



President Outlines Path to Emerging Research Status

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President and CEO Dr. Flavius Killebrew outlined the path to becoming an emerging research university during the State of the University luncheon on Sept. 10 at the American Bank Center.

The University is on a path to becoming an emerging research university, a designation that brings



an increased focus and commitment to research, scholarship and creative activity across all fields of study.

"For communities with

similar resources, a university with emerging research status has had a profound impact on the fabric of the community through business, public life, infrastructure and the arts," Killebrew said. "Emerging research status is essential in order to keep the best and brightest in our community."

State Representative Todd Hunter addressed the crowd in a video, saying a focus on research at A&M-Corpus Christi will bring in students, high-paying jobs and expertise.

"Pushing research and development for the coastal region through the University is very, very good," he said. "And the return is tremendous." 🌊

Lone Star UAS Center Conducts First Test Flights from Port Mansfield Airport

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Center has expanded operations with test-flight missions in October from an airport in Port Mansfield.

"Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Lone Star UAS Center are excited to be expanding our operations and capacities for UAS testing for operation and development," said Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Interim Executive Director of the Lone Star UAS Center and the University's Vice President for Research, Commercialization and Outreach. "Now aircraft with landing gear that need a landing strip can test and fly with our center."

Current federal restrictions don't allow for the use of UAS, commonly referred to as drones, for commercial purposes. The Federal Aviation Administration, through six test sites, including the one at the Lone Star UAS Center, is working through some of the big safety issues, such as how drones will sense and avoid both other drones and piloted aircraft.

Collecting of aerial imagery is vital to research, business and safety. UAS can tackle the dirty, dangerous, difficult or dull tasks that piloted aircraft currently do, such as search-and-rescue missions, mapping coastlines or surveying agriculture, wildlife or pipelines. 🌊

2014 ISLANDER GROWTH

UC Expansion



- Construction began September 2013
- 35,000 square-foot addition
- Doubled kitchen and dining area
- Expected completion Summer 2015

Islander Way

- Construction began June 2014
- On Momentum Campus between Nile Drive and Ennis Joslin Road
- Expected completion November 2014

Momentum Village



- Groundbreaking July 21, 2014
- New student housing on Momentum Campus off Nile Drive
- 482 student capacity
- Expected completion July 2015

Islander Dining Hall



- Opened August 2014
- 18,700 square feet
- Indoor and outdoor seating for 400

Hurricane Alley Becomes First Business to Begin Unique Scholarship/ Internship Partnership

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi announces a one-of-a-kind gift from Hurricane Alley and the Devary Durrill Foundation, which will give business students an advantage in the tourism industry.

"We are excited to provide our students the education and experience they need to land their first job and put them on a leadership track for the rest of their lives," said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "Hurricane Alley and the Devary Durrill Foundation are not only helping students to complete their education but are giving them valuable skills they will benefit from for a lifetime."

This unique gift to the Island University provides deserving business students a one-year \$10,000 scholarship and a paid internship in marketing and administrative offices at Hurricane Alley, a successful tourism-focused business that receives more than 100,000 visitors each year. Students eligible for the scholarship must major in business, maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, have junior or senior status, and be enrolled full-time at A&M-Corpus Christi. Online applications will be accepted through March 1 at scholarships.tamucc.edu.

"We felt that it was important to ensure that students from our area are preparing to become the next leaders in the tourism industry, which is so important for our Coastal Bend economy," said Jim Kunau with Hurricane Alley. 🐾



Business and Accounting Maintain Prestigious AACSB Accreditations



Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "This status reflects the dedication of our faculty to high-impact scholarship, continuous improvement in academic programs, and engagement with the business community to help students advance their careers in a changing

global environment."

The College of Business at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi brings together faculty with real-world experience in order to prepare successful professionals for a changing global enterprise. The College's undergraduate and master's programs include seven undergraduate degrees, 10 minors, and two graduate programs. In addition, the College is home to the oldest professional management association in the world, the Society for Advancement of Management, and blends contemporary engagement with professional societies and academic journals to bring a new understanding to issues within organizations and corporations. 🐾

The business and accounting degree programs in the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi have maintained their accreditations by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

AACSB Accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by less than five percent of the world's business programs. Today, there are 694 business schools in 45 countries and territories that maintain AACSB Accreditation. Similarly, 181 institutions maintain an additional specialized AACSB Accreditation for their accounting programs.

