

PRESIDENT'S *Report* 2017



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES



8 University Roundup



18 Spotlight on Students



30 Faculty Research in Action



38 **COVER STORY**
Many Collaborations.
One Vision.

DEPARTMENTS

6 National Recognition

7 A&M-SA in the News

20 Campus Life

24 Faculty and Staff Achievements

34 University Traditions

44 Alumni Update

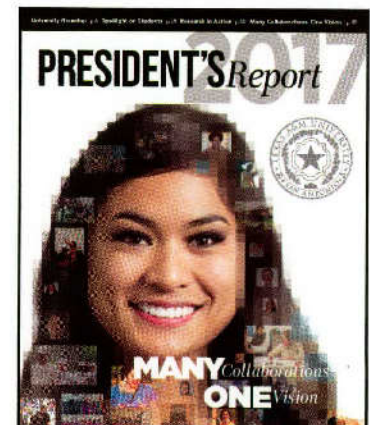
49 Executive/Guest Speakers

50 Advancement Update

57 Community Connections

ON THE COVER

C Arce is a sophomore at Texas A&M-San Antonio and a proud member of the class of 2020, the University's first four-year cohort. Growing up in a military family, C moved around the United States frequently and spent five years of her childhood in the Philippines. She is a student worker in the Office of First-Year Experience and was elected Ms. A&M-San Antonio in 2017. C will be the first member of her family to earn a college degree. *Photograph by Sarah Brooke Lyons.*





CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



The Texas A&M University System is a single constellation made up of many bright stars; Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is among the youngest and brightest of these. It has been an incredibly gratifying experience to watch this institution's rise under President Cynthia Teniente-Matson's leadership.

Ever since expanding from a two-year institution to a comprehensive four-year university, A&M-SA has continued to grow at an unprecedented pace. During the past year, we have seen the addition of the University's first residential hall, Esperanza Hall, along with significant progress on a new Science and Technology Building scheduled to open in fall 2018. Every time I visit campus, it seems there is a new construction project under way. I expect that will continue as the student population continues to increase. With the arrival of the second cohort of first-year students last August, enrollment climbed more than 20 percent from fall 2016.

In addition to its individual success, A&M-SA is proving to be a tremendous partner for the System's member institutions. For example, the campus now houses our South Texas Data Center, which services all our universities in the region, providing a safe and secure location to back up their data. In 2017, A&M-SA also hosted a major symposium focused on supporting military veterans that included participants from across the A&M System.

The Texas A&M System exists to help improve the lives of Texans through education and service. Each university, including this one, has its own mission, history and culture, but they are all dedicated to opening up new worlds of opportunity for the people in their communities. As the first institution of its kind to serve the South San Antonio area, A&M-SA is a paragon of our philosophy in action. I am tremendously proud of all that has been accomplished, and I look forward to the many great things to come!

John Sharp
Chancellor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2017 President's Report, chronicling a year of measured growth, marked improvement and groundbreaking firsts—all fueled by an unwavering commitment to excellence. Nowhere is the excitement on campus more palpable than in the classroom, where I have the privilege to teach students each fall and witness their remarkable growth and development.

In this year's report, we consider the evolving role of public universities in a dynamic, fast-paced world characterized by relentless technological advances, profound demographic shifts and the boundless flow of information. The challenges and opportunities presented by these and other forces call for universities to forge innovative partnerships—with traditional partners as well as unconventional ones.

This report focuses on the vital role that *collaboration* will play in the future success of Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA), even as we remain focused on a singular vision: To serve as an economic, research and social catalyst that will become nationally recognized for student and academic success, embracing all students, especially those from underrepresented communities.

The partnerships we are forging come in all shapes and sizes. They facilitate new interactions among faculty, staff, students and their families, along with local school districts, nonprofits and government entities. And they deliver a myriad of benefits. These include enhanced skills and high-impact learning experiences for our students, as well as greater opportunities for families, schools and businesses in the surrounding communities. The work we are doing with students at Stewart Elementary School, and the impact we are having on parents such as Twyla Varnado and Yvette Mireles through our Family First seminar, are just two examples of the many ways we are changing lives for the better.

As you learn more about our collaborations, I hope you will consider new ways that you might partner with A&M-SA in the coming year. Your involvement could range from attending on-campus traditions, to mentoring or recruiting students, to serving on an advisory board or even hosting an event. However you choose to engage with our great University, I appreciate your continuing support and look forward to seeing you in the not-too-distant future.

Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D.
President





NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) was recognized nationally for a wide range of accomplishments in 2017—from academic achievements and Hispanic enrollment, to community engagement and service to military-connected students. This recognition speaks to the University’s steadfast commitment to becoming a premier academic institution offering boundless opportunities to students.



White House recognizes A&M-SA student service

Last year, the White House recognized five A&M-SA students for their commitment to community service with the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The awardees are the first cohort from the University to receive such an honor; they collectively contributed more than 850 volunteer service hours in 2016. Jorlanditha “Tiffany” Austin, Rene Orozco, Angelee Almendarez, Ricardo Venegas Jr. and Courtney Bendele received their awards on February 20, 2017 during a University ceremony.

University earns HSI designation

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Education designated A&M-SA as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). HSIs are defined by Title V of the Higher Education Act as not-for-profit institutions of higher learning with a full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic. A&M-SA serves nearly 6,500 students, with 82 percent of the inaugural freshman class and 70 percent of the student body overall identifying as Hispanic/Latinx. This designation provides the University with greater access and eligibility for federal grant funding.

The HSI designation will also allow A&M-SA to participate in grant programs a full year earlier than initially expected. Depending on specific program requirements, grant funding available to HSI institutions may be used to support student achievement, provide scholarships and strengthen the university’s academic programs.

A&M-SA featured in national rankings

Diverse Issues in Higher Education[®] ranked A&M-SA #1 and #12 nationally for the number of Hispanic students majoring in interdisciplinary studies and accounting, respectively, and #4 for total number of minorities majoring in interdisciplinary studies (based on 2016 degrees produced).



The 2018 *Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) Guide to Colleges & Universities* selected A&M-SA as a TOP SCHOOL. The Guide is one of the most comprehensive research tools for servicemembers, education services officers and transition officers.



A&M-SA was included in the *U.S. Veterans Magazine (USVM)* 2017 evaluation of the nation’s Best of the Best Top Veteran-Friendly Schools.

NSA redesignates A&M-SA as a center of excellence for cyber education

A&M-SA was redesignated by the National Security Agency as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) through the year 2022. This prestigious designation puts the University among a select group of institutions nationwide meeting rigorous federal standards. (Read more in University Roundup.)





A&M-SA IN THE NEWS



San Antonio Express-News, "The Trouble with Tariffs"
January 28, 2017

Dr. Dennis Elam, professor of accounting, was quoted about a tariff in 1824 that caused a rift in the United States between the North and the South. He compared the 19th century tariff to the recent attempt to place a 20-percent tariff on goods entering the United States from Mexico.



WalletHub, "Is College Worth It?"
February 3, 2017

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-SA, commented as an advocate for education. She noted that while college is not for everyone, education is meant for all. "And for most, especially first-generation students and those from underrepresented communities, investing in higher education is the surest pathway to prosperity," she said.



WalletHub, "Best and Worst Places to Live for Singles"
February 7, 2017

Dr. Vicky L. Elias, assistant professor of sociology, offered insights about where single people should choose to live. Elias, whose scholarly interests are gender, marriage, and family and human sexuality, observed that singles should focus on access to locations and opportunities that allow them to do the things they enjoy.



Texas Public Radio, "Proven Method to Teaching Reading Could Turn Around Third Grade Reading Assessment"
February 17, 2017

Dr. Ramona T. Pittman, associate professor in the School of Curriculum and Kinesiology, discussed the importance of preparing pre-service teachers to teach children to read. The article focused on the collaborative efforts between A&M-SA, SA Reads and Southwest Independent School District. The three organizations are working together to ensure that pre-service teachers are prepared to provide scientifically based reading instruction to struggling readers.



USA TODAY COLLEGE, "Support Programs Help Military Veterans Finish College"
March 9, 2017

Dr. KC Kalmbach, associate professor of psychology, discussed the Military Cultural Competency training program for A&M-SA employees and how it supports success for military-connected students. She also commented on the risk factors for military-connected students and steps to improving student success rates.



CyberTalkRadio WOIA, "Cybersecurity Program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio"
July 15, 2017

In a live "on air" interview, Dr. Kevin Barton, associate professional track, discussed the University's Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security. He detailed the Center's growth along with the plan to expand the University's various degree and certificate offerings in the Computer Information Systems program.



San Antonio Magazine, "Texas A&M University-San Antonio President Says Successful Leaders Care About More Than Just Their Own University"
July 20, 2017

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-SA, shared her thoughts on various topics ranging from successful university leadership to A&M-SA's significant number of first-generation students. "We were born a majority-minority institution so we always look at our mission as serving a diverse population, and we hire people who understand that mission well," she said.



Costco Magazine, "Are Shorter School Days a Good Idea?"
August 1, 2017

Dr. Shelley Harris, assistant dean in the College of Education and Human Development, concluded that shortening the school day would result in little or no improvement to education or cost savings to communities. She also commented that reducing teacher salaries as a result of a shorter school day would result in a decrease in the number of quality teachers.



Fox News 29, "National Suicide Prevention Week"
August 17, 2017

Military Affairs Director Richard Delgado Jr. and Licensed Counselor Kathleen Frank spoke about suicide prevention "on air" at FOX29. A&M-SA's Military Affairs and Student Counseling Services encouraged viewers to join the conversation on this important topic and learn where to go for mental health assistance. Delgado and Frank also asked community members to donate shoes and boots to the University's collection that was displayed in front of the Patriots' Casa, representing the lives lost to suicide every day in America.



San Antonio Express-News, "A&M-San Antonio Innovative in Defining Role As Public University"
November 18, 2017

The Express-News Editorial Board wrote about the unique role A&M-SA is playing as a public four-year institution seeking to serve a community characterized by income inequality and economic segregation. The article addressed two of the University's innovative community outreach programs: a student tutoring and teacher training program at Stewart Elementary School and the new Family First seminar for family members of current students.



UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

There was no shortage of exciting news this year for Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA), including the creation of new strategic and master plans, the opening of a new food pantry on campus and the reopening of an archives and special collections gallery in a historic downtown building.

GENERAL NEWS



Charting a course for our future

Amid the rapid growth in enrollment and relentless pace of building on campus, the University took time in 2017 to carefully plan for the future, including the development of an updated master plan and a new strategic plan. These collaborative efforts incorporated input from leadership, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. The results are two informed and inspiring documents that chart a course for the University's academic development, campus evolution and community engagement.

