

Fall 2005

# prism

The Magazine of the Texas A&M International University

# TAMIU 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Texas A&M International University Alumni Association presents

# AutMus Fest

Laredo, Texas



**Autumn Music Festival**  
**Saturday, October 8, 2005**  
**11am-11pm, TAMIU Campus**  
**www.autmusfest.com**

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*Sames Ford Stage*  
**PLASTILINA**  
**MOSHI**  
*Monterrey, Nuevo León, México*



*Miller Lite Stage*  
**Grupo Fantasma**

Austin, Texas

**Admission**  
**\$5 pre-sale**  
At all participating Popeyes in Laredo!  
**\$10 at gate**

**For complete line-up and to see what AutMus Fest is about see page 16!**

*Proceeds benefit TAMIU scholarships!*

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and that of its programs, faculty, students  
and alumni, *Prism* reflects the diverse  
educational excellence of Texas' fastest  
growing University.

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



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## *Lives Lived in The Best of Times*

In famous verses written upon the death of his father, fifteenth-century Spanish poet Jorge Manrique, reflecting upon the brevity of human life, observes how “qualquiera tiempo pasado/ fue mejor.” All times past seem better. For Jorge Manrique, the heroism of his father’s generation and the great deeds of Spain’s epic past cast their lovely light on the dismal landscape of his own time. It is hard to imagine anyone living today in Laredo voicing a similar lament.

We Laredoans, don’t we surely now live in the best of times?

In 1970, when Billy Cowart was sent from Kingsville to begin an extension campus for Texas A&I University, Laredo boasted one bridge and an airbase thought to be the lifeblood of our economy. “North Laredo” was anything north of Clark Boulevard. Laredo’s population stood at 72,859; fewer than 1000 trucks rolled daily across our one bridge. Today 225,000 people call Laredo home, with more than twice that number living in our sister city across the river. More than 9000 trucks daily make their way over one or another of our four bridges. Today few in this city, the largest landport in the nation, remember the horror its citizens felt when in 1973 the Laredo Air Force Base closed. Today what began in one library carrel at Laredo Junior College has become a magnificent new institution, a book center second to none in beauty and design.

To build their dreams, students choose from among 78 programs, leading to bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. We have recruited a truly international faculty, with 39 percent holding doctorates from outside the United States. With the dedication of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium on April 16th, 2005, the campus as originally conceived reached fruition. Senator Judith Zaffirini, noting that fact, insisted, lest anyone misunderstand: “The first stage is complete, and we move forward. We will never stop nor be slowed.”

The wide scope of projects aligned for the next five years surely honors Senator Zaffirini’s pledge. We will complete the kinesiology facilities and explore a partnership with the City of Laredo to create a major regional baseball park; add a Student Success building; expand our outreach to Laredo schoolchildren, utilizing fully the planetarium; enter into an agreement to create a partnership with the Laredo Children’s Museum on the campus; begin a school of engineering; increase our inventory of collaborative PhD programs; dedicate a new pipe organ; organize a marching band. We will increase the partnerships we now have with our two school districts, exploring the possibility of establishing a laboratory school on campus and perhaps creating with the Vidal M. Treviño School for the Fine and Performing Arts an Early College High School at the University. Finally, we will continue to explore means to bring National Public Radio to Laredo.

Because Texas A&M International University arose from the relentless efforts of our citizens and elected officials, it is appropriate that our mission be intimately joined to the growth and development of the City of Laredo. Indeed, the challenges we now face are truly Laredo’s challenges, opportunities for prosperity and growth that we can only achieve in concert with our community.

First, we must, together, confront and combat the wretchedly low participation in higher education among our citizens. Only about 25 percent of the freshmen finish in Laredo high schools and continue to any form of higher education. *We know that our enrollment stops when scholarship monies are exhausted.* Generous community



“ It is appropriate that our mission be intimately joined to the growth and development of the City of Laredo. Indeed, the challenges we now face are truly Laredo’s challenges . . . ”

Dr. Ray Keck III

support must continue for students seeking an education.

Second, we must together with our school districts and our sister institution, Laredo Community College, align our curricula better to prepare our students for college study. At present, fewer than 10 percent of graduating seniors from our high schools score “college readiness” on either the SAT or the ACT .

Third, we must work with the City of Laredo to identify adequate recreational facilities and green spaces for our citizens, and bring to fruition the many good proposals for revitalizing our historic downtown. The presence of students attracted to Laredo from outside Webb County will enhance the educational experience of students native to the area. Young people and their parents looking at possible college choices will consider the surrounding community as they make their plans. The more attractive our city, the more appealing it becomes as a place to spend the college years.

Radcliffe Killam has often commented that when the history of the twentieth century is written for Laredo, it will be said that the founding of Texas A&M International University was the most significant, far-reaching event of its time. Our University is the work of many hands, *trailblazers*, the founders were called. Their beacon, our beacon, provides the enlightenment sorely missed by Jorge Manrique in his day. For South Texas, ours is the best of times.



Dr. Ray M. Keck III,  
President

# WHERE IN THE U

You can't miss it...the shining top of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium's pyramid!



## What's it made of?

The pyramid top is 24K gold leaf over an aluminum-clad sandwich panel. The pyramid is an insulated four-sided silicone glazed skylight system supported by structural steel tubular framing.

## How was it constructed?

The pyramid top's aluminum sandwich panels are welded together at the seams to insure watertight assembly. Gold leaf is hand-applied to the aluminum with adhesive and burnished to secure properly. Finally, the top is fitted into the pyramid's insulated glazing system and secured with silicone sealant.

## Does it have a structural function?

The top of the pyramid acts as a functional component of the waterproof membrane that protects the color-shifting painted plaster dome roof of the planetarium, but it is not a structural element.

## Does it act as a lightning rod?

No, but the surrounding building is equipped with a dedicated lightning protection system which protects the lower height pyramid from the threat of lightning.

## What design philosophy does it visually reinforce?

The pyramid itself relates to the ancient Mesoamerican peoples' pyramids used to measure time and the universe and their place in it. This relates directly to the function of the state of the art planetarium housed within the pyramid. The gold-leafed pyramid top evokes images of light and enlightenment, visually reflecting the purpose of the planetarium and the broader mission of the University as a whole.

## Of special interest:

The pyramid offers a remarkable juxtaposition of the cutting edge technology used to construct the four-sided butt-glazed glass portion of the pyramid with the centuries-old craft of hand-applied gold leafing at the pyramid top.

*The Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium was dedicated last Spring and was designed by San Antonio's Kell Muñoz Architects. Our thanks to Ronnie Biediger of Kell Muñoz Architects for his assistance with this.*

# THE KING LITERATURE COLLECTION

Two of the nation's most prolific Spanish literature scholars have donated a literary goldmine to the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library at Texas A&M International University.

The literary collection is that of the late Dr. Willard F. King, professor emeritus and former chair of the department of Spanish at Bryn Mawr College and Dr. Edmund L. King, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Romance Languages at Princeton University.

TAMU's standing as a fairly new institution motivated the Kings' decision to donate their priceless collection to the University a few years ago.

"Thanks to Dr. Ray Keck (TAMU president and long-time friend), my wife and I decided to bequeath our library to a young University," Dr. King said.

Dr. King said he and his wife did not want their book collection to run the risk of dispersal or even shredding. Donating their library to Princeton University or Bryn Mawr College would only increase this risk because they already have most of the books in their libraries.

"The idea of dispersal hurt us a little bit somehow," King confessed, "after all, we spent all our lives collecting these books. They were part of us and having them dispersed was a little bit like having an amputation."

The Kings' library is indicative of their individual interests in their professional specialties.

Dr. Willard King specialized in 17th Century writings while her surviving husband, Dr. Edmund King, authored countless articles and studies on the 20th Century Spanish novelist Gabriel Miró and is considered an international authority on all matters related to Miró's life and literary remains.

Rodney Webb, Killam Library director, said the King Collection is a significant inventory of more than 5000 books on Spanish and Spanish American literature, containing many items no longer available in print.

"The King Collection makes available some titles that would probably be difficult, or in many cases impossible to even purchase," Webb said.

Moreover, Webb indicated that among the collection are volumes by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, early 17th Century Spanish dramatist, Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, 19th Century Spanish poet and essayist, Américo Castro, Spanish philologist and literary critic and Gabriel Miró, 20th Century Spanish writer.

According to Webb, it is Miró's work that makes up one of the core and most valuable parts of the King Collection.

"In fact, an extant copy of Miro's *La Mujer de Ojeda* is the most valuable piece of literature in the collection," Webb stated.

On that note, Dr. King made mention of Miró's work.

"If it's worth knowing anything about a writer, it's worth knowing everything," Dr. King said.

Rogelio Hinojosa, TAMU acquisitions librarian, said there is still much work to be done before the King Collection is made available to the general public.