"We're honored to, once again, be recognized for our commitment to the highest-quality student learning by such a distinguished organization," said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of




New Study Exchange Program Sends First Group of Business Students to Germany

The fall 2014 semester marks the beginning of a study abroad program that allows Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi business students to study in Europe for a semester at no additional cost. Eight students from the College of Business are currently broadening their horizons and international business expertise as part of a reciprocal exchange program with the Worms University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

Dr. John Gamble, Dean of the College of Business, initiated this partnership with the Worms University of Applied Sciences to provide Islanders with the opportunity to expand their business education and observe first hand the scope of the global economy.

"We are excited for our students to have this opportunity to participate in this international partnership,"

Gamble said. "The study abroad program with the Worms University of Applied Sciences will provide our students with numerous benefits ranging from cultural enrichment to a deeper understanding of how international business works. In return, we're offering the same experience to eight of their students who are currently attending the Island University." 

New South Texas Economic Development Center Receives A&M System Regents' Approval

The new South Texas Economic Development Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is now the hub for assessing and analyzing the area's economic impact.

Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the creation of the center in early September.

The center, (stedc.tamucc.edu) housed in the College of Business at the Michael and Karen O'Connor Building, will focus on supporting and advancing sustainable economic and community development throughout South Texas and the Coastal Bend region.

The University currently coordinates several studies, forecasts, analyses and reports tracking the area's economy, including the Economic Pulse newsletter, monthly snapshots of the Corpus Christi economy and the Aqua Book, which reviews business conditions each year.

With the center, these services will expand and be offered to governments, economic development groups and businesses. The center will also




offer training, research and data analysis, and coordinate the University's research on economic and business development.

Another focus of the center will be assisting in the development and expansion of academic programs needed to support and sustain new economic development.

Dr. Jim Lee, Regents Professor of Economics, will lead the center as the director of research.

"The South Texas Economic Development Center will provide timely economic reports and studies that will be valuable to decision makers in South Texas," said College of Business Dean Dr. John Gamble. "Understanding the economic conditions of our region is essential in crafting the strategic direction of businesses,

the community and the region. The reports and programs that will be offered by the South Texas Economic Development Center will benefit those who live and work in South Texas." 



A&M-Corpus Christi One of Few to Offer Texas Virtual School Network Professional Development

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi was recently approved as one of the few providers in the state to offer the prerequisite professional development for teaching online courses with the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN). By obtaining the TxVSN professional development, Texas-certified educators will have the opportunity to design and teach courses in the TxVSN.

"TxVSN will help advance the field of digital learning by providing online courses to students in public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools across Texas," said Dr. Susan Elwood, Project Leader for the TxVSN initiative at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Courses comprising the TxVSN program are approved by the Texas Education Agency to ensure they meet the state curriculum standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the International Association of K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) national standards of quality for online courses.

The prerequisite professional development for teachers who are new to online instruction is offered through the Instructional Design and Educational Technology Master of Science program at A&M-Corpus Christi. For more information, go to txvsn.tamucc.edu.

A&M-Corpus Christi's Elementary Teacher Prep Program Ranked Among Top 20 Colleges in the Nation

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been ranked among the Top 20 College Campuses with the Best Elementary Undergraduate Programs by the National Council on Teacher Quality. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which tied at No. 14, was one of five universities in Texas to be included in the top 20 of the national list.

"We're honored to be chosen among the nation's top universities for our excellence in preparing high-quality elementary educators," said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "Our programs ensure that the teachers we graduate receive the proper instruction and hands-on experience needed to become effective leaders in the classroom."

A&M-Corpus Christi's elementary program was ranked

on several key standards, including selection criteria, early reading, elementary math, elementary content and student teaching for its Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, EC-6 Generalist program.

