



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2017

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
CORPUS CHRISTI





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The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 2017 Donor Honor Roll is included in the online version of this report, which can be viewed in full at [tamucc.edu/AnnualReport](http://tamucc.edu/AnnualReport). The online format allows us to dedicate more printed pages to the inspiring stories about our students, faculty research and campus growth so we can share with you examples of our mission in action. We encourage you to take a moment to go online to view the impressive list of our friends and community supporters who have helped make an impact on our campus this year.



Dear Islanders, Supporters and Friends,

**A**s I look back on 2017, the year can be summed up by one word—impact. I am not just referring to the impact that the University and the Foundation had on the community, but also the impact the community had on the University and the Foundation. Together, the Coastal Bend community, the University and the Foundation have grown and expanded.

Thanks to the tireless dedication of our Foundation Board of Directors, our legislative team and countless community members, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has impacted the lives of thousands of Islanders. With this support, our students, faculty, staff and alumni are accomplishing great deeds. That is why I am so pleased to share our stories in this 2017 Annual Report. From sending deep-sea fungus to the International Space Station to finding ways to alleviate the regional shortage of mental health service providers—students and faculty across campus continue to push the boundaries of innovative research.

Our accomplishments as a University are reflected in the achievements of our students and alumni like Coral Lozada Perez, a doctoral student who spent the summer studying the socio-economic pressures of a small Yucatan fishing village as the Harte Research Institute's Dr. John "Wes" Tunnel Jr. Fellow; Eduardo Gomez, '05, who utilizes his expertise in business administration to revolutionize the electronic medical records system at Driscoll Children's Hospital; and Valerie Ferdin, '13, who gives back through work-related STEM outreach opportunities and The Ferdin Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering, which she established in 2016 to provide first-generation college students financial support. Wherever you go, Islanders are using their education to give back to their communities.

I am proud to say the University is able to continually re-evaluate and improve our academic programs because of the dollars donors like you provide. We understand that to become a world-class institution, we must provide our ever-increasing student population with the financial resources, programs and tools that prepare them to become global citizens who will make an impact in their chosen career fields.

Just think; we accomplished all this despite starting the fall 2017 semester with a hurricane and ending it with a snowstorm. Looking back, Islanders responded to Harvey with incredible courage, philanthropy and fighting spirit. Therefore, we have dedicated a significant portion of this Annual Report to sharing how the University came together to support each other and the community.

Again, we could not have done any of this without your generous support. As the 11th President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, I assure you that we will be good stewards of the funds you have so generously given and we will continue to utilize those funds to create a great University and a great community.

On behalf of the students and the campus community, I express my gratitude and hope for many years of continued partnerships.



**Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla**  
**President and CEO**  
**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Dear Islanders, Supporters and Friends,

**A**s the newest president of the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation, I am proud to say that the Foundation remains committed to our mission of promoting the growth, quality and effectiveness of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. I am certain that all of you—our founding members, past board members, donors and supporters—will be similarly proud of the Foundation's efforts that continue to positively impact Islander students.

The Foundation offers donors the opportunity to make an impact on individual students, on our University and on our community. Your generosity this past year provided student scholarships, funding for faculty chairs and professorships and support for capital improvements such as classroom technology and campus facilities. That support helped us graduate more than 2,300 students last year who entered our workforce as teachers and innovators, engineers and nurses, artists and business leaders. The stories presented in this report will show you what an impact your support made on their lives, and now, the impact that these students and alumni are having on our community.

As we look ahead, the Foundation will continue its partnership with the University under the leadership of Dr. Kelly Quintanilla as the 11th President of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. We support her commitment to every student's success and her vision of the Coastal Bend community and the University working together to achieve unparalleled success. I am excited to begin my service as Foundation President at the same time as Dr. Quintanilla begins her presidency.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation and all of our students.



**Rhodes "Chip" Urban**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation**



# MBA Graduate Makes Impact at Driscoll Children's Hospital

Driven by motivation to improve health care for children in South Texas, Eduardo Gomez, '05, earned a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Health Care Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Gomez wanted to learn how to best analyze the "big picture" in health care and make data-backed decisions from a bird's eye perspective. Gomez said his MBA equipped him with the skills to do just that, contributing to his success in his current role as Assistant Vice President of Analytics at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi.

One of Gomez's proudest implementations was fast-tracking the hospital's use of Electronic Medical Records. He since has developed a department which analyzes data from those records.

"It's an ongoing process that leads to better health care," said Gomez. "We are able to collect information on health care outcomes, efficiency and cost savings. We then translate that into meaningful information that hospital administrators can use to make decisions."

Gomez also uses his MBA to analyze patient trends in South Texas, which allows

him to make recommendations on the types of health care providers that are needed most in the region. While much of Gomez's work is behind the scenes, he's impacting what is happening on the front lines of pediatric medicine.

"Work with 'meaning' has always been important to me," said Gomez. "I want others to know that a business degree does not have to solely be about making a profit for a company. It can also be used to improve outcomes in any organization one has passion for."

Gomez also uses his skill set volunteering for the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Gomez wants to improve the emotional health of children because, from his work in health care, he's learned how emotional stressors can lead to physical conditions.

Prior to earning an MBA at the Island University, Gomez earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University. He worked for hospital systems in Houston, New Orleans, Phoenix and another medical group in Corpus Christi before going back to school for his MBA.

For Gomez, his education has not stopped with his most recent degree. He says the words of one of his A&M-Corpus Christi business professors, Dr. A.N.M. Waheeduzzaman, always stay with him.

"He said, 'Never stop learning. Keep up



with new developments in your field."

And that quest for knowledge continues to impact Gomez's life, as he seeks creative solutions for whatever comes next, personally and professionally.

## The Business of Raising a Future Islander

New parents Travis and Allison Cruger, both graduates of the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, are excited to be raising the next generation of Islanders.

"We hope she will follow in our footsteps and become an Islander too," said Allison, about their three-week old daughter, Lana Jewell.

Allison and Travis not only fell in love with the Island University, they also fell in love with each other, first exchanging glances outside the Michael and Karen O'Connor

building in 2013. They were married two years later.

Allison graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in management in summer 2013 and is currently completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA), while Travis earned a BBA in finance in spring 2014 and an MBA in fall 2016.

Allison grew up around her family's brewing business, Andrews Distributing, and worked as a cashier while completing her undergraduate degree. She said what she learned in the classroom became increasingly relevant at her job.

"Growing up around the family business and seeing the passion for the business inspired me to be a part of it," she said.

It wasn't long before Allison advanced to her current position as Sales Analyst at Andrews Distributing.

As Travis reflects on his time as a young university student, he remembers a lunch he had with his father. The two, eating in downtown Corpus Christi, were in eyesight of the Bank of America building.

"I remember telling my dad that one day, I wanted to work on a top floor of that high-rise," Travis said.

And now, he does.

After working his way up from an entry-level position, Travis is now the Vice President/Registered Representative at Doraine Wealth Management Group. He says he got his foot in the door thanks to recommendations from his undergraduate business professors.

"That would have never happened if I went to a larger university," said Travis. "I would have just been a number, but at the Island University, my professors really got to know me and my goals. I owe them my gratitude."

While working as support staff at Doraine Wealth Management Group, Travis took the opportunity to simultaneously earn his MBA from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"My undergraduate degree was a great foundation, but what I learned during my MBA took me to the next level by connecting my education to current business trends," Travis said. "My MBA was key to helping me help my clients reach their financial goals."

The Crugers are excited to be a part of Corpus Christi's business growth and believe the City is on the frontier of a potential financial boom. They also look forward to a bright future for their new bundle of joy, which includes Lana one day becoming an Islander, just like her mom and dad.



## Harte Research Institute Expands International Research Connections to Mexico and Cuba

The Gulf of Mexico is an international sea shared by three nations, the United States, Mexico and Cuba, and any work that seeks to address problems in its environment or economy must involve all those partners. The Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi took great new steps to expand its international research in 2017, sending students and faculty abroad to both Mexico and Cuba and appointing two international chairs that will represent the nations at the Institute.

In August, HRI announced the appointment of Dr. Silvia Patricia González Díaz, Professor and Director of the Center of Marine Research at the University of Havana, and Dr. Fernando Nuno Dias Marques Simões, Associate Professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, as the International Chairs for Coastal and Marine Studies in Cuba and Mexico, respectively.

These new chairs will act as diplomatic liaisons between HRI and their academic institutions and home countries, helping to develop research and educational exchanges. They will teach classes at HRI, participate in committees, support and mentor graduate students, and represent HRI at academic meetings conferences and workshops.

International collaboration from the top down is a key part of HRI's mission of working to conserve and protect the Gulf of Mexico, and that's why the Institute is moving forward with international initiatives, not just at the leadership level, but in student education as well.

HRI also appointed its first-ever Dr. John "Wes" Tunnel Jr. Fellow, HRI Coastal and Marine System Science doctoral student Coral Lozada Perez. The fellowship, named for the professor emeritus and HRI Endowed Chair for Biodiversity and Conversation Science who devoted much of his career

to studying the environment and coral reef systems in Mexico, sponsors a Mexican or American HRI graduate student with a commitment to research in Mexico. With the aid of her fellowship, Lozada spent the summer working in San Crisanto, a fishing village in the Yucatan, and took a course in qualitative field investigation methodology with Dr. Maria Teresa Castillo at the Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional. It was there that Lozada chose her research topic, risk perception and socio-economic pressures in the hookah-diving fisheries along the Yucatan coast.

"The Gulf is an international sea surrounded by three nations with vastly different political views," said HRI Executive Director Dr. Larry McKinney. "But over time, the one constant has been scientific exchange. We want to sustain that science diplomacy for the good of the Gulf."

## Conrad Blucher and Port of Corpus Christi Partner to Provide Reliable Data for Safe Ship Navigation

The Port of Corpus Christi has the distinction of being the fourth-largest port in the nation based on tonnage. The 36-mile-long, 47-foot-deep channel is known as a major gateway to international and domestic maritime commerce, placing Corpus Christi at the top of the list for exportation of United States-made crude oil. With so much activity in Corpus Christi Bay, reliable data is essential to the safe navigation of vessels in and out of port.

With this in mind, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi recently entered into an interlocal cooperation contract to install a Physical Oceanographic Real-time System, or PORTS®, following standards established by the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, a division of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service. This new navigation system will be known as Corpus Christi PORTS®.

"CBI welcomes the opportunity to continue our longstanding collaboration with the Port of Corpus Christi," said Dr. Gary Jeffress, Professor and CBI Director. "With the Port's increasing vessel traffic, use of the latest real-time data collection technology will assist ship pilots and barge captains in

reducing the risk of collisions and groundings."

The new Corpus Christi PORTS® will consist of data collected by numerous sensors along the ship channel and data obtained from the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network station located at the USS Lexington. The collected data will include valuable, near real-time water levels, and meteorological and water current velocity data that will be available on a NOAA-maintained website. The data will be accessible to the Port of Corpus Christi, the Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots Association as well as the general public.

"I like to think of PORTS® as a safety tool that increases and improves the pilot's ability to navigate the waterways of Corpus Christi Bay," explained James Rizzo, CBI Assistant Director for Operations. "For example, without PORTS®, vessel navigation is similar to driving

down a highway without traffic lights or road signs. With this agreement, the CBI will install those 'lights and road signs' for the Port of Corpus Christi and the pilots that transit the waterways."

In addition to safety, Jeffress says the data collected from Corpus Christi PORTS® could also be used for shoreline protection, coastal habitat monitoring and restoration, preparation for storm events and even for the recreational use of waterways.



## Kinesiology Graduate Program Earns Professional Distinction

The Island University's Graduate Strength and Conditioning Program once again met National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) standards for programs which provide foundational support for student excellence, as well as long-term professional success after graduation. The NSCA Educational Recognition Program certification, which is valid for three years (through Sept. 2020), names Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as one of 19 institutions worldwide with NSCA certification at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

"NSCA certification is prestigious and gives us exposure nationally and internationally," said Dr. Frank Spaniol, Professor of Sport and Exercise Science and Graduate Program Director at Texas A&M-Corpus

Christi. "NSCA has more than 30,000 members and they are the world authority in their field."

Carina Vasquez, '16, is one of many

**"During my internship, I learned how to research, design, execute and monitor safe and effective strength and conditioning programs for athletes."**

**Carina Vasquez, '16**  
Islander student

Islander kinesiology master's students who also earned a kinesiology undergraduate degree from A&M-Corpus Christi. She spent fall 2017 interning at the NSCA World Headquarters in Colorado Springs,

Colorado.

"During my internship, I learned how to research, design, execute and monitor safe and effective strength and conditioning programs," said Vasquez. "Because of my excellent experience in Colorado, and because I am taking online classes, I am now looking for job opportunities while I finish my degree at A&M-Corpus Christi."

Career aspirations for Vasquez include becoming a head strength and conditioning coach, with the ultimate goal of becoming a kinesiology professor.

"I've been inspired to teach thanks to A&M-Corpus Christi kinesiology faculty, who are an exceptional group of leaders and mentors," said Vasquez.

Since the kinesiology master's degree was made available online in 2016, the program has more than doubled its overall enrollment and kinesiology faculty say the enrollment spike is partly due to the NSCA accreditation.

"We will continue to grow because we are providing an applied-science program with rigorous curriculum that is valuable to students," said Spaniol. "Additionally, our affiliation with NSCA helps us recruit the best and brightest students."

NSCA certification also includes benefits for faculty and students such as exam discounts and rebates, NSCA conference discounts and opportunities for NSCA foundation grants and scholarships.



## \$1.66 Million Awarded to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to Close Gap in Mental Health Care Coverage

To alleviate the shortage of mental health care professionals in Texas, the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has implemented the Texas Counselors and Healthcare Integration Project (Tex-CHIP). The new program—which places master's counseling students in the community to complete field work—is made possible thanks to a \$1.66 million grant from the Health Resources and Service Administration. Dr. Stephen Lenz, Associate Professor of Counselor Education, works as the program coordinator.

