America, Europe, and México.

But there's still a big whole world out there eager to tap into TAMIU's programming and expertise, Jones said.

"We are constantly contacted by other countries about our programs and opportunities to expand them along the line of these initiatives. I think it's a true testament to our faculty and the programs they have built, " he observed.



TAMIU provost and vice president for academic affairs Dr. Dan Jones, dean of the College of Business Administration Dr. Jacky So and Dr. Jaime Ortíz, associate vice president, Division of International Programs, are pictured at the base of the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Giza, near Cairo, Egypt.

Employers Offer Important Internship Opportunities for TAMIU Students

Local and area employers are giving Texas A&M International University students real world experience and college credit with internships coordinated by the College of Business Administration.

"For employers, this is an opportunity to work and mentor soonto-be-graduated students. Without exception, these students have been vibrant, energetic and focused," said Dr. Frank Collins, internship program coordinator and Radcliffe Killam Distinguished Professor of Accounting.

Internships are supervised employment — a job. Students are required to work at least 135 hours for academic credit. During the internship, students are also expected to maintain a work log and write an end of internship report.

Internships are offered in all fields of study at the College of Business Administration.

"I learned you have to be very precise in what you do. Errors can be

costly for the firm. Ethical values also play a big role within an accounting firm," said former intern Marty Glover who worked at Ramiro E. Menchaca, LLP.

"Employers who offer internships get some short-term help from bright, energetic and focused people. I constantly get compliments on the quality of work performed by the interns," added Dr. Collins.

Collins noted employers have the opportunity to evaluate a potential employee and the intern can evaluate the company or organization as a possible employer.

"More importantly, because the employer has had an opportunity to evaluate the intern, they have a better notion of whether they'll be a good 'fit' in their organization. Since the intern has had the opportunity to evaluate the company, they'll be making an informed decision when they choose whether or not to accept employment after the internship is completed. It's more likely that the former intern, now employee, will have a more satisfying long-term relationship," explained Collins.

Students undertake their internships near the end of their degree program, so they're better able to relate what they've had in their coursework to their job. Interns are top students and must have at least a 2.85 grade point average and 3.0 GPA in their major. Employers expose interns to various departments so they can relate to a variety of subjects such as accounting, management and finance.

"Returning interns inevitably find their remaining coursework to be more relevant and important. After all, what we teach at the College of Business Administration is real world. Our interns are more focused on getting the most out of their education. They know it's relevant," affirmed Collins.

"It helps a lot when you're looking for a job. Other students have gotten not only a lot of experience from their internships, but job offers from the companies where they did their internships. It's a great opportunity."

> --Judith Coronado Intern at Falcon Bank's accounting department



Sports Update



Texas A&M International University Athletics teams will compete as provisional members of the NCAA Division II Heartland Conference during the 2006-07 academic year. The Heartland Conference currently consists of 10 schools: six from Texas and one each from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Montana.

The five Texas institutions in the conference are Dallas Baptist University, Incarnate Word University, St. Edward's University, St. Mary's University and University of Texas-Permian Basin.

The normal NCAA provisional period is two to four years. TAMIU's teams will not be eligible for conference championships or NCAA postseason play during the provisional period. Studentathletes will be eligible for Heartland Player of the Week and All-Conference honors during the same period.

Senior Juliana Gusmáo recorded 11 kills and nine digs in a home upset win over NCAA Division I opponent UT-Pan American on Sept. 4.





CALENDAR

Show your TAMIU spirit by supporting and cheering for the TAMIU Dustdevils this Fall during their first season in the NCAA Division II.

Men's Soccer

Oct. 20	Fri.	St. Mary's*	3 p.m.		
Oct. 22	Sun.	St. Edward's*	5 p.m.		
Women's Soccer					
Oct. 22	Sun.	Incarnate Word*	3 p.m.		
Oct. 25	Wed.	UT-Permian Basin*	2 p.m.		
Volleyba	all				
-		LIT Dormion Docin*	7 n m		
Oct. 20	Fri.	UT-Permian Basin*	7 p.m.		
Oct. 21		UT-Permian Basin*	2 p.m.		
Oct. 25	Wed.	Texas A&M-Kingsville	7 p.m.		
Oct. 31	Tue.	Incarnate Word*	7 p.m.		
Men's B	asketba	II			
Nov. 18	Sat.	Universidad Regiomontana	7 p.m.		
Nov. 20	Mon.	Monterrey Tech	8 p.m.		
Nov. 29	Wed.	Texas Lutheran	7 p.m.		
Dec. 6	Wed.	Montana State-Billings*	7 p.m.		
Dec. 21	Thur.	St. Edward's*	7:30 p.m.		
Jan. 1	Mon.	Dallas Baptist*	7 p.m.		
Women's Basketball					
Nov. 18	Sat.	Universidad Regiomontana	6 p.m.		
1100.10	Jut.		. p.m.		