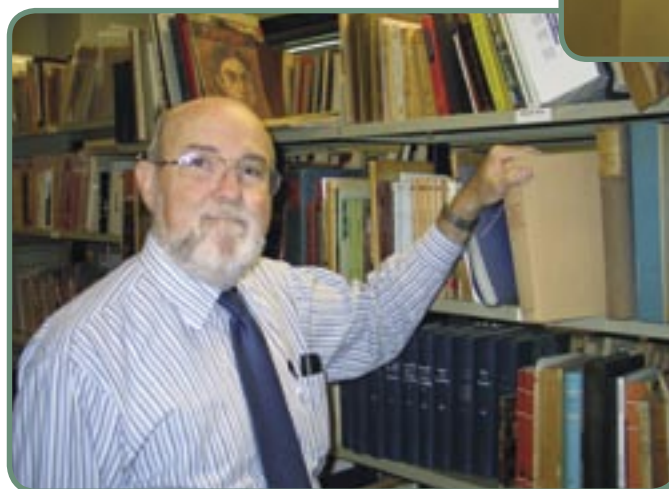
"Currently, the King Collection is in the appraisal phase, where specialized individuals will determine the collection's worth," Hinojosa stated.

Hinojosa added that the King Collection will be available through the University's Killam Library Special Collections and Archives and Romance Study Seminar Room by the end of the Fall semester.

For more information on the King Collection or on making a donation to the Special Collections and Archives, please call 956.326.2404.

"If it's worth knowing anything about a writer, it's worth knowing everything."

Dr. Edmund L. King



Rodney Webb,  
Killam Library  
director

# SIFE TAKES TAMIU CLASSROOM TO STREET



Ayala, vice president; Celina Arambula, secretary; Rosario Ibañez, treasurer; Grace Gabala, project coordinator; José Baez, public relations officer; and Juan de Dios Nieto, project coordinator.

The Team's academic advisor, Dr. J. Michael Patrick, TAMIU Regents Professor of Economics who accompanied the group, said Laredo and TAMIU were well-represented by the team.

"This is tremendous national visibility for Laredo and TAMIU and truly showcases our students, our university and community. These students did an outstanding job in competing against programs that are repeat champions, many of whom have been participating in these competitions for over 20 years. Our TAMIU SIFE team did an incredible job and Laredo can be justly proud of them," Dr. Patrick said.

Throughout the year, the group has completed four projects, including the creation of a cost of living index for Laredo, participated in delivering a survey on the impact of the US-VISIT program on local entrepreneurs, offered middle school students insight into the US market system, conducted a workshop for TAMIU students on the wise use of credit cards, and conducted a leadership opinion, telephone survey gauging the qualities that the community expects for political candidates. It has already identified four new projects for the coming year.

The SIFE group is advised and supported by members of its Business Advisory Board, including a number of local and regional business owners, operators and representatives.

While the SIFE Team is looking forward to its next competitive opportunity to showcase its talents and dedication the SIFE lessons they've learned are already paying off.

Team member Rosario Ibañez got some job leads at the SIFE Kansas City competition, interviewed and will shortly join AFLAC, Inc.

"SIFE has taught me how not doing things for yourself is the key to success...Doing things for others is what truly takes you far, fulfills you and makes you happy," she observes.



Sometimes the best classroom can be right outside the door.

Texas A&M International University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team have found that stepping outside the classroom and into the community through outreach can truly bring the classroom home.

In a series of five completed community-based projects and five planned for completion this summer, the 8-member team tried to bring the SIFE mission to life.

That mission asks that team members create economic opportunities in their communities by organizing outreach projects that teach market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills, and business ethics. The resulting projects are judged at competition on creativity, innovation and effectiveness.

Although only in its first year of organization, the TAMIU team traveled to Dallas in April, won Regional Champion honors at the SIFE USA Competition there and advanced to the national competition in Kansas City in May. There, the TAMIU team earned a national "Rookie of the Year" Award.

TAMIU SIFE Team members include Triana Cisneros, president; Gabriela



Changing the World.

Dr. Frank Collins, Radcliffe Killam Distinguished Professor of Accounting, received a Certificate of Merit from *Strategic Finance*, the flagship

publication of the Institute of Management Accountants, for his manuscript, "Self Interest vs. Concern for Others."

Dr. Nereu Kock, associate professor and department of management information systems and decision science chair, was selected as the founding editor-in-chief for *International Journal of E-Collaboration*.

Dr. Kathleen Pletsch de García, associate professor of English and Spanish and department of language and literature chair, was elected to the Executive Committee for the Linguistic Association of the Southwest.

Dr. Thomas Mitchell, associate professor of American literature and 19th Century British literature, was elected to the Advisory Board of the Hawthorne Society.

The Academy of International Business-Southwest Region named Dr. Michael Landeck, professor of marketing and international business, Educator of the Year.

Dr. Doris J. Rosenow, associate professor of nursing, Horacio Palacios, assistant professor of nursing and Irma Lara, assistant professor of nursing, presented the results of their study on metabolic syndrome at the Fifth Annual Southern States Knowledge in Nursing Conference: Advancing Knowledge of Minority Women and Children's Health in San Antonio.

Compiled by  
Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield

# Tech Advances Bridge Communication Throughout TAMIU

As the University begins its 35th Anniversary year this Fall, it's hard to imagine a world without e-mail, internet connectivity, WI-FI, and all forms of electronic access. Then, a "chat room" probably would have been considered a study cubicle in the shared Harold R. Yeary Library at then-Laredo Junior College.

Whether you're a current student or a graduate who hasn't set foot on campus in years, technology is helping to bridge time and distance for all members of TAMIU's ever-expanding community.

This Fall, the University will provide expanded e-mail service for students and alumni through its "E-mail for Life" program. The new service includes 50 megabytes of storage space, a faster and more intuitive Web interface, better spam protections, and e-mail filtering rules and integrated help functions. On campus this Fall, students will utilize password access for computer labs, wireless networks and printing services. University computer labs will also be using a new printing management system to help conserve paper and toner.

Interim vice president for the University's Office of Information Technology (OIT), Leebrian Gaskins said the changes provide students and alumni with valuable tools.

"It's a very nimble system that will provide our students and alumni with a rich resource for communication and help to strengthen connection with the University community," Gaskins noted.

"AskTAMIU" is another technological addition. The new Web-based information response system intelligently provides various answers to questions about TAMIU and interacts with the requestor to make sure the information provided is relevant...any time of the day or night. It can also provide contact points for more specific information by phone or e-mail. It

anchors specific home pages for the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Admissions and Office of Housing and Residence Life.

It's part of an effort by the University's Office of Student Recruitment to be able to address Web-based inquiries that are increasingly preferred by potential and current TAMIU students.

The University has also expanded its WI-FI network, providing students with wireless access at the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library and the Western Hemispheric Trade Center.

Acquiring a site license for Oracle database and development software resulted in a large cost savings for the University and will allow faculty to teach Oracle in the classroom. OIT plans to explore more site licenses with Adobe and Microsoft in the near future.

And for fans of open source operating systems and software, a pilot initiative in Dr. Billy F. Cowart Hall labs will give students dedicated computers running open source systems and software.

For additional information on the University's information technology initiatives for students and alumni, please call OIT at 956.326.2100, visit offices on the second floor of the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library 257 or click on [oit.tamiau.edu](http://oit.tamiau.edu) for information on signing up for the expanded "E-mail for Life" service.





# RLC OFFERS STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS LIVING

Since opening its doors in August 2004, freshman students at Texas A&M International University have had the option of living on-campus at the University's Residential Learning Community (RLC).

"Many of our students have not had the opportunity to experience on-campus living before. We view this as an opportunity for students to learn valuable life experiences such as teamwork, negotiation, mediation, and good study habits.

We want our residents to succeed, not just as students, but as young adults. We are here to support our students' needs and are prepared to work with them through out their academic year," explained Vicky Schreiber, Director of Housing and Residence Life.

Some of the benefits of living on campus are obvious: short walk to classes and the library and convenient access to professor's office hours and campus events. Others are not so obvious, but have a large impact.

"Studies show students who live on campus have higher GPAs, complete their degrees in shorter time, don't transfer as often and tend to feel more a part of the University," said Schreiber.

"Students interact daily in the dining center, floor lounges and the clubhouse at the RLC. Through these daily interactions, students develop a greater sense of community and find opportunities to make new friends. The RLC has a tendency to have more interaction than apartments, which is why first year students are required to live in the RLC if they choose to live on campus. This makes it easier for freshman students to make friends early, become involved in campus activities and live in an environment that is conducive to academic success," she added.

TAMU does not require all students to live on campus, but at least now, students do have that option. The gated facility provides on-site management and a variety of amenities including swimming pools, cable TV, high-speed Internet, social lounges, and laundry facilities.