"Nueces County and 18 surrounding counties are experiencing a significant shortage of mental health service providers," said Lenz. "The Island University is a regional

leader in counselor education and is ready to meet this need through Tex-CHIP."

A study by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health shows 171 Texas counties do not have a psychiatrist and only one out of every five counties in the state have a licensed professional counselor. The risks for untreated mental illnesses include dropping out of college, job instability, substance abuse, criminal activity and suicide.

"When we support the well-being of people in our neighborhoods, the positive ripple effect increases the potential for everyone," said Lenz.

The new program will alleviate workforce shortage by graduating qualified behavioral health counselors who can deliver culturally relevant counseling services. The medically

underserved, especially those near the Texas-Mexico border, are a high priority.

Tex-CHIP has partnered with 15 mental health service provider organizations across Nueces County and four surrounding rural counties to engage 34 Islander master's counseling students in community field work starting this spring. The broader impact through summer 2018 is anticipated to equal 8,000 direct behavior health service hours.

"Each Tex-CHIP student provides state-of-the-art services and will eventually train the next generation of counselors using practices that started at the Island University," said Lenz.

By the end of the four-year grant, 118 Islander master's counseling students will have provided much-needed mental health services within our community.

# Masters in Public Administration Program Encourages Students to 'Go Public' With Their Careers

The Masters in Public Administration (MPA) program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi continues to graduate leaders who are the next generation of public servants. The program, which began in 1991 as one of the first graduate degrees at the Island



Patrick Wiltshire, '09

University, is now the largest graduate program in the College of Liberal Arts. The MPA focuses on the application of public management and administrative theories and concepts in real-world situations and has three tracks—public management, public safety and health care administration.

**“The internship experience provides rich knowledge of best practices in governing, leading, communicating and serving.”**

**Dr. Daniel Jorgensen**  
Social Sciences Professor and Chair

“Our MPA program offers rigorous contemporary academic curriculum that emphasizes the knowledge, skills and competencies to advance our graduates’ career aspirations,” said Dr. Beth Rauhaus, MPA Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor.

Many of the students in the MPA program are current government and nonprofit employees who choose to re-enter academia to enrich their knowledge and become key leaders in their communities.

“MPA students are invested in improving citizens’ lives,” said Dr. Daniel Jorgensen, Social Sciences Professor and Chair, who has been teaching MPA courses at the Island University since 2000. “Additionally, we encourage our MPA students to intern with local, state, federal or nonprofit institutions. The internship experience provides rich knowledge of best practices in governing, leading, communicating and serving.”

One former MPA student who is leading in public service is Patrick Wiltshire, '09, President and CEO of Public Management, Inc. Public Management, Inc. is a private consulting firm offering planning, financial and management services throughout Texas, with a focus on rural and suburban communities.

“I view my MPA degree as my theoretical training ground,” said Wiltshire. “During my studies at A&M-Corpus Christi, I was encouraged to freely think through policy issues and develop solutions. My professors did an exceptional job of focusing curriculum on practical and applicable real-life situations, and my peers were great sounding boards during class discussions.”

While in the MPA program, Wiltshire was selected for a two-year internship with the City of Corpus Christi. However, after the first year of his internship, Wiltshire was hired as a full-time staff member within the City’s Economic Development Department.

“In that role, I worked closely with the City’s executive management team, including the city manager, various assistant city managers and many department heads, who each spent time training me,” said Wiltshire. “I continue to draw on my experiences from the City to this day.”

Wiltshire believes the MPA helped

fulfill his life mission of making an impact in not just his community, but in all communities that utilize his professional services.

“With this degree, I can align my life mission with my career mission of building vibrant and sustainable communities,”



Can Alemdar, '15, '17

said Wiltshire.

Can Alemdar, '15, '17, earned not only two undergraduate degrees from A&M-Corpus Christi, but also an MPA. During his first semester in the MPA program, Alemdar interned with the Department of State in Washington, D.C.

“In my internship role, I communicated daily with various federal law enforcement agencies, foreign services officers and embassies,” said Alemdar. “Another highlight of my internship was touring the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Academy in Quantico, Virginia.”

As a recent graduate of the program, Alemdar has career aspirations of working in federal government, with a focus on the criminal justice field.

Other MPA alumni are making an impact with rewarding careers such as fundraising for one of the most prestigious cancer centers in the county, working with communities throughout Texas to protect our most vulnerable residents, and protecting the submerged lands and waters at the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument near Guam.

# Islanders Impact Corpus Christi Art Scene



Art, whether it be song, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture or photography, has a way of transforming a city—including our own—into an exciting, colorful and entertaining place to live. Art creates jobs, boosts tourism, enhances technology and elevates student success. The School of Arts, Media and Communication (SAMC) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi contributes to the enhancement of the local art scene by graduating students who become our city muralists, downtown musicians, stage performers and advertising professionals. These students—through the pursuit of their liberal arts degrees—are transformed into creative leaders, critical thinkers, expert problem solvers and trailblazers in their respective craft.

“When you think about what makes a town great, especially what makes a ‘college town’ great, it’s the arts,” said Dr. Mark Hartlaub, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Director of SAMC at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. “It’s exhibits, speaker series, plays, concerts and film festivals—it’s something ‘to do’ every weekend.”

Most SAMC classes are held in the Center for the Arts, which is home to two theaters, an art gallery and art studios, and a variety of music rooms. As enrollment grows, additional space to house liberal arts students and faculty will be needed.

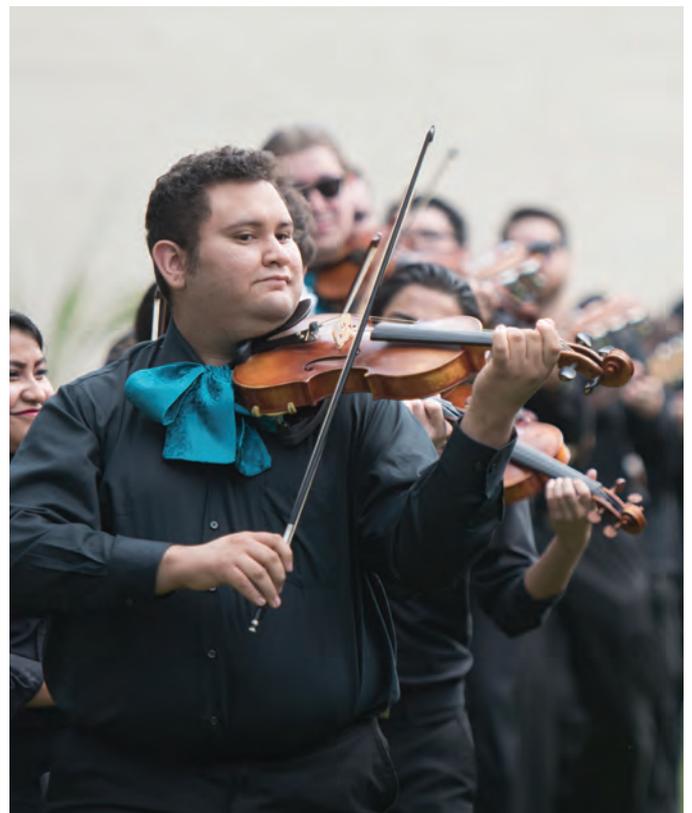
SAMC boasts remarkable student success accolades, including a 100 percent employment rate for recent theatre graduates. Student-led plays and dance

presentations draw in not only a student audience, but hundreds of community theatre patrons, and shows often sell out. The Department of Theatre and Dance also co-hosts the annual Bailando Dance Festival. The three-day dance showcase, which began in 2000 as a modest outdoor festival, now includes performances by international dance troupes and gives students from all over the Coastal Bend an opportunity to take classes in dance styles including African fusion, ballet and hip-hop.

In the University’s music program, students prepare for successful careers in music education, studio teaching, performance and music entrepreneurship, and they have the stunning Performing Arts Center, a world-class venue which overlooks the Corpus Christi Bay, as a place to practice their craft. Music faculty and students also play at popular events such as the Texas Jazz Festival, Tuba Christmas and concerts hosted by the Corpus Christi Symphony. Also, in homage to our area’s strong Hispanic roots, students recently formed Mariachi de la Isla.

“Reception to this new ensemble has been amazing and they have received

many compliments and much support from individuals throughout our University and in our community,” said Dr. Rai Morales, Assistant Professor of Music. “Along with the many on-campus performances this spring semester, I envision the possibility of hosting a large-scale mariachi event here on campus, one that would attract world-class artists and high-quality aspiring musicians.”





"I've always been an artist—but A&M-Corpus Christi is where I learned the difference between 'art' and 'fine art.'"

**Mayra Zamora, '10, '14**  
Islander alumna

The Island University's graphic design program, only in its second year, has already hit enrollment numbers expected during its fifth year of existence. Not only do design students sweep the local American Advertising Federation Awards competition each year, but students take pride in using their talents to create a multimedia advertising campaign to support a local nonprofit's efforts and mission during "One Day." The 24-hour public service event brings together students and professionals in our local creative, marketing and advertising industries. Past recipient organizations include Surf Rider Foundation of the Coastal Bend, Mission Pawsible Pet Rescue, Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend and Youth Odyssey.

Islander art graduates, including Mayra Zamora, '10, '14, have defied the "starving artist" cliché. Zamora, who was raised in the small town of Tivoli, is a first-generation college graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in art and a master's degree in education from A&M-Corpus Christi. The 30-year-old is an active part of the muralist movement in Corpus Christi who takes inspiration from her Chicana culture.

"I've always been an artist—but A&M-Corpus Christi is where I learned the difference between 'art' and 'fine art,'" shared Zamora. "My degree also taught me about art history, trends, symbolism and the

importance of passing that knowledge to a future generation of artists."

Zamora was a 2017 honoree of the Las Estrellas "Arts and Humanities" award, sponsored by the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, and she continues to headline solo exhibits, curate art events and teach art classes to children and adults all over the Coastal Bend.

In the University's communication and media program, students learn how to become visual storytellers, analyze film history or become public relations practitioners in a fast-paced global market. A highlight event for media students is South Texas Cinémathèque, a screening series which introduces media students and the public to internationally recognized films and the makers of those films. South Texas Cinémathèque was created in 2009 by Edward Tyndall, Associate Professor of Media Production, and is hosted at the Art Museum of South Texas (AMST), a University affiliate since 1995.

AMST is also leading the way when it comes to the link between art and technology. IDET ARTS, a new cell phone app created by Dr. David Squires, Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Human Development, uses Augmented Reality (AR) to revolutionize the way art is enjoyed.

"IDET ARTS is the first app created with

a focus on art specific to the Coastal Bend," said Squires. "Technology within the app can adapt a picture on a wall into a lively object and rich learning tool to increase interest, excitement and interpretation of art pieces for museum visitors of all ages."

AR technology includes interactive, programmable content, like custom video, audio clips, virtual tours and 3D graphics that are superimposed onto other digital media or real-life content and locations.

AMST launched the IDET ARTS app on "Digital Darkroom," which was on exhibit last fall. Forthcoming versions of IDET ARTS will include additional videos, animations and other immersive techniques.

As a landmark venue located on the opposite side of Corpus Christi Bay, AMST continues to grow in its partnerships with Islander students, faculty and the community through the Art Faculty Biennial, a yearly exhibition showcasing the talents of full-time art faculty; by offering internships to students; through scholarly research opportunities regarding various art collections; and through summer art camps for kids.

It's not hard to find something fun to do or something beautiful to see in Corpus Christi, and if you choose to look, you will often find that an Islander has made a direct impact on what makes Corpus Christi an exciting, colorful and entertaining place to live.

## Islander Engineering Alumnae Trailblaze STEM Terrain

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Alumnae Gypsie Alvarado, '17, and Valerie Ferdin, '13, are making a positive community impact and blazing their own trails in an industry where women are historically underrepresented. Alvarado, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, currently works as a software developer for United Services Automobile Association, while Ferdin, who also earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, works as a field-based designer for Baker Hughes.

For Ferdin, interest in a STEM career started when she was young. As early as kindergarten, she displayed a natural ability for science, winning her school's science fair each year. As for Alvarado, she took an interest in the arts during grade school, but after realizing her aptitude for mathematics, ultimately decided to pursue engineering.

The education and experiences Alvarado and Ferdin received at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi helped mold them into the women they are today. Ferdin is thankful for the numerous grants and scholarships she received and credits the Island University for giving her the tools needed to make an impact and succeed in her professional life.

"From the faculty and staff to the scholarship donors, each contribution allowed me to use the opportunities at hand to make a better living in the future," said Ferdin. "A&M-Corpus Christi was the best choice for a university that I could have made and prepared me for life beyond the classroom."



Gypsie Alvarado, '17

As for Alvarado, she says her professors were invaluable.

"I'm thankful for my professors and instructors—especially Dr. Andrew Conkey, Mr. Ronald Carlson and Mr. Rafael Fox—for pushing me to reach my full potential and giving me confidence as a woman in STEM," said Alvarado.

Since graduating, Ferdin has impacted her community by volunteering through work-related STEM outreach opportunities, Junior Achievement and the Special



Valerie Ferdin, '13

Olympics. Similarly, Alvarado has made a difference in the lives of students by serving as an advocate for the Center for Academic Student Achievement and was a founding member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

"My position at Baker Hughes benefits my community by providing technology-based and service-based solutions that enable oil and gas companies to bring safe, affordable energy to the world," said Ferdin. "The STEM outreach events hosted by Baker Hughes allow me to talk about my day-to-day activities and what areas of my job involve math and science. It is a great way to show the younger generation what they could do."

In addition, Ferdin is impacting students at the Island University in the form of a scholarship. The Ferdin Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering was established in 2016 to provide underprivileged first-generation college students with financial support.