INOV. 18	Sal.	Universidad Regiomoniana	6 p.m.
Nov. 20	Mon.	Monterrey Tech	6 p.m.
Dec. 2	Sat.	Adams State	3 p.m
Dec. 16	Sat.	Houston Baptist	2 p.m.
Dec. 30	Sat.	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1 p.m.

* Indicates Heartland Conference opponents.

Soccer games played at Dustdevil Field on campus. Volleyball matches and basketball games are played at the Kinesiology-Convocation Building on campus.

Soccer and volleyball admission: \$5 adults, \$3 students (K-12) Basketball admission: \$7 adults, \$5 students (K-12)

Free admission to all athletic events with a valid TAMIU student, faculty or staff ID.

TAMIU Professor's Work Focuses on Local Ticks

"The problem is, if you don't look, you don't know what you're missing and that's what I'm interested in—what problems are we missing?" Dr. David L. Beck, assistant professor of microbiology, asked.

The problems Dr. Beck refers to are diseases that *Amblyomma cajennense*, or ticks common to the Texas A&M International University campus and Webb County, might be carrying.

"Ticks carry disease and people get bitten by ticks all the time. If you go to any classroom and ask students if they've been bitten by a tick, a lot of people raise their hands and none of them have thought anything of it. Our natural reaction is to throw them in the sink, but we won't know if that tick was carrying a disease," explained Dr. Beck.

What is known is that ticks can carry diseases, such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, but tick-borne diseases are often unreported or misdiagnosed in Webb County.

"From a public health standpoint, if I know it can carry a disease, then I don't know how to interpret being bitten by a tick. If I were a doctor and I had a patient who was bitten by a tick, should I be worried? If there is no disease in the area, probably not. If there is a lot of disease, I should definitely be worried," Beck continued.

Amblyomma cajennense can be found from northern Argentina all the way to Laredo its northern limit.

"It's a major tick here, but we really don't know much about it," Beck said.

"The nice thing about ticks is that you can collect them and study them without a lot of money and it's also very amenable to student projects," he added.

"The other issue we are looking at, with help from the Texas Center for Border Economics and Enterprise Development, is control: Where do the mothers lay their eggs? One mother tick will lay from 2,000 to 20,000 ticks. We know that if you have a mother tick feeding, the mother tick will tend to fall off at night. Where the animals go to lie down at night, that's probably where they'll be going to lie tomorrow and that's probably where they'll have the babies," Beck said.

For more information, please contact Beck at dbeck@tamiu.edu or 326.2587 or visit offices in the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, room 379D.

Tick Tips

- Make it hard for ticks to enter clothing by tucking in shirts in pants and pants inside socks.
- Use duct tape or a wide masking tape to seal pants cuffs.
- Avoid sitting on the ground or on logs in tick-infested areas.
- Have a friend check you for ticks before they attach.
- Use tweezers to remove ticks with a firm, slow pull as close to the head as possible. Apply antiseptic.
- Keep tall grasses and weeds cut short around the home.

From the Texas Cooperative Extension Agency





When the first notes sounded On the new Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ during its Inaugural Recital this summer, all jaws dropped in near unison. It wasn't just the majestic sound, or the remarkable beauty of the pipes that soared above the audience...it was the combined signal they sent: the largest philanthropic gift supporting the arts in Laredo had truly roared to life.

Over three years in the planning and construction, the \$1.2 million organ was a gift of The E. H. Corrigan Foundation.

"It's areally a phenomenal investment that's unparalleled in the history of the arts in Laredo," said TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck, "We are so honored to be able to be home to the Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ and to provide our students and the community with an opportunity to learn about and hear its majestic sound."

(cont'd on page 16)

a Joyful Noise Signals A Brighter Future

A Joyful Noise *Signals A Brighter Future*

(cont'd from page 15)

The quiet, impeccably dressed Corrigan offered rare comments to the audience to thunderous applause, noting, "this gift is for the future so that Laredo's children can know the beauty of music and the organ for generations to come."