The University's 2017 Master Plan projects an audacious and sweeping vision of a nearly 700-acre campus that will undergo several stages of transformation during the next three decades. The near-term plan accommodates enrollment growth to 12,500 students by expanding existing academic and administrative facilities and adding infrastructure for on-campus student housing, recreation, student-life activities and parking. The long-term plan envisions a complete build-out of the campus to accommodate more than 50,000 students, including well-defined districts for academics, student life, student housing, student recreation, athletics, and research—all integrated with a series of eco-corridors designed to sustain existing natural landscape and ecological features.

A&M-SA's new Strategic Plan, titled "Build. Impact. Transform." plots a course for the University through 2021. It encompasses updated vision and mission statements along with four goals, measurable outcomes and core values, which guide faculty, staff and students and are central to everything the University does.

VISION

A&M-SA serves as an economic, research and social catalyst that will become nationally recognized for student and academic success, embracing all students, especially those from underrepresented communities.

MISSION

A&M-SA is reflective of the diverse and heritage-rich community it serves. University and community partnerships provide a strong foundation for student and academic success and support interdisciplinary teaching and experiential learning. Faculty and staff collaborate to create comprehensive, industry-responsive academic and co-curricular programs that provide a transformative experience for all students. The University's inclusive environment inspires learning and fosters social development using relevant scholarship, research and public service. A&M-SA graduates leave well-equipped with knowledge and marketable skills that prepare them for rewarding careers, responsible global citizenship and lifelong learning.

GOALS

1. Become a national model for student and academic success embracing all students, particularly first-generation and underrepresented communities, while achieving graduation and retention rates above the national average.
2. Continue to build academic excellence.
3. Achieve enrollment growth through strategic enrollment management, student-focused academic experiences, co-curricular programs and student-support services.
4. Engage in partnerships that advance student growth as well as create opportunities for faculty and staff engagement, scholarship and research.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence
- Student Focus
- Audaciousness
- Opportunity
- Collaboration



New commission underscores University's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity

In 2017, A&M-SA established the President's Commission on Equity (PCOE) to provide proactive support for the broadest forms of equity, the intersectionality of various forms of identities and social relations across the campus community. In its first year, the commission began to review relevant support services needed by students, faculty and staff. It also sought to enhance the University's efforts to provide more robust professional development opportunities to meet the needs of its diverse population. In addition, the PCOE met with groups of students, faculty and staff to solicit their ideas about the most effective communication methods to educate and inform the University about excellence in an equitable environment.

As A&M-SA continues to build a culture of excellence—one that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion—President Matson challenged each member of the University community to do three things:

- Amplify their voice as a platform to invite or express diverse perspectives and to reject bigotry and violent forms of expression.
- Act as a visible role model for maintaining a teaching and learning environment that nurtures constructive expression of diverse opinions.
- Lead with a respectful attitude.

She also established a \$50,000 PCOE seed fund that will provide awards of \$2,500 to support research and/or faculty, student or staff events that advance equity and diversity on campus. "Building a diverse and inclusive culture is the responsibility of everyone in our organization," said President Matson. "With the formation of the new PCOE commission and fund, we have demonstrated that equity is central to who we are as an institution as well as being critical to the future success of our nation."



Chancellor Sharp visits campus, interviews professor about her research

Last February, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp visited A&M-SA to meet with Dr. Matson and members of her leadership team, check out the latest developments on campus, and mix and mingle with faculty, staff and students.

As part of his listening tour at A&M-SA, Chancellor Sharp interviewed Associate Professor of Biology Megan Wise de Valdez, Ph.D. about her student-led mosquito research in San Antonio. The interview and an article detailing the exciting research and its impact was featured in the Chancellor's Century Council newsletter. The Chancellor also took a few minutes to play a game of foosball with students before returning to College Station.

New data center reduces costs, increases capacity and enhances operational continuity

Through a collaborative effort with A&M-SA, A&M-Corpus Christi, A&M-Kingsville, and A&M-International, Texas A&M University System's South Texas Data Center came online at A&M-SA's campus last fall. The data center will reduce costs of data storage and sharing, increase storage capacity and enhance continuity of operations for all four universities in the event of natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey.



UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



One-of-a-kind partnership with Univision will shape future generation of media professionals

In November, A&M-SA forged a partnership with Univision San Antonio for a one-of-a-kind educational program called Univision Media Lab – Capstone Experience, with enrollment beginning in spring 2018. Senior-level students pursuing their bachelor’s in communications will participate in the on-site program at Univision, where they will collaborate with and observe real-world media veterans in action to learn first-hand about the industry. Students will also be mentored by seasoned bilingual journalists in broadcast and digital media as well advertising and marketing.

Faculty develop math recitation sections to help address students’ challenges



In fall 2016, mathematics faculty noticed that a number of students had challenges in entry-level courses in mathematics. By spring 2017, faculty members led by Dr. John Romo, associate professional track faculty in mathematics, took quick action by implementing recitation sections to go along with entry-level mathematics courses. In a recitation, students have time to work on problems covered in mathematics lectures as

well as go over basic quizzes, under the supervision of a faculty member. As they pursue their work, students are also able to ask questions of instructors as well as student-peers who have mastered the concepts in question. These sessions foster a collaborative learning environment for students studying entry-level mathematics at A&M-SA, providing them with valuable repetitions and reinforcement of foundational math concepts. As of last November, more than 560 students had participated in these recitations.

Faculty and students harness new equipment to enhance scholarly efforts



Dr. Cory Ross, assistant professor of biology, is using new Observer software that allows her and her students to complete behavioral scoring for marmoset videos that were collected last summer. The software’s state-of-the-art video analysis and statistical packaging features enable researchers to perform deeper analyses of marmoset behaviors, enriching the data students collected through “in person” behavioral observations.

Several students are supporting this effort. Stacey VanNess is exploring early pregnancy uterine size and embryonic measures and their relationship with pregnancy outcomes in marmosets, while Matt Lopez and Megan Flores are developing a new open field test to assess ambulatory behavior and balance in geriatric marmosets. Khira Warford is assessing whether rapamycin impacts cognitive aging in geriatric marmosets, and Sam Whisenhunt is evaluating social dynamics of sleep patterns in geriatric marmosets.

Dr. Jose Rodolfo Valdez Barillas, assistant professor of biology, is using indoor plant growing equipment (e.g., shelves, lamps, cones, trays, chemical reagents) to assess the effect of beneficial microbes on the establishment of native grasses when growing in competition with a non-native invasive. Results from this study



will be used in a collaborative project with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), giving SARA an alternative method to restore native grass species in areas dominated by invasive species along the San Antonio River Bank. Students Samantha Saucedo, Janelle Gonzales and Victoria Avila-Prukop assisted Dr. Valdez on the project last fall.



Dr. Matt Crook, assistant professor of biology, is employing a Nikon fluorescence compound microscope to ask several different research questions with his students. They are looking at cell death and lipid synthesis in the round worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, commonly referred to as *C. elegans*, using green fluorescent protein markers. In addition, as part of his Developmental Biology course, Dr. Crook is investigating the control of reproductive development.



Dr. Dawn Weatherford, assistant professor of psychology, and the Memory, Attention and Perception Research Group are excited about their new audio/visual equipment (camera and GoPro) and experimental design software (EPrime 3.0 upgrade).

These tools are enhancing their research on facial recognition and identification by allowing them to develop and integrate new visual stimuli into their projects. For instance, they are currently working on a project called “Selfies for Science” to build a database of facial images and videos to answer a wide variety of psychological research questions. The new equipment will also help support future grant-funded projects in applied and basic areas of facial recognition and identification.

Dr. Robert Page, assistant professor of biology, and his students are leveraging centrifuges, thermal cyclers and electrophoresis apparatuses for genotyping organisms at molecular markers. The research team—which includes students Andriea Palomo, Joshua Solis, Courtney Bendele, Diana Quintanilla and Amanda Solbach—is investigating hybridization dynamics between threatened and common amphibian species.

Dr. John Romo, associate professional track faculty in mathematics, noted that the new Computer Algebra System (CAS) capability has enhanced the mathematics program’s teaching and research efforts. In addition, Mathematica network access is now available to instructors conducting research as well as students working on undergraduate research projects or course assignments. The recent addition of MATLAB directly supports faculty research focused on mathematical modeling applications including mathematical biology.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Reading cohort develops master literacy teachers for SAISD



The National Center for Education Statistics (2016) has documented that students in the United States are not reading at a level of proficiency, and one reason could be teachers’ inadequate knowledge of how to teach reading. In an effort to address this issue, the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) is partnering with San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) to develop master literacy teachers. Last fall, the Reading Program began a second cohort in which 19 current SAISD teachers will complete 36 hours of rigorous literacy courses over two years, earning their master’s degree paid for by SAISD. The cohort teachers will also complete an action research project in which they identify a problem on their campus or within their district and use research results to address the problem. In addition, the SAISD teachers in the program will complete a school-wide literacy leadership course in which they learn how to be an instructional coach and a campus literacy leader. Finally, each cohort teacher will complete a 160-hour internship in literacy leadership.

COEHD launches new bachelor’s in child development

Last fall, the COEHD introduced a new Bachelor of Science in Child Development degree. The new degree program is designed to serve a wide range of individuals interested in all areas of early childhood, including child care professionals, certified teachers, employees of federal pre-K programs and individuals pursuing community-based careers working with children and families. Students in the new program will acquire core knowledge and skills in working with young children and families from birth to the start of elementary school. The program includes a focus on child development and working effectively with diverse children and families across various settings. The creation of a minor in early childhood education provides students pursuing other degrees (e.g., social sciences) with an open minor, the option to gain specialization in the early years.

The end goal of the bachelor’s degree is to prepare children to experience success now and in the future, and it strives to accomplish this by producing graduates who are “ready from day one” to serve those children and their families with early childhood practices that are culturally, developmentally and individually appropriate.



UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP



Partnership aims to develop the next generation of educational leadership

The COEHD is also collaborating with Judson ISD and Northeast ISD to prepare current teachers to become school administrators. Sixteen aspiring educational leaders, currently employed as teachers by the districts, taught side-by-side with A&M-SA faculty for eight weeks last year. Through the intensive program, the participants will receive their Master of Arts in Educational Administration degrees along with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to move into the ranks of vice principals and principals in the years ahead.