"I decided to create this scholarship because without the financial support provided by scholarships, I would have been burdened by loans upon graduation," said Ferdin. "I believe it is important because I want to inspire students and help them realize that another university student, such as myself, can help them achieve their goals."

Both Alvarado and Ferdin are positive role models for the next generation of students considering STEM careers. Through scholarship support and outreach efforts, they continue to shape their communities for tomorrow and find ways to benefit future generations.



## 900 Plus Attendees Explore the Mysteries of the Universe with Nobel Prize Winners

Inspiring the next great generation of physicists, Adam Riess and David J. Gross discussed their research achievements and described their path to winning a Nobel Prize to more than 900 Coastal Bend community members during two free public forums on May 23 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The two forums were part of the 11th International Conference on Interconnections between Particle Physics and Cosmology (PPC).

A morning forum hosted more than 500 students from schools throughout the Coastal Bend. During the forum, students had the opportunity to learn how Riess and Gross became interested in science and what it takes to become a Nobel Prize Winner. During the evening forum, Riess gave a lecture titled, "Supernovae Reveal An Accelerating Universe" to a crowd of nearly 450.

"Inviting Nobel Prize Winners like Adam and David to Corpus Christi exposes the Coastal Bend community to scientists of the highest caliber imaginable," said Dr. Barbara Szczerbinksa, Professor in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences and PPC Steering Committee Chair. "They're true icons in the fields of particle physics

and cosmology who achieved the highest recognition for their research—a Nobel Prize. We were fortunate to be able to meet them, to listen to them and gain insight from their findings."

Both Riess and Gross have made landmark contributions in the field of physics during their careers. Gross, along with other collaborators, originated the "Heterotic String Theory," a unified theory that helps explain the connection between all forces of nature. Riess provided the first direct and

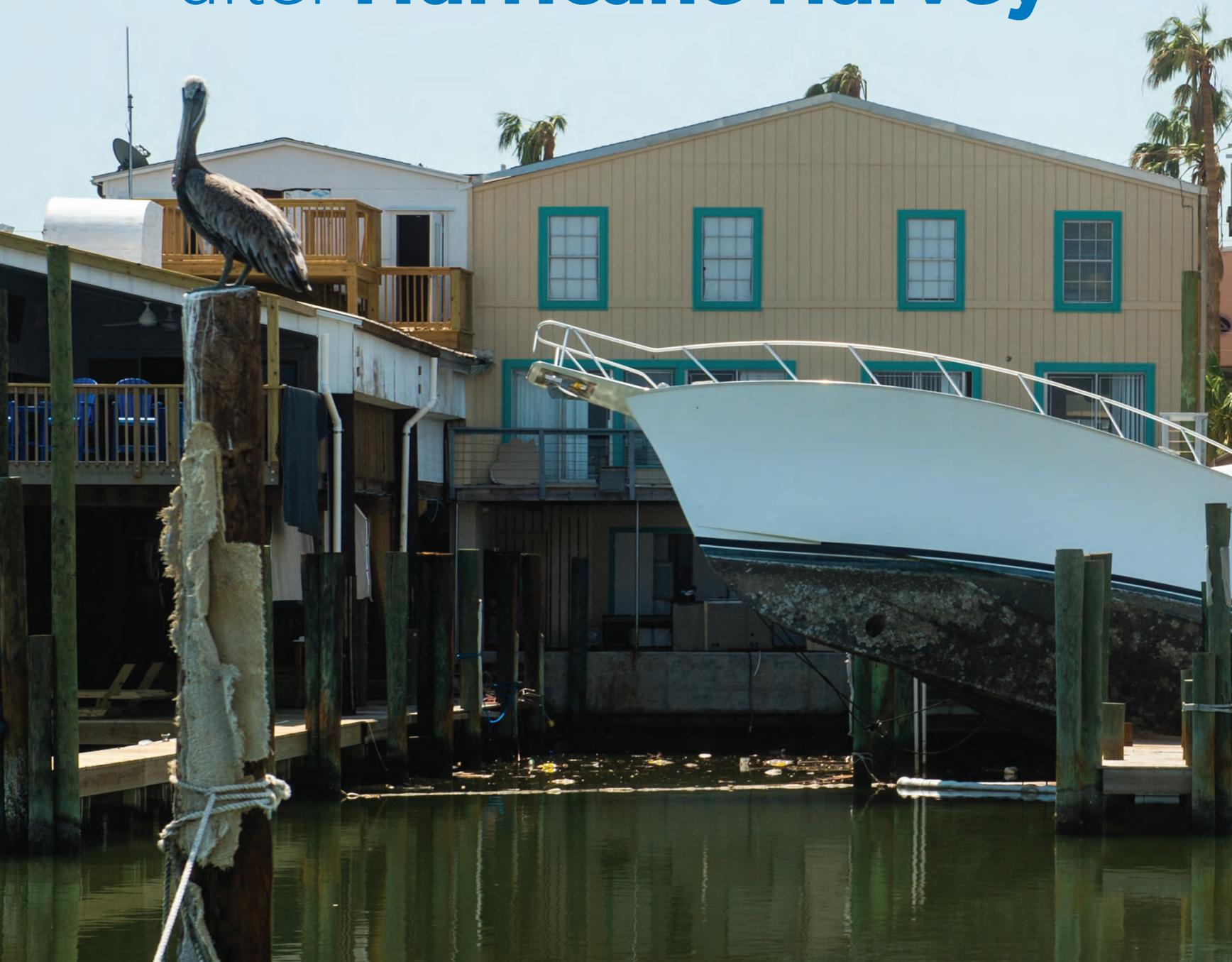
published evidence that the expansion of the universe is accelerating and filled with dark energy.

The free forums were sponsored by the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, the College of Science and Engineering at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Office of Institutional Advancement at A&M-Corpus Christi, Marker 37 Marina and Pier and the 11th annual PPC.



# Harvey Heroes

**Islanders** make an **Impact**  
after **Hurricane Harvey**



## Weathering the Storm, Making an Islander Impact

The start of each academic semester is full of anticipation and new beginnings. It's a time when many young students leave their families for the first time, while other, more seasoned students start a new chapter of their lives. The weeks leading up to the fall 2017 semester at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi were expected to be no different, except Mother Nature had her own plans.

In the overnight hours of Aug. 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey—a storm that would end up being the second most destructive storm in U.S. history, behind only Hurricane Katrina—hit the Texas Gulf Coast. Instead of the storm quickly moving inland, it stalled over the southeastern

part of the state, producing catastrophic flooding near Houston. Lives and homes were lost, and families were displaced. All dreams of new beginnings were put on hold.

Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, was scheduled to be the first day of class at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, but days before, as the storm rapidly exploded from a tropical depression to a major hurricane, University administration made plans to evacuate all Islanders who were in harm's way. Students living in on-campus housing fled to shelter away from the coast, while others who didn't have a place to stay were bussed to Texas A&M International University in Laredo. Faculty and staff were

also asked to make arrangements away from danger.

The Island University and most of Corpus Christi missed—by only a few miles—the brunt of the storm, and with grateful spirits, Islanders made an impact on those who weren't as fortunate through clean-up efforts, fundraising, counseling services for local high schools, providing aerial imagery, investigating oil spills and offering exhibition and research space. Now, thanks to grant dollars, Islander scientists and scholars will research the effects of Hurricane Harvey to better respond to, recover from and mitigate the challenges caused by Harvey and future storms.



## Islanders Helping Islanders

On Thursday, Aug. 31, just one day after University employees could return to campus, more than 50 Islander staff members volunteered to work the Islander Help Call Center. Created by the University's Incident Command Team, the Call Center was set up to ease student worries caused by Harvey. By the end of day one at the Call Center, nearly 200 student concerns were addressed on topics such as class registration, housing and even questions about the availability of fuel in the area.

"We talked to a lot of students from Rockport and Port Aransas who lost everything, and it's sad to hear the stories, but we are determined to help solve their problems," said Ann DeGaish, Associate Vice President of Student Engagement and Success & Dean of Students at A&M-Corpus Christi. "It's wonderful to see the response, dedication and compassion our staff has given our students during this difficult time."

Because campus was spared major structural damage, classes were scheduled to start Monday, Sept. 4, just one week after the original start date, but while buildings were mostly intact, anxieties continued to run high.

To ease uncertainties, staff at the University's Counseling Center encouraged students to drop in at Harvey-related group sessions to learn healthy coping skills for dealing with feelings that arise in the aftermath of trauma.

"One of the most powerful things you can do after a crisis is connect with other people," said Dr. Theresa Sharpe, Interim Director of the University Counseling Center.

Additionally, A&M-Corpus Christi's Center for Faculty Excellence hosted "Healing After Harvey" sessions open to all faculty and staff, with a focus on teaching strategies for helping distressed students, as well as self-care tips for dealing with personal stress.

"The storm had an incredibly traumatic effect on many people in the coastal regions of Texas," said Dr. Pamela Brouillard, Chair and Professor of Psychology. "Even though Corpus Christi was lucky enough not to take a direct hit, we will still be dealing with the effects of Harvey for a very long time."



# Students Stepping Up

Despite facing their own hardships, many students were filled with Islander pride and almost immediately set out to help surrounding communities impacted by Harvey.

Wanting to make the best use of her time as a hurricane evacuee, Cidnee Le'sure was one of a handful of Islander students who volunteered at the San Antonio Food Bank on Aug. 28—what would have marked the first day of class at A&M-Corpus Christi had Harvey not hit. The group sorted non-perishable donations that poured into the nonprofit from the San Antonio community.

Islander Greek Life organizations were also ready to make an Islander impact. Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Zeta and Tri Delta collected enough goods to fill six SUVs, plus \$600 in cash, to benefit the local Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. The Good Sam was one of the only homeless shelters in the area that remained opened during the storm.

The Por Colombia student group saw first-hand the resiliency of our small coastal towns, as they volunteered to clean up the mess that Harvey left behind in Aransas Pass and Rockport.

"We met so many people whose homes were affected, but suggested we help someone else that needed it more than ourselves," said Sergio Santos, a mechanical engineering student and member of Por Colombia.

Additionally, a team of Islander students and staff from Programs for Academic Student Support (PASS) collectively volunteered more than 100 hours to help move debris from the Gulfway Senior Citizens Home Park in Rockport.

"We were not prepared to see the destruction as we drove into Rockport," said Jessica Barrera, Vice President of the TRIO Islanders Student Organization, housed within PASS. "Our hearts go out to those who lost so much during Hurricane Harvey. We did only a small deed, but many were so appreciative."



## Research Supports Real-Time Recovery Efforts

When the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas received catastrophic damage after Hurricane Harvey, the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at A&M-Corpus Christi partnered to assist nearby friends and scientists. Space, equipment, boats and vehicles were all made available to UTMSI staff as they moved forward in repairing their damaged buildings.

In the days after the storm made landfall, A&M-Corpus Christi's Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence & Innovation (LSUASC), in partnership with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, conducted imaging and survey missions across Rockport, which sustained almost 60 percent destruction to its buildings. The team also conducted power line inspections using rotary craft Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) near Holiday Beach.

LSUASC also partnered with the National Spill Control School (NSCS) to support the Texas General Land Office during disaster recovery efforts in Port Aransas. The team assessed marine and structural damages in the Port Aransas Harbor and Aransas Bay by surveying oil production structures, sunken vessels and floating debris left behind after Harvey. LSUASC also flew drones over Aransas and Copano Bays to collect high definition video of oil structures as well as gather geo-located photos of sunken tanks and vessels. While no oil leaks were spotted in Port Aransas Harbor, NSCS placed oil booms for preventive measures.

The recovery effort success in Port Aransas was made possible thanks to Islander alumnus Wayne Fellers, '94, '96, CEO of MERV Marine USA Inc., who lent a Multi-Purpose Emergency Response Vessel to LSUASC. The vessel allowed the team to have easy access to water and a place on the water for drones to land.

"I am part of the first class that graduated from the University after it was renamed Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and I am very proud of that," Fellers said. "The MERV is the only one of its kind and I know the University will put it to work."

In the wake of natural disaster, there is also an opportunity for scientists to investigate. In July 2017, the Oyster Recycling Program at A&M-Corpus Christi installed the St. Charles Bay Oyster Reef and Shoreline Stabilization project, a 2,000-linear-foot reef in Goose Island State Park that buffers and breaks waves before they impact the shoreline. Even after a nearly direct hit from Harvey, the restored reef remained intact—and even had new, visible growth. The reef will now serve as an educational opportunity regarding the success of restoration efforts in the wake of major storms.

Additionally, three A&M-Corpus Christi research teams received a total of \$433,096 in grant money from National Science Foundation's Rapid Response research fund. The projects will help understand the immediate impacts of natural disasters, like Harvey, and help the United States better prepare for and recover from future storm events.

Dr. Paul Montagna, HRI Endowed Chair, Dr. Michael Wetz, Associate Professor of Marine Biology, and Dr. Xinping Hu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, received \$182,790 for their project, "Capturing the Signature of Hurricane Harvey on Texas Coastal Lagoons." The team will study the impact of Harvey's floods on Coastal Bend lagoons as well as investigate how aquatic animals and plants are affected as estuaries take on increased freshwater.

"Traditional grant funding cycles can take up to a year to attain funding," said Wetz. "Programs like 'Rapid' allow us to respond immediately to large-scale events like Harvey so we can collect the time-sensitive data to allow us to better understand these events should they occur again in the future."