Guest artist for the capacity crowd was Dr. David Heller of San Antonio's Trinity University, considered one of the nation's most outstanding organists and recording artists by *The American Organist*, which has hailed him as "an eloquent performer" and called his most recent recording, "Veni Creator Spiritus" (Calcante Recordings) an "excellent demonstration of outstanding music making on a contemporary American organ."

Dr. Heller opened with the debut of an especially commissioned work, "A Laredo Fanfare," by American composer Gerre Hancock. The program followed with selections by J. S. Bach, Duruflé, Elgar, Franck and Noble.

The Kegg Company of Hartville, Ohio, constructed the Organ. After a national search, the Kegg Company was chosen to build this landmark instrument. The Organ has 69 ranks and 52 stops.

For this instrument, the builders took special care to provide four complete flue and reed choruses that are specially designed, scaled and voiced to let the music of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries sing and sparkle with life.

The same resources, blended in different ways, create a versatile romantic instrument well capable of dialogue with a full orchestra, accompanying choral ensembles, and the wide dynamic range of romantic and contemporary organ literature.

The Solo division is clearly romantic. The romantic Great reed chorus is enclosed in this box and is playable on both the Great and Solo. Its enclosure will enhance the buildup, allowing it to be brought subtly into the full Great or full organ. In the same manner, the Solo Tuba is enclosed in its own separate box, allowing its careful use in the full ensemble.

The University has created a special Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ microsite on its Web site which provides a special time-lapse construction video which "builds" the Organ. A small performance segment by Heller is also available.

The Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ will be featured in regular performances in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts' Recital Hall. Among these is a planned performance of Handel's "Messiah" with the TAMIU Chorale.

The site is available at http://www.tamiu.edu/organ/



Fun Facts about the Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ

- •The Organ has 3,998 pipes arranged in 69 sets or ranks.
- •The biggest pipe is 14" in diameter and 34 feet tall.
- •The smallest is 1/8" in diameter and less than 1/4" in length.
- •The largest pipes are zinc, but most are made of alloys of tin and lead.
- •There are three sets of wood pipes, made of poplar, basswood and pine.
- •The Organ's white keys are genuine ivory imported before the international ban on ivory trade was enacted. The black keys are made of rosewood.
- •The pipes are powered by a 5horsepower blower installed on the mezzanine level behind the Organ case that provides wind to the Organ at a regulated pressure of 1 3/4" to 5."
- •The Organ weighs 35,000 pounds.

TAMIU Events

A.R.SANCHEZ, SR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES 2006-07

Brings Remarkable Lecturers to TAMIU



Robert Rivard, San Antonio Express News managing editor and author of "Trail of Feathers."



Dr. Alan Lightman, Professor of Physics and Astronomy Harvard University



Dr. Geoffrey R. Stone , Distinguished Service Professor of Law Chicago Law School

Dr. Susan Hunter, International Health Consultant



Some of the nation's brightest minds once again share their perspectives for the 2006 – 2007 A.R. Sánchez Sr. Distinguished Lecture Series presented by Texas A&M International University's College of Arts and Sciences.

This is the 10th year of the Distinguished Lecture Series at TAMIU.

The Series launched in September with an appearance by **Robert Rivard**, *San Antonio Express News* managing editor and author of "Trail of Feathers," his book about the search for the truth about the 1998 disappearance and murder of Philip True, former Express-News México City bureau chief.

Funded by the A.R. Sánchez Foundation, the Series is free and open to the public and takes place at 7 p.m. in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall.

The remaining lecturers and their dates of presentation include:

Tuesday, Oct. 10 — Dr. Alan Lightman presents "Einstein in the 21st Century." Lightman is a novelist, essayist, physicist and professor and has taught physics and astronomy at Harvard University for over 20 years. His most recent books include "Einstein's Dreams" and "The Diagnosis."

Wednesday, March 7 — Dr. Geoffrey R. Stone presents "Free Speech in the Time of War." Stone is the Harry Kalven Jr. Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School and a Supreme Court Review editor since 1991. His most recent books include "The First Amendment" and "Eternally Vigilant: Free Speech in the Modern Era."