TX-SELF is model program for special education

TX-SELF is an initiative created by A&M-SA faculty members in Special Education and Educational Leadership with the goal to produce high-quality, exceptional leaders in special education. This unique program allows participants to earn a Master's in Special Education and a Principal certification in the same program. Southwest Independent School District is the first district to partner fully with the University in the TX-SELF cohort model led by Dr. Theresa Garfield. Launched in summer 2017, 12 people are enrolled in the six-semester cohort that will be the model program for implementation of TX-SELF.



Research grants fuel pursuit of new knowledge

In 2017, a number of COEHD faculty received funding for a variety of research grants. This funding is vital to the University's ongoing efforts to generate studies that address a range of research questions and real-world problems. One of the grants received was a three-year \$740,000 sub-award of a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant through the San Antonio Independent School District. The grant will fund a teacher residency training and preparation program at Stewart Elementary School. This win was truly a team effort, with 19 co-principal investigators from the College collaborating to develop the grant proposal. Another was a two-year \$50,000 award from the San Antonio Area Foundation. The grant will fund A&M-SA's University Peer Academic Student Support (U-PASS) student mentoring program at Stewart Elementary School. Drs. Sean Kearney and Shelley Harris were co-investigators. (Read more in Cover Story.)

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Strong enrollment, accreditation effort headline college news

The College of Business continued to be a cornerstone of the University in 2017, with business students making up nearly 27 percent of all undergraduate students. In addition, 44 percent of all A&M-SA graduate students were enrolled in one of two graduate business programs: the Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA)—the largest public MBA program in San Antonio.



To support its continuing growth, in 2017 the College began the accreditation process with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the most prestigious international accreditation body for business schools. Led by Management Professor Kathleen Voges, a team of business faculty and staff are currently working on the self-study portion of the project.

College launches new degree in healthcare administration



The College of Business introduced a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science in Healthcare Services Administration last fall. The new program was created to respond to the state's growing demand for leaders and managers of hospitals, clinics and other health-related organizations. Dr. Mengying He, assistant professor of management, joined the faculty to support the new program. Ten students were enrolled in classes for the new program in fall 2017.

New research group focuses on digital marketing, social media, analytics and fake info

The College of Business formed a research group that is pursuing an interdisciplinary stream of research involving digital marketing, social media, analytics, fake information and their effect on consumer behavior and attitudes. The research group consists of College leadership and faculty as well as members of the Office of the Provost, including Dr. Tracy Hurley, Dr. Amy Lewis, Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, Dr. Syed Harun, Dr. Weixing Ford, Dr. Amir Fekrazad, Dr. Mike O'Brien, Mr. Jeremy Roberts and Mr. Sameer Kahn.



H-E-B Career Fair offers networking experience, career opportunities

Organized by the College of Business, the H-E-B Career Fair invited faculty, staff and the top 50 faculty-nominated business students to meet with H-E-B partners and recruiters. The evening began with a VIP reception/mixer, followed by two lectures from H-E-B partners, including Tony Villareal, who is a former Top 50 A&M-SA business student now serving as H-E-B's global sourcing and export manager. This annual event gives students valuable opportunities to network with representatives of one of the top companies in Texas, while offering H-E-B access to some of the University's best and brightest students.

SHRM learning events address critical HR issues



A&M-SA's Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) group held spring and fall learning events in 2017 to educate members of the University and local communities on important human resource issues. At the

2017 Fall Learning Event, titled "The Opioid Epidemic: A Dangerous Prescription for the Workplace," panel speakers included Heather Staples Ph.D., SPHR, SHRM-CP, visiting assistant professor at A&M-SA; Allison Doyle Brackley, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow from UT Health San Antonio; Chris Scherer JD, a labor and employment attorney; and Abigail Moore, LPC, LCDC, ACPS, the CEO of the San Antonio Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The panelists shared their professional perspectives on this epidemic, including how opioid use effects their careers and the workforce as a whole.



UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Business faculty and students travel to European Innovation Academy

The study abroad trip to Europe last summer culminated at the European Innovation Academy (EIA)—the world’s largest extreme entrepreneurship program where students from all over the world collaborate to transform an idea into a tech start-up in two weeks. The program proved to be a life-changing experience for College of Business faculty and students. Chris Castro and Angela Mallett were among seven A&M-SA students who tested their business acumen in the competition in Italy from July 9 to 28. More than 600 students from 74 partner universities around the world competed in the extreme entrepreneurship program.

Teams of five students started with nothing more than an idea but developed their ideas into full-fledged tech start-ups in just 15 days. During that time, they validated their ideas in Milan; created prototypes along with landing pages and marketed the products at an Expo in Rome; and finally pitched their finished ideas to a panel of venture capitalist investors in Turin. Mallett served as CEO of Team Roadside Rescue, which finished in 12th place, while Castro served as CFO of Team Cardio Guard, which finished in 6th place.



“The study abroad trip as a whole was a life changing experience,” Castro commented. “But the EIA program was phenomenal! So many great speakers, mentors and students participated in the program. To be able to speak one-on-one with employees at Google, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Ferrari, and receive their feedback on our product was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I would like to thank Douglas Carter, Dr. Hurley and Dr. Love for this amazing opportunity.”

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



New home for A&M-SA’s Archives and Special Collections

2017 was a busy year for the University Library, headlined by the grand opening of the renovated Presidio Gallery on October 27. Located in the historic Bexar County Archives Building downtown (formerly the Federal Reserve Bank Building), the exhibit gallery and underground archive vault are the new home for A&M-SA’s Archives and Special Collections.

The University’s holdings comprise more than 90,000 items ranging from maps and manuscripts to paintings and photographs, including the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) Library Collection, the Robert Thonhoff Collection, the Harry Mazal Holocaust Book Collection and the La Prensa Archives. The gallery opened with an exhibit of the historic DRT collection, featuring family papers, photographs, paintings and maps, including one dating to 1579. (Read more in Cover Story.)



Library receives collection from Socionomics Institute



Last year, the University Library received a generous donation from the Socionomics Institute (SI), an organization dedicated to the study of social mood and social action. The items included eight books and 19 videos—all with a socioeconomic focus.

SI Research Director Matt Lampert and SI Executive Director Alyssa Hayden hand-delivered the collection on May 5 and then served as guest speakers for the 2017 Student Research Symposium. Their presentation, “Mood, Music Migrants and Maladies: How Social Mood Influences Society and Culture,” was well-attended by psychology students and faculty.



Library staff share insights at Texas Library Association conference

Several University librarians represented A&M-SA when they presented at the Texas Library Association’s Annual Conference in April. During the three-day conference, Arts and Sciences Librarian Emily Bliss-Zaks presented “Designing Online Information Literacy Modules: A Proprietary and OER Mash Up.” Public Services Manager Sarah Timm and Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian Bryant Moore (shown above) co-presented a poster titled “Tired of Time Consuming Training? Keep It Simple with Blackboard.” In addition, Instructional Services Manager Deirdre McDonald hosted a pre-conference workshop called “Becoming the Copyright Expert at Your Library” and participated in a panel discussion about copyrights. Interim Library Director Pru Morris also served on a panel called “Keeping ER Management Out of the ER” focused on electronic resources.

MAYS CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Mays Family Foundation gift enhances Center’s programming and space

In August, the Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement received a \$5 million gift from the Mays Family Foundation. The gift will help build a new 4,200-square-foot space for the named Center in the Science and Technology Building, opening in fall 2018.

Through the expanded Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, students will enjoy increased opportunities for “learning by doing,” through community service, internships and job-shadowing, as well as access to new community-based work-study programs with local employers. The Center will also manage the University’s Career Services program that extends career-focused resources to Jaguar students and alumni.



Center organizes inaugural Job Shadow Day

On February 2, Southside ISD brought 40 high school students to campus for the SAWorks and Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day, organized by the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. During their visit, students shadowed employees in various University departments, learning new skills and listening to career experiences from faculty, staff and alumni. Some enthusiastic students proclaimed that A&M-SA is now their university of choice.



UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Career Services sponsors Women in Law Enforcement, hosts job fairs

Career Services sponsored the San Antonio Police Department’s (SAPD) Women in Law Enforcement last February. Representatives from SAPD, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Texas Parks and Wildlife spoke about their personal experiences and career paths at three levels of jurisdiction: local, state and federal. The event welcomed more than 170 students and community members as well as several special guests, including SAPD Police Chief William McManus and City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

Career Services also hosted the 2017 Spring Education Job Fair, designed to bring employers and College of Education and Human Development students together to network and discuss career opportunities. Twenty-eight employers from various private, public and charter schools participated in the event along with more than 100 students.



In October, more than 50 professional and graduate schools were represented at the inaugural Professional and Graduate School Fair. Over 100 jaguars were in attendance to learn about ways they can further their education beyond a bachelor’s degree. Due to the success of this event, it will be an annual event coordinated every fall semester by Career Services.

CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY

2017 was a game-changing year for the Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security (CITCS), highlighted by the arrival of Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, the center’s new director and chair of the Department of Computing and Cyber Security.

Center redesignated by NSA



Last fall, the CITCS was redesignated by the National Security Agency (NSA) as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) through the year 2022. This prestigious designation put the University among a select group of institutions nationwide meeting rigorous federal standards. At an event on campus to celebrate this news in October, U.S. Representative Will Hurd discussed the NSA designation’s significance in spurring San Antonio’s economy and meeting the national demand of cyber security personnel.

“As cyber threats become more common and continue to evolve, universities like Texas A&M-SA are training tomorrow’s digital warriors,” said Hurd, a computer science major from Texas A&M University who served as an intelligence officer in the CIA and a senior cyber security advisor in the private sector. “This impressive designation not only helps attract the best and brightest to San Antonio to pursue careers in IT security, it also contributes directly to the city’s leadership in the cyber security industry.”

“UNIVERSITIES LIKE TEXAS A&M-SAN ANTONIO ARE TRAINING TOMORROW’S DIGITAL WARRIORS.”

Will Hurd,
U.S. Representative

San Antonio is home to the second-largest concentration of cyber security experts in the nation. According to a recent national report, the demand for cyber security professionals is growing at 12 times the overall job market, making cyber security one of the most highly sought-after and high-paying careers in the country. A&M-SA teaches students a distinctive “business-embedded” approach to learning and applying cyber security. This signature focus empowers students to leverage cyber security as a competitive advantage instead of just an ‘add-on’ IT function.”