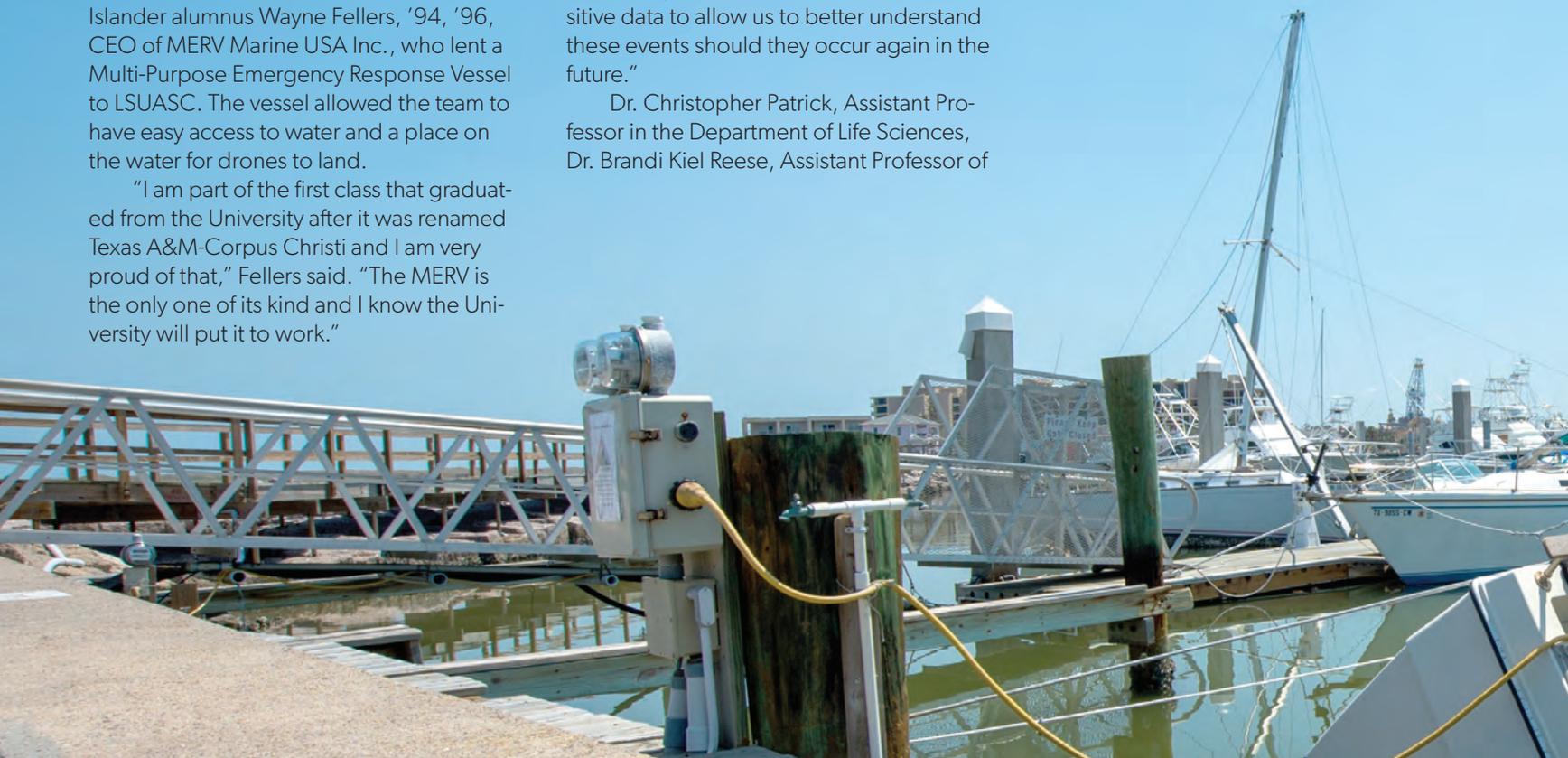
Dr. Christopher Patrick, Assistant Professor in the Department of Life Sciences, Dr. Brandi Kiel Reese, Assistant Professor of

Microbial Ecology, and Dr. Derek Hogan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Life Sciences, received \$199,952 for their project, "Measuring the Response of Stream Communities to Hurricane Harvey Across a Semi-Arid to Sub-Humid Gradient." Together they will study the immediate and long-term impacts of flooding and wind-driven tree falls on stream ecosystems along the Texas Coast. The team has already collected large quantities of valuable data and plans to share their findings with natural resources managers to better equip them for future natural disasters.

"You can't plan for a catastrophe, so you need to be ready to drop everything and get out into the field if you want to study it," said Patrick.

Dr. Simon Geist, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology, received \$50,354 from the NSF to study the "Response of Plankton Assemblages and Trophodynamics to a Historic, Hurricane-induced Floodwater Plume in a Subtropical, Pelagic Environment." Geist hopes to understand how plankton communities, an important member of the food chain, are responding after Harvey's record rainfall. To investigate, Geist and his team of researchers, including three Islander undergraduate students and one graduate student, embarked on three oceanographic cruises to take samples.

"This research expedition was more than an opportunity to go offshore," said Cristian Camacho, a College of Science and Engineering undergrad. "Being on the expedition and working in Dr. Geist's lab made me feel like I was truly a 'scientist.'"



# Arts and Altruism Combine for Healing After Harvey

After it was clear that Islanders were on a road to recovery, University staff, faculty and affiliates then focused on rebuilding the greater Coastal Bend community.

The Rockport Center for the Arts received substantial roof damage, but the Art Museum of South Texas (AMST), an Island University partner, was quick to offer space. Together, they transferred the world-renowned Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's annual "Birds in Art" exhibition from Rockport to the AMST for the enjoyment of all.

"Our building may be damaged, but our spirit is not broken," said Rockport Center for the Arts Executive Director, Luis Purón. "It is actually stronger than ever. With the support of fellow arts organizations... we can move forward and keep art alive in our community."

Purón said Joe Schenk, AMST Director, immediately said "yes" to his call for assistance.

"Art has the power to heal a community—especially one like Rockport, where amazing creative forces are the very backbone of our artist colony and a huge portion of business enterprise and the economy," said Purón.

The devastation left behind by Hurricane Harvey was more than wrecked buildings. The storm also left frayed nerves and negative emotions and that's where A&M-Corpus Christi's Coastal Bend Writing Project (CBWP) and Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology (CNEP) stepped in.

CBWP hosted "Writing and Healing after Hurricane Harvey," a workshop for local language arts teachers. The free workshop featured guest speaker Dr. Jen Osborne, Director of the Center for Trauma at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, whose research focuses on narrative and expressive writing and trauma. Participants were encouraged to write how they were feeling post-Harvey and modify the activities for their classrooms.

"Expressive writing is an inexpensive,

easy tool to build psychological resiliency, to recover from trauma and lead a more contented and happy life," said Osborne.

One workshop participant, Cindi Bonifer, '05, '11, '15, is a seventh-grade teacher at Aransas Pass Independent School District who earned three degrees from the Island University.

"Many of my students lost their homes and all of their possessions and they are not just having a difficult time writing, they have a hard time being at school and remaining focused," said Bonifer.

CNEP professors also lent a helping hand in healing anxiety, worry and depression. Drs. Jennifer Gerlach, Michelle Hol-

"Our building may be damaged, but our spirit is not broken."

**Luis Purón,**  
Executive Director, Rockport Center for the Arts

lenbaugh and Kristina Nelson were part of a counselor response team who volunteered at Ingleside High School, a school district that suffered \$8 million in storm damage. CNEP counselors provided a safe space for students to process their emotional, physical and psychological reactions.

"I saw a lot of kids who were really concerned with finances because their parents' jobs were destroyed," Gerlach said. "It was heartbreaking to see kids have that kind of worry."

The CNEP support extended beyond the students of Ingleside to include 48 displaced high school students from Aransas Pass and Port Aransas.

During 2017's #GivingTuesday, a national day of giving held each year after Thanksgiving, Islander staff and faculty tailored the event to assist those impacted by Harvey. From sorting food donations at the Coastal Bend Food Bank, to organizing emergency aid items and supplies for Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi, to clearing debris in Port Aransas and Rockport, staff and faculty rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

One recipient of help on #GivingTuesday included Islander alumna and Rockport resident Marjorie Blackard, '55. The 84 year old, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and History, said she lived through four major hurricanes in her lifetime, with Harvey affecting her home and property more than previous storms. It was a happy coincidence that Islander volunteers were assigned to assist Blackard, as worksites were predetermined by a Rockport church assisting in coordinating volunteer crews. Since its beginning in 2013, #GivingTuesday participation at A&M-Corpus Christi has increased by 400 percent with Islanders volunteering more than 527 hours in 2017 at more than a dozen Coastal Bend nonprofits.

It was an eventful 2017 at the Island University—from a hurricane that started the fall semester to an extraordinary snowfall to culminate the year and a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse in between—Islanders once again proved they are ready to make an Islander impact, no matter what may happen.



## Islander Researchers Launch Marine Fungus into Space



In a quest to unveil the limits of life, Dr. Brandi Kiel Reese, Assistant Professor of Microbial Ecology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, sent a fungus from the depths of the ocean into space on Aug. 14, 2017. Reese, primary investigator, worked with Morgan Sobol, an Island University master's student in marine biology, and Dr. Heath Mills, CEO of Space Technology and Advanced Research Systems, Inc. (STaARS) on the project "Intraterrestrial Fungus Grown in Space (iFunGIS)."

"This is a unique fungus because we isolated it from 73 million year old sediment that was buried 124 meters below the South Pacific Gyre seafloor," said Reese. "This was the first time an intraterrestrial microorganism went to space."

The frozen fungal spores blasted off towards the International Space Station (ISS) on the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The goal of the mission was to determine how microgravity affected the growth rate, morphology and the metabolic activity of the fungus, which is related to *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

"We were thrilled and honored to be a part of the 20 research experiments that made it to the ISS," said Sobol. "I am looking forward to what the data from this project tells us about life in extreme environments."

iFunGIS was funded by a Center for the Advancement of Science in Space grant, which is a subsidiary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and STaARS. The next step for the team is to analyze the data on Reese's laboratory back on campus with assistance from Mills' biotechnology lab at STaARS.

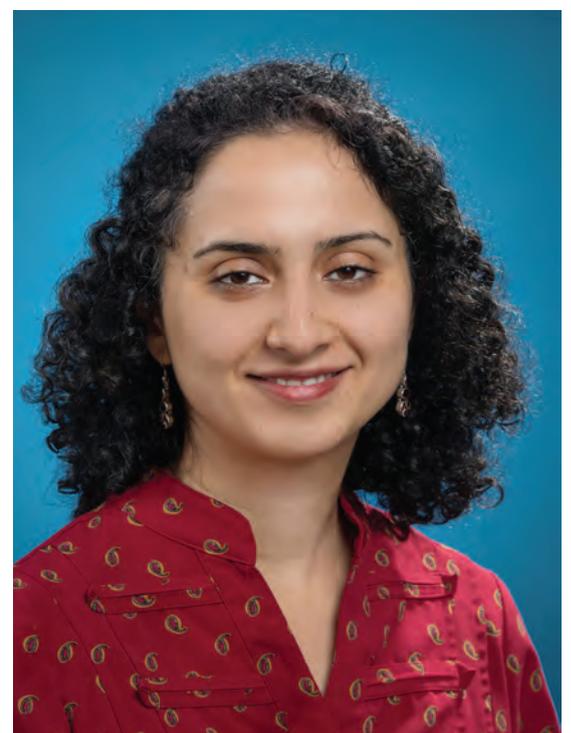
## Researcher Revolutionizes Amazon's Robotic Warehouse

You can teach an old dog new tricks, but can you teach a computer program newer, better tricks? Dr. Maryam Rahnemoonfar, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, is working with Amazon, the largest internet-based retailer, to do just that. She was awarded \$80,000 by the Amazon Academic Research Awards program in 2017 for her proposal, "Real Time Heterogeneous Product Counting on Amazon Bin Image Data Set Based on Deep Learning." She also received \$20,000 in Amazon Web Services Cloud Credits to pursue her research.

Across the nation, there are various warehouses filled with bins of Amazon products, waiting for their buyers. Right now, these warehouses are human-run, but the goal is to incorporate robotic assistance. Not too long ago, the Amazon Fulfillment Technologies team released the Amazon Bin Image Data Set, which contains thousands of images of what's inside these bins. Rahnemoonfar and her research team were able to create a deep learning algorithm that would allow robots to easily sort through the images.

"We successfully designed and tested a deep learning program for counting and verification of objects in Amazon's bins," said Rahnemoonfar. "We outperformed state-of-the-art techniques by a large margin. We plan to further improve our work until our project's completion in June 2018."

In October 2017, Rahnemoonfar attended the invite-only Amazon Supply Chain Optimization Faculty Summit where she shared her success story with faculty from top American and European universities and Amazon researchers and staff.



Dr. Maryam Rahnemoonfar

## Islander Nursing Alumna Impacts Community Through Unique Avenues

As an advocate for health and a successful entrepreneur, Kristy Aleman, '08, improves her community's lifestyle. Although her path to success was paved with the challenges of managing a full-time job and raising two children while obtaining her graduate degree, she has made a positive impact on Corpus Christi through several unique avenues.

Aleman, who earned her Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Leadership, credits Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with giving her the skill set she needed to succeed in her career field.



"The Island University taught me to manage my time well and how to effectively multitask," said Aleman.

Recognizing a shortage of primary care providers in the Coastal Bend, Aleman worked to bring better health care options to the area. Since graduating, she has opened her own clinic, the Sun + Surf Medical Clinic, as well as a health spa and wellness center. At the Sun + Surf Medical Clinic, her team of nurse practitioners have years of training in instructive, clinical and preventative care.

"Our facility is a gateway to health care," said Aleman. "We're not trying to replace the primary care provider; we're trying to get the patient access to the care they need."

In 2015, Aleman opened the Halcyon Med Spa and Wellness Center as another way to provide much-needed services to the Corpus Christi community. In addition, Aleman launched Raw Bar, which offers a range of smoothies, juices, and breakfast and lunch options made with organic ingredients.