The College of Education provides opportunities for undergraduate students to spend a significant portion of their professional development courses observing and working with experienced teachers. This field-based program culminates in the student teaching experience, in which the student is assigned one-on-one with an experienced master teacher and moves from a state of observation, through cooperative teaching, to assuming full responsibility for a class.

Much of this experience stems from the Early Childhood Development Center, an actual elementary school located at the University, serving students age three through sixth grade that is operated jointly by the Corpus Christi Independent School District and A&M-Corpus Christi. University professors and students benefit by using the site for research, educator training and programming.



Educational Leadership Doctoral Program Accepted into National Consortium

The Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been accepted into the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate Consortium.

Dr. Lynn Hemmer, Dr. Randall Bowden and Dr. Steve Brown attended the convening forum in June in Denver, Colorado.

The intent of the Carnegie

Project is to redesign the Ed.D., or doctorate of education, to make it a more relevant degree for the advanced preparation of school practitioners and clinical faculty, academic leaders and professional staff for schools and learning organizations nationwide.



Most of the participating schools offer both the Ph.D. in education and the Ed.D. 🌊

Family Honors Literacy Legacy of Barbara G. Silverman with Endowed Professorship

The power of literacy to change lives is recognized with the newest endowed professorship at the Island University – The Barbara Gail Silverman Endowed Professorship in Literacy.

University leaders met with the Silverman family in September to thank them for their generous contribution that established the endowed professorship.

“This generous gift from the estate of Mrs. Silverman and her family will create a distinguished faculty position to carry on, for generations to come, the work that was so important to Mrs. Silverman,” said Dr. Flavius

Killebrew, University President and CEO. “Being able to enhance our endeavors in this area is important to us because



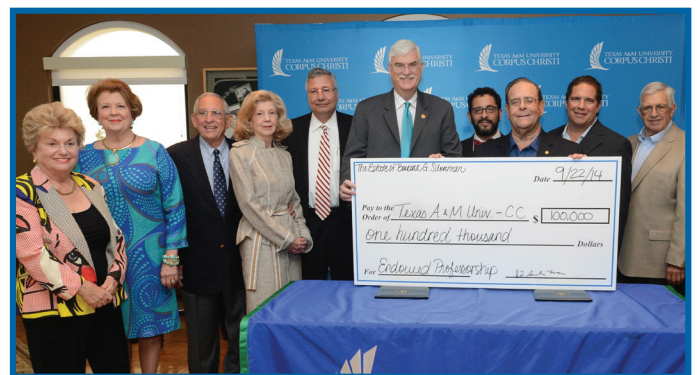
we firmly believe, as Mrs. Silverman did, that literacy and education are the foundation for strong families and a strong community.”

The Silverman Endowed Professorship will allow A&M-Corpus Christi to attract and retain the highest-quality faculty in the discipline of literacy.

“No one understood the power of literacy better than Mrs. Barbara Gail Silverman,” Killebrew said.

Mrs. Silverman had a passion for literacy throughout her entire life. As a wife and mother of two, she shared that love with her family. Later, she received two master’s degrees to further her joy for reading; including one degree in 1989 from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, then Corpus Christi State University.

She dedicated herself as a librarian, both at public libraries and elementary schools, in the



Corpus Christi area, known to students simply as “Aunt Barbara.”

Chuck Silverman, her son, expressed his mother’s commitment to children’s reading programs and literacy.

“She firmly believed that children’s literacy was a pathway to success and self-awareness, and she was a passionate advocate for children’s reading programs,” he said. “She was a pioneer in developing early childhood reading programs because she believed that through reading a child would begin to explore the world around them, and learn to nurture a thoughtful and inquisitive mind that would allow them to thrive in our community.” 🌊

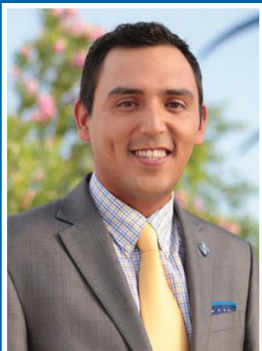
Alumnus Selected as CEO and President of South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi alumnus, Al Arreola, Jr., has been selected as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

In his new role, Arreola will work with the Chamber's Board of Directors to manage the financial and long-range strategic coordination of membership programs, advocacy, marketing, community outreach and other Chamber activities.