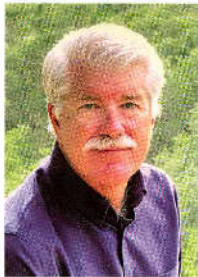
NSA grant will foster development of cyber security modules

Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, director of the CITCS, Dr. Jeong Yang, assistant professor of computer science, and Dr. Ummugul Bulut, assistant professor of mathematics, won a \$131,000 grant from the National Security Agency to build cyber security modules. These modules are designed to infuse cyber security concepts into curricula at all levels of computing education—from high-school through community college to university education. This will allow the University to bolster its position as a leading provider of cyber education throughout the region.

INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESOURCES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Established in 2015, the Institute for Water Resources Science and Technology strives to create water research and educational pathways for A&M-SA students and faculty, as well as establish partnerships that will help solve the many water resource challenges facing San Antonio and the region in the 21st century and beyond.

Institute receives University's first NSF grant



In 2017, Dr. Rudolph "Rudy" Rosen, visiting professor and director of the Institute for Water Resources Science, received the University's first National Science Foundation grant for \$90,000. The grant is part of a larger project involving Texas A&M University and University of California Riverside called "Decision Support for Water Stressed Food, Energy, Water Nexus Decisions." The project involves trade-off analysis as well as improved

decision-support modeling and optimization between food, energy and water.

Dr. Rosen is the principal investigator for the San Antonio stakeholder outreach research. In this role, he oversees the facilitation and reporting of stakeholder involvement and workshop sessions, as well as develops surveys and conducts continual stakeholder outreach and education activities throughout the course of the study. A&M-SA students are participating in the research project.

New master's degree in water resources science and technology approved

A&M-SA received approval last year for a new Master of Science in Water Resources Science and Technology, starting in fall 2018. By producing highly qualified graduates and generating knowledge through associated research, the new degree program will help San Antonio and South Central Texas address the intensifying demands on water in the face of the region's growing population.



Water-saving gardening system combines local crop and native species

Dr. Jose Rodolfo Valdez Barillas, assistant professor of biology, and Roberto Rios, an undergraduate biology major, created five demonstrative plots to showcase a local variety of Heirloom Serrano Pepper grown in alternated rows with two wild plant species (purple clover and Buffalo grass). Each plot is watered with a dripper irrigation system. The Heirloom Serrano Peppers were purchased from a local seed provider, David's Garden Seed, owned by U.S. Army veteran David Shulze.

The project goal is to showcase a small water-saving gardening system that combines a local crop and two native species. At a total cost of \$350, the strip-farming design combines a garden crop with a native grass to add soil stability and purple clover, a nitrogen-fixing legume. The system is also designed to be water efficient and free of pesticide fertilizer, providing a pollinator-friendly flowering species (purple clover). Because the project uses dripper irrigation, the plots can be watered twice a week even under Stage 2 drought restrictions.



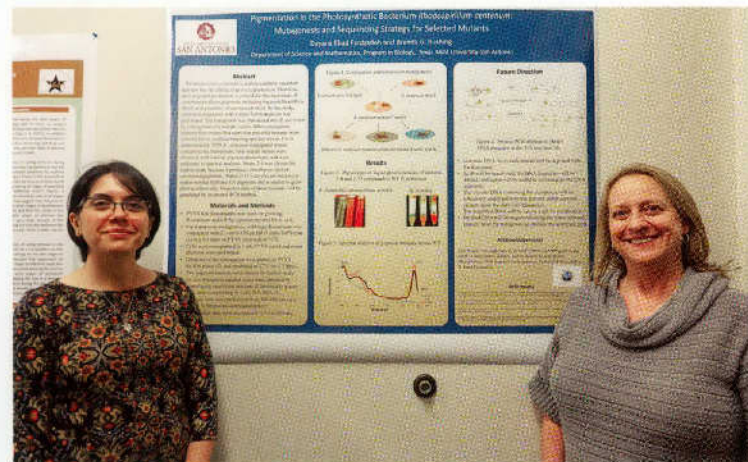
SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) students consistently demonstrate excellence in their academic, extracurricular and professional achievements. In 2017, there was no shortage of Jaguar pride as students were recognized for myriad accomplishments. Following is a sample of these achievements.

A&M-SA students recognized by Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine

In February, a group of A&M-SA kinesiology students traveled to Waco for the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (TACSM), hosted by Baylor University.

During the meeting, TACSM honored Maricela Martinez as the 2016 A&M-SA Kinesiology Student of the Year. Additionally, student Brian Burkholder presented research on the accuracy of wrist-worn monitors while walking in lower limb prosthetic users. Students Melissa Moore, Bree Anna Gammel, Ariel Reinartz and Adriana Waldo presented on the effects of foam rolling on flexibility.



Fardzadeh wins honors in the Orville Ways Award

Student Dayana Ebad Fardzadeh won second place in the Orville Wyss Award competition at the Texas Branch meeting of the American Society for Microbiology. Fardzadeh was recognized for her research on pigment production in photosynthetic bacteria, which she conducted working alongside Assistant Professor Brenda Rushing, Ph.D.

Communications students honored at 2017 Region 8 Mark of Excellence Awards

Communications students Juliet Mendoza, Leah Ann Riley and Karenna Reyna (left to right) were announced as finalists in the 2017 Region 8 Mark of



Excellence Awards, which annually honors the best of collegiate journalism. This is the third consecutive year that A&M-SA communications students were named as finalists.

History Club members receive Caldwell Memorial Awards



In March, the History Club proudly represented A&M-SA at the Texas State Historical Association annual meeting in Houston. Club members Adam Stevenson, Lindsay Summerville and alumnus Deane Rapp each won a Caldwell Memorial

Award, which annually recognizes outstanding student research papers on Texas History.

Karman wins first place at physical education, recreation and dance conference

Kinesiology student Nicole Karman presented her research, "Motivational and Learning Strategies between Kinesiology and Education Students," at this year's Texas Association for Physical Education, Recreation and Dance conference in Galveston. Karman was awarded first place in the undergraduate category.



Students honored at 2017 Jaguar Awards

On April 22, students, faculty, staff and guests gathered on campus for the 2017 Jaguar Awards. Hosted by the Student Activities Office, the awards recognize leadership and involvement in the University community. Following is the list of student winners:

- Outstanding New Student Organization of the Year: Environmental Club
- Fundraiser of the Year: Bilingual Education Student Organization
- Community Service Award: Pre-Health Society
- Student Volunteer of the Year: Courtney Bendele
- Student Leader of the Year: Maria Gaona
- Sport Club Leader of the Year: Martin Calderon
- Student Organization President of the Year: Jorlanditha “Tiffany” Austin, Black Student Union
- Student Organization of the Year: Pre-Health Society

Austin becomes fellow in Focus Forward



Communications senior Tiffany Austin became a fellow in the Focus Forward Fellowship. This program is designed to build skills, leadership and a sense of community among women student veterans and military-connected women students.

Fellows were selected through a competitive process and received scholarships for the program. As part of her fellowship, Austin participated in the four-day residency in Indianapolis, Indiana, in July. She is continuing to participate in additional web-based activities throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.

Morgan named Teacher of the Year



Graduate student and kindergarten teacher Lauren Morgan was named Teacher of the Year for Ted Flores Elementary School in Pearsall ISD. As a graduate student in the Reading Program, Morgan is acquiring new content knowledge and studying theoretical

frameworks that inform her practice. She expects to graduate in spring 2018.

Mother and daughter graduate together



Debbie and Danielle Saldaña, a dynamic San Antonio mother-daughter duo, deepened their bond when they both became alumni of A&M-SA on the same day. Each earned a bachelor's degree on May 19 at the University's Spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony.

Debbie and Danielle sat together at the event while sporting their recently received class rings and ornamented graduation caps. A crowd of family members and friends were present at Freeman Coliseum to cheer on the ladies. Debbie stated that she knew her brother—the late SAPD Detective Benjamin Marconi who was killed while on duty in 2016—was there in spirit.



Barrientes presents at Texas Undergraduate Research at the Capitol

Texas Undergraduate Research at the Capitol invited Christian Barrientes, an undergraduate business student, to present his mathematics research at its annual research event last March. Barrientes' research, “A Practical Understanding of the Mysterious Central Limit Theorem,” details the distribution of the arithmetic mean that approaches a normal representation. The purpose of the event is to showcase the experiences of undergraduate students engaged in research for Texas legislators and the public through high-quality poster displays.

Two students attend prestigious Ph.D. Project conference

A&M-SA students William Manning and Tiffany Austin were selected to participate in the Ph.D. Project conference in November in Chicago. Founded by KPMG Foundation in 1994, the award-winning program strives to create diversity in management by recruiting minority professionals from business into doctoral programs in all business disciplines. Qualified candidates are invited to this annual conference where they hear from deans, professors and current minority doctoral students about the benefits of pursuing a business Ph.D.





CAMPUS LIFE

2017 marked the first year in the history of Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) that all students took classes on one campus. With a single location for the University's 6,500 students, a new residence hall for many to call home, and the launch of several innovative programs and new facilities—campus life leaped to new heights.

University opens first residence hall

In its first year of operation, Esperanza Hall is “home” to nearly 250 Jaguars. On August 19, first-year students received the keys to their rooms in the University's first residence hall. Move-In Day for these freshmen was action packed as students and their families and friends arrived in waves. Transfer students moved into Esperanza several weeks later in the midst of Hurricane Harvey.

The University hosted the Grand Opening for Esperanza Hall on October 4, officially ushering in a new era of residential life on campus. Students, faculty and staff along with community leaders and guests attended the event, which included remarks by Phillip Ray, vice chancellor for business affairs of The Texas A&M University System; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-SA; and Jamie Wilhelm, EVP for Public-Private Transactions with American Campus Communities.

At full capacity, Esperanza Hall can accommodate 376 students. The four-story building is a state-of-the-art facility offering the latest amenities, including a fitness center, a recreation center equipped with arcade games, an Academic Success Center with iMacs and free printing, on-site laundry, private study pods and a multimedia area.



Kinesiology Pavilion and Recreational Field “open for business”

Students and faculty rejoiced the much-anticipated opening of two facilities last fall. The 6,000-square-foot Kinesiology Pavilion opened in August, giving kinesiology faculty and students ample space to conduct research and learn more about health and movement. The pavilion also serves students participating in Recreational Sports as well as those looking for a covered outdoor space to exercise.

In October, students began roaming the plush grass of the University's first Recreational Field. The 64,000-square-foot space is available to students playing in Recreational Sports leagues such as flag football and soccer. The field also serves as a lab space for faculty and undergraduate and graduate students in the Kinesiology Program.



A&M-SA tops off new Science and Technology Building

On September 21, several hundred people attended the University's Topping Off Ceremony for the Science and Technology Building. The event celebrated the installation of the last beam in the 130,000-square-foot building, which will open in fall 2018. Prior to the event, attendees signed a steel beam that will be installed in the stairwell of the second floor of the building. The beam will be elevated 12 feet off the ground, visible to passersby for many years to come.