"Bringing healthy eating choices to Corpus Christi was an idea that I came up with while visiting a friend in California,"

said Aleman. "Since Corpus Christi is one of the leaders in the nation for diabetes and obesity, I thought this restaurant would be great for vegetarians, vegans and anyone trying to incorporate healthier eating habits into their lifestyles."

Although Aleman continues to make an impact on the community in many ways, her greatest passion remains nursing. With many areas still lacking access to general care providers and preventive care, Aleman hopes that by making nurses more accessible to the public, diseases can be caught earlier and treated more effectively—ultimately increasing the health of the Coastal Bend community.



## Mission Accomplished: A&M-Corpus Christi Collaborates with A&M System, Army, to Care for Colonia Residents

It was mission well done for more than 60 students and faculty from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS), who volunteered from June 19-29, 2017, to provide a concentrated effort of care to those who needed it most.

Islander students and faculty, members of the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University Colonias Program and more than 200 U.S. Army personnel offered health care, infrastructure enhancements and other services to improve the quality of life for those living in the Colonias near Laredo, Texas. Colonias are rural communities that lack basic living necessities, such as sewer systems, electricity and sanitary housing.

Despite best efforts, it became obvious that a language barrier was slowing down the delivery of healthcare, as only a small percentage of volunteer healthcare workers could communicate in both English and Spanish, while many Colonia residents only spoke Spanish.

"We have this piece of technology called a Double Robotics robot," said Dr. Jason Saladiner, CONHS Director of Innovative Programs. "Faculty who deliver their courses via online methods use it to log in from a distance and talk to students in on-campus labs. It seemed like a natural fit to see if the robot could help."

The Double Robotics robot, which is essentially an iPad on wheels—equipped with a camera and audio kit—was set up in the clinic. Meanwhile, a laptop equipped with software that communicates with the robot was set up in an office on campus where a rotation of volunteers helped translate conversations between patient and medical professional. This innovative technology proved to be a valuable tool for CONHS students and faculty who were able to continue providing much needed healthcare to the Colonias residents.

During the two-week effort, more than 2,000 patients were seen with approximately \$2 million in free services delivered.



## Island University and Del Mar Create Pipeline for STEM Success

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Del Mar College (DMC), two of the Coastal Bend's most prominent educational leaders, celebrated a long-standing partnership on Nov. 1, 2017, with the ceremonial signing of a new Articulation Agreement geared towards making it easier for DMC biotechnology students to transfer to the Island University.

Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, joined Dr. Beth Lewis, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at DMC, in signing the agreement.

"The University is excited to have the opportunity to expand our collaboration and relationship with Del Mar College," said Quintanilla. "Today is so important because the reason we are signing this agreement is to increase student success."

After acquiring an associate's degree at DMC, interested students will have three clear degree plans that show which credits transfer and what classes they need to complete a bachelor's degree at the Island University.

"A majority of Del Mar's biology students continue their studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi," said Lewis. "Interaction is happening all the time between our two institutions. This articulation agreement is another step forward."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the number of STEM jobs is projected to increase 62 percent by the year 2020. Thanks to the new partnership between A&M-Corpus Christi and DMC, the pathway to making an impact on the community will be easier to follow for the Coastal Bend's future scientists, researchers and innovators.



## Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Foundation Pledges Additional \$50,000 to Scholarships

In fall 2017, the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Foundation pledged an additional \$50,000 to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Scholarship Endowment. Mariella Jimenez, a freshman mathematics major, was selected to receive the scholarship. Jimenez, who is the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college, will receive \$5,000 a year for four years.

Garcia is a prolific figure in Mexican American history. He was an immigrant and a proud Texan, a physician and a soldier, an activist and an advisor to several presidents. After serving in World War II, he founded the American GI Forum, the veterans' advocacy group that evolved into a powerful force for civil rights.

"My parents are immigrants from Mexico, just like Dr. Garcia," said Jimenez. "They came to this country to offer us a better life. They are the best parents I could have ever asked for."

Jimenez plans to become a math teacher. Thanks to the scholarship, the 18

year old will be able to work less hours and focus more on her schoolwork.

"Every time I walk through the Hector P. Garcia Plaza on campus, I will be looking at the man who made my dreams possible," said Jimenez.

The University held a public signing for the endowment pledge on Sept. 20, 2017, which is the Dr. Hector P. Garcia's State Holiday. Cecilia Garcia Akers, Garcia's daughter, attended on behalf of the foundation. During the event, she spoke of

the sacrifices her father made for his family and marginalized Hispanics everywhere.

"My father's wishes were that everyone receives the highest level of education possible," said Garcia Akers. "This additional scholarship pledge is a new beginning for my father's legacy."

Since its inception in 1996, the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Scholarship Endowment has been supported by continued donations from the Garcia Memorial Foundation.



## Rare Films from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Archives Receive National Recognition

The Mary and Jeff Bell Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi announced that motion picture films from the Antonio Rodríguez Fuentes and Josefina Barrera Fuentes Family Papers have been named to the National Film Registry. The films, which were preserved through a partnership with the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, are among the 25 American films deemed "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress when they were added to the national registry early December 2017.

Antonio Rodríguez Fuentes (1895-1988) and Josefina Barrera Fuentes (1898-1993) were longtime Corpus Christi residents who ranked among the most involved individuals in early local Mexican American community organizations. The films named to the registry were shot with a French-made Pathex camera on 9.5 mm film, a rare film format popular for a short time in the early 20th century, primarily in Europe.

"When we found out the Fuentes films from the University's special collections were chosen out of hundreds of entries, we were truly thrilled," said Dr. Catherine Rudowsky, Dean of Libraries at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "I am honored to be part of the Island University and the work we are doing to preserve our region's unique and diverse history."

Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, each year the Librarian of Congress names 25 films to the National Film Registry. The Librarian makes the annual selections to the registry after reviewing hundreds of titles nominated by the public and conferring with Library film curators and the distinguished members of the National Film Preservation Board.



## University Fights Food Insecurity with 'Izzy's Food Pantry'

In its inaugural fall 2017 semester, nearly 5,000 pounds of non-perishables were donated to Izzy's Food Pantry, a joint initiative between Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Food Bank. Izzy's Food Pantry fills the gaps—in the form of food—for

Islander students who may experience food insecurity, with the goal of supporting their academic success. The food pantry is maintained in part by generous donations and is located on the second floor of the University Center.

"It is a sign of strength to ask for help," said Dr. Don Albrecht, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success at the Island University. "Izzy's Food Pantry offers nutritional options to keep our Islander students fed, healthy and energized to

continue their academic endeavors."

Izzy's Food Pantry provides 10 non-perishable food items once a week at no charge to any currently enrolled student in need. Jon David Dinkins, a biomedical science major

at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, is one of the 109 students assisted by Izzy's Food Pantry last semester.

"It's overwhelming to think that so many people, including my fellow students, have supported the pantry with food drives and donations," said Dinkins. "It's definitely boosted my morale knowing that people care that I succeed."

Izzy's Food Pantry is the first Coastal Bend Food Bank pantry located at a university.

"This is a new demographic for us," said Kathy Rios, Agency Relations Manager at the Coastal Bend Food Bank. "When you are a student, you can't always work a full-time job and money isn't always steady. We're excited to be part of this new initiative."

Future goals of Izzy's Food Pantry include growing its awareness on and off campus and increasing the size of the pantry to serve more students.



### Fall 2017 – By the Numbers



Items Distributed: **3,519**



Donations Accepted: **\$1,348**



Pounds Donated: **4,829**



Food Drives Held: **24**

# Thanks to Abundant Support, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Fares Well During 85th Legislative Session

The 85th Texas Legislative Session opened with a senate bill proposing to cut Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi appropriations by 35 percent and to eliminate all special item funding requests. Areas vital to the University and the Coastal Bend community, including the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, the Art Museum of South Texas, the Lone Star UAS Center for Excellence and Innovation (LSUASC) and others would have been at risk of losing precious funding. All of these areas provide students and the Coastal Bend with research, cultural and artistic opportunities.

“Historically, higher education in South Texas is underfunded and another cut could have possibly wiped out an entire generation of future college graduates,” said Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. “I was initially deeply concerned for the future of higher education, but then I remembered who supports, advocates and fights for this University.”

Thankfully, Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Chairman Todd Hunter and Chairman Abel Herrero rose to the challenge of advocating for the needs of the University and its students. Alongside the local delegation and their staff, the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, the City of Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation and many local citizens made it their mission to travel to Austin to push forward the University’s legislative priorities, which included decreasing the budget

cut and securing exceptional item funding for LSUASC. That funding would enable the University to provide further educational opportunities, research development of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) technology and the continuation of the National UAS Credentialing Program.

By the end of the 140-day regular legislative session, the advocates for A&M-Corpus Christi had succeeded in minimizing the worst of the proposed budget cuts. The 35 percent budget cut was reduced to 5.7 percent and \$7 million in exceptional item funding was secured for LSUASC.

“It wasn’t by accident that we were spared huge budget cuts and received funding to support South Texas’ work in the UAS industry,” said Quintanilla. “It was because of all the incredible individuals who walked the halls of the Capitol to support this University. But more than anyone, it’s all thanks to the dedication, hard work and tireless devotion

of Senator Hinojosa, Chairman Hunter and Chairman Herrero.”

Through close collaboration with the local delegation and stakeholders across the Coastal Bend community, President Quintanilla will continue to advocate for the needs of the Island University and its students during



the interim period between legislative sessions. By working together, the promise of a bright educational future will remain within reach of all South Texans.

## Island University Economic Impact

A degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi produces a significant boost in its graduates’ lifetime earnings. Based on gains in earning streams from a university education, the University’s contribution to additional lifetime earnings of Texas residents is estimated at \$1.13 billion annually.

For each dollar of state-appropriated funds, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi generates \$14.50 in economic activity across Texas communities.

A&M-Corpus Christi boosts employment in Texas by a total of 11,713 full-time-equivalent job positions. Excluding student workers, 3,497 Texas residents are directly employed through the Island University and another 8,216 jobs are created as a result of economic activity related to the University.

Source: EDA University Center for Regional Economic Research



## Islanders Tennis Teams Remain Champions on the Court and in the Classroom

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi tennis has made a name for itself as one of the elite mid-major programs in the nation. Over the past 11 years, the Islanders have captured 21 Southland Conference regular season or tournament championships between the men's and women's programs. Time and time again, Islanders tennis has carried the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi name into the national spotlight by reaching nine NCAA tournaments.

Head Coach Steve Moore, winner of 11 consecutive Coach of the Year awards, has overseen the most successful run in the history of Islanders Athletics and one of the most historic stretches in the Southland Conference. In 10 of the last 11 seasons, Islanders men's tennis has won a Southland Conference Championship, marking the longest streak by any tennis program in the 54-year history of the league. The streak is a feat matched only three other times in any sport in the Conference.

On the women's side, Islanders have captured three of the past four Southland Championships, including back-to-back titles in 2016 and 2017. During the back-to-back title runs, Islanders posted a remarkable 27-1 record against Southland opponents.

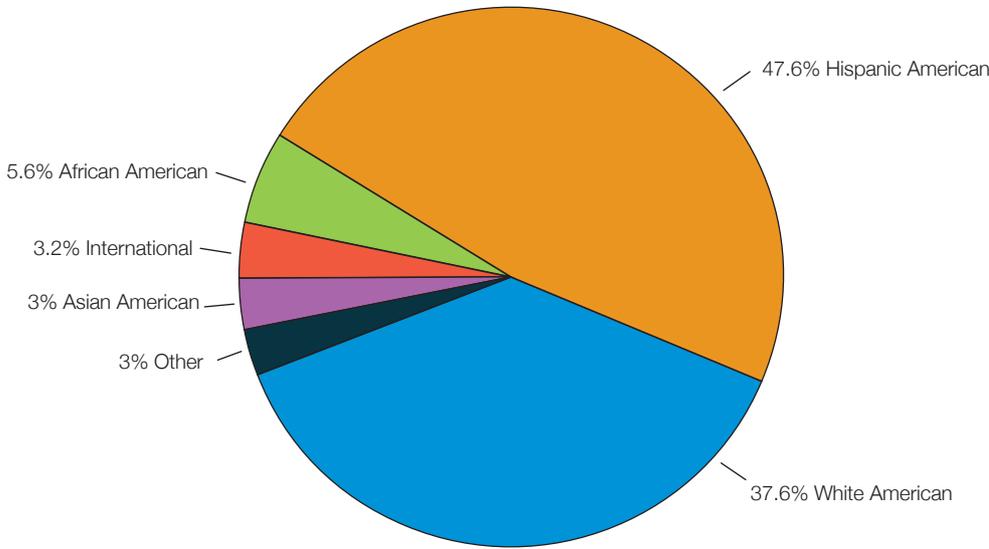
The on-court success of Islanders Tennis has been equaled by the program's performance in the classroom. Over the last eight years, Islanders men's and women's tennis have posted a combined GPA of more than 3.0 each semester. In total, the tennis program has posted 17 consecutive semesters with a 3.0 GPA or better.

The incredible performance in the classroom has earned the Islanders prestigious recognition as an Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team for the past three years. In addition, 10 Islanders were named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athletes in 2017 with a GPA of 3.5 or better.

On a conference level, A&M-Corpus Christi has continually led the Southland in All-Academic selections. Since 2011, 23 Islanders have been named Southland All-Academic for their accomplishments on and off the court.