"I cherished my time at the Island and credit the University in my personal and professional development," said Arreola. "It was on campus where I learned the value of building partnerships to enhance our student community, and this practice still holds true in my new role in south San Antonio."

Arreola graduated from the Island University with his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in December 2003. As an undergraduate, Arreola was involved with Greek Life on campus, as President of the Interfraternity Council and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He was also a member of the Order of Omega, an honor society for the top leaders in Greek Life. 🐾



Music Students Represent Island University with Recent National Accomplishments



Five music students proudly represented the Department of Music last spring and summer in an array of national competitions, internships and scholarship awards.

"It is exciting to see our music majors achieving these accomplishments at a national level," said Dr. Diana Sipes, Chair for the Department of Music. "Our students study one-on-one with dedicated faculty members who perform and present nationally and internationally. It is our duty to challenge every student to reach his or her full potential."

As a group, the Lichtenstein Quartet was selected for a fellowship to study at the Chamber Music Institute in Lincoln, Nebraska, from June 8-15. In addition, several individual undergraduate students were selected among nationwide applicants to receive an array of recent scholarships and recognitions.

Student accomplishments include:

Emilio Monreal, senior: Selected as one of 16 Undergraduate Solo Division semifinalists for the Great Plains International Marimba Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from July 17 to 19.

Byron Pillow, senior: Chosen for a summer internship at the National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota.

Shannon Proksch, senior: Selected as one of 12 undergraduate students nationwide to receive a \$1,500 scholarship from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Anthony Salazar, sophomore: Selected for a Clara Freshour Nelson Music Scholarship administered by the Texas Association of Music Schools, for a total of \$24,000 over the next four years.

Jacquelyn Vaught, junior: Selected as one of 18 flutists for the National Flute Association's Collegiate Flute Choir in summer 2014. She also worked as a summer flute teacher and counselor at Long Lake Camp for the Arts in New York, New York. 🐾



Alumna Named Chief Executive Officer for Kindred Transitional Hospital

Alumna Diana Schultz has been named the new Chief Executive Officer for Kindred Transitional Hospital in El Paso, Texas. Schultz graduated in December 2006 from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with a Master of Public Administration with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration.

"The education I've received has allowed me to embrace opportunities that are both challenging and rewarding," said Schultz.

Schultz, who has more than eight years of hospital CEO experience, began her career working as the Human Resources Manager at a small transitional care hospital.

Schultz, a member of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, has been honored with the Healthcare Administration Leadership Award and the Corpus Christi 40 under 40 Administrator Award. 🌊



Dr. Patrick Carroll Retires after 38 Years at the Island University

Dr. Patrick "Pat" Carroll, Haas Professor of History, has long been a linchpin in the History program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. With more than 30 years of service to the Island University, Carroll has amassed an impressive record in his teaching, scholarship and service. Carroll was honored during a May retirement reception, following his "Last Lecture" at the Island University.

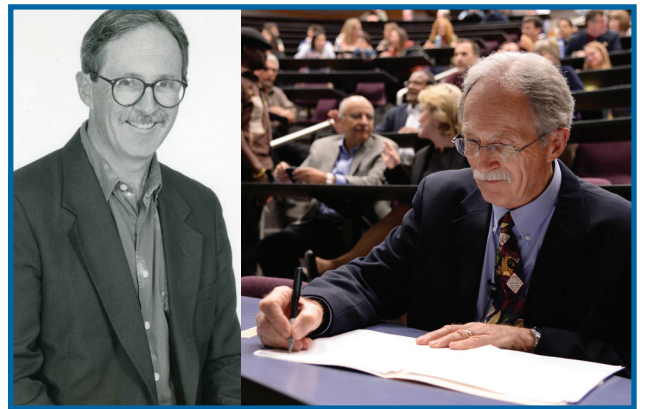
"The majority of my waking hours, over the last 38 years, have been spent on this campus," said Carroll. "Who I was when I came in 1976 is not who I am now. This campus has altered that dramatically, and it has been a privilege."