The Science and Technology Building will house the natural sciences, cyber security and kinesiology programs as well as the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. It will feature more than 30 classrooms and labs, dedicated spaces customized for science and technology instruction and research, as well as faculty offices and collaborative areas for students.

With total project costs coming in under budget, an additional 20,000 square feet of space was approved after construction began. This space will support current programs in the sciences as well as future programs in engineering. Construction for the additional square footage will be completed in 2019.

General's Store opens on campus to address food insecurity

Many students nationwide struggle to be self-sufficient while also paying for college. For many of them, food insecurity is a real problem. Feeding America reported that 1 in 10 of its clients are students, with 2 million working full-time jobs and 1 million working part-time jobs.



To address food insecurity on campus, the University opened its food pantry, General's Store, in February. Through a partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, the store provides supplemental food to members of the A&M-SA community who need assistance. The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement manages General's Store, which is staffed by students and has served more than 370 University community members since its opening.

Enhancements made to dining hall and food services

Jaguars' palates rejoiced when the University's dining hall, The Marketplace, opened in August following renovations. The Marketplace now offers extended hours and new, delicious food options that vary by season. A&M-SA also welcomed food trucks and Jaguar Coffee to campus to diversify students' food and beverage options.

Consolidation of satellite campuses brings more students to main campus

In January, A&M-SA consolidated several of its satellite campuses as part of its master plan for enrollment growth and development of the main campus. A number of students, staff and faculty transitioned from classes offered on the Brooks City Base campus and the Alamo University Center to join the burgeoning 700-acre main campus on University Way. This consolidation, coupled with continued enrollment growth and the opening of Esperanza Hall, contributed to the increasingly dynamic life on the main campus.

Board of Regents approves new building

In 2017, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and Chancellor John Sharp approved Phase 1 of a new academic, classroom and administration building for the A&M-SA campus. The \$25-million, 45,000-square-foot building will open in 2020.

Classrooms and parking expand to accommodate student growth

In an effort to keep pace with continued growth (student enrollment increased 20 percent from fall 2016 to fall 2017), A&M-SA built two new modular buildings in 2017 offering 17 additional classrooms. The University also doubled its parking capacity, adding more than 1,000 spaces with the opening of Parking Lot #3 on the west side of campus.



CAMPUS LIFE



Student health services now available on campus

As part of the University's ongoing effort to provide a full range of student services, A&M-SA introduced student health services on campus in 2017. Through a partnership with Baptist Health Solutions, the new onsite mobile health clinic is open 15 hours during the week, located in the circular drive behind the Central Academic Building. Students can stop by the mobile unit and receive medical consultations for \$10 with their A&M-SA student ID card. No insurance is needed for these onsite visits.



Military Affairs expands support to students, hosts state-wide conference for vet support

In 2017, the Office of Military Affairs continued to expand its support for military-connected students and families through a variety of programs, resources and events.

In June, A&M-SA announced it is a partner in TXServes San Antonio, a military-focused organization that connects service members, veterans and their families to qualified and appropriate resources to help them find housing, employment, legal services and education assistance. "As a Military Embracing™ University with a student population that is 17 percent military-connected, Texas A&M-San Antonio is pleased to partner with TXServes San Antonio," said Richard Delgado Jr., director of military affairs. "They will provide our students with greater access to a whole host of community resources."

The size of A&M-SA's Jaguar detachment of Army ROTC has nearly doubled since 2016 and is expected to continue growing. For the first time, the cadets range from freshmen to senior students. All ROTC cadets will commission as Second Lieutenants upon graduation.

In October, A&M-SA, with the help of Military Affairs, served as the host campus for the inaugural "Combining Forces," the Annual All-Texas Veteran Higher Education Support Symposium. Hosted by The Texas A&M University System and The University of Texas System, the event was designed to bring stronger focus and impact on the academic paths of student veterans. The two-day conference featured panelists and speakers from around the state and nation who shared strategies and best practices to support veterans and enhance learning outcomes.

Campus participates in Common Experience

The Common Experience is a year-long initiative—based on a selected theme—that is designed to cultivate an ongoing intellectual conversation and facilitate increased interactions among faculty, staff and students. The theme for the 2017-18 academic year, "Exploring Intersections of Identity in Our Diverse World," was the focus of a series of programs and events throughout the academic year. As part of this program, the common read "Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work," written by Dave Isay, was given to all incoming freshmen in fall 2017.

Student Activities kicks off fall semester with action-packed week



From August 28 to September 1, Student Activities organized Welcome Week—A&M-SA's official kickoff to the academic year for students. This year's Welcome Week was

action-packed with dozens of campus activities. Various University offices, departments and organizations hosted events such as the President's Picnic, Coffee and Donuts with the Cops, Patriots' Casa Pachanga and General's Birthday Celebration, attracting crowds of students eager to have fun and learn about campus resources.

Student Affairs welcomes first cohort of early college high schoolers to campus



Eight students from Three Rivers Early College High School (ECHS) began their collegiate journey at the start of the fall 2017 semester. As part of an agreement between Three Rivers Independent School District and A&M-SA, these students

will take entry-level courses at A&M-SA twice a week while simultaneously earning high school credit at Three Rivers ECHS. This is the first student cohort to participate in this kind of program at A&M-SA.

A&M-SA expands opportunity for early college high schoolers with \$1.4 million in scholarships

In its efforts to expand the pipeline of opportunity for Texas ECHS graduates, A&M-SA applied for and received a \$1.4 million grant from the Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) Scholars Program. The grant will enable the University to advance its educational mission by offering 40 annual scholarships to select Texas ECHS graduates admitted over the course of eight years.

The GTF Scholars Program is designed to increase the number of Texas ECHS graduates who successfully transition to and complete a bachelor's degree. The program was founded in response to compelling data indicating that large numbers of Texas students were beginning, but not completing, post-secondary education.

Students in the first cohort are eligible to receive A&M-SA GTF scholarships in fall 2018. Most scholars will enroll with the equivalent of two years of college credits. The goal is for scholars to graduate with a bachelor's degree within three years.

First-Year Experience pilots innovative program for parents



Last fall, First-Year Experience launched an innovative pilot program called the Family First seminar. The program is designed to foster family members' active and ongoing role in student success. The community-oriented seminar was free and included nine one-hour sessions starting on October 2 and ending November 28. Eighteen people signed up for the inaugural Family First seminar in 2017, representing 10 families. Eleven of the people enrolled in the

program have a first-generation student at A&M-SA. (Read more in Cover Story.)



Rec Sports guides student-athletes to success, hosts yoga workout

2017 was the inaugural year for the University's basketball club team. Four players were selected as members of the Texas Community College Sports League's (TCCSL) All-Academic Team. Student athletes William Manning, Christopher Dodd, Vishal Bhakta and Cesar Lopez met the TCCSL criteria of maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher.

A&M-SA's basketball team also competed in the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Region IV Basketball Tournament held on the University of Houston campus. The flag football team, called The Generals, competed in the NIRSA Region IV Flag Football tournament held on the UT-Dallas campus, finishing second place in pool play before losing in the first round of the elimination bracket.

Closer to home, 175 eager fans participated in a DDP Yoga session on campus led by world-famous wrestler and fitness guru, Diamond Dallas Page. Page delivered a brief lecture about fitness and nutrition followed by an energetic and atypical yoga session. The event was co-hosted by Rec Sports, Marketing and Communications and Human Resources.

Secondary school students hone STEM skills at PREP Summer Program



The University welcomed 78 middle school and high school students for the Pre-freshman Engineering Program (PREP) during summer 2017. Under the direction of SA PREP Site Director Pam Massey, a lecturer in the bilingual program, the students participated in a range of activities and exercises focused on developing knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). PREP strives to increase the number of students from the San Antonio area who will ultimately pursue post-secondary studies and careers in STEM.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) faculty and staff logged a number of noteworthy achievements in 2017, ranging from presentations and publications to honors, awards and appointments.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Izzat Alsmadi, assistant professor in computing and cybersecurity, presented and published a paper entitled “The Evaluation of Weighted Cliques in OSNs” at the 2017 DataCom-CyberSciTec conference held in Orlando in November.

Michelle Anguiano and **D’Andrea Davila**, A&M-SA success coaches, presented “The GRR in Student Academic Success” at the University of Texas at Arlington Advising Association’s (UTAAA) 20th Annual Conference in February. Academic advisors, **Mary Prado** and **Gabby Cagliaris**, presented “Hello from the Advising Side: Alternative Outreach Methods for Disengaged Students.”



Dr. Mirley Balasubramanya, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave an invited talk, “Two Forms of the Action Variable in Quantum Mechanics,” at the TAMU-Princeton-Baylor Summer Symposium on Quantum Science and Engineering in Casper, Wyoming, in July.

Dr. Arne Baruca, assistant professor of marketing, presented “The Revenge of The Nerds: Uncovering Practices of E-sports and Fantasy Sports” at the Academy of Marketing Science conference in San Diego in May. The presentation was based on a paper Dr. Baruca co-authored with Ebru Ulusoy that explains the popularity of E-Sports from a practice theory perspective.



Dr. Edwin Blanton, executive director of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, presented “Maximizing Learning with a Campus Food Pantry” at the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) annual conference in September.



Dr. Eric Cooper, associate vice president for enrollment management, along with Bridgette Ingram and Clifton Jones, co-presented “Developing Highly Competent Financial Aid Professionals” at the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) annual conference.

Antoinette Curl, director of undergraduate advising, co-presented with Bernadette McHugh, “A Change Will Do You Good: Communication Strategies for Leading Your Advising Team through Institutional Change” at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) national conference.

Richard Delgado, Jr., director of military affairs, **Dr. KC Kalmbach**, associate professor of psychology, and **Dr. Sherita Love**, director of distance learning and instructional design, presented “Military Cultural Competence Training for Faculty and Staff” at the NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students in Washington, D.C.

Gretchen Doenges, coordinator of new student orientation and family programs, presented “Innovating Family Weekends While Ensuring Relevancy” at the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) national conference in November.

Emi Esparza, Eduardo Reyes and **Daniel Nagle-Pinkham**, A&M-SA tutors, presented “Come Chillax with Us: Outreach Events as Creative Play in the Center” at the Gulf States Student Success Conference. This presentation shared innovative methods to encourage student participation in tutoring and build positive relationships with the University community.