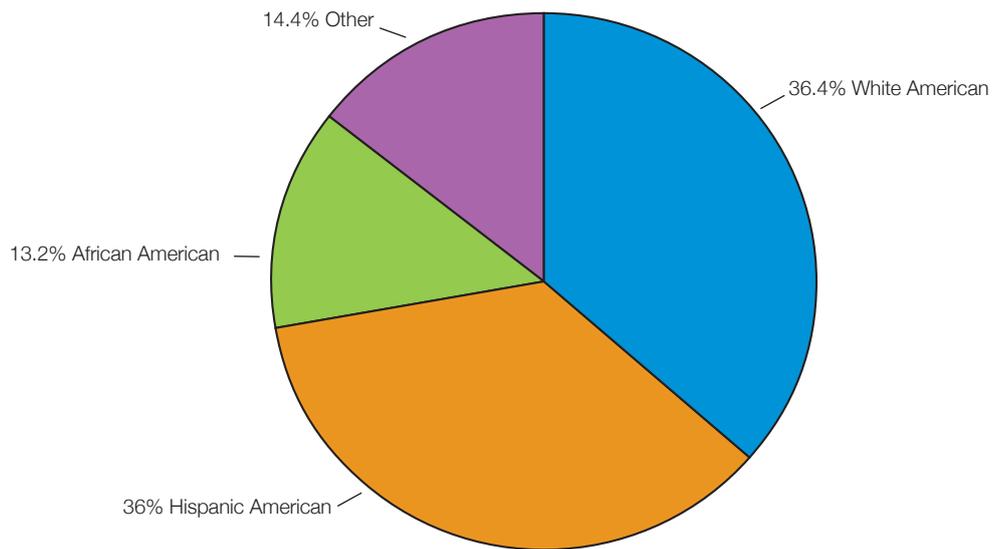


### Campus Diversity Fall 2017 Enrollment



### Statewide Diversity

Texas Public Universities Fall 2017 Enrollment



## FAST FACTS



**9,909**  
Undergraduate  
Students



**2,327**  
Graduate  
Students

**12,236**  
Total Student Enrollment



**2,623**

Living on  
Campus

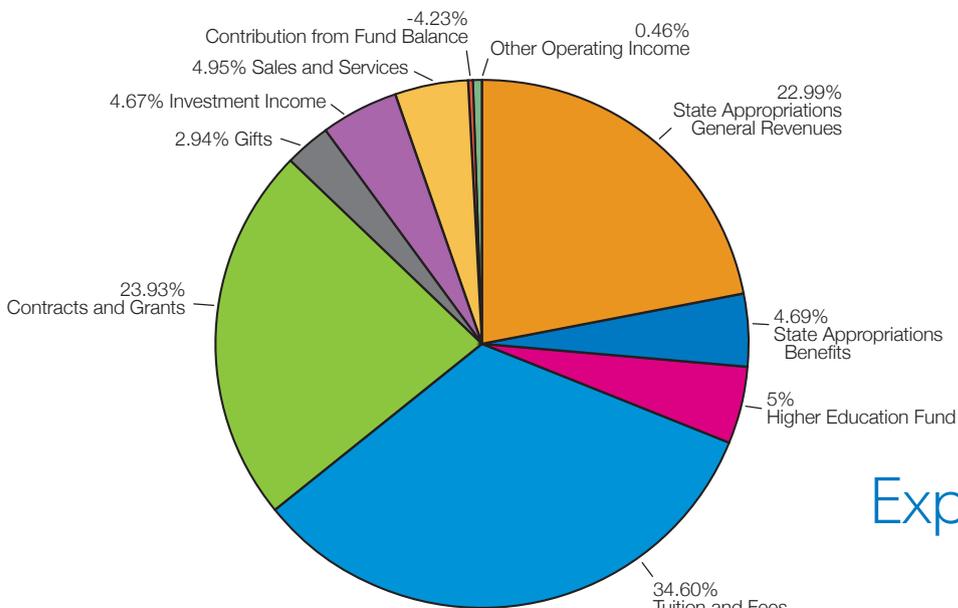


**23:1**

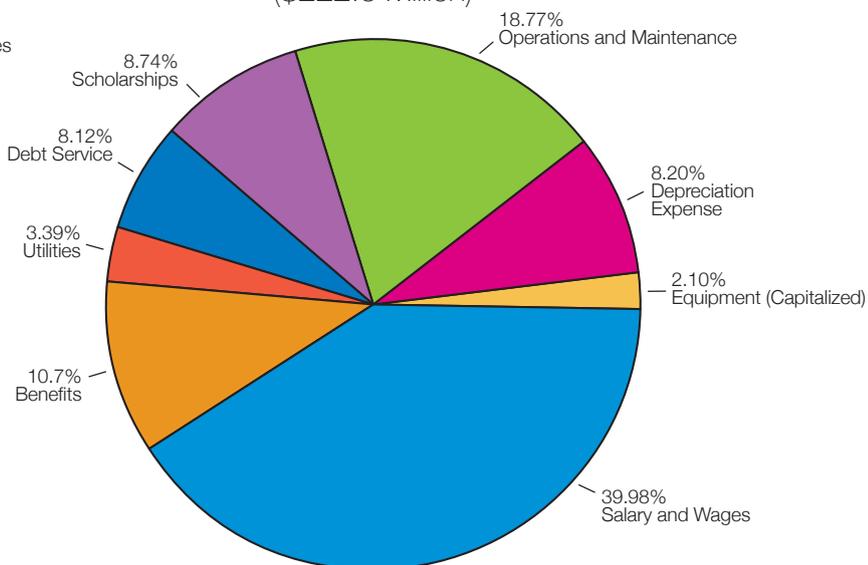
Student-to-  
Faculty Ratio

# University Financials

## Fund Sources FY 2017 (\$222.5 Million)

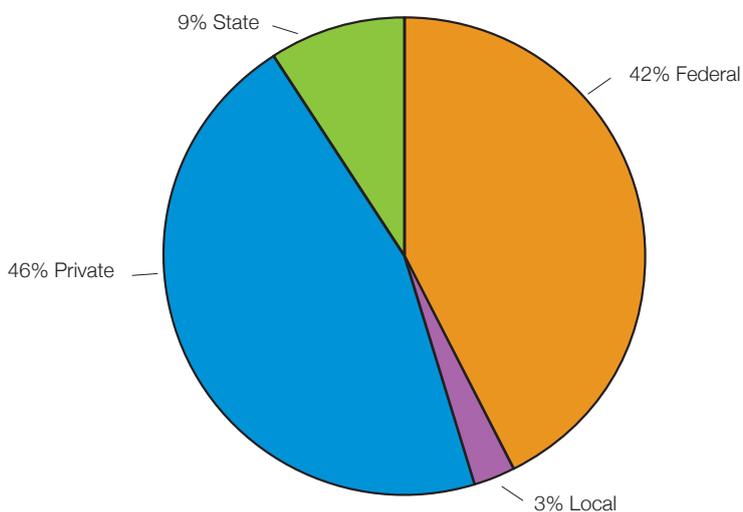


## Expenditures FY 2017 (\$222.5 Million)



## Research Proposals and Funding on the Rise

### Total Sponsored Research Project Awards by Funding Type for FY 2017



### Restricted Research Expenditures



# Statement of Combined Financial Position

For the years ending March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2016

Assets	2017	2016
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 364,802	\$ 542,598
Accounts Receivable	\$ 6,532	\$ 11,485
Pledges Receivable - Current	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Investments	\$ 41,642,963	\$ 38,200,037
Total Current Assets	\$ 42,039,297	\$ 38,779,120
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Mineral Interests	\$ 75,239	\$ 95,251
Remainder Interests	\$ 734,090	\$ 682,893
Other Assets	\$ 6,832	\$ 6,679
Total Other Assets	\$ 816,161	\$ 784,823
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 42,855,548</b>	<b>\$ 39,563,943</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 4,928	\$ 24,725
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 4,928	\$ 24,725

### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 6,212,593	\$ 5,018,514
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 5,836,109	\$ 3,925,317
Permanently Restricted	\$ 30,888,328	\$ 30,679,387
Total Net Assets	\$ 42,937,030	\$ 39,623,218

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 42,941,958</b>	<b>\$ 39,647,943</b>
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# 2017 Statement of Combined Financial Position

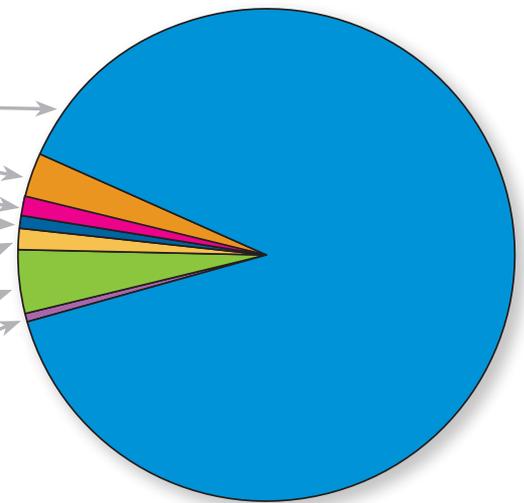
## Current Assets

Investments	\$41,642,963
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$364,802
Pledges Receivable - Current	\$25,000
Accounts Receivable	\$6,532

## Other Assets

Mineral Interests	\$75,239
Remainder Interests	\$734,090
Total Other Assets	\$6,832

**Total Assets** **\$42,855,458**



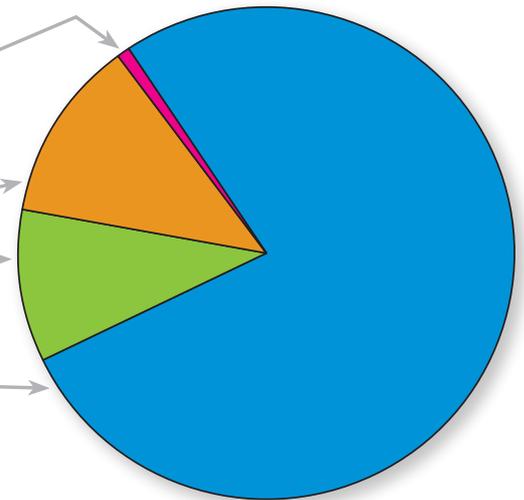
## Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$4,928
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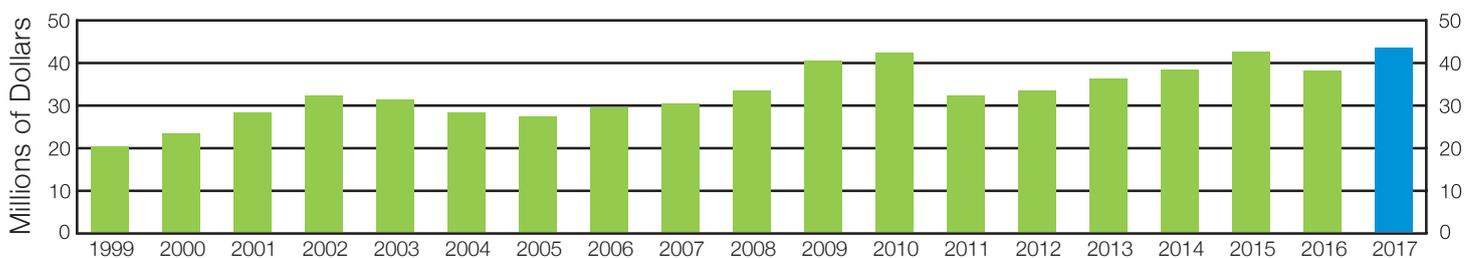
## Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$6,212,593
Temporarily Restricted	\$5,836,109
Permanently Restricted	\$30,888,328

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **\$42,941,958**



## FYE Total Liabilities and Net Assets



## **Rogelio “Roger” Benavides Chair**

This endowment was established with a gift from Elementis Chromium L.P. in 1999 for the purpose of establishing an endowed professorial chair in engineering and technology with an emphasis in industrial safety at the University in the name of Rogelio “Roger” Benavides Memorial Chair.

## **The Conrad Blucher Fund for the Advancement of Science and Technology**

This endowment was established by Conrad M. and Zula E. Blucher for the development and advancement of science and technology curriculum at the University.

## **Ruth A. Campbell Professorship of Coastal & Marine System Sciences**

Established in 2002, the Ruth A. Campbell Professorship of Coastal and Marine System Sciences endowment supports a professor of marine biology and a graduate student in the coastal and marine system science Ph.D. program.

## **Ruth A. Campbell Professorship of Marine Biology**

The Ruth A. Campbell Professorship of Marine Biology was established to maintain a distinguished and substantial research agenda at the national and international levels, and to maintain strong extramurally-funded research programs supporting marine biology graduate students.

## **The Corpus Christi Cotillion Club Endowment**

This endowment was established in March 2006 with a gift from the Corpus Christi Cotillion Club. The net income from the Endowment is intended to provide funding for visiting artists to the University’s art programs.

## **Crutchfield Fellowships**

This endowment was established with a bequest from John W. Crutchfield to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, with funds intended for fellowships at the masters and doctoral levels at the Harte Research Institute. In addition to normal educational expenses, the fellowship holder may use funds for purposes (among others) such as travel, workshops, symposia, and the purchase of necessary equipment.

## **Dr. Joe Frantz Professorship**

This endowment was established in 1997 with a gift from Margaret Turnbull in memory of Dr. Joe Frantz is to be used to recognize excellence and originality in the teaching of history.

## **Ennis S. and Virginia C. Joslin Chair in Accounting**

In recognition of the advancements in higher education by the University’s College of Business in the field of accounting, this endowment was established by Mrs. Virginia C. Joslin. The Professorship is used in the way that is deemed most beneficial to the College of Business and is used to attract and retain the highest quality academics in the field.

## **The Robert and Gloria Furgason Endowment for Visual and Performing Arts**

This endowment was established in 2005 by Dr. Robert and Gloria Furgason and their friends to benefit the University by providing funding for the Robert and Gloria Furgason Series for the Visual and Performing Arts.

## **Furgason Fellowships**

This endowment was established with a gift from Edward H. Harte in 2007 in honor of Dr. Robert R. Furgason to fund teaching and research fellowships at the Harte Research Institute.

## **Thomas L. Goad Endowment**

This endowment was established in 1986 with contributions from family and friends to honor Thomas L. Goad. Income is to be used to provide scholarships in theatre.