Monday, April 30 — Dr. Susan Hunter presents "AIDS in Africa." Advocate, acclaimed author and international health consultant, Dr. Hunter is the author of "Black Death: AIDS in Africa" and "AIDS in Asia: A Continent in Peril" and consults for UNICEF, UNAIDS and USAID.

New TV Campaign Portrays TAMIU's Student Diversity, SUCCESS

Andrea López Junior, Early Childhood Education From: Laredo, TX



Christopher Swan

Sophomore, Management and Information Systems From: Los Angeles, CA Future Dream: Entrepreneur



Eliza Cezario

Senior, Business Administration From: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Future Dream: CEO



Carlos Abadía MBA in International Business From: Panamá Future Dream: Construction Company Owner



Paijit Wongprayuk

MBA in International Business From: Thailand Future Dream: Import-Export Company Owner



Paul Bussenius

MBA in International Banking From: France Future Dream: Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist



Have you been paying close attention to your TV screen lately? If so, you might have already noticed TAMIU's latest series of catchy commercials featuring students from as close as Freer and as far away as Panamá.

The University-produced ads, running on NBC, Time Warner Cable and Univisión in English and *español*, feature dynamic and multicultural students with varying career goals emphasizing the University's unifying message, "What do you want out of life?" The confident yet fun-loving students appear on screen as they proudly exclaim, "I know what I want out of life," or "Yo se lo que quiero hacer de mi vida," in Spanish. Their backgrounds and career goals represent TAMIU today: diverse, international and academically successful.

Besides the TV campaign, the students also star in a video that introduces visitors to TAMIU's 300-acre campus and in print ads.

To see the campaign, visit www.tamiu.edu/ iknowwhatiwant

Michael Salas

Junior, Social Studies From: Laredo Future Dream: School Principal



Ashley Taylor Sophomore, Management and Information Systems From: Freer, TX Future Dream: Technology Director, International Corporation



Karina Moreno

Master of Public Administration From: Monterrey, México Future Dream: University Recruiter



James Michael Hutcheon

Senior, Criminal Justice From: Houston, TX Future Dream: Attorney



Daniel Cisneros Sophomore, Engineering From: Laredo, TX Future Dream: Civil Engineer



Daniel Flores Sophomore, Chemistry From: Laredo Future Dream: Physician



Our University Life



Among the fun and games students enjoyed after the groundbreaking for the expansion of the Kinesiology-Convocation Building was the human gyroscope.



Norma Benavides and her nephew, Mario Benavides, met with E. H. Corrigan after the inaugural recital of the Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ.

Ana García (BA, '06) is a member of the staff of the Banking Relations division of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the OCC, she completed an internship with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Dennis Nixon, International Bank of Commerce President/CEO, left, and Daniel Hastings, IBC board member, right, presented another installment from the Matías De Llano Charitable Trust towards the \$500,000 donation for an endowment for the University's Ph.D. program in International trade to Dr. Tagi Sagafi-nejad, director of the Ph.D. program, second from left and Dr. Jacky So, dean of the TAMIU College of Business Administration, second from right.



Mr. South Texas Scholarship recipients each received \$1,000 scholarships. State Senator Judith Zaffirini, Mr. South Texas Foundation president, presented the awards.



Student members of the D. D. Hachar Honors Program and President's Scholars were welcomed at a special reception and dinner held at Dr. Ray and Patricia Keck's home. Dr. Keck hosts the event each Fall semester. Pictured left to right, front row are: Daniel García, Maria Gómez, Brenda De León, Eric Garza, Manuel Barragán, Ashley Ramírez, Christopher Jarrell, Kesia Rodríguez, Sandra Prado, Cristina Martínez, Alissa González and Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Left to right second row are: Manuel Montes, Gabriela García, Celina Martínez, Rosa Ramón, Cynthia Cruz, Erica Reyna, Sandra Contreras, Michael Bustamante, Vanessa Ramos, and José Guerra (UHS). Back row: Dr. Carlos E. Cuéllar and Dr. Ray M. Keck III. Not pictured are: Carlos Cantú, Christine Cortéz, Jaime García, Perla Herrera, Jessica Morales, Gabriela Ramos, Gloria Rocha, Claudia Rodríguez, Rosalinda Torre and Nancy Zavala.



Betsy Gill, right, and her granddaughter, Joanna Payne, left, visited with Dr. David Heller, guest artist for the Sharkey-Corrigan Pipe Organ Recital, after the performance. Payne is a former student of Dr. Heller's at Trinity University.