Dr. Tamara Hinojosa, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Health and Kinesiology, and **Dr. Suzanne Mudge**, professor and program director for counseling and guidance, presented “Using Authentic Mentorship to Help CES Doctoral Students of Color Thrive” with former graduate student Carlos Medina (now alumnus) at the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision’s national conference in Chicago.



Dr. Tracy Hurley, dean of the College of Business, was a keynote panelist at the American Association of University Professors conference on inclusive access in Austin in September. The panel was called “Using Digital Materials to Increase Retention and Graduation Rates.”



Dr. KC Kalmbach, associate professor of psychology, presented “Culturally Engaging Military Students in Higher Ed” at SXSW Edu’s Future 20 Conference in March. She spoke about the importance and benefits of providing higher education faculty and staff with military cultural competency training.



Dr. Marvin Lutnesky, professor and chair of the Department of Science and Mathematics, presented “How May Population Density Influence Rates of Sex Change in Fishes?” at a joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Austin. The paper was co-authored with Dr. Brian B. Pasko and Dr. Thomas R. Brown.

Dr. Melissa Mahan, vice president for student affairs, shared “From Grief to Grit-The Asilomar Declaration and Call to Action: Personal, Political, Policy” at the International Leadership Association (ILA) Women’s Leadership Affinity Group in June.



Pru Morris, interim library director, co-presented “Consortial Licensing: Lessons Learned from SCELC and A&M-SA Joint Vendor Negotiations” with Eric Chao, library relations manager for the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium, at the annual Electronic Resources & Libraries (ER&L) Conference.



Dr. Andrew Sanders, assistant professor of political science, presented the findings of his paper entitled “Brexit: Security Concerns, Constitutional Change and Civil Unrest in Great Britain and Northern Ireland from Interdisciplinary Perspectives” at the 12th annual conference on Interdisciplinary Social Science in Hiroshima, Japan.



Dr. Ashley Spicer-Runnels, assistant vice-president for student success, presented “Journey to Excellence: Cultivating Student & Academic Success” at the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) national conference.

Dr. John Smith, associate professor of kinesiology, presented “Accuracy of Wrist-Worn Activity Monitors During Treadmill and Elliptical Ergometry” at the 2017 American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in Denver.

Leslie Stapleton, archives and special collections manager at the University Library, presented “Texas A&M University Library: Archives & Special Collections” for the James George Chapter and William Barrett Travis Chapter of the DRT and the San Antonio Chapter of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez. Stapleton also presented “Not No, but Hell No!” for the San Antonio History Symposium.

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-SA, participated on the President’s Panel at the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) conference in Las Vegas in April. She also presented “The Challenges of Higher Education in a Diverse and Divergent World” for the Opening Plenary Session at the American Educational Research Association’s (AERA) annual meeting in April.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Sarah Timm, public services manager of the University Library, co-presented “Small but Mighty: An Academic Library’s Tale of Effective Use of Small Space for Multiple User Groups” with Stefanie Wittenbach for the Amigos Online Conference, Library Space for All Ages.

Dr. Jose Rodolfo Valdez Barillas, assistant professor of biology, presented the poster, “Smartphones Can Complement Bird Survey Data When Designing Noise Buffer for the Preservation of Bird Habitat in South Bexar County Texas,” at the Audubon Society National convention in Park City, Utah.



Dr. Ed Westermann, professor of history, gave invited talks on his 2016 book, *Hitler’s Ostkrieg and the Indian Wars: Comparing Genocide and Conquest*, at Appalachian State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and West Point. He was also one of seven international scholars to present at Columbia for a teachers program for Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in June.

Kat Whitaker, coordinator of university 101 programs, presented “Getting to the Career: Incorporating Career Readiness Competencies in Peer Leader Programs” at the National Mentoring Symposium in October.

Kathryn Zepeda and **John De La Rosa**, A&M-SA success coaches, along with **Mercedes Torres**, tutoring center coordinator, presented “How’s That Working for Ya?” at the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA) national conference, the College Readiness and Learning Association (CLRA) national conference, and the University Advisors and Counselors (UAC) conference.

Faculty enrich international content at Fulbright symposium

A&M-SA faculty gave presentations covering a range of international and cultural topics at the 2017 Southwest Fulbright Symposium in San Antonio in September.

- **Dr. Stephanie Black**, “Cross-Cultural Differences in Professional’s Advice Networks: Whom Do Our Leaders Turn to for Advice?”
- **Dr. Izzat Alsmadi**, “Opinion Mining: Progress and Challenges in Arabic Language”
- **Douglas Carter, ABD**, “Leading Experiential Learning in International Settings: The New Study Abroad” (Dr. Leonard Love, co-author)
- **Dr. Daniel Glaser**, “Faculty Exchange from Romania to Texas”
- **Dr. Dennis Elam**, “Convergence Not – A Socioeconomic Analysis of a Globalization Failure”
- **Dr. Joseph Simpson**, “Global Women’s Empowerment and Human Drivers of Climate change” (Dr. Vicky Elisa, co-author)
- **Dr. Jennifer C. Wilson**, “Community Literacy Through Art in Liberia” (Kathy Puente, co-author)
- **Dr. Hsiaoping Wu**, “International Student’s Challenge and Adjustment to College-Insider and Outside’s Perspectives”

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Jack Ayres, assistant professor of English, completed “Hitler Wins Now: New Nazi Alternate Histories in British Popular Fiction” for the journal *Contemporary Literature*. It is also a chapter in his book manuscript *Orwell’s Mirrors: Yearning and Mourning Social Democracy in Contemporary British Fiction*.

Dr. Billy Brocato, lecturer in sociology, wrote a paper accepted for publication in *The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology*. “Competing Institutional Logics and Teaching Effectiveness in Traditional and Online University Classrooms” will appear in a special online teaching issue in early 2018.



Dr. William Bush, associate professor of history and chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities, co-edited a scholarly book with Dr. David S. Tanenhaus, professor of history and law at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. The book, entitled *Ages of Anxiety: Historical and Transnational Perspectives on Juvenile Justice*, will be published in July 2018 by New York University Press as part of its series entitled *Youth, Crime, and Justice*.



Dr. Sandra DeGrassi, assistant professor of management, published “The Role of the Applicant’s Moral Identity and the Firm’s Performance on the Ethical Signals/Organization Attraction Relationship” in the *Journal of Business Ethics*.

Dr. James Finley, assistant professor of English, edited a collection of 35 essays entitled *Henry David Thoreau in Context*, published in 2017 by Cambridge University Press. In July, Dr. Finley was an invited faculty member for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for Teachers held at the Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts.



Dr. Durant Frantzen, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice and chair of the Department of Social Sciences, published a new book, “*Texas’s Criminal Justice System*,” by Carolina Academic Press. The book examines the major aspects of the Texas Criminal Justice system, including policing, courts, criminal law, corrections, juvenile justice and victim services.



Dr. Francis Galan, assistant professor of history, wrote a book chapter called “A Tainted Friendship: The Betrayal of Tejanos in the Republic of Texas” in *Single Star of the West: The Republic of Texas, 1836-1845*, published in 2017 by University of North Texas Press.



Dr. Katherine Gillen, assistant professor of English, published her book, *Chaste Value: Economic Crisis, Female Chastity, and the Production of Social Difference on Shakespeare’s Stage*, with Edinburgh University Press in July 2017 as part of its series called *Critical Studies in Shakespeare and Philosophy*.

Dr. Adrian Guardia, assistant professor of management, and **Dr. Amy Dicke-Bohman**, assistant professor of psychology, co-authored an article accepted for publication in *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. “The Baby Boomer Bias: The Negative Impact of Generational Labels on Older Workers” found that individuals identified as Baby Boomers were viewed more negatively across four different scenarios and that this effect was modified by Social Dominance Orientation and Power Distance Orientation.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Qi Han, assistant professor of mathematics, published “Compact Embedding Results of Sobolev Spaces and Existence of Positive Solutions to Quasilinear Equations” in *Bulletin des Sciences Mathématiques et Astronomiques*, as well as “Some Uniqueness Results Related to L-Functions” in *Bollettino dell’Unione Matematica Italiana*.

Dr. Sean Kearney, assistant professor and interim dean in the College of Education and Human Development, co-authored a book with Page A. Smith called *Bullying from Streets to Schools: Information for Those Who Care*, published by Rowman and Littlefield.



Dr. William S. Kiser, assistant professor of history, published a new book, *Borderland of Slavery: The Struggle over Captivity and Peonage in the American Southwest*. The book presents a comprehensive history of debt peonage and Indian captivity, and emphasizes the lasting legacies of slavery in Southwestern culture and society.

Dr. Sukho Lee, associate professor of kinesiology, co-authored “Sport-based Physical Activity Intervention on Body Weight in Children and Adolescents: A Meta-analysis” in the *Journal of Sports Sciences* along with Dr. Kyung Kim, Gina Ok (A&M-SA graduate assistant), Dr. Soeun Jeon and Dr. Minsoo Kang. Dr. Lee also co-authored “Acute Effects of Kinesio Taping on Muscle Function and Fatigue Level in Healthy Adults” in the *European Journal of Exercise Science* with Dr. Nanhee Lee, Dr. Hyun Chul Jung and Gina Ok.

Pru Morris, interim library director and Sarah Timm, public services manager in the University Library, co-authored “Let Me Check My Messages: One Academic Library’s Story of ILLiad and Text message Notifications,” published in the *Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Electronic Reserve*.



Dr. Mike O’Brien, provost and vice president of academic affairs, co-authored a new book with Alex Bentley, Ph.D., chair of the anthropology department at the University of Tennessee. Published by MIT Press, *The Acceleration of Cultural Change: From Ancestors to Algorithms* explores how the transmission of culture has evolved over millennia from slow-moving exchanges of local ancestral knowledge into vast and instantaneous transactions across the Internet of people and devices.

Dr. Robert Page, assistant professor of biology, co-authored “Movement and Overwinter Survival of Released Captive-Raised Juvenile American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) in Southeastern Oklahoma, USA” with Dr. Jared P. Wood and Dr. Tim M. Patton, published in *Herpetological Review*.



Dr. Brenda Rowe, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, published “Persona Non Grata: The Marginalization of Legal Scholarship in Criminology and Criminal Justice Journals” with co-authors Dr. Wesley McCann and Dr. Craig Hemmens of Washington State University in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

Dr. John Smith, associate professor of kinesiology, co-authored several published articles with student-mentored authors (in bold): “Leg Compressions Improve Ventilatory Efficiency while Reducing Peak and Post Exercise Blood Lactate, but Does Not Improve Perceived Exertion, Exercise Economy or Aerobic Exercise Capacity in Endurance-Trained Runners” in *Respiratory Physiology & Neurobiology*, with co-authors **Eric Rivas** and Dr. Nestor W. Sherman, and “Effect of Swedish Massage on DOMS after Strenuous Exercise” in *International Journal of Exercise Science*, with **Cathleen Holub**.