## **Paul R. and Mary Haas Endowed Professorship in History**

This endowment was established in 2009 with a gift from Paul R. and Mary Haas to be used as a professorship for a full-time professor in history. The professorship awarded from this endowment is intended for the enhancement of, and to generate academic excellence in, the department of History at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **Paul and Mary Haas Professorship in English**

This endowment was established in 1995 with a gift from Paul and Mary Haas to be used for the establishment of a professorship in the department of English. The professorship awarded from this endowment shall be used for generating academic excellence in the department of English at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **HRI Endowed Chair Biodiversity & Conservation Science**

The endowed chair for Biodiversity & Conservation Science focuses on knowledge and understanding of the great biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and the best ways to conserve it for future generations.

## **HRI Endowed Chair Coastal and Marine Policy and Law**

The endowed chair for Coastal and Marine Policy and Law was the first chair created by the Harte Research Institute. This chair focuses on how marine policies and laws impact humans, as well as understanding how human behavior affects coastal and ocean ecosystems.

## **HRI Endowed Chair Ecosystem Studies & Modeling**

The endowed chair in Ecosystem Studies and Modeling concentrates on how organisms control and regulate marine ecosystems and coastal environments; research that is critical in guiding resource management decisions concerning the relationship between humans and the environment.

## **HRI Endowed Chair Fisheries & Ocean Health**

The endowed chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health heads a diverse program that provides scientific data for management of ocean resources. The current focus is on migration of patterns of marine life and the role of estuaries and near-shore waters in sustaining marine populations.

## **HRI Endowed Chair in Geospatial Science**

This chair studies the dynamic links between geomorphology, sediments, hydrology, climate, and biology that create the curious environment of coastal zones.

## **HRI Endowed Chair in Socio-Economics**

The endowed chair for Socio-Economics seeks to make connections between the natural environment and human well-being that will translate into better decision-making regarding the Gulf of Mexico's natural assets and the issue of conservation and sustainable growth.

## **HRI Endowed Chair in Marine Genomics**

The endowed chair for Marine Genomics researches the evolution of fish genomes and uses genetic molecules to resolve both basic and applied problems involving fish species.

## **Historical Forum Endowment**

This endowment was established in 2009 with a gift from Dr. Robert M. Ball to provide funding for visiting history lecturers to the University's history program.

## **Daniel E. and Carol Isensee Kilgore Endowment for Texana**

The Kilgore Endowment will provide the special collections and archives department in the library at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with a perpetual fund to purchase rare Texana and related subject materials to augment the Kilgore Collection, which is part of that department's holdings.

## **Ennis S. and Virginia C. Joslin Chair in Accounting**

In recognition of the advancements in higher education by the University's College of Business Administration in the field of accounting, this endowment was established by Mrs. Virginia C. Joslin. The Professorship is to be used in the way that is deemed most beneficial to the College of Business and is used to attract and retain the highest quality academics in the field.

## **Dr. Eve Layman Endowed Professorship in Nursing**

The professorship awarded from the Endowment is intended for the enhancement of, and to generate academic excellence in, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **The L.C. Foundation Inc. President's Fund Endowment**

This endowment was established in 2010 with a gift from Lena D. Coleman. Funds awarded from this endowment are intended to provide student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and other critical areas of need at the discretion of the University President. Funds are also to be used for numerous annual activities and programs implemented through the President's office, which further builds upon community engagement.

## **Barbara G. Silverman Professorship in Literacy**

This Endowment was established in 2014 in memory of Barbara G. Silverman. Funds are used to attract and retain the highest quality faculty in the discipline of literacy for the University.

## **Edwin Singer Presidential Endowment**

The Edwin Singer Presidential Endowment funds are used at the discretion of the President to support the President's initiatives.

## **Hans and Patricia Suter Endowment**

This endowment was established with a gift from Mrs. Hans R. Suter in 2000. Scholarships will be used to benefit the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, namely in coastal zone environmental studies and in accordance with the guidelines established and in use by the Foundation in consultation with the University.

## **The Miriam Wagenschein Professorship in Sociology**

This endowment was established with a gift from the Estate of Miriam Wagenschein in 2012. The professorship awarded from this endowment is intended for the enhancement of, and to generate academic excellence in, the sociology department at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **Dr. Miriam Wagenschein Professorship in Women and Gender Studies**

The Wagenschein Professorship in Women and Gender Studies Endowment was established with a gift from the Estate of Miriam Wagenschein in 2012. The professorship awarded from this endowment is intended for the enhancement of, and to generate academic excellence in, the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **Platinum Wave** **(\$500,000 or more)**

Lawrence M. Atkins Endowed Scholarship  
The John Chapman Endowed Scholarship  
E. Marvin Collins Scholarship Endowment  
John and Augusta Doan Endowed Scholarship  
Jeannette Holloway/Estill Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Ennis S. and Virginia C. Joslin Endowed Scholarship  
Morris L. Lichtenstein, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund  
Frances K. Snyder Scholarship Fund  
Wright Family Scholarship Fund

## **Gold Wave** **(\$250,000-\$499,999)**

American Electric Power Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
John W. Boatwright Memorial Scholarship Endowment  
H.E. Butt Grocery Company Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Ruth Campbell Scholarship Endowment  
Lena Coleman-Wilson Hope Scholarship Endowment  
C.J. Davidson Scholarship Endowment  
The Flint Hills Resources, LP Fund in Mechanical Engineering  
Robert and Gloria Furgason Endowment  
LaVerne and Thomas Howell Endowed Scholarship  
Arthur F. Lobe Endowed Scholarship  
Larry and Karen Urban Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Loris J. Welhausen Quasi Endowment

## **Silver Wave** **(\$150,000-\$249,999)**

CITGO Engineering Scholarship Endowment  
The M.S. and Meek Lane Doss Endowed Opportunity Award  
Scholarship  
Dr. Hector P. Garcia Scholarship Endowment  
Greater Texas Foundation Removing Educational Barriers  
Scholarship Endowment  
Mrs. Willard (Jeannine) Hammonds Sr. Memorial Endowed  
Scholarship  
Chapman Hulings Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Kennedy Endowed Scholarship  
The Melvyn N. Klein Scholarship Endowment for Writing and  
Communication  
One Hundred Club Scholarship Endowment  
Joseph L. Sheinberg Scholarship Endowment  
Celika Storm Endowed Scholarship in Business  
Celika Storm Endowed Scholarship in Nursing

## **Green Wave** **(\$100,000-\$149,999)**

American Bank Endowed Scholarship in Business  
American Bank Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering  
William Armour Ball, Jr. Endowed Scholarship  
Bateman Family Endowed Scholarship in Education  
Jean N. Boatwright Endowed Scholarship  
Clinical Nurse Specialist Graduate Scholarship Endowment  
Crutchfield Scholars Endowment  
Atlee M. and John W. Cunningham Endowed Scholarship  
Susan McAdams Dugan Scholarship Endowment  
Darryl Haas Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Rene Haas Student Leader Scholarship Endowment  
John O. Heldenfels Scholarship Fund  
Islander Class Agent Scholarship Endowment

The LC Foundation Inc. President's Fund Endowment  
PlainsCapital Bank Endowed Scholarship in Finance  
Port of Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Marty R. Pritchett Memorial Scholarship Endowment  
Dee Stephens Scholarship Endowment in Nursing  
Margaret Rose Turnbull Scholarship Endowment  
Wells Fargo Bank Endowed Scholarship in Engineering

## **Blue Wave** **(\$50,000-\$99,999)**

Anderson Group|Construction Management, Inc.  
Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
B.E. Beecroft Company, Inc. Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Behmann Brothers Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Drew M. Bingham Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Ruben and Rosie Bonilla Endowed Scholarship in Education  
Dinah Bowman Honors Scholarship Endowment Fund  
Fred and Vanessa Braselton Family Endowed Scholarship  
Braselton Homes Endowed Scholarship in Entrepreneurship  
R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship  
Countiss Leadership Scholarship  
Evening Post Publishing Company - KRIS TV Scholarship  
Endowment  
Thomas John Ferguson Endowed Scholarship in Marine Biology  
Nancy T. Goodman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing  
John W. Hill Teacher Education Scholarship Endowment  
Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa Endowed Scholarship  
Hispanic Women's Network of Texas-Corpus Christi Chapter  
Endowed Scholarship in Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics  
Jace C. Hoffman Memorial Endowment  
Instituto de Cultura Hispanica de Corpus Christi Scholarship  
Endowment  
Joe and Dorothy Jessel Endowed Scholarship  
Flavius and Kathy Killebrew Scholarship Fund  
Richard and Florence King Scholarship Endowment  
The Marine Technology Society, Houston Section Endowed  
Scholarship  
Margaret Mary Miller Endowed Scholarship  
James and Candace Moloney Scholarship Endowment  
Patty and Joseph P. Mueller Endowed Scholarship  
Joseph A. and Ruth S. O'Brien Endowed Herbarium Internship  
Padre Island Business Association Scholarship  
Bernard and Joan Paulson Scholarship Endowment  
Bonnie and Edward G. Pereida Endowed Scholarship  
Virginia T. Rankin Quasi Scholarship Endowment  
Frank H. Robinson Scholarships  
Rotary Club of Corpus Christi Leadership Scholarship Endowment  
Earl C. Sams Foundation Scholarship Endowment  
Elizabeth F. Sefcik Endowed Scholarship  
Sembradores de Amistad de Corpus Christi Scholarship Endowment  
Sembradores de Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship  
Donald St. John Smith Scholarship Endowment  
Student Foundation Leadership Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. B. Alan Sugg Scholarship Endowment  
Texas Pioneer Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Ben F. Vaughan, Jr. Art Scholarship  
C.J. (Joe) Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Carl Douglas Wyatt Memorial Scholarship

## James McLurkin

KRIS Communications

La Palmera

Cooper Outdoor

AEP Texas

Flint Hills Resources

ICA Radio, Ltd.

V Boutique Hotel

Pizza State



## Sylvia Earle

ICA Radio, Ltd.

Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

KRIS Communications

La Palmera

Cooper Outdoor

AEP Texas

The David B. Terk Wildlife Conservation Foundation

Flint Hills Resources

V Boutique Hotel

Whataburger Restaurants

Pizza State



# 2017 Honor Wall of Recognition

The Honor Wall of Recognition, located in the Legacy Hall of the University Center, showcases the University's most generous donors and reflects cumulative giving. It affords a visual recognition of these most inspired donors with bronze plaques in their likeness.

## **Legacy Society (\$10,000,000 or more)**

Zula H. and Conrad M. Blucher  
The City of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi  
Business and Job Development Program  
Edward H. Harte  
Michael and Karen O'Connor

## **Platinum Inner Circle of Excellence (\$1,000,000-\$9,999,999)**

Estate of Lawrence M. Atkins  
Mary and Jeff Bell  
Rogelio "Roger" Benavides  
Ruth A. Campbell  
Louise G. and John O. Chapman  
Coastal Conservation Association Texas  
E. Marvin Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Crutchfield  
Olga E. Doan  
Dr. John T. "Jack" Dugan Family  
Dusty Durrill  
Samuel H. Frech  
Mary and Paul Haas  
Ewing Halsell Foundation  
Harte Charitable Foundation  
Jeannette Holloway/Estill Foundation  
Houston Endowment Inc.  
Virginia C. and Ennis S. Joslin  
The John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial  
Foundation  
STARS/L&F Distributors, Ltd.  
Woo Sung Lee  
Morris L. Lichtenstein, Jr. Medical Research Foundation  
Maureen and William Miller  
The Blanche Davis Moore Foundation  
Ed Rachal Foundation  
Frances K. Snyder  
Susser Holdings, L.L.C.  
Siemens  
Gazzie and Guy Warren  
The Lonnie Wright Family Foundation

## **Gold Inner Circle of Excellence (\$500,000-\$999,999)**

AEP Texas  
CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery  
Coastal Bend Community Foundation  
Flint Hills Resources  
Law Offices of Thomas J. Henry  
Jonathan M. Hornblower  
Howard E. and Mary H. Butt Foundation  
The L.C. Foundation, Inc.  
Jessie Frances Neal Foundation  
Rene Haas and David Perry  
Edwin and Patsy Dunn Singer  
Celika "Chela" Storm  
Margaret Turnbull  
Estate of Miriam Wagenschein

## **Silver Inner Circle of Excellence (\$250,000-\$499,999)**

American Bank  
ARGUS Software  
AT&T  
BP American Production Company  
Behmann Brothers Foundation  
Jean N. Boatwright  
James R. Dougherty, Jr. Foundation  
Lucille Freeman Glasscock  
LaVerne and Thomas Howell Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Kennedy Foundation  
Mrs. John Allen King  
Melvyn N. Klein  
Port of Corpus Christi  
Earl C. Sams Foundation, Inc.  
Ruth and Joseph Sheinberg  
Shell Oil Company  
Karen and Larry Urban  
Valero Energy Corporation  
Loris Jane Welhausen Management Trust  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Whataburger Restaurants

## **Bronze Inner Circle of Excellence (\$100,000-\$249,999)**

Wynell Haley Ball  
Bank of America  
Braselton Family  
John J. Buckley Foundation  
Building Conservation Trust  
Jagdev and Linda Cheema  
Corpus Christi Caller-Times  
Corpus Christi Cotillion Club  
Corpus Christi Roadrunners, Inc.  
Atlee M. Cunningham, Jr.  
Davidson Family Charitable Foundation  
The M.S. Doss Foundation, Inc.