Students enjoyed sampling food from various local restaurants during TAMIU's Welcome Week Taste of Laredo.

Anna Yvette DeLeón ('05), a fourth grade teacher at Barbara Fasken Elementary School, celebrates "Career Day" with her students. They're sporting TAMIU items provided by the TAMIU Office for Institutional Advancement, as part of its Adopt-A-School program.





Members of the Khaledi Family are shown after the announcement of their generous gift of \$100,000 to the College of Arts and Sciences to support a faculty and student recognition program.

From the Capitol

State Senator Judith Zaffirini offers a view from our State Capitol

"The Senate passed historic and unprecedented legislation that is the largest single investment ever in higher education," Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said in May. With great pride and enthusiasm he was announcing our incredible passage of HB 153 by Morrison and Zaffirini, ensuring \$1.9 billion in capital funding for Texas colleges and universities, including \$37.6 million for Texas A&M International University.

The stars were aligned for the bill's passage, in spite of serious attempts to kill it and obstacles that included a critically short time frame. On Thursday, May 11, at 10:30 p.m., Gov. Rick Perry added tuition revenue bonds (TRBs) to the call for the 30-day special session that would end by midnight on Tuesday, May 16.

Because Lt. Gov. Dewhurst in February appointed me Chair of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Capital Funding for Higher Education, I authored Senate Bill 46 and sponsored its companion bill, HB 153. Both reflected \$2.2 billion in total requests for TRBs, and Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, quickly passed the House version, simply to send it to the Senate for serious consideration.

My task was daunting but doable: to pass a bill in the Senate that would merit concurrence in the House of Representatives, thereby precluding the need for a conference committee to work out differences between Senate and House versions. The press of time dictated this goal because going to conference would increase the likelihood of failure.

Working day and night at the Capitol over the Mother's Day weekend, Rep. Morrison and I crafted an initial proposal for Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and Speaker of the House Tom Craddick. The bill evolved as countless legislators called to stress the importance of their TRB priorities, which I supported enthusiastically.



Testimony and calls from Dr. Ray Keck and other higher education leaders were essential as we crafted a workable compromise. My staff, most notably Brent Whitaker and Warren von Eschenbach, worked feverishly to get everything done timely.

How did we do it? Preparedness was the key. As soon as our subcommittee was appointed, I sought the assistance of Robert Shepard, chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Dr. Raymond Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education. Although works in progress, the criteria and framework they developed for evaluating TRB proposals were instrumental to our success. They empowered us to make the fairest, most objective decisions possible and to minimize the political aspects.

Finally, our subcommittee met on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and unanimously reported our bill to the Senate Finance Committee, which reported it to the Senate by a vote of 14-0-1. Last-minute attempts to kill the bill in committee were foiled by the support of Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and the strong support of 12 Finance Committee members. Later that night the Senate passed the bill 29-0-1, and the House concurred on Monday, one day before the special session finally adjourned.

The results are amazing: This is the largest single investment Texas has ever made for higher education capital improvements. TAMIU will receive \$25 million for a Student Success Center, \$7.6 million for the Loop Road and infrastructure and \$4.9 million to complete the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Incredible!

We were at the table, and we were heard. Working together we exceeded expectations and are grateful for the leadership of those who made it possible, most notably, Laredo's Mr. South Texas 2007, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. To all we say,

¡Mil Gracias!



12 New Sames Scholars Named

The 12 newest members of Texas A&M International University's select Sames Scholars Program were introduced at a reception this summer at TAMIU's Student Center.

The mentorship program pairs high school students with University faculty mentors throughout high school and offers students completing the program a four-year TAMIU scholarship that includes tuition, books and fees. While Scholars, they must maintain an 87.5 percent or better grade average, maintain a 95 percent attendance record and meet monthly with their mentor.

Students and their respective high schools include:

Alexander High School - Alejandra De La Garza, Estefanía González and Diana Santos.

L. B. Johnson High School - Alejandra Hernández, Noel Jaramillo and Gabriel Salvador Sánchez.

United High School - Carmen Bustos, Christopher Lozano and Areli Salinas.

United South High School - Miguel García, Nora Elideth González and María J. Mar. Also attending the reception were Sames Scholars graduating in 2006 including:

Alexander High School - Ronnica Gutíerrez, Denise Moreno and Michelle Sandoval.