It also offers all private bedrooms, a lounge with plasma TV, lighted basketball court, two sand volleyball courts and a swimming pool

with sun deck.

"The RLC is divided by gender. The first floors of the front two buildings are co-ed by suite. Each building then also has an all-male floor and an all-female floor. Each floor also has a Resident Assistant, or RA, who is a peer leader who has been chosen to work with the students of the community. The RAs have gone through extensive preparatory training to learn how to deal with a variety of situations," said Schreiber.

While the RLC is designated to house first-year students, in some cases sophomores have also had the opportunity to live in the RLC. There are even some faculty members living at the RLC to help students achieve academic success and who work with Housing to present workshops and programs to help students achieve academic success.

Students and faculty aren't the only ones who have made good use of TAMU's newest residential facility. More than 1,000 high school students and adults have stayed on campus while visiting for camps or conferences.

Graduate students, faculty, staff, non-traditional, married and family housing have the option of living at the University Village, located on the campus' west side.

University Village offers fully and unfurnished apartment homes, community center with widescreen TV, swimming pool, a spa, laundry facility, and free basic cable and Internet. Floor plans range from one bedroom to four bedrooms.

Applications for both housing facilities are available online at [housing.tamui.edu](http://housing.tamui.edu).

For more information, visit offices located at 5281 University Boulevard (Residential Learning Community) or 4907 University Boulevard (University Village) or call 956.326.1300 for the Residential Learning Community or 956.326.0161 for University Village.

*Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield*



# FUTURE BIOLOGIST DISCOVERS ALASKA



In a remote location on the Alaskan bush this summer, student intern Julianna Quintanilla spent countless hours conducting fisheries-related research.

After graduating from Texas A&M International University this Spring with a major in biology, Quintanilla enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to intern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Kenai, Alaska.



"I wanted to challenge myself by experiencing and learning about an ecosystem that is completely different from South Texas," Quintanilla stated.

During her internship, Quintanilla conducted anadromous fish (fish that migrate from salt water to fresh water for spawning) surveys for identification in Alaska's Anadromous Fish Catalog.

"Our goal was to survey streams that provide rearing and spawning habitat for anadromous fish in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge by collecting, measuring, and identifying fish species in order to properly nominate the streams supporting those fish," Quintanilla explained.

Quintanilla also helped generate bathymetric maps (those showing sea-floor depths) for approximately 20 lakes that were never mapped or were poorly mapped in the Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Systems.

"The purpose was to obtain depth contours and make those maps available to the public on the Kenai Refuge web site," Quintanilla stated.

In addition, Quintanilla performed strenuous fieldwork which included activities such as carrying 70 pounds worth of equipment along with having to haul a canoe from portage to portage.

"Those 70 pounds felt more like 700," Quintanilla claimed, "I did it, though, and learned that I was capable of doing more than my body and mind once thought they could do."

Interestingly enough, Quintanilla admitted that her initial fear was being away from home.

"I've always lived at home with my parents," Quintanilla said, "However, I maintained a positive outlook and was able to adjust to the change."

Quintanilla's real concern was running into a bear. Fortunately, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provided Quintanilla with firearm safety and bear behavior awareness instruction prior to being sent out into the field.

"After that training I felt ready to take a bear on if I had to!" Quintanilla said.

Of her experience, Quintanilla said that comparing Alaska to Laredo is like contrasting night and day. For starters, she said that water from streams and rivers in Alaska is for the most part drinkable.

"This would be highly unlikely in Laredo while taking a stroll along the banks of the Rio Grande," Quintanilla teased.

Aside from Alaska's pristine and untapped nature, Quintanilla said that it was Laredo's Mexican food she missed the most.

"One thing Alaska lacks is good Mexican food," Quintanilla confirmed, "Laredo definitely wins in that competition."

As far as Quintanilla is concerned, her internship in Alaska is by far the most amazing experience of her life yet. She said she fell in love with Alaska and plans to return sometime in the near future.

"Alaska is just incredible!" Quintanilla indicated, "Through my internship, I managed to grow so much as a person and am grateful for that."

Overall, Quintanilla's worthwhile experience in Alaska is indicative of the many opportunities TAMU students and alumni can come to expect.

*Rodolfo Zúñiga, Student Intern*

# LOOKING AHEAD: UNIVERSITY'S MASTER PLAN CHARTS FUTURE



It's a time of change. A time of growth. A chance to prepare for the future. As the University enters its landmark 35th Anniversary year, it is already casting a keen eye to the horizon.



The University's Master Plan has been revised and will serve as a blueprint for the future of one of Texas' fastest growing state universities.

Joe García, vice president for finance and administration, said the Master Plan, completed by Ford, Powell and Carson, Architects and Planners, is invaluable.

"The updated Plan documents the existing facilities and grounds, identifies facilities for the future, and projects future enrollment based on the academic programs offerings that are planned. We have been fortunate to have the leadership of our legislative team, community donors that have all helped us to construct this remarkable campus. The best is yet to come," he offered.

The Master Plan offers a beautiful, very well landscaped, maintenance-friendly and technologically advanced facility that supports a dynamic learning environment predicated on student success in the global marketplace.

Among its organizing principles are improved access to the University, maintaining the pedestrian character of the Academic Core, preserving the character of open spaces, preserving and extending pedestrian axes or paseos, continuing to provide surface parking/parking garages and maintaining a green space reserve plan.

The authors note, "The campus buildings have a serene and timeless quality that makes the addition of new buildings using this vocabulary a fairly straightforward process and permits greater latitude in the judicious introduction of decorative elements...this is a successful design strategy that should be continued."

The authors conclude, "It is incumbent on the stewards of the future of the University — Regents, Administrators and Master Planners alike — to proceed carefully and prudently and, to the extent possible, to conserve its resources, including land, so that TAMIU can grow gracefully in its place, serving its region and beyond, for many generations to come."

Next on the University's construction schedule is improvements and additions to its kinesiology facilities, with construction scheduled to begin this Fall.

To view the Master Plan, visit:  
<http://www.tamtu.edu/masterplan.shtml>



# ALUMNI IN BRIEF



Michael Joseph Dole, a Laredoan and recent TAMIU graduate, got a taste of U.S. Economics during his summer internship in New York. Dole earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Texas A&M University, before returning to Laredo to pursue his MBA in International Banking at TAMIU. Michael earned his Masters in December 2004 and interned for John Dunham & Associates in New York City.



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Chamberlain who recently wed. He received his BBA in Finance in 2002 and is currently employed with Powell Watson Motors as their Finance Manager.

Nicola Lanese '80 retired after 30 years of teaching. Alexander High School teachers Catalina Montemayor; Sylvia E. Vargas '93, '96, '01; Elizabeth Valdez; Nicola Lanese '80; and Marta García celebrated with Mr. Lanese.

Congratulations to Angela A. Gammon July '05 grad and William J. Nolen, who married on Aug. 5, 2005. Gammon received her Bachelors of Arts Degree in English in June 05, and is best known for writing a children's book entitled *Amanda Flink in Pink*.



On Saturday, May 21, 2005, Alfredo Ramirez Jr. '93, '98 received a Doctor degree of Philosophy in Educational Administration from the Cooperative Superintendency Program Cycle XIV at The University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, Alfredo and his family relocated to Laredo after living in Austin for four years. He is currently employed by Laredo Independent School District in the Office of Human Resources.

Pictured, from left, are María V. Chapa, mother-in-law, Melissa Chapa, wife; Gabriela Ramirez, daughter; Dr. Nolan Estes, Director of the CSP; Dr. Alfredo Ramirez Jr.; Alfredo Ramirez, father; Norma S. Ramirez, mother; and Alma Celita Ramirez, sister.



Laura Moncivais was the first to volunteer as class representative for the TAMIU Alumni Association in Zapata where she lives with her 21-month-old baby girl Kristelle. She received her Bachelors of Science Nursing in 2002 and works for two home health agencies.

Rick and Nelly Aguilar Guajardo '98 celebrated their wedding on July 9, 2005. She is employed by United D.D. Hachar Elementary and will teach 1st grade this year.



Mika Akikuni '02 recently joined International Bank of Commerce as the assistant vice president of marketing. Anna L. Arce-Mercado '92 has been promoted to vice president of the trust department. Perla M. Nieto '01, '04 has been promoted to the position of assistant cashier.

John F. and Norma S. Brady were honored at a dinner party in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Norma received her Masters in Education in 1981. They currently reside in San Antonio after her retirement from Martin High School.



Gilbert and Denise Teniente Moreno '03 celebrated their wedding on July 23, 2005. Denise is employed with Christen Middle School and her husband is a coach at Nixon High School.

Donald Hill '94, longtime teacher at United High School will coach the boys and girls Cross Country Teams at UHS. His daughter Trisha is a current TAMIU student.