# 2017 Honor Wall of Recognition

Exxon Mobil Corporation  
George A. Finley III and Family  
Lucien and Maxine Flournoy  
Fulton\*Coastcon General Contractors  
Greater Texas Foundation  
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
Willard H. Hammonds, Sr.  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation  
John O. Heldenfels  
Gloria and Edward Hicks  
Hulings Family  
Industrial Fabricators of Corpus Christi  
International Bank of Commerce  
Lynda Y. and Harris A. Kaffie  
Daniel Edmond and Carol Isensee Kilgore  
Dr. Flavius and Kathy Killebrew  
Arthur F. Lobe  
Leon Stephen Loeb  
London Broadcasting  
The Marine Technology Society-Houston Section  
Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust  
The Meadows Foundation  
Moody Foundation  
Patty Puig Mueller  
NavyArmy Community Credit Union  
Ruth and Joseph A. O'Brien  
One Hundred Club of Corpus Christi  
Bernard A. and Joan L. Paulson

PlainsCapital Bank  
Marty R. Pritchett  
Rotary Club of Corpus Christi  
Scott Electric Company  
Silverman Family  
Ruth Parr Sparks Foundation  
Dee and Ted Stephens  
Sandra and Blair Sterba-Boatwright  
Patricia H. Suter  
Texas Pioneer Foundation  
Janet L. Tysinger and Dr. Eve L. Layman  
Walton Family Foundation  
Time Warner Cable, Inc.  
Robert A. Welch Foundation  
C.C. Winn Family

## Heritage Society

### Estate and Life Income Gifts

Joyce Cloud  
Waltraud Kluetsch DeVillie  
Lynda Y. and Harris A. Kaffie  
Paddy Lann, Jr. Trust  
Lorwen L. and George J. Merriman, Jr., M.D.  
Lillian A. Murray  
Elizabeth F. Sefcik, Ph.D., RN, GNP, BC  
Carol and Art Zeitler



# Foundation Scholarships

American Bank Endowed Scholarship in Business  
American Bank Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering  
American Electric Power Endowed Scholarship in Engineering  
Arthur F. Lobe Endowed Scholarship  
Behmann Brothers Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Bernard and Joan Paulson Scholarship Endowment  
Bonnie and Edward G. Pereida Endowed Scholarship  
Carl Douglas Wyatt Memorial Scholarship Endowment  
Celika Storm Endowed Scholarship  
Celika Storm Endowed Scholarship in Business  
Celika Storm Endowed Scholarship in Nursing  
Chapman Hulings Scholarship Endowment Fund  
Compass Bank Scholarship in Engineering  
Crutchfield Scholars Endowment  
Dee Stephens Endowed Scholarship in Nursing  
Dinah Bowman Honors Scholarship Endowment Fund  
Donald St. John Smith Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. B. Alan Sugg Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. Miriam Wagenschein Arts & Humanities Endowment  
E. Marvin Collins Scholarship Endowment  
Earl C. Sams Foundation Scholarship  
Edwin Singer Presidential Endowment  
Ennis S. and Virginia C. Joslin Endowed Scholarship  
Evening Post Publishing Company - KRIS TV Scholarship Endowment  
Flavius and Kathy Killebrew Scholarship Fund  
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 Aaron Whittington  
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 Deanna York  
 Lori and David Zacher  
 Daqun Zhang  
 Lynn Zond  
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James Kruse  
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Maru Luis Ladilad  
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Veronica Lopez  
Diane Lowe  
Melanie Lowry  
Ida Lozano  
Kathleen Ludwig  
Eden Hernandez and Don Luna  
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Marta and Seferino Maldonado  
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Luis Salinas  
Tereza and George Sanchez  
Marivel and Rey Sandoval  
Kathleen Santrock  
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Sharon Scerrato  
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Stefani Schomaker  
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Blake Sparks  
Margaret Spoo  
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Devon Steffan  
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 Jennifer Tudor  
 Leona Urbish and Glenn Tesch  
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 Marie Alford  
 Randy Almaguer  
 Amy Alonso  
 Heather Alvarez  
 Anita Alvarez-Wiggins  
 Heather and Clark Anderson  
 Sarafina Andrew  
 Anonymous

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 Ida Barrera  
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 Adele Bemis  
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 Brianna Bennett  
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 Whitney Bohac  
 Mikaela Boham  
 Hayley Boucher  
 Rebekah Boudreau  
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 Shannon and John Bowen  
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 Kaitlyn Breedlove  
 Brianna Brink  
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 Gregory Buck  
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 Christine and William Burke  
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 Vanessa and Henry Caldwell  
 Xelena Caldwell  
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 Rosario Campos  
 Abel Cantu, Jr.  
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 Cindy Cantu  
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 Yvette Carraway  
 Amy Carter  
 Lizette Castro  
 Kimberly Cates  
 Timothy Causgrove  
 Paramjoth Kaur Chahal  
 Gina Champion  
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Sandra Chesnutt  
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Margaret Clay  
Peggy and Patrick Coffey  
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Kimberly Collins  
Lisa Comparini  
Gail and Rick Connelly  
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Hannah Coulter  
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Rosaalva Davila  
Friederike Davis  
Bryan Davis  
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Amanda De La Garza  
Cheryl Delgado  
Alison DeMelim  
Melinda and Ricardo Diaz  
Deborah Dixon  
Johanna and Jason DuBose  
Loree and Leland Dubose  
Bell Dudley Grace and Phil Dudley  
Lori Dunn  
Barbara Durocher  
Penny and David Earle  
Oralia Eberhard  
Sara Elharoun  
Sue Elwood-Salinas  
Melissa and Alberto Escamilla  
Olivia Escochea  
Esenjay Petroleum Corporation  
Edward Espino  
Josefina Esquivel  
Victoria Estringel  
Edward Evans  
Melanie Everson  
Jessica Facundo  
Judith Farmer  
Adele and Edward Farrell  
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Brianna Fiscus  
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Yvette Fitzgerald  
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Debbie Flores  
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Becky Flores  
Lamar Flores-Saenz  
Tammy and James Foster  
Chris Fraughton  
Marlene and James Frazier  
Keri Fritsche-Thomas and Chris Thomas  
Jennifer Frnka  
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Deborah Fullerton Dunn  
Debra Gage  
Amy and Jeffrey Gagnon  
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Frank Garcia  
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Lauren Garcia  
Lorena Garcia  
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Lorraine Gomez  
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David Gonzalez  
Victoria Gonzalez  
Armandina and Diego Gorena  
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Faviola Hidalgo  
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Sayuri Hiraishi  
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Baldimar Huerta  
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Robert Hurd  
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Yesenia Ipina  
Melody Jacobo  
Valerie Janz  
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Gwen Jennings  
Nohelia Jimenez  
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Kaitlin Johnson  
Sharon Johnson  
Yvonne Johnson  
Mary Johnston  
Gavarae Jones  
Lesley and Jason Jones  
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Alyssa Kastens

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Tara Kennedy  
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Stephanie Klaproth  
Timothy Klaus  
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Wendy and John Koenig  
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Yuliya Kruchkova  
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Karen LaNasa  
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Randy Lara  
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Rachelle Martinez  
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Raydean Mata  
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Clifford McDonald  
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Michael Meilak  
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Laura Miranda  
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Lisa and Randy Molina  
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Suzanne and Jacob Morales  
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Reynaldo Moreno  
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Audrey Morris  
Gertrude and C.P. Morris  
Maurion Mota  
Blanca and Benito Munoz  
Veronica Munoz  
Karen and Peter Murray  
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Ramon Narvaez  
Kaitlin T. Nelson  
Toni Nerren  
Charles Nesloney  
Teresa and Brien Nicolau  
Cameron Nott  
Donielle and Gumaro Obregon  
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Megan Olgin  
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Obiageli Omeke  
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Deborah Pena  
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Lauren Phillips  
Carol and Armand Picou  
Stephanie and Eric Pipkin  
Leighann Pollard

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Jennifer and Michael Ponder  
Stacey Poole  
Deborah Pope  
Jane Porter  
Ashley Pretzer  
Kyndall Quartey  
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Ramiro Ramirez  
Michelle Ramon  
Raul Ramon  
Gabriel Ramos  
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Joel Reyes  
Josephine Reyes  
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Tonya Ridener  
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Scott Rios  
Lisa Ritter  
Lisa Roberson  
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Dora and Albert Rodriguez  
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Minerva Salazar  
Joanne Salinas  
Lori Salinas  
Nancy Salinas  
Jeana Salinas-Luevano  
Christopher Sampson  
Nathaneal Sanchez  
Jana Sanders

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Adela Santos  
Kathryn Santos  
Olivia Santos  
Cassandra Scheick  
Steven Schwerin  
Julie Seago  
Steven Seidel  
Sasha Sentz  
Yvonne Serna  
Sarah Serrata  
Shawn Shannon  
Jennifer and Brant Shyrih  
James Silliman  
Karen Silva  
Tita Simone  
Diana and Dan Sipes  
Brittney Skinner  
Cynthia and Roger Smith  
Adrian and James Smith  
Marty W. Smith  
Linda and Owen Smith-Barry  
Kimberly Smoots  
Tracy Snider  
Snoopy's Pier Restaurant  
Cynthia Soliz  
Cindy and Leslie Sorenson  
Abigal Soria  
Joann St. Clair  
Kaitlyn Stanford  
Cheryle and Terry Stansberry  
Aurora and Lloyd Staup  
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Sandra and Dee Stokes  
Debra Sublett  
Natalie and Bobby Sutton  
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TAMU-CC College of Science & Engineering  
TAMU-CC Community Outreach  
TAMU-CC Marcom  
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Yolanda and Joseph Taylor  
Esmeralda Teran  
Gale Test  
Texas Roadhouse  
Krystal Thomasson  
Margaret and Darrell Thompson  
Mary Thompson  
Robert Thompson  
Amy and John Thornberry  
Paige Tomas-Suffel  
Christa Tompkins  
Irma Torres  
Susie and Juan Torres  
Ean Travis  
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Crystal Trevino

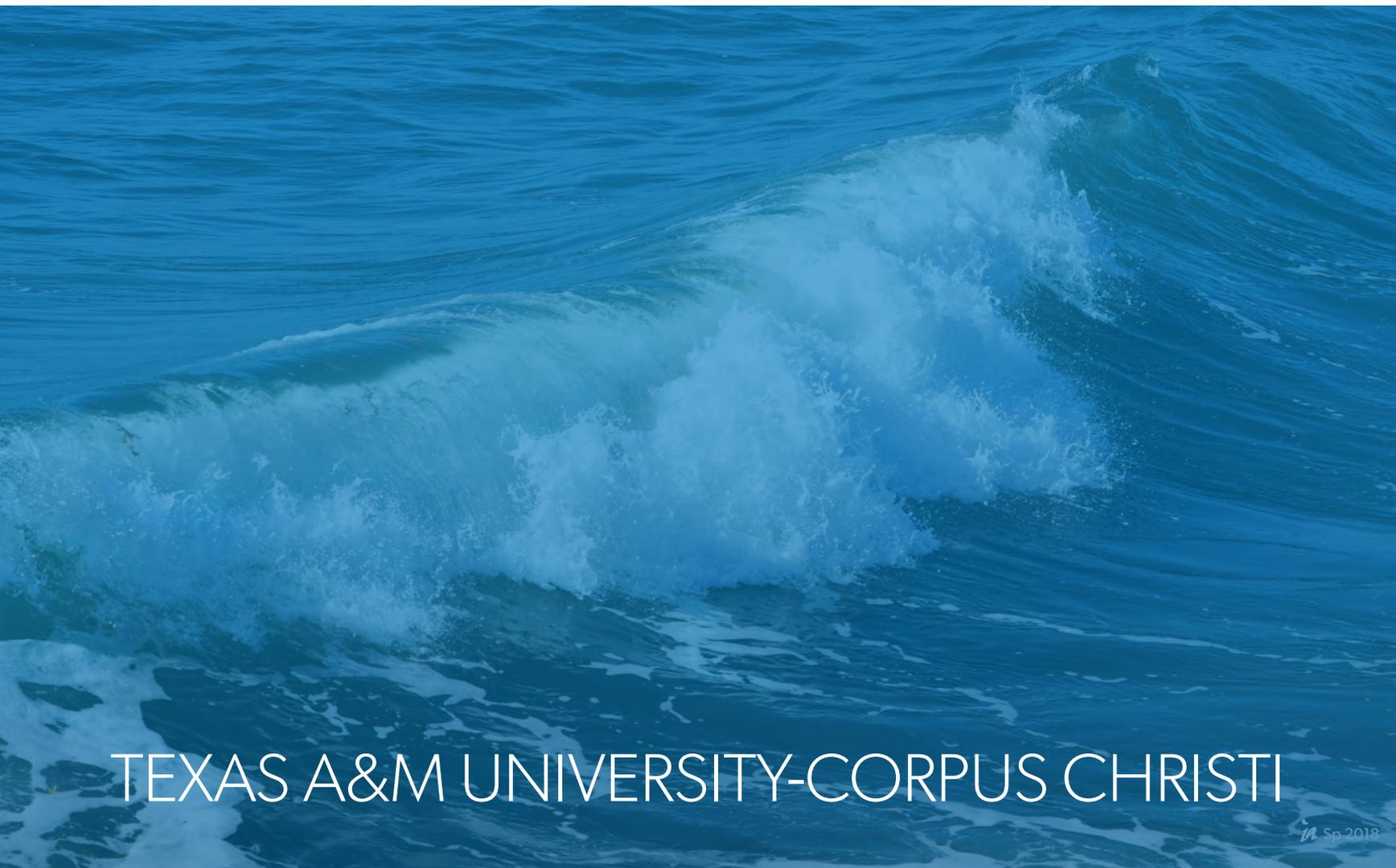
Vanessa Trevino  
Laresa and Jon Trusty  
Brittany Uresti  
Margaret Urtado  
Leticia Valentine  
Cameron Valverde  
Courtney Van Winkle  
Christine and Gerard Vaughan  
Rian Vaughan  
David Velez  
Shanelle Veteto  
Gloria Viera  
Elsa Villarreal  
Linda Villarreal  
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Alison and Travis Washburn  
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Hua Zhang  
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