Dr. Josephine Sosa-Fey, professor of management, and co-author Brit Peek (A&M-SA MBA alumnus), published “Management of Integrative Healthcare” in *Academy of Business Research Journal*.



Dr. Megan Wise de Valdez, associate professor of biology, published “Mosquito Species Distribution across Urban, Suburban, and Semi-Rural Residences in San Antonio, Texas” in the *Journal of Vector Ecology*. In addition, Dr. Wise de Valdez is one of two women now serving on the Texas Mosquito Control Board, the state’s mosquito control association.

HONORS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS



Gilbert C. Barrera, Jr., JD, CPA, MPA, assistant professional track in the Department of Accounting, received an Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the Texas Society of CPAs (TSCPA). The award recognizes Texas accounting educators who demonstrated excellence in teaching and have distinguished themselves through active service to the profession.

Dr. Mariya Davis, assistant professor of special education, is serving as the vice president of the Texas Council for Learning Disabilities.

Cynthia De Leon, associate registrar, was recently appointed to the National Degree Works Customer Advisory Board at Ellucian, a technology solutions and services provider that helps higher education institutions achieve student success. De Leon will work to improve Ellucian's Degree Works program, which provides comprehensive academic advising, transfer articulation and degree audit solutions to help students graduate on time.

Dr. Joselyn Del Pilar, associate professor of chemistry, was selected to participate in the Department of Energy's Visiting Faculty Program at the Ames National Laboratory (AMES) for the summer 2017 term. The program seeks to increase the research competitiveness of faculty members and students at institutions historically underrepresented in the research community.



Chryssa Delgado, development officer in the Office of Institutional Advancement, was selected to San Antonio's "Top 40 under 40" by the *San Antonio Business Journal*. Winners were chosen based on their professional accomplishments and impact on the community. A panel of former "40 Under 40" recipients selected the 2017 winners from nearly 200 nominations.



Dr. Theresa Garfield, associate professor of special education, was selected to serve on the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Committee, which will govern the standards and practices for the entire field of special education. She is one of 10 individuals nationwide selected to help guide this process.

Dr. Lydia Gerzel-Short, assistant professor of special education, was accepted into the first Leadership Institute for the Council for Learning Disabilities.

Laurie Ann Guerrero, A&M-SA's inaugural visiting writer in residence and Texas Poet Laureate, received the Outstanding Latino/a Cultural Award in the Literary Arts or Publications from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Inc.



Anthony Medina (left), director of development, graduated from the Alexander Briseno Leadership Development Program in 2017. Offered by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the program is designed to enrich leadership and

professional development through strategic planning, change management, teamwork, sustainability and civic engagement.

Arturo Olague (right), director of recreational sports, was selected to participate in this program in 2018.



Dr. Corinna Ross, assistant professor of biology, organized the symposium "Marmosets as Translational Models for Aging Studies," co-sponsored by the National Institute of Aging at the American Society of Primatologists in Washington, D.C. in August. The symposium proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *American Journal of Primatology* that Dr. Ross will guest edit for release in 2018. She was also invited to become a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Primatology* and her term will begin January 2018.



FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is committed to generating new knowledge through research. In 2017, faculty and students explored a wide range of research questions addressing real-world problems.

Validation of wristband performance



With the support of a \$30,000 grant from Medi Plus Solution, **Dr. Sukho Lee**, associate chair of kinesiology, embarked on a year-long study of the “Validation of the Wristband Device for the Measurement of Physical Activity.” It is one of the largest externally funded, unrestricted research grants awarded to University faculty. Dr. Lee collaborated with kinesiology undergraduate students to assist him with the procedures, as well as graduate student Soeun Jeon and postdoctoral fellow and visiting scholar Dr. Nanhee Lee. The research team tested the newly-developed wristband called the Neofit, validating the accuracy of the heart rate, step count and calories burned of the device based on readings from the standard methods,

Then, they compared values with the most widely used wristband—the Fitbit. The preliminary results of the Neofit study showed moderate accuracy in heart rate, step count and energy expenditures. Dr. Sukho Lee will present results of the project at the American College of Sport Medicine’s (ACSM) 65th Annual Meeting in 2018.

Oil price volatility and the U.S. stock market



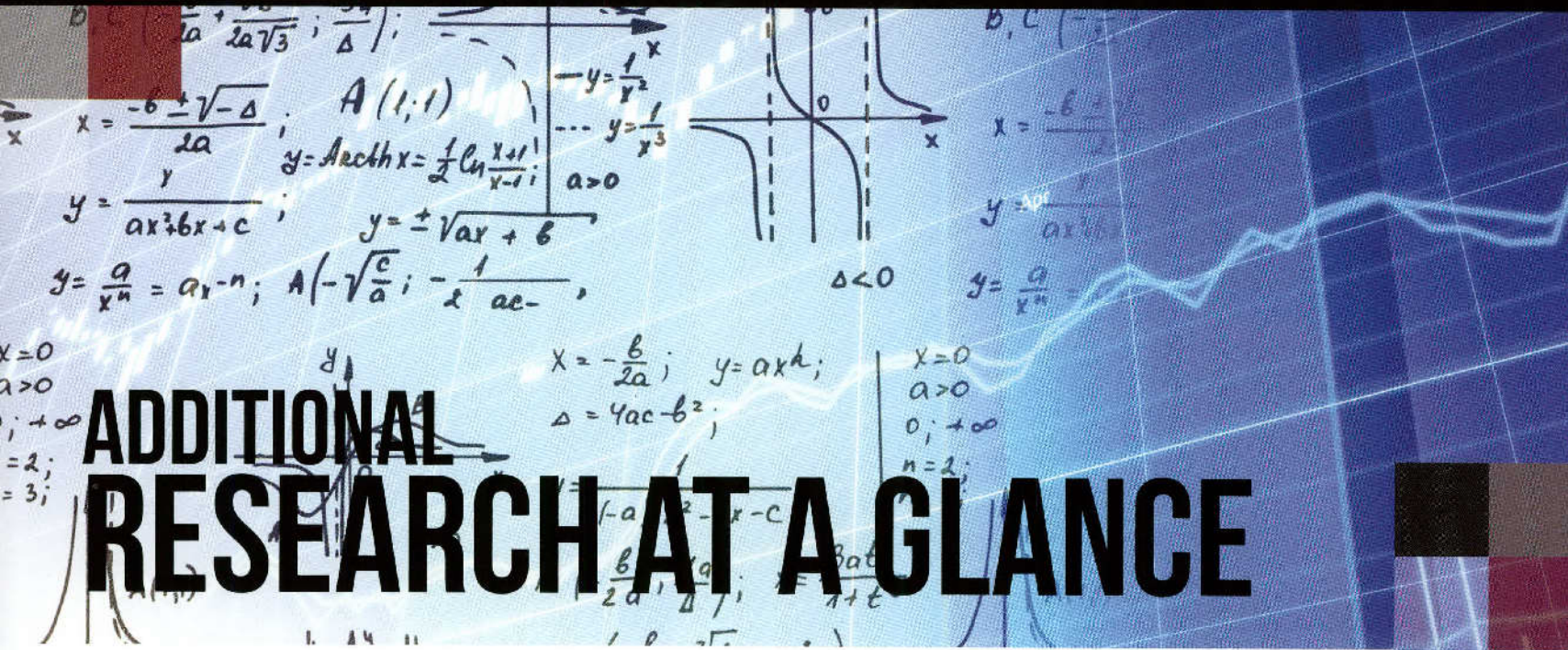
Recent empirical research on the relationship between energy prices and financial markets has ignored the role of volatility in oil prices. **Dr. Sajjadur Rahman**, assistant professor of economics, is investigating this relationship by focusing on the effects of oil price volatility shocks on U.S. real stock returns. Specifically, Dr. Rahman is isolating the effects of volatility in the change in the price of oil on real stock returns and calculating the dynamic responses of stock returns to a shock to oil price volatility. He has found evidence that increased oil price volatility has a negative effect on U.S. real

stock returns. His results remain unchanged in the context of the transmission of oil price volatility shocks to the U.S. stock market and disaggregate returns of a number of industry portfolios. “These findings suggest that investors should consider oil price volatility in addition to other potential factors that affect stock returns,” Dr. Rahman said.



Facial recognition

Dr. Dawn Weatherford, assistant professor of psychology, conducted facial recognition research in 2017 involving the role of expertise in information processing, with a specific focus on facial processing and problem-solving. Dr. Weatherford and her students conducted most of the research in the Memory, Attention, and Perception (MAP) Research Laboratory, an on-campus laboratory equipped with computers, a webcam and eye-trackers to measure gaze patterns and virtual reality equipment. Last spring, 17 student researchers studied and worked in the lab on four facial recognition studies. Dr. Weatherford, with the help of her students, will produce findings that are compelling enough to change federal procedures when identifying people with photo identification. “I want to build a research agenda that’s strong enough where I can share it with the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Transit Authority,” she said.



ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Cyberbullying legislation



Dr. Brenda Rowe, assistant professor of criminology, is conducting research on cyberbullying legislation, with the assistance of undergraduate criminology and criminal justice students **Angelica**

Avila and **Preston Heimburger**. Their study analyzes state statutes pertaining to cyberbullying and identifies both common features and innovative approaches to address this issue.

Embracing freedom in San Antonio during Reconstruction



Dr. Philis Barragan, assistant professor of history, is mentoring **Moriah Torres**, a student at A&M-SA who is interning for the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum. The

researchers are exploring the political, social, cultural and economic tactics African Americans in San Antonio used to embrace freedom during the Reconstruction era.

Militarization and environmental degradation on the U.S.-Mexico border



Dr. Jennifer Correa, assistant professor of sociology, collaborated with **Dr. Joseph Simpson**, assistant professor of sociology, and undergraduate research assistant **Heidi Moore** to examine how—

in the wake of the 2006 Secure Fence Act—intensifying militarization along the Texas Rio Grande has produced increasing environmental harms and human suffering in that region.