Having served at the Island University since 1976, Carroll contributed much to campus growth over his career. Although he was trained as a Latin American Historian, he helped teach numerous U.S. History courses. Always a team player, Carroll proved his worth

when he volunteered to help teach the large lecture classes or triads. His dedication was reflected by the lines of students outside his door seeking counsel.

"First and foremost, Pat has been a teacher who unapologetically pushes his students to help them respond effectively to life's pressures," said Dr. Robert Wooster, Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "He has done so by helping students develop their critical thinking and communication skills."

Carroll acted twice as Chair of the Department of Humanities, directed the Social Science Research Center, and was the first historian to hold the coveted Joe B. Frantz Chair in History. Carroll and the late Dr. Fred Cervantes were instrumental in acquiring Dr. Hector P. Garcia's papers for the



Special Collections and Archives department in the Bell Library. These papers have been crucial for scholars of Mexican-American and American history since the mid-1990s.

Carroll has also written books including "Blacks in Colonial Veracruz: Race, Ethnicity, and Regional Development," and "Felix Longoria's Wake: Bereavement, Racism, and the Rise of Mexican-American Activism." The Longoria book won Carroll the award for the "Best Book in Texas History" for 2003. 🌊

Funding Received Totals More than \$1.4 Million

This year, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences received numerous grants totaling more than \$1.4 million:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a **Nursing Workforce Diversity grant (NWD)** totaling more than **\$1 million**. The grant, titled Nursing CORE (Community Outreach, Retention and Enrichment), provides nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The undergraduate nursing program will receive scholarships and stipends for students totaling **\$120,000** per year for the next three years.

HRSA also awarded **The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT)** of **\$345,000** toward the education of nurses in the Family Nurse Practitioner program.

The Blackstone Charitable Foundation has awarded **\$50,000** for the College's support of veterans' employment and business development. 🐦



Baldwin Serves as Keynote Speaker at Texas Public Health Association's 90th Annual Education Conference



Dr. Sara Baldwin, Ph.D., RN, APHN-BC, Associate Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was the keynote speaker for the Texas Public Health Association's 90th Annual Education Conference held March 24-26 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Corpus Christi.

Baldwin's presentation, "Improving Chronic Illness Outcomes with Vulnerable Populations," focused on lessons learned from three studies conducted with American Indian and Hispanic populations in the past decade.

Her studies centered on improving Type 2 diabetes mellitus and breast cancer outcomes through various prevention and early detection programs. She

also highlighted the Institute of Medicine's "Three Great Tasks for Health" and how providers and researchers can work together to improve health disparities in different populations.

In addition, Baldwin was appointed to serve on the CHRISTUS Health Plan Board of Directors. She assumed her new role in January 2014. Board member responsibilities include assisting with the establishment of policies, making strategic decisions and ensuring effective functioning of the CHRISTUS Population Health Plan, particularly as it relates to Nueces County Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Managed Care activities.

The CHRISTUS Health system includes more than 40 hospitals and facilities in seven U.S. states and six states in Mexico, with assets of more than \$4.6 billion. 🐦



College of Nursing and Health Sciences Selected as One of Five Colleges in Texas to Participate in White Coat Ceremony

Students, faculty and staff representing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences participated in an inaugural White Coat Ceremony held in September at the Performing Arts Center.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was one of five colleges in Texas to receive funding support to pilot White Coat Ceremonies, which are designed to instill a commitment to providing compassionate care among future health professionals. The University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences was selected for this honor by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). A total of 100 nursing schools across the nation were selected for this honor.

"We're really proud of our College of Nursing and Health Sciences for their dedication in meeting the demands for medical professionals in urban and rural communities in Texas and across the nation," said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi President and CEO. "Our nursing programs have also paved the way for offering our students innovative online



learning techniques and an affordable quality education."