The first baby announcement received in the Alumni Relations Office is from Greg and Priscilla Salinas. Greg Jr. was born on July 7, weighed 7 pounds and was 18.5 inches long. Priscilla received both her BBA and MBA at TAMIU in 1995 and 1997 respectively and is employed with Mercy Health Plans. Greg, the proud father, works for the U. S. Border Patrol.

Jerry Alva and Cristina Novoa-Barraza were married in the breezeway of the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library on Saturday, July 23, 2005. Cristina received her BBA in 2005 and Jerry received a BBA in 2001. Jerry is currently employed with TAMIU as associate director for the Office of Recruitment & School Relations.



Staying  
the course:  
Building a  
University  
with Judith Zaffirini

Dr. Judith Zaffirini's zeal for her work as a Texas Legislator is legendary. Her work ethic, complete with attendance and voting records safely lodged in State record books (and a regular 4 a.m. office arrival schedule) would frighten most. It's the way things get done, she'll tell you.

As most are well aware, State Senator Judith Zaffirini has a real passion for higher education. It's a passion that through the years has fueled fundamental changes to South Texas and at Texas A&M International University in particular.

As the University begins its 35th Anniversary Year, we thought it appropriate to ask Dr. Zaffirini for her thoughts on TAMIU and what the next 35 years and beyond might bring.

**Q. What has been your motivation for continually supporting TAMIU's growth and development through your legislative leadership?**

Striving for excellence in higher education for all Texans is my passion, and establishing a four-year university in Laredo was my priority goal when I ran for the Texas Senate in 1986. Memories of my often vexing challenges in commuting from Laredo to UT-Austin to pursue my PhD motivate me to facilitate the efforts of all who pursue a university education in Laredo. Knowledge of the importance of increasing the number of college graduates in our region motivates me to champion legislation and funding that benefits TAMIU. Because I have championed these goals since 1967 when my husband, Carlos, and I worked for Senator Wayne Connally, prioritizing the growth and development of our University is embedded in my legislative lifestyle.

The opening of our University in 1995 changed Laredo forever. Its development as a first-class institution with an international mission will impact our region and our state in ways that may be difficult to fathom today. Given this

reached by countless leaders and supporters who helped secure its bright future. From my perspective, however, four stand out.

- In 1987, my freshman year in the Texas Senate, we not only survived an attempt to close Laredo State University, which was an "upper-level educational center," but also passed my Senate Bill 658, which elevated LSU to an "upper-level educational institution" and removed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's authority to close it at will.
- In 1989, during my second legislative session, the Texas Legislature passed three critical bills that I authored: Senate Concurrent Resolution 49 established a joint committee to study developing and establishing LSU as a four-year university; SB 579, which was rolled into SB 122, merged the University System of South Texas, including LSU, into The Texas A&M University System; and SB 583 established the Graduate School of International Trade at LSU.
- These legislative measures paved the way to passing my SB 6 in 1993, changing LSU's name to Texas A&M International University and re-creating it as a four-year University authorized to confer undergraduate and graduate degrees,

that is worthy of increasingly significant support from philanthropists who can augment our growth and development.

**Higher education is clearly a part of your personal success and that of your family. Despite increased access to higher education in Laredo, too many students delay or suspend their plans for higher education. What can you say to them to encourage them to continue their pursuits and "B-On Time"?**

No Excuses. That's what I tell students of all ages who are capable of pursuing a higher education at TAMIU. I encourage them to carry as heavy a course load as possible while prioritizing faith and family; to seek financial aid and suitable part-time or full-time jobs; to identify ways of earning academic credit for work experience; and to complete degrees in the least time possible, thereby saving money and enhancing earning capacity.

Often I share my story about being self-supporting since I was 17, getting married to a 21-year-old first-year law student when I was 18, and earning three degrees from UT-Austin with a 3.9 GPA while married and holding as many as three part-time jobs. To illustrate that "where there's a will there's a way," I describe my experience of commuting to UT as a full-time doctoral student while also teaching and working full-time at Laredo Junior College. No Excuses.

Students have countless opportunities to benefit from the increased access to higher education in Laredo.



understanding, I am motivated by the belief that what is good for TAMIU is good not only for our community, but also for our great state and beyond.

**In the 35 years that the University has been part of Laredo, what critical issues and responses to them do you feel have helped it to secure a brighter future?**

Texas A&M International University enjoys a rich history of milestones

including doctoral degrees and joint degrees with institutions throughout the country and in Mexico and Canada.

- Working with countless local leaders and especially with the late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and our current lieutenant governor, David Dewhurst, we have secured impressive levels of state funding for programs, facilities, and faculty. The Texas Legislature has made it possible for Laredo to host the crown jewel of The Texas A&M University System, a jewel

Because dreams postponed too often develop into dreams denied, they

should take action immediately to enroll and to complete degree requirements timely. The "B-on-Time" program that I authored provides interest-free student loans that are forgiven for students who are graduated timely with at least a B average. This program enables us to help more students while motivating them to do more in the expected time frames for completing their respective degrees.

**While it's admittedly difficult to reduce your years of leadership and advocacy for the University to a single instance, can you point to one event in which you could clearly see the future of Laredo and South Texas change because of the University's presence?**

As TAMIU grows and increases the number of college graduates, I foresee a more robust economy with an improved quality of life that includes dramatically reduced drop-out rates, health problems, and crime in Laredo and South Texas. I truly believe that the long-term answer to all of our problems is education in general and higher education in particular. The event that is critical for this vision to materialize is a highly successful recruitment, retention, and timely graduation program.

**What do you think is the single most troublesome challenge to higher education delivery at TAMIU and higher education institutions throughout Texas?**

At times I think that there is an anti-intellectual attitude in Texas that is unhealthy for higher education. We need to elect local, state, and federal officials who understand the importance of first-class colleges and

universities and who will be leaders in our efforts to pass legislation and to secure funding for them. Our most troublesome challenge undoubtedly is dealing with those who do not understand and/or do not care and with those who are strictly provincial or parochial in supporting only their hometown institutions.

**What is it about TAMIU that you feel sets it apart from other campuses and institutions that you have studied and advocated for in the Senate?**

Texas A&M International University has a vision and mission that set it apart from other campuses and institutions in Texas. Its binational setting establishes it as a perfect living laboratory from which to gain international stature via exchange programs throughout the world. What's more, its authorization to award joint degree programs with its counterparts throughout the United States, Mexico, and Canada is as unique as it is promising. By collaborating not only internationally, but also locally with Laredo Community College and the Laredo Campus Extension of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, our University can be a leader and role model in this important arena.

**You have watched the University grow from virtual infancy to status as the State's first new University**

a significantly higher number of highly educated, highly qualified graduates who will reflect superbly on their *alma mater*. Because its mission is international, not merely regional, it should excel and become the University of choice of students from throughout Texas, our country, and the world. This will require recruiting and retaining the best faculty members and fully developing our academic and library programs. If we have the best faculty and programs, more students will come.

Regionally, my dream is to see TAMIU engage in increasingly effective collaborative efforts with all other educational institutions so as to reduce their drop-out rates while increasing the University's enrollment. Dual-enrollment programs should be an effective tool in helping students realize their higher education goals and realizing them in a more timely manner.

**Do you have a favorite spot on campus and what about it makes it your favorite?**

As a lover of books and libraries, I believe the library is the soul of an institution, and it is my "favorite spot." My favorite view of the campus, however, is aerial -- a viewpoint from which I can enjoy its magnificent beauty, growth, and promise.



**campus in over 25 years. What would you like to see as you look to the future, immediate and long-term?**

Success. My dream is to see TAMIU make a difference by producing

*AutMus Fest...Finally...  
Something for Everyone!*

An upcoming concert event at Texas A&M International University will offer a musical experience with something for everyone and kicks off the University's 35th Anniversary.

AutMus Fest, Texas A&M International University Alumni Association's Autumn Music Festival, is Oct. 8, 2005, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

You won't have to hazard a road trip to San Antonio or points south and there's no online ticket hassles — just an explosive opportunity to sample some of the great musical sounds of today's and tomorrow's artists.

AutMus offers Laredo, South Texas and North-Eastern México a day of diverse live, international musical acts and entertainment. The artist lineup includes musical acts from Houston, Austin, Monterrey, and as far away as New Orleans.

You'll be able to enjoy musical genres and styles including country-rock, cumbia, funk, fusion, jazz, rock, rock en español, ska, Tejano, and more. To add to the fun atmosphere, you can chow down on turkey legs, corn in the cup, hamburgers, tacos, funnel cakes, gorditas, and much more. Audiences of all ages will enjoy this first-ever opportunity to celebrate culture and music on the grounds of Texas' newest University.

Artists will perform on two stages on the University's north courtyard, a perfect backdrop for an international music festival aimed at the public of Laredo, regional college campuses and beyond.

And the best part?