L. B. Johnson High School - Juan Pedro García.

United High School - Janet Garza and Miguel A. Hinojosa.

United South High School - Elsa Aguirre and José Pedro Sánchez.

These seniors were presented with laptop computers when they began classes this Fall at TAMIU.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the Sames Scholars Program is supported by local philanthropists Hank and Elizabeth Sames. To date, 54 students have been assisted by the Program, including 36 currently enrolled in high school and 18 now enrolled as TAMIU freshmen (10) and sophomores (8).

Twelve select TAMIU faculty members serve the program. They are Drs. Frank Collins, Cecilia Garza, Nathan Gonyea, San Juanita Hachar, Peter Haruna, Ned Kock, Diana Linn, Denise Longoria, Jyotsna Mukherji, Mary Petrón, William Riggs, and Christy Teranishi.

Above: Standing (left to right): Dr. Jeff Cass, Mr. Hank Sames, Mrs. Elizabeth Sames, Dr. Ray M. Keck III, Dr. Dan Jones, Candy Hein. Sitting (left to right): Denisse Moreno, Juan Pedro García, José Pedro Sánchez, Ronnica Gutíerrez, Janet Garza. The students are all freshman Sames Scholars.



Visionary CEOs Offer Nursing Support with Historic Gift

It's great to have a vision ... but it's better to have someone share it. Texas A&M International University's Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing can count on all four local hospitals sharing its vision.

The four Chief Executive Officers for Doctors Hospital of Laredo, Laredo Medical Center, Laredo Specialty Hospital and Providence Surgical and Medical Hospital have created a combined commitment of \$93,000 that will provide faculty salary support and help the Canseco School of Nursing increase the community's number of nurses.

Nursing School director Dr. Susan Walker said this commitment will expand local BSN and MSN-degreed individuals.

"We are delighted that Laredo's medical community leaders share our vision and have joined us in an effort to expand the cadre of Bachelors and Masters degree-holding nurses," Dr. Walker said.

TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck concurred, noting that the School continues to benefit from community and philanthropic support.

"The School has been much-blessed by widespread community support and philanthropic partnerships. We are excited about this historic partnership and look forward to continuing to accelerate the education of more nurses to serve our community," Dr. Keck said.

Al Chapa, Doctors Hospital CEO, spoke on behalf of the gifting group: Abraham Martínez (Laredo Medical Center), Elmo López Jr. (Laredo Specialty Hospital) and Elaudio Montalvo (Providence Surgical and Medical Hospital).

"We all share a profound commitment to this University and School and believe that this historic gift can do much to address this community's need for nursing professionals by increasing the number of BSN graduates by 10-15 each year," Chapa said, noting, "Each of our diverse facilities is focused on providing the best in patient health care, and it is in our shared interest to assist in increasing the number of nurses here."

In addition to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a BSN completion degree for those holding a diploma or an associate degree in nursing, the School also offers a Master of Science in nursing degree program with a specialization as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

The CEOs of Laredo's four hospitals have announced a combined Gift benefiting TAMIU's Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing. Left to right, Abraham Martínez, Laredo Medical Center; Elmo Lopez Jr., Laredo Specialty Hospital; Dr. Susan Walker, director, Canseco School of Nursing and Al Chapa, Doctors Hospital. Not pictured, Elaudio Montalvo, CEO for Providence Surgical Medical Hospital.



The Trip of A Lifetime: A View from Abroad

By Leiza Nochebuena



Me going abroad? There was no possible way. I remember Freshman Orientation and going to the Study Abroad table and saying, "Yeah right. There is no way." Well I was way off. Thankfully I was lucky enough to experience this wonderful opportunity...twice.

My first time was to France. I remember that I was in my microeconomics class and some friends had a flyer for a summer abroad to Chambéry, France. I really didn't think much of it but I still mentioned it to my mom. She got really excited and pushed me to look more into it. I went to the International Programs office and got the information and applications that I needed. I held on to them for a while until three days before the scholarship application was due. I got all the required signatures ready while at the same time getting together my passport, airline ticket, and everything else I needed.

The day finally arrived when Tomás, one of my friends, and I were going to head to France. I couldn't believe it... it was my first time traveling abroad...well really it was my first time leaving Laredo. I can't really explain how I felt; I guess it was just a mixture of emotions. I was scared, happy, excited...I just really cannot put it into words.