Faculty 'coated' nursing students in groups of 10, cloaking them in a white coat. Students involved in the ceremony professed an oath and received humanitarian pins from the Gold Foundation. The pin will serve as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to providing high quality care. Following the ceremony, a reception for students and their families was held in the PAC lobby.

"This is a privilege for our College of Nursing and Health Sciences to be chosen as one

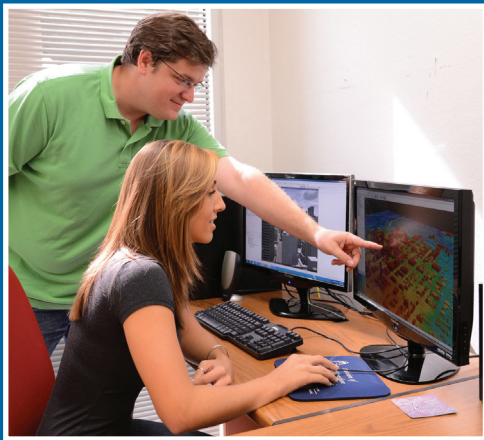
of the pilot schools for our commitment to excellence and the educating of highly skilled nurses," said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "Our students and faculty are serious about building an environment of compassion and respect in all areas of health care."

Funded by APGF Trustee Elaine Adler and her husband, Mike, Co-Founders of the Adler Aphasia Center, this groundbreaking program was developed to promote humanistic, patient-centered care among incoming nursing students. 🌊



Online GIS Program Ranked As Best in Nation

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) for Surveying and Science has been recognized by BestOnlineColleges.com as one of the top online programs in the country.



"The University's online GIS program brings in-demand, quality instruction to a larger audience, including those who are unable to attend classes on campus," said Dr. Gary A. Jeffress, CBI Director. "One of our recent graduates was able to get her Master's degree while working as a contractor in Afghanistan."

CBI offers two online programs: a BS degree in Geographic Information Science and a Master of Science degree in Geospatial Surveying Engineering. The University is in the final stages of approval for a Ph.D. program in geospatial computing, filling a demand in the growing field that connects the theories of computer science with the exploding amount of geospatial data.

A&M-Corpus Christi is the only school in the nation to offer a combined geomatics and GIS-focused Bachelor of Science Degree in Geographic Information Science that is also accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET. ☞

Researchers Develop New Method for Oil Detection in Water

A new method for detecting oil in ocean water, long after an oil spill has disappeared from the surface, provides another tool for researchers studying long-term environmental impacts.

Dr. Xinping Hu, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and his team looked at subsurface Gulf of Mexico coastal waters, using samples collected from 2006 to 2012. The team was able to focus on comparing water samples near the site of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

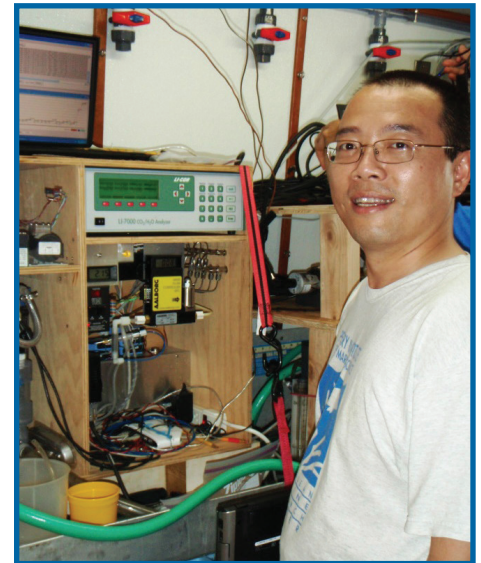
The first-of-its-kind research provides a new indicator for detecting oil in subsurface water, and could be used to determine the spread of impact from spills once the oil has disappeared from the surface.

"If this type of incidence occurs again, we can go out and use this method to study the subsurface water and see if the oil degradation signal is present in the water even after it can no longer be seen by the naked eye," Hu said. "Oil in the water can do a lot of damage to sea life. If you know it is there, you have to study the consequences."