Proceeds will help support student scholarships at TAMIU, always a pressing need as students strive to achieve their higher education dreams. The event also serves as a reunion for alums from the former Texas A&I University at Laredo, Laredo State University and Texas A&M International University. The first College reunion will be held October 9, 2005 from 1 - 5 p.m.

AutMus Fest is envisioned as a new all-family tradition for South Texas. Admission to the event will be \$10.00 at the gate or \$5 presale at participating Popeyes Chicken in Laredo. Children 12 and under go in free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

For more in depth information on festival and lineup, please visit AutMus Fest online at [www.autmusfest.com](http://www.autmusfest.com)

*Eduardo X. García*

Texas A&M International University Alumni Association



**AutMus  
Fest**

Autumn Music Festival



**Lineup**

- Plastilina Mosh**, Electro Pop-Funk  
Monterrey, Nuevo León, México
- Grupo Fantasma**, Cumbia-Latin Jazz  
Austin, Texas
- Solido**, Tejano  
Rio Grande City, Texas
- Grady**, Country Rock  
Austin, Texas
- Girl in a Coma**, Rock  
San Antonio, Texas
- Los Skarnales**, Ska-Rockabilly  
Houston, Texas
- Brownout**, Hardcore Latin Funk  
Austin, Texas
- Trick Bag**, Rock  
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Mary's Band**, Salsa  
Houston, Texas
- Joe Guerra and Band**, Jazz  
Laredo, Texas
- Umano**, Cumbión  
Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, México
- Dr. Madbeat**, Improv-Fussion Jazz  
Laredo, Texas
- Plus local Battle of the Bands!**  
Comedian **Efraín "Happy" Guerrero**  
Master of Ceremonies





# Laredo Philharmonic's Orchestra's 26th Season: "First Contact"

Say you don't know anything about music? Well the new season of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) will give you some of the tools to make your "First Contact" less intimidating.

"This season's theme, 'First Contact' was designed to provide 'First Contact' on a number of levels. For those who have never been to an LPO concert, we want their first concert to be a positive experience.

The programs will include introductions and background information about the music so the audience can easily follow along and learn about the music," explained LPO music director, Brendan Townsend.

But first contact is not limited to first-time concert attendants. Regular concert patrons also benefit from the theme. The other forms of first contact include local premieres of new orchestral works and the introduction of new soloists to Laredo.

"This season also includes carefully chosen new music by living American composers, such as Bruce Craig Roter, Roberto Sierra and David Avshalomov. We also invited four singers from the Santa Fe Opera to perform with us. This season also marks the first time two local soloists, Dr. Susan Liu and Dr. Cain Budds perform with the LPO," added Townsend.

The LPO's 26th season captures different elements and styles of music that give insight to the wonderful world of sound. The first concert of the season, "Music and the Human Spirit" kicks off Sunday, Oct. 9 at Texas A&M International University.

It includes Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy) and other music that speaks to the nature of mankind, humanity and brotherhood.

"Music and Dance," scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 20, embarks on a wild journey through various orchestral forms with a heavy emphasis on dance. TAMIU's Ballet Folklórico will perform traditional dances.

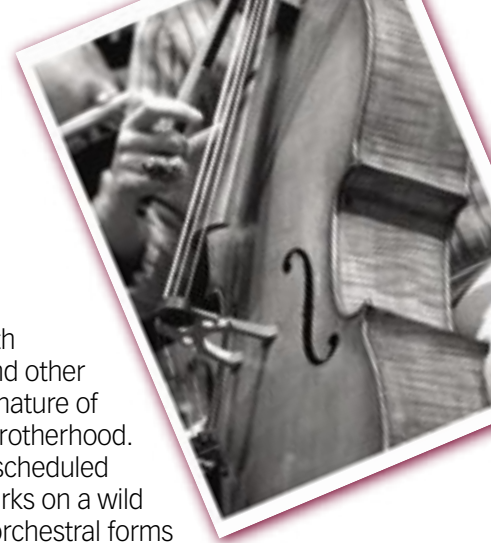
Celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday with "Mozart Goes to the Movies" on Sunday, Feb. 26. Dr. Liu and the Laredo Philharmonic Choral will join the LPO to present a variety of works by W.A. Mozart used in movies. This concert coincides with the annual Academy Awards broadcast.

On Sunday, March 26 at TAMIU, a reduced orchestra will present the unusually titled program "Fire the Fiddles!" in which a variety of sumptuous works, including the Serenade No. 2 of Brahms and the Bachianas Brassiliaras No. 5 for solo Soprano and eight cellos will inspire and uplift the soul. Adds Townsend, "No violins are used anywhere in the program!"

Finally, the season ends with "Passion and Emotion" Sunday, April 30 at TAMIU. The orchestra will present Dr. Budds in a premiere performance of "Folias" by Cuban composer Roberto Sierra. Other music includes Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 "Pathetique," "Peterloo" by Malcolm Arnold and "Elegy" by David Avshalomov.

All concerts begin at 4 p.m.

Tickets for each concert are available at the door, at various Wells Fargo branches and also by contacting the office at 956.326.3039. Season passes are also available.



Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield

# A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

A year of fun: concerts, art shows, dance recitals, musical performances, art exhibits, special lectures and exhibits...

Save the date! College reunion, October 9, 2005 1 - 5 p.m.

Visit our web site at [www.tamtu.edu/calendar/month.php](http://www.tamtu.edu/calendar/month.php) for a full calendar of 35th Anniversary Celebration Events!





# NEWS

## Gift Presented to TAMIU

The largest cash philanthropic gift in Laredo's history, \$10 million, was announced in dedication ceremonies March 14, 2005 for Texas A&M International University's Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium.

The gift, announced by Bruni Vergara Trust trustees Judge Solomon Casseb and J. C. Martin III, will support graduate education scholarships at the University.

"This is simply a life-changing gift," said TAMIU President Dr. Ray Keck, "It will change the lives of our students and put a graduate education, be it a master's or doctoral degree, within their grasp. It moves this University to its next level in growth and development and opens the door wider still to brighter futures here."

Trustees Casseb and Martin said the Gift is in keeping with the legacy of giving established by the Trust and its dedication to education.

"The late Lamar Bruni Vergara asked that her estate's legacy support religious, health and educational initiatives in this community that she so completely loved. We believe that this continues her outstanding legacy in a most meaningful way," Judge Casseb said.



### Historic Day -

On hand for the ribbon-cutting of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium are, left to right, Bishop James Tamayo, Dr. Dan Jones, TAMIU provost; Joe Martin, Lamar Bruni Vergara Trustee; State Senator Judith Zaffirini; LBV Trustee Judge Solomon Casseb; Dr. Nasser Momayezi, dean, TAMIU College of Arts and Sciences; Congressman Henry Cuellar and TAMIU president Dr. Ray Keck III.

## TAMIU Adds MS Biology Degree

Texas A&M International University's commitment to address its service community's needs continues with the addition of a Masters of Science in Biology to its degree programs.

The degree is a response to overwhelming support from students, teachers and employers after they expressed a need for the program, said Dr. Daniel Mott, TAMIU associate dean, professor and chair for the department of biology and chemistry.

"We surveyed our current students, all the teachers in the local districts and employers in the area and established a Web site link to the department so that others from outside our area could respond. The results were very positive, so we proceeded," explained Dr. Mott.

With the addition of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center (LBVSC), the University tripled its teaching lab space and now has research lab space for graduate students.

The degree will be of special interest to local teachers interested in advancing their science education. Other potential employers include state and federal agencies, corporate research divisions and independent laboratories.

TAMIU now offers 78 undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees.

## TAMIU Alum Martínez A "Rising Star"



Elizabeth Newman Martínez (B.A. '80 and M.P.A.D. '01), Texas A&M International University's associate vice president for administration, was one of two national recipients of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) "2005 Rising Star Award" in ceremonies held at the Association's national Conference held this summer in Baltimore, Md.

The Award recognizes outstanding professionals at colleges and universities who have high potential to succeed as an executive and officer in higher education.

Serving as assistant vice president for administration since 2001, Martínez has responsibility for the department of Human Resources, Purchasing and Budget/Payroll/Grants and Contracts.

Part of the TAMIU family for more than 23 years, she also holds certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the Human Resource Certification Institute and completed the University of Kentucky's College Business Management Institute's three-year program.

She's a life member of the TAMIU Alumni Association, and served as president in 1991. Married to Mario E. Martínez, the couple has twin children, Mario and Rebecca, both TAMIU students.

# Lamar Bruni Vergara Educational Fund

Texas A&M International University graduate students now have the opportunity to apply for scholarships thanks to the Lamar Bruni Vergara Educational Fund. The LBV Educational Fund provides scholarships, assistantships and GRE/GMAT reimbursements to students who qualify.

The Educational Fund plans to award nearly \$300,000 next school year, said Dr. Jeffrey Brown, director of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and associate professor of Psychology.