As soon as we got there... it was an adventure. Right now I laugh at it, but it was not funny at the moment. I was on the verge of tears...several times. It was so frustrating not knowing the language. That first day I was ready to come back.

But once we had reached our final destination everything got so much better. We met other students in the same summer program. We all stayed at the same hostel and I made friends with students from China, Finland, Germany, and Ireland...and of course a lot of Americans. All the group of students became really united and we would do almost everything together. In the city we would go to clubs, the lake and Charlie's, a bar next to our hostel. I also got to visit so many places in France as well as Italy, Switzerland, Mount Blanc and the World Trade Organization. I even tried parasailing. It was amazing... and this comes from a person who is terrified of heights.

But probably the most rewarding thing that came out of my experience is that I met some incredible people and I proved to my self that I can be independent and that I can manage to do things by myself. This experience taught me so much and made me grow as an individual.

I liked my experience so much that I decided to do it again and go to Spain...where my Spanish-speaking ability would make it easier! My experience in Spain was completely different, but just as in France, it taught me a whole bunch. Experiences like these enable you to learn more about yourself and other people.

For anyone who is thinking or trying to go, go for it. I really recommend it. It's an experience that you will never forget, but you can only know by personal experience. Visit International Education on the third floor of Pellegrino Hall and talk to Jannet García. She will help you and guide you toward the most incredible experience you will ever have.

Leiza Nochebuena is a senior student majoring in international economics. Her Study Abroad experience was assisted by scholarship assistance provided by the International Education Fee Scholarship, D.D. Hachar Honors Scholarship and Texas Grant.

Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation Gift Launches TAMIU International Fellows

TAMIU students pursuing the University's growing study abroad opportunities have a helping hand thanks to a generous gift from the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation.

The Foundation has provided a \$150,000 gift to assist students in their travel and study interests. The three-year Gift, administered by the Foundation, is directed by University faculty and the Division of International Programs.

Shirley González, Foundation Board member, explained that the Gift represents an especially strong interest to assist TAMIU students by the late Guadalupe Martínez. Martínez passed away this Spring after a lifelong tradition of local and regional philanthropy. His wife Lilia preceded him.

"This was an especially dear initiative to him and he was very focused on its creation for TAMIU students. While he believed in education at all levels, he thought this program would offer Webb and Zapata County residents attending TAMIU a remarkable opportunity to see and study the world and bring back their learning for the benefit of local communities," González said.

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the University was honored to be able to help the Foundation to realize the Martínez' wishes.

"We are, of course, saddened that Mr. Martínez and his wife did not have an opportunity to meet these students and hear of their journeys, but are confident that the Martínez' would be very happy for them and the students who will follow them," Dr. Keck said.

This summer, eight students were named Guadalupe and Lila Martínez International Fellows.

The Fellows and their travel destinations are: Abby Ayala, senior, College of Business Administration (France); Omar García, sophomore, College of Arts and Sciences (France); Marco Hernández, senior, College of Business Administration (France), Mary Koch, senior, College of Arts and Sciences (United Kingdom), Gustavo Martínez, junior, College of Business Administration (France), Luz Martínez, junior, College of Arts and Sciences (France), Viridiana Paramo, senior, College of Business Administration (France), Brittany Witt, senior, Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing (México).



Texas A&M International University students are the beneficiaries of a generous gift from the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation that has created the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez International Fellows. The Gift provides students with financial support for study abroad. Pictured front row/left to right: Diana Carolina Valdez, traveling to Chambery, France; Viridiana V. Paramo, Chambery and Brittany Nicole Witt-Monterrey, México. Standing, left to right are Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president; Jannet García, TAMIU Study Abroad program director; Gustavo Martínez, Abby Ayala, Marco Hernández, all traveling to Chambery, and Mrs. Shirley González, trustee of the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation.



It's Done and Dusty for TAMIU Mascot

After months of speculation and surveys involving student, faculty, staff and alumni, Texas A&M International University has decided that its mascot will remain "Dusty" the Dustdevil.

Dr. Ray Keck, TAMIU president, said the surveys sought to ascertain communal attitudes toward Dusty.

"This would, of course, represent a considerable investment for the University, so we wanted to make sure that we had input from our primary communities. As we begin our membership in the NCAA Division II this year, this seemed the most appropriate juncture to contemplate change," Dr. Keck said.