Under normal circumstances, marine microbes release carbon dioxide (CO₂) as they feed on oxygen from decomposing phytoplankton. This produces a set ratio of CO₂ production and oxygen (O₂) consumption.

Hu said that ratio changes when microbes are consuming petroleum.

"We can tell if microbes are using oxygen from plankton-derived carbon or from the carbon in



petroleum," he said.

The researchers published their study online in the January 2014 issue of Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography. It was also featured in June at the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative.

Analysis of samples showed four sites at 20-50 meter depth to the west of the Mississippi River mouth in 2010 that had different CO₂:O₂ ratios. The same spots in both 2011 and 2012 suggested the area was likely free from oil influence.

But Hu cautions that oil residue may still be present in the sediments, something other scientists are studying.

The research, done in partnership with colleagues from the University of Delaware, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, was funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. ☞

New App Gives Local Surfers Real-Time Wave Conditions

Ready to hit the beach, but want to know if “surf’s up?”

Now there’s an app for that. The app, developed by researchers in the Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, provides the latest wave measurements at one of Corpus Christi’s most popular beaches, Bob Hall Pier.

“This real-time info is at a surfer’s fingertips,” said Dr. Philippe Tissot, Associate Director of the CBI. “You can see with a quick look if the waves are worth surfing or if you should see a movie instead.”

The simple interface shows a

surfer and board with the wave height measured on a chart. Data on air and water temperatures, wind speed and direction, and water level is off to the side.

The Bob Hall Pier beach app can be accessed by cbi.tamucc.edu.

The new app is part of a larger project that was made possible by a grant from the Texas General Land Office to develop a Coastal Current Monitoring Network on the Texas coast.

Work under the grant will also provide vital information during oil spill events, including nearshore currents data. This type of information

can also help long-term planning of oil spill responses. 🌊



Study Abroad Program Explores Dolphin Research, Science Communication

A group of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students spent the summer in Riviera Maya in the only program in the nation that allows students to blend dolphin research and hands-on animal care to become knowledgeable, effective science communicators who can share both the importance of marine mammal health and a story of environmental conservation.

The program partnered with Dolphinaris, an educational and interactive dolphin facility, and emphasizes research and conservation. Student researchers worked directly with the Dolphinaris dolphins and received instruction from highly skilled trainers and staff.

Researchers with the Comparative Physiology Laboratory in the College of Science and Engineering are focusing on lung function research, a specialty of the team.

“Lung problems are some of the most common causes of disease

and death for wild dolphins, and what our students are learning and researching is valuable for dolphin populations the world over,” said Dr. Andreas Fahlman, Assistant Professor in the College of Science and Engineering.

Health assessments, including lung function testing, are much like a checkup a human would get at a doctor’s office. They provide a baseline of what is normal in a healthy population, and can be used to compare results from animals in distress, over time or in different geographic areas, a useful analysis for investigating whether man-made pollution is affecting an area.

Continued research in this area relies on finding healthy dolphins to study. That’s where Dolphinaris plays a crucial role.

Student researchers in the program are also learning innovative positive reinforcement training methods, hands-on care of marine

mammals and how to communicate research results and conservation to a public that may know little about wildlife.

“Nowhere else could I get this kind of experience,” said Danielle Kleinhenz, a graduate student enrolled in the study abroad program. “Working with the dolphins every day, learning how to train them in a way that allows for data collection, and the chance to see up close how these creatures live and learn is extraordinary.”

Marine mammal care is a very specialized field, and A&M-Corpus Christi is the only university to offer this kind of program in this highly competitive field. 🌊

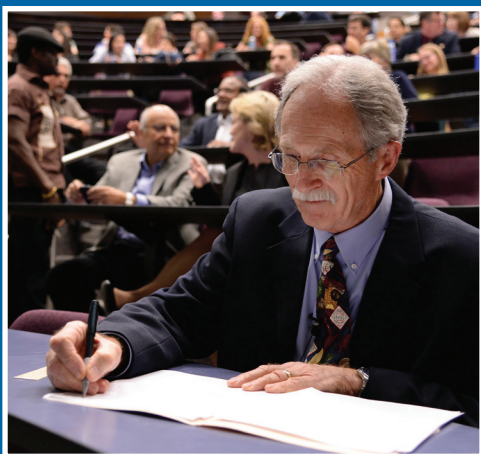


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on several key standards, including selection criteria, early reading, elementary math, elementary content and student teaching for its Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, EC-6 Generalist program.