"That amount breaks down to more than 250 GRE/GMAT reimbursements, up to 96 scholarships for \$1,500 and seven assistantships. After 2005 - 2006, the Fund will award roughly \$472,000. That amount will provide approximately 325 GRE/GMAT reimbursements, 66 scholarships and 26 assistantships," he explained.

Scholarships pay tuition up to \$1,500 a year (\$500 per semester, including summer). To qualify for a scholarship, students must be a fully admitted graduate student working towards a master's or doctoral degree, enroll in six graduate hours each semester (or summer) that scholarship is awarded and maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.5. Application deadline for 2006 - 2007 is May 1.

In addition to scholarships, the Fund also provides money for assistantships.

An assistantship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work (15 or 19 hours per week) in teaching or research while pursuing an advanced degree. Graduate Assistant awards provide up to \$9,100 per year.

To be eligible, students must be fully admitted graduate students working towards a master's or doctoral degree, enroll in six graduate hours each semester (or summer) while employed as a graduate assistant, and maintain an overall GPA of 3.5.

The Fund has a limited amount of money for graduate travel intended to help graduate students defer some of the cost of attending national or regional conferences in their areas of study.

GRE/GMAT reimbursements are also available to prospective TAMIU students, but recipients are required to pay the initial cost.

Once enrolled at TAMIU, the Office of Graduate Studies will reimburse the student for the GRE/GMAT expenses. To qualify for reimbursement, the student must be a fully admitted graduate student working towards a master's or doctoral degree.

For more information or to download an application, visit the Office of Graduate Studies at [tamiu.edu/gradschool/lamar\\_bruni\\_vergara](http://tamiu.edu/gradschool/lamar_bruni_vergara).

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust was established in 1989. The legacy of its namesake continues through the enhancement of religious education and health institutions, and numerous local social service organizations.

After the Laredoan's death, a Trust was formed to provide continuous support of the social, religious, health and educational initiatives of the community. It has provided gifts and support for the Dr. F.M. Canseco School of Nursing and its programs, student scholarships, faculty research, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden, and most recently, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium. Trustees are Joe Martin Jr. and Judge Solomon Casseb Jr.

For additional information, contact Dr. Brown at 956.326.3020, e-mail [graduateschool@tamiu.edu](mailto:graduateschool@tamiu.edu) or visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library 332.

University office hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

*Melissa Barrientos-Whitfield*

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TAMIU  
GRADUATE STUDENTS  
NOW AVAILABLE FROM LBV EDUCATIONAL FUND

Ms. Lamar Bruni Vergara





Rose Ortiz (c) and Sylvia Garza (r) from the TAMIU Office of Institutional Advancement met with Lile Dixon '98, a retired naval veteran who has made her home in Charleston, South Carolina.



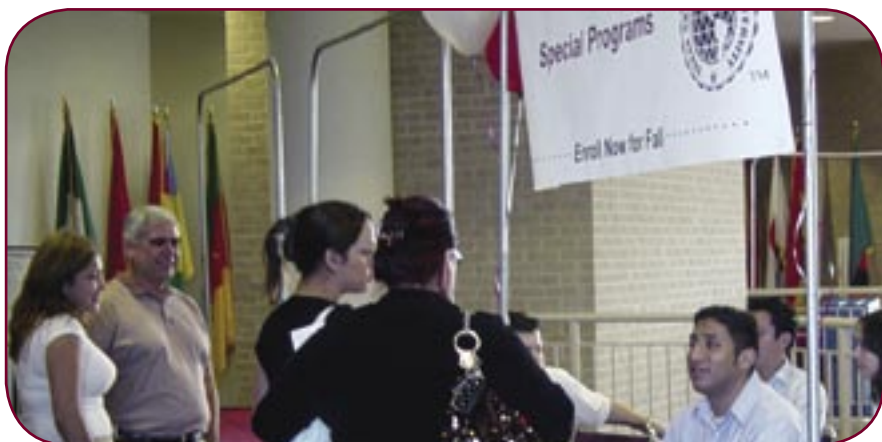
While in New York, TAMIU Vice President Candy Hein and Cathy Colunga visited with Achim H. Schueller '98. He works for Commerzbank AG-NY Branch and is married to Raquel Ramírez Schueller '98 from Laredo.



The Alumni Association is making plans for the October AutMus Festival which is scheduled for October 8, 2005 at TAMIU. Committee members hard at work include Perla Nieto '01, Festival Chair Mike Cortez '82, Joe Escobedo '77 and standing are Mika Akikuni '02 and Jorge Valdez '01.



Freshmen students from Freer registering in the Residential Learning Community, Leanna Cantú and Laura Garza with her parents Joe and Velma Garza get help from Vicki Schreiber, director of Housing and Residence Life.



Sergio Barragán, office coordinator for the Office of Special Programs, assisted students at the TAMIU Open House 2005 held on August 11.



Dr. Jacky So, dean of the TAMIU College of Business (2nd from right) and his wife Gloria (r) hosted a dinner for alumni living in Dallas recently. L-R are Aishwarya (Ash) Awasthi MS-IS '02, Luis Miguel Martínez BBA-BA '00, Rolando Gutiérrez BBA '75, Linda Carr MBA-BA '98 and Dr. Barry Carr, former TAMIU Faculty member.



The Miss Texas Pageant participants were welcomed to TAMU by president Ray M. Keck and dinner sponsor Steve Matthew from Laredo's Olive Garden Restaurant. Tyler Willis, 2004 Miss Texas, USA and April Ford, Miss Texas Teen, USA enjoyed visiting the Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center and Planetarium.



In April, Ambassadors Johnny Herrera (l) and Rocio Castillo (r) delivered "home made tamales" to the Senate during the first session on behalf of Dr. Judith Zaffirini and TAMU president Ray M. Keck III. Lt. Governor David Dewhurst's staff gave the Ambassadors a warm welcome.



Alumni gatherings are being held around the state; the latest was in Cotulla, Texas. Those attending were Francisco J. González '95; Eva Dominguez '88; Gracelia González '99; Patty Canseco '01, '05, director of alumni relations; Nancy J. Nicholson, '02; the honorable Juan Dominguez, Mayor of Cotulla; and Mary F. Jones '04.



Rose Ella Tarver Treviño's family presented the Rose Treviño Regional History Special Collection to Dr. Ray Keck III during a ceremony at TAMU.



The second cohort of Sánchez Scholars and their parents were invited to a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Sánchez to celebrate their acceptance into the four-year scholarship program.

# A GARDEN GROWS AT TAMIU

Photo by Rudy Zuñiga



Photo by Mike Hall

Photo by Rudy Zuñiga



The importance of green spaces in enhancing a community's quality of life has not been lost on the landscape designers of Texas A&M International University.

The 300-acre campus is among the city's largest green spaces and includes both developed and undeveloped landscapes. Special thought has been dedicated to using native plants and to conservational plantings. Undeveloped campus portions continue to be home to area wildlife and birds. Deer are a familiar sight on campus. Joggers and walkers often dot the campus at different times during the day.

In addition to tree-lined walkways and an acequia-styled water feature, the campus is also home to an 8-acre garden, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden, which fronts the University's Student Center.

Dedicated in April of 2003, the space has become a popular location for class and study sessions, weddings, outdoor photography and the occasional picnic.

The Garden, developed through a significant gift from the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust, features a series of garden "rooms" that are defined by aealeagnus hedges and live oak tree parades. It is anchored by an impressive stone gazebo and framed by a decomposed granite footpath. Benches are strategically placed to allow visitors to pause and take in the Garden's vistas. The Garden merges with the University's existing landscaping and links through a series of walkways to the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, the Student Center and the Kinesiology-Convocation Building. Rows of dramatic live oaks are found throughout the garden and include special plaques honoring individuals through the generosity of University donors and partners. Richard Gentry, TAMIU physical plant director, said the Garden follows a xeriscaping approach for water conservation and prominently features plantings native to South Texas. "We made a concerted effort to select plantings that would be both hardy for our climate and miserly with water needs. The resulting beds and grounds include lantana, buddleia, coreopsis, salvia, perrineal hibiscus, esperanza, firebush, rosemary, and verberna."

That said, Gentry said that one distinguishing feature of the garden is that all of the plants are considered "deer proof".

"As you might imagine, some plants are quite attractive to our deer population, so we've had to rely on the use of plants that deer do not eat." The native drought tolerant landscape and its "deer proof" plant selections make this a one of a kind garden. Landscape architects for the Garden were Rialto Studio of San Antonio. Project architects were Kell Muñoz, also of San Antonio. Engineering for the Garden was provided by Shah Smith and Associates, Inc., of Houston and construction was by Don Kruger Construction Company of Victoria. For additional information on the TAMIU Lamar Bruni Vergara Memorial Garden, contact Richard Gentry, at (956) 326.2325.