An online survey conducted over Spring and Summer and distributed to students, faculty, staff, alumni saw 952 respondents. Students, faculty and alumni were evenly divided on liking/disliking the mascot, while staff showed a higher dislike level.

"The costs for such a change would be daunting, reaching six figures and involving everything from building signs, gym floors and uniforms to stationary and publications. There's no overwhelming indication that a change is needed and given our tightly allocated resources, we would of course much rather support student services and growth first," Keck said.



on campus NEV/S

TAMIU in "Best Colleges" 2006

TAMIU is again included in *U.S. News and World Reports'* annual publication "America's Best Colleges."

The publication includes TAMIU in its Western Region, Best Universities-Masters, Third Tier. Best Universities-Masters are institutions like TAMIU that provide a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs and a few doctoral programs. The group includes 537 universities around the country.

It notes TAMIU's small class size (50 percent of classes have 20 or fewer students); its high percentage of fulltime faculty (81 percent); its student faculty ratio (15/1) and its impressive average retention rate for freshmen (66 percent).

Dustdevil Marching Band On the Move for Fall

What has 200 feet, hits all the right notes and moves in unison?

Stumped? That would be the TAMIU Fighting Dustdevil Marching Band, which launched this fall under the direction of Dr. Michael Stone.

The Band performed at TAMIU's Freshman Convocation and is scheduled to perform this Fall at six soccer and middle and high school football games and a marching band competition.

Some 100 members strong, the group includes some of the area's most talented musicians. While many are music majors, most simply share a love of music and marching bands.

LCC-TAMIU Partnership Gets \$413,774 NIH Bridge Grant

The National Institutes for Health (NIH) will fund a program created by Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University to provide a "baccalaureate bridge" between the two for under-represented minority students to obtain degrees in the biomedical sciences.

The program, "PUENTES" (Promoting Undergraduate Education Now Through Experimental Science) will receive NIH funding of \$413,774 for the three-year program.

The program will increase LCC students' interest and awareness in biomedical research; enhance the academic competitiveness of LCC students; increase transfer rates from LCC to TAMIU of students completing a four-year degree in science, and increase students who pursue research careers in biomedical fields.



October

Wednesday, 25—TAMIU will once again host College Night. Various universities will be on campus to provide information. For more information, contact your local high school.

Sunday, 29 — Piano enthusiasts should make plans to attend "The Secrets of Steinway: A History of the Steinway Piano Industry" by Deborah Moore, with the Steinway Corporation. The lecture will be in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (CFPA) Recital Hall at 3 p.m. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Sunday, 29 — Come for the lecture and stay for the performance. The Steinway Piano Concert Series kicks off with Dr. Fritz Gechter, associate professor of piano at 4:30 p.m. in the CFPA Recital Hall. For more information, please call 326.2654.

November

Friday, 3 — Make plans to attend the first-ever "Band Extravaganza "at 7:30 p.m. in the CFPA Recital Hall. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Saturday, 11 — TAMIU Preview Day. For more information, call 326.2780.

Monday, 13 — Enjoy an evening of jazz and big band music with the University Jazz "Big Band" concert at the CFPA Sam Johnson Experimental Theater at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Tuesday, 14 — Jazz music continues at TAMIU with the University Jazz Improvisation Concert at the CFPA Sam Johnson Experimental Theater at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Friday, 17 — Support student scholarships by attending the 2006 Fall Dance Concert at the CFPA Recital Hall at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5. For more information, please call 326.2654.

December

Friday, 1 — Celebrate "Las Posadas" with performances by the TAMIU Ballet Folklórico at the CFPA Recital Hall at 8 p.m. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Sunday, 3 — The TAMIU Philharmonic Chorale will welcome the season with a performance of "Messiah" at 4 p.m. in the CFPA Recital Hall. For more information, please call 326.3039.

Wednesday, 6 — The TAMIU Guitar Ensemble will perform its annual "Guitarras de Navidad" at 8 p.m. in the CFPA Recital Hall. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Sunday, 10 — TAMIU piano students will perform a recital at 3 p.m. in the CFPA Recital Hall. For more information, please call 326.2654.

Saturday, 16 — Fall Commencement at TAMIU is at 2 p.m. on the University Green. For more information, please call 326.2250.

For more campus events, please visit http://www.tamiu.edu/calendar/month.php

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