The College of Education provides opportunities for undergraduate students to spend a significant portion of their professional development courses observing and working with experienced teachers. This field-based program culminates in the student teaching experience, in which the student is assigned one-on-one with an experienced master teacher and moves from a state of observation, through cooperative teaching, to assuming full responsibility for a class.

Much of this experience stems from the Early Childhood Development Center, an actual elementary school located at the University, serving students age three through sixth grade that is operated jointly by the Corpus Christi Independent School District and A&M-Corpus Christi. University professors and students benefit by using the site for research, educator training and programming. 🐾



College of Business Maintains Prestigious AACSB Business and Accounting Accreditations



The business and accounting degree programs in the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi have maintained their accreditations by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

AACSB Accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by less than five percent of the world’s business programs. Today, there are 694 business schools in 45 countries and territories that maintain AACSB Accreditation. Similarly, 181 institutions maintain an additional specialized AACSB Accreditation for their accounting programs.

“We’re honored to, once again, be recognized for our commitment

to the highest-quality student learning by such a distinguished organization,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. “This status reflects the dedication of our faculty to high-impact scholarship, continuous improvement in academic programs, and engagement with the business community to help students advance their careers in a changing global environment.”

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Selected as One of Five Colleges in Texas to Participate in White Coat Ceremony

Students, faculty and staff representing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences participated in an inaugural White Coat Ceremony held in September at the Performing Arts Center.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was one of five colleges in Texas to receive funding support to pilot White Coat Ceremonies, which are designed to instill a commitment to providing compassionate care among future health professionals. The University’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences was selected for this honor by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). A total of 100 nursing schools across the nation were selected for this honor.

“We’re really proud of our

College of Nursing and Health Sciences for their dedication in meeting the demands for medical professionals in urban and rural communities in Texas and across the nation,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi President and CEO. “Our nursing programs have also paved the way for offering our students innovative online learning techniques and an affordable quality education.”

Faculty ‘coated’ nursing students in groups of 10, cloaking them in a white coat. Students involved in the ceremony professed an oath and received humanitarian pins from the Gold Foundation. The pin will serve as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to providing high quality care. Following the ceremony, a reception for students

and their families was held in the PAC lobby.

“This is a privilege for our College of Nursing and Health Sciences to be chosen as one of the pilot schools for our commitment to excellence and the educating of highly skilled nurses,” said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Our students and faculty are serious about building an environment of compassion and respect in all areas of health care.”

Funded by APGF Trustee Elaine Adler and her husband, Mike, Co-Founders of the Adler Aphasia Center, this groundbreaking program was developed to promote humanistic, patient-centered care among incoming nursing students.



Harte Research Institute Shark Expedition Featured on Discovery Channel's Shark Week



Scientists with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi appeared before more than 5 million viewers during the 27th season premiere of nationally recognized Discovery Channel hit series Shark Week. HRI scientists were featured in an episode that aired Aug. 11, titled "Monster Hammerhead," about legendary accounts of great hammerheads that developed in the 1940s era.

"Sharks play a key role in marine ecosystems, but unfortunately, the oceans have been experiencing dramatic declines in these charismatic animals," said Dr. Greg Stunz, Director of the Center for Sportfish

Science and Conservation and one of the key players in shark research. "By tagging the sharks, we will gain a better understanding of their migration patterns that will improve conservation of these species and improve the fishery status."

Stunz and his team spent eight days tagging 25 large sharks weighing more than 200 pounds and a few sharks 10 to 13 feet in length and up to 800 pounds.

After attaching a satellite tag, the sharks were released back into the water to be tracked to learn more about where these sharks may be moving and what habitats they are using. Another set of sharks tagged by HRI scientists can be tracked online at oceanarch.org

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