University office hours are from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Make plans to catch the new and exciting shows making their Laredo debut at the Planetarium at Texas A&M International University's Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center this Fall.

**The Future is Wild** — What might the earth look like 5 million years from now? What might it look like in 200 million years? This show gives audiences a glimpse of what the future might look like for the animal kingdom, which might not include humans. To make sure everything in the film is possible, the film is based on hypotheses from an international group of specialists in biology, climatology, and geology.

**Microcosm Virtual Voyage through the Human Body** — Although the Planetarium is known to take viewers on voyages through the stars and space, *Microcosm* takes the audience inside the



human body. The audience shrinks to the size of a microbe, is injected into a patient and races through the body to find and destroy a mysterious virus.

**'Tis the Season** — Starting Thanksgiving and running for four weeks, this show explores different holiday customs. Learn the history behind Santa Claus and the Christmas tree, the Hanukkah Menorah, the Nordic Yule log and mistletoe, and many others. The show also includes some astronomy and an explanation on why we have seasons with a demonstration on the Sun's path across the sky throughout the year and the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun.

**Santa Over Laredo** — Primarily aimed at children, this show also starts Thanksgiving weekend and runs through Christmas weekend.

First-run shows run from six to eight weeks, with one new show and one older show playing each night.

Current shows at the Planetarium will run through the end of the year. Those include:

**Rock Hall of Fame** — This potpourri of music features classic rock artists, such as Pink Floyd, U2, the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, Jimi Hendrix, and Midnight Oil. As the music plays, coincident light images on the dome and even some fireworks. It's about 40 minutes of mind-blowing pyrotechnics.

**Force 5** — The feature allows audiences to experience nature's fury as they might not be able to otherwise: audiences will ride out a massive hurricane in the heart of the sea, get carried into the massive funnel cloud of a violent tornado and launch into orbit around the sun as a gigantic solar flare erupt from its surface.

Also available weekdays and during weekend is the downlink to NASA 24-hour programming on the Plasma TV above the lobby Planetarium door. All the latest developments in the space program and its findings happen there first.

General admission tickets cost \$5; \$6 for Rock Hall of Fame. Tickets for TAMIU students, faculty and staff and children under 12 are \$4; \$5 for Rock Hall of Fame. Cash only please. Group rates are available for 50 or more people; advance reservations required.

The Planetarium has opened the University to scores of community members, including groups of school children, who enjoyed the Planetarium shows during end-of-year trips. Other visitors include more than 300 sisters from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas during their conference in late June at TAMIU.

The TAMIU Planetarium has one of the few new generation digital projectors. Prior technology only allowed a view from the Earth; this projector allows viewing from any part of the known universe. Thus, one can travel to structures unseen, except to highly developed telescopes. The Digistar 3 projectors use powerful graphics hardware and software to generate immersive full-dome images on the interior surface of a dome, integrating all-dome video, real time 3D computer graphics, and a complete astronomy package.

For more information and show schedule, visit the Planetarium on the Web at <http://tamiu.edu/coas/planetarium> or call 956.326.2444.

For information on group rates, please call Laura Díaz at 956.326.2463 or e-mail [planetarium@tamiu.edu](mailto:planetarium@tamiu.edu).

Melissa Barrientos Whitfield



Photo by Guillermo Sosa

There is a buzz surrounding Texas A&M International University Athletics these days and optimism is justifiably running high as the department enters its fourth season of competition. The 2005-06 campaign will commence in September when the Fall sports season kicks off with men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country and volleyball.

It should be a Fall to remember as the men's soccer and volleyball teams set their sights on building on the success of three straight winning seasons while the women's soccer team looks to improve under the direction of a new coach. The outlook is bright for cross country, with each team benefiting from the leadership of runners who have participated at the NAIA National Championship level.

The men's soccer team returns 13 letterwinners from a team that won its second straight Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) Tournament title last season. TAMIU finished with a 14-5-1 record, becoming the first TAMIU team to play for a NAIA Region VI title.

The Dustdevils will have the advantage of shooting for their third straight conference title at the friendly confines of Dustdevil Soccer Field. RRAC coaches voted last spring that TAMIU would host the men's and women's postseason tournaments, which will be held Nov. 3-5.

Leading the way for men's soccer is All-American candidate Daniel Hermsillo, who enters his senior season with 63 career goals and 154 career total points to his credit. The 2004 NAIA honorable mention All-American and two-time RRAC Offensive Player of the Year needs only 24 goals to crack the NAIA's top-20 career scoring list.

As is the case with men's soccer, the volleyball team looks to continue its winning ways in 2005. The squad returns 12 letterwinners from a team that finished 25-8 last season. Amongst the returnees are first-team All-RRAC selection Xochitl Garza and RRAC Freshman of the Year Amanda Garza.

The 2004 volleyball season was highlighted by several landmark achievements. Besides recording two wins over NCAA Division I programs (Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and UT-Pan American) the Dustdevils were ranked in the NAIA top-25 poll for several weeks, becoming TAMIU's first team sport to receive a national ranking.

The women's soccer program hired a new coach this summer, replacing the departed Sandra Forestier. TAMIU earned its first RRAC Tournament berth last season, finishing 2-3 in conference play and 4-15 overall. The Dustdevils will be led by senior Erika Alcaráz, who is a three-time second-team All-Red River Athletic Conference selection.

Both cross country teams look to challenge for Red River Athletic Conference team titles after placing second in the team standings at last year's conference meet. Leading the way for each team are senior runners with impressive credentials.

Anetra Matthews won individual champion honors at the 2004 RRAC Championships before placing 61st amongst 258 competitors at the NAIA National Championships. On the men's side, Marc Vela competed in the 2003 NAIA Championships and finished second at last year's RRAC meet.

Men's soccer senior Paco Imatzu, who has played an integral role in TAMIU's championship run, says that it is important that the campus and community support the efforts of TAMIU's student-athletes.

"It's always a boost when we have a loud and enthusiastic crowd in attendance," Imatzu said, "The men's soccer team is dedicated to making it to the NAIA national tournament and all of our teams deserve support so we are asking students and the public alike to back our efforts."

Complete information, including schedules and latest news, on TAMIU Athletics can be found on the Internet at [www.tamiu.edu/athletics](http://www.tamiu.edu/athletics).

TAMIU students, faculty and staff are admitted free to all home events with admission prices for the general public being \$4 for adults and \$2 for students (K-12).



Dan Lathey



# SPORTS NEWS

Texas A&M International University Athletics Director, Dr. Steven Garippa announced this summer that TAMIU will sponsor baseball as a varsity sport beginning with the 2006-07 academic year. The search for a head coach started in August.

Dr. Garippa also announced that TAMIU is progressing with the necessary steps for a possible move to the NCAA Division II level. Texas A&M International University Athletics will be competing as a fourth year program in 2005-06 as NAIA members of the Red River Athletic Conference.



## 2005 Texas A&M International University Men's Soccer Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Sept. 2	Fri.	Oklahoma Baptist	Laredo	2 p.m.
Sept. 3	Sat.	Texas Lutheran	Seguin	12:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	Sat.	St. Gregory's	Laredo	5 p.m.
Sept. 17	Sat.	Texas Wesleyan*	Fort Worth	4 p.m.
Sept. 19	Mon.	Southwestern Assemblies*	Laredo	2 p.m.
Sept. 23	Fri.	Southern Nazarene	Bethany, OK	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	Sat.	Science & Arts Oklahoma	Chickasha, OK	3 p.m.
Oct. 1	Sat.	Northwood*	Laredo	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	Mon.	Wiley College*	Marshall	1 p.m.
Oct. 7	Fri.	UT-Permian Basin*	Odessa	4 p.m.
Oct. 9	Sun.	College of the Southwest*	Hobbs, NM	3 p.m.
Oct. 14	Fri.	Belhaven College	Jackson, MS	3 p.m.
Oct. 16	Sun.	Spring Hill College	Mobile, AL	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	Tue.	William Carey College	Hattiesburg, MS	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Sat.	Bacone College*	Waxahachie	1 p.m.
Oct. 26	Wed.	Huston-Tillotson College*	Laredo	3 p.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	Texas College*	Laredo	5 p.m.
Nov. 3	Thur.	RRAC Tournament Quarterfinals	Laredo	TBA
Nov. 4	Fri.	RRAC Tournament Semifinals	Laredo	TBA
Nov. 5	Sat.	RRAC Tournament Finals	Laredo	TBA

\* Indicates Red River Athletic Conference games.

## 2005 Texas A&M International University Volleyball Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Sept. 2-3	Fri.-Sat.	Trinity Tournament	San Antonio	TBA
Sept. 8	Thur.	Texas College*	Tyler	4 p.m.
Sept. 8	Thur.	Jarvis Christian*	Hawkins	7 p.m.
Sept. 9	Fri.	Wylie College*	Marshall	6 p.m.
Sept. 10	Sat.	UT-Tyler	Tyler	11 a.m.
Sept. 10	Sat.	Southern Nazarene	Tyler	1 p.m.
Sept. 16	Fri.	Schreiner	Laredo	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	Sat.	Schreiner	Laredo	11 a.m.
Sept. 17	Sat.	Houston Baptist*	Laredo	3 p.m.
Sept. 20	Tue.	UT-Pan American	Edinburg	7 p.m.
Sept. 30	Fri.	Bacone College*	Houston	1 p.m.
Sept. 30	Fri.	UT-Permian Basin*	Houston	5 p.m.
Oct. 1	Sat.	Paul Quinn College*	Houston	1 p.m.
Oct. 6	Thur.	Lee College	Cleveland, TN	6 p.m.
Oct. 7-8	Fri.-Sat.	King College Tournament	Bristol, TN	TBA
Oct. 12	Wed.	Huston-Tillotson College*	Laredo	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	Fri.	Wiley College*	Laredo	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	Sat.	Jarvis Christian College*	Laredo	11 a.m.
Oct. 15	Sat.	Texas College*	Laredo	1 p.m.
Oct. 20	Thur.	Huston-Tillotson College*	Austin	6 p.m.
Oct. 21	Fri.	Southern Nazarene	Houston	4 p.m.
Oct. 22	Sat.	Houston Baptist*	Houston	noon
Oct. 28	Fri.	Southwestern Assemblies*	Odessa	1 p.m.
Oct. 28	Fri.	College of the Southwest*	Odessa	5 p.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	Texas Wesleyan*	Odessa	11 a.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	Lubbock Christian	Odessa	5 p.m.
Nov. 5	Sat.	UT-Pan American	Laredo	7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Thur.	RRAC Tournament Quarterfinals	TBD	TBA
Nov. 11	Fri.	RRAC Tournament Semifinals	TBD	TBA
Nov. 12	Sat.	RRAC Tournament Semifinals	TBD	TBA

\* Indicates Red River Athletic Conference matches.

## 2005 Texas A&M International University Women's Soccer Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Sept. 2	Fri.	Oklahoma Baptist	Laredo	noon
Sept. 4	Sun.	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Laredo	noon
Sept. 13	Tue.	Texas Lutheran	Seguin	2 p.m.
Sept. 17	Sat.	Texas Wesleyan*	Fort Worth	2 p.m.
Sept. 23	Fri.	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City, OK	2 p.m.
Sept. 24	Sat.	Science & Arts Oklahoma	Chickasha, OK	1 p.m.
Sept. 28	Wed.	Schreiner	Kerrville	3 p.m.
Oct. 1	Sat.	Northwood*	Laredo	1 p.m.
Oct. 4	Tue.	Schreiner	Laredo	3 p.m.
Oct. 7	Fri.	UT-Permian Basin*	Odessa	2 p.m.
Oct. 9	Sun.	Coll. of the Southwest*	Hobbs, NM	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	Mon.	McMurry	San Antonio	3 p.m.
Oct. 18	Tue.	St. Mary's	San Antonio	1 p.m.
Oct. 22	Sat.	Bacone College*	Waxahachie	11 a.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	Texas College*	Laredo	3 p.m.
Nov. 4	Fri.	RRAC Tournament Semifinals	Laredo	TBA
Nov. 5	Sat.	RRAC Tournament Finals	Laredo	TBA

\* Indicates Red River Athletic Conference games.

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Mr. and Mrs. Gene S. Walker, Sr.  
Ward-Jackson, Inc.  
Ms. Helen R. Watson \*  
Mr. \* and Mrs. Horace E. Watson, Jr.  
Webb County Archeological Society  
Webb County Heritage Foundation  
Westwind Development Company  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve A. Whitworth  
Wiegand Appliance Division  
Mr. and Mrs. Abe S. Wilson  
Zachry Construction Corporation  
Zapata Property Partnership  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesús L. Zúñiga

(\* Deceased)

### Memorabilia Auction

Big Jims Discount Liquors  
Frulatti Cafe & Bakery  
Johnny Carino's  
Mariachi Express  
Olive Garden Restaurant  
Red Lobster Restaurant  
Southern Distributing Company, Inc.

### Financial Aid Fair

Axiom Management Group, L.L.C.  
Bank of America - Houston  
Brazos Higher Education Corporation  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.  
COSTEP - Edinburg  
Education First Marketing, L.L.C.  
Falcon International Bank  
Frost National Bank  
International Bank of Commerce  
Kleberg Bank  
Lily A. Ferris  
LoanStar Systems, Inc.  
National Educational Financial Services  
Neline Marketing Solutions  
OPUS Financial, Inc.  
SallieMae  
Student Loan Xpress, Inc.  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation  
The Laredo National Bank

### Corporate Golf Outing

About Time, Inc.  
Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc.  
Laredo Borderplex Area Wide Phone Book  
Mercy Health Plans  
Sames Motor Company  
Sánchez Oil & Gas Corporation  
Sony Electronics, Inc.  
South Texas National Bank  
The Laredo National Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

### Mariachi Concert and Festival

City of Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Mr. and Mrs. Renato Ramírez  
The Laredo National Bank

### Yes Camp

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc.  
Chick-fil-A  
Eugenia M. Cuellar  
Falcon International Bank  
H-E-B  
Junior Achievement of Laredo  
Laredo Development Foundation  
Laredo Manufacturers Association  
Mr. and Mrs. Renato Ramírez  
Rathmell Ranch  
Sánchez Oil & Gas Corporation  
South Texas National Bank  
The Laredo Chamber of Commerce  
The Laredo National Bank

### Western Hemisphere Trade Conference

C. H. Robinson  
Commerce Bank  
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
International Bank of Commerce  
Mercy Health Plans  
South Texas National Bank  
The Laredo National Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

### Western Hemisphere Trade Center Lecture Series

International Bank of Commerce

### Staff Enrichment

AIG American General  
AIG Valic  
Astro Vending of Laredo, Inc.  
Avon  
Bank of America  
Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc.  
Beluhu's Spa & Salon  
BlueCross Blue Shield of Texas  
Bravo Insurance Agency  
Cadillac Bar  
Chick-fil-A of Laredo FSU  
Chilli's Grill & Bar  
Citi Bank  
City of Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.  
Falcon International Bank  
Globetrotter International  
Patty Hernández  
H-E-B  
Holiday Inn Civic Center  
Holloway's Bakery  
ING Aetna Financial Services  
Johnny Carino's  
La Barranca Grill  
La Manzana de Guillermo  
La Paletera  
Nora Lerma  
Los Jacales Mexican Restaurant  
Mary Kay  
Mercy Health Plans  
Noni's Skin Care Clinic  
Olive Garden Restaurant  
Outback Steakhouse  
Pharmacy Care  
Quickie Bakery  
Quizno's Sub  
Red Lobster Restaurant  
Regis Hair Salons  
Rodríguez Pharmacy  
Salsa's Restaurant  
Sam's Club  
Schlumberger  
South Texas National Bank  
South Texas Workforce Development Board  
Spazio Construction, Inc.  
Starbucks  
Tacolare  
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation  
The Kneaded Touch  
The Laredo Chamber of Commerce  
The Laredo National Bank  
Tostitos  
Tony Roma's Restaurant  
Wal-Mart  
Whataburger  
Yes Nails

### Dustdevil Alliance

Academy Sports & Outdoors  
ConocoPhillips, Inc.  
F&S Partners, Inc.  
International Bank of Commerce  
Laredo Borderplex Area Phone Book  
Laredo Sports Medicine Clinic  
Librado Piña, Inc.  
Mercy Health Plans  
Paul Young Auto Mall  
Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits  
South-Wen, Inc.  
The Laredo National Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

### Matching Gifts

AEP American Electric Power  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

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

Roderick Barclay  
Drew T. Connally  
Rubén Cortez  
Julia Deligani  
Frank G. Elder, '73

Virginia Goodwin  
Eduardo Guajardo  
María de Jesús Guillén  
Ethel M. Hein  
Nicolás Hernández

Lorraine Hopson  
Evelyn Jennings  
María Louisa Kahn  
Belía Lerma, '72  
Eduardo Longoria

Robert Longoria  
Margaret A. Marshall  
Angie Merenda  
Hortensia Ochoa, '77  
Teresa Medina Puentes, '78

Mary Virginia Puig  
Mary Elizabeth "Bess" Quirós  
Ellis Gates Rhodes  
Jane Rose  
Eloisa I. Salazar, '75

Lydia Sames  
Norma Sarmiento, '95  
María del Pilar Soulas, '92  
Richard Stacy  
Anabel Hill Summers

Georgina Treviño  
Oliver Treviño  
Armando Villarreal  
Rupert F. Wilmeth, '76  
Charles Zipp

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