Solitary confinement



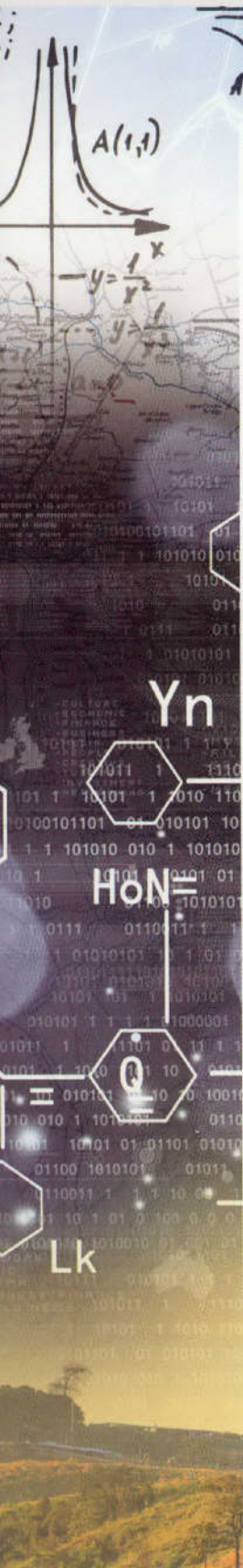
Dr. Brenda Rowe conducted research on the laws pertaining to the use of solitary confinement, a rapidly evolving area of law due to growing concerns about the negative impact of the practice on

inmates' mental health. Preliminary findings indicate a trend towards restricting the use of solitary confinement for vulnerable populations, such as juveniles, pregnant women and inmates with mental illnesses.





FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION



Civil War diplomacy in Mexico, slavery in the American West



Dr. Billy Kiser is conducting archival research for a new book project on Civil War diplomacy in northern Mexico, as well as for several other works in progress on slavery in the American West.

Spanish Texas in the 18th century



Dr. Francis Galan, assistant professor of history, conducted research in northwestern Louisiana related to his book manuscript, *Broken Border: The First Capital of Spanish Texas at Los Adaes on the Frontera of New Spain and Louisiana, 1721-1773*, which is currently under review at Texas A&M University Press.

College preparedness for elementary school students and their parents



Dr. Theresa Garfield, associate professor in special education, and **Dr. James Jurica**, associate professor in curriculum and instruction, are conducting research with renowned artist and marketing expert, Lionel Sosa, and his team at Yes! Our Kids Can. The research team piloted a new app geared towards elementary school children and their parents, and their understanding of key principles and beliefs needed to go to college. The pilot study was conducted with five first-grade classes at a local school district.

Complex analysis and number theory



Dr. Qi Han, assistant professor of mathematics, is conducting research to identify certain functional differential-difference equations that are closely related to the Riemann-zeta function and the Euler-gamma function. The research has significant potential in certain areas of dynamical systems related to cyber security.

Utilizing mobile devices to enrich the learning style of students



Dr. Arne Baruca, assistant professor of marketing, and co-researchers Dr. Enda F. McGovern and Dr. Cuauhtemoc Luna-Nevarez examined the impact of two mobile apps—Flipboard and Stitcher—on students' learning and engagement with class-assigned marketing materials. They found out that Flipboard has a positive impact on the students' learning experience.

U.S. equity crowdfunding



In the wake of the Jump Start our Business (JOBS) Act of 2012, which legalizes interstate equity crowdfunding in the U.S., there has been little research about what this nascent funding mechanism will offer to investors, as well as those seeking funding for entrepreneurial projects. **Dr. Stephanie Black**, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Lynda De la Vina are examining the anticipated implications of equity crowdfunding, including developing a conceptual model that demonstrates how crowdfunding may change the traditional equity-financing continuum.

Diagnostic markers for Lyme disease



Dr. Brenda Rushing, assistant professor of biology, is working on a collaborative project looking for diagnostic markers for Lyme disease in human serum. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is transmitted via tick bites. Dr. Rushing is using a novel enzyme technology in the laboratory of Dr. Alan Lambowitz of The University of Texas at Austin in order to detect and identify RNA markers from patient samples obtained from the Centers for Disease Control. This project has the potential for creating a robust diagnostic method for early Lyme infections.

Innovation and firm performance



Dr. Keming Li, assistant professor of finance, investigated the relationship between supplier innovation and firm performance, finding cross-sectional evidence that the positive innovation outputs of customer firms increase their supplier profitability as measured by firm return on equity (ROE). Dr. Li published an article on this research, "Innovation Externalities and the Customer/Supplier Link," in the *Journal of Banking & Finance*.

Deformations in the trachea



Dr. Kun Gou, assistant professor of mathematics, is working on a research project called "Nonlinear Tubular Organ Modeling and Analysis for Tracheal Angioedema by Swelling-Morphoelasticity." This project involves the study of one of the important human tubular organs, the trachea, under deformations caused by angioedema, a disease suddenly increasing the volume of the trachea tissue and causing breathing difficulty. His research serves as an exemplary study of the nonlinear deformation of tubular organs.

Bird and bat fatality related to wind farms



Ms. Sara Weaver, lecturer in biology, in collaboration with Bat Conservation International, is leading a study in Starr and Hidalgo Counties estimating bird and bat fatality rates at the Los Mirasoles Wind Farm, owned and operated by EDP Renewables. She will compare the results of this study to a neighboring facility where she is also conducting research for the first multi-company wind energy collaboration in the U.S., with the objective of improving our understanding of wind energy and its potential impact on wildlife.

Genetic variation of the Eastern Red-Backed Salamander



The Eastern Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) is one of the most common vertebrates in eastern North America. **Dr. Robert Page**, assistant professor biology, and colleagues have been investigating genetic variation within and between three geographic regions of the red-backed salamander's range. They identified aquatic barriers and post-glacial range expansion as important factors influencing genetic diversity. In collaboration with researchers at Washington and Lee University, Dr. Page and his students are expanding this work by using genetic resources to examine hybridization between the red-backed salamander and the vulnerable, range-restricted Peaks of Otter Salamander (*P. hubrichti*).





UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is known for traditions. As the University grows in stature, these traditions resonate more strongly with students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as members of the San Antonio community. In 2017, the University added a new event to its lineup of beloved traditions.



Ring Ceremonies (Spring and Fall)

The Ring Ceremony pays homage to each student's time at the University, including the hard work, sweet successes and indelible memories that will last a lifetime. The spring ceremony on April 8 and the fall ceremony on November 4 were filled with Jaguar pride as the University celebrated the many accomplishments of its students.

On the eve of each ceremony, the class rings are stowed in the dome of the Central Academic Building. Legend has it that "at nightfall before the ceremony, the dome holds the Spirit of the Jaguar..." and "the Spirit of the Jaguar illuminates the dome and permeates each class ring."



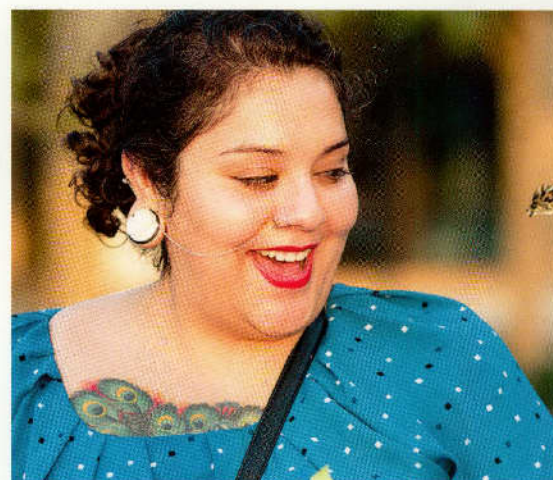
Jaguars Remembered

In April, the University held its first Jaguars Remembered program in the President's Rose Garden. Hosted by the Student Government Association and the Office of Alumni Relations, the event commemorates Jaguars who passed away in the last year. The first year's program honored the 23 alumni and students who have died since 2009. Modeled after Texas A&M University's Muster Roll Call of all students and former students "whom death has taken from our ranks, but whose memory lives on in our hearts," Jaguars Remembered reinforces A&M-SA's close ties to the A&M System Family.

Festival de Cascarones

The seventh annual Festival de Cascarones was a smash! More than 7,100 people came to campus to celebrate the official finale of Fiesta San Antonio on April 30. One of the highlights was an attempt to set a world record for the most cascarones broken at one event. Once the event emcee, Brandon Oliver, gave the signal, more than 2,000 participants commenced to cracking, showering the West Lawn with confetti. Musical acts La Dezz, Girl in a Coma and The Last Bandoleros entertained the crowd, while children enjoyed myriad fun-filled activities in the Kid Zone.





Arise

Two cohorts of incoming transfer students participated in the beloved Arise tradition in August. The inspiring event featured a welcome dinner for students and guests followed by a Butterfly Release Ceremony. During the dinner, each student participated in an exercise of hope, which involved writing down academic aspirations and placing the list in a paper butterfly cutout. To symbolize the launch of their aspirational lists, attendees proceeded to the Courtyard to release hundreds of Monarch butterflies into the evening sky.

May Commencement

On May 19, the University community gathered at Freeman Coliseum to congratulate 634 audacious graduates. Faculty, staff, family and friends were on hand to congratulate the students and welcome them into the ranks of A&M-SA alumni.

Jaguar March

On August 25, the University continued a remarkable tradition, the Jaguar March. The class of 2021 made the one-mile trek down University Way together to symbolize the start of their academic journey at A&M-SA. Members of the University and the San Antonio communities, walked alongside the 580 first-year students. The march unifies the freshman class in a shared tradition, the first of many they will experience together.





Fall Fest

The Campus Activities Board brought harvest season to campus during Fall Fest on October 21. The annual event supports fundraising efforts of A&M-SA student organizations. The 2017 version included the naming of the 2017-2018 Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio, a petting zoo, a costume contest, games, a pumpkin patch and much more. Thirty-six booths, representing 27 student organizations and nine sponsors, served the approximately 1,000 people in attendance.



President's Picnic

The annual President's Picnic is a playful celebration bringing together the University community and welcoming new and returning Jaguars to campus. Students joined President Matson on the West Lawn to have lunch and celebrate the beginning of the academic year.



Lights of Esperanza

On November 28, the University celebrated the lighting of campus with more than 10,000 LED lights for Lights of Esperanza. Students and community members took a magical spin on the ice skating rink, played in real snow on the winter playground, enjoyed a snow slide and posed for pictures with General Claus.

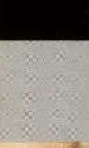
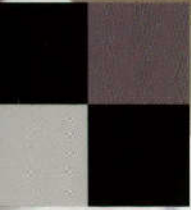
December Commencement

The University community celebrated the graduation of more than 650 undergraduate and graduate students on December 19. On that special day, the University surpassed its 10,000th degree conferred, achieving yet another milestone in its relatively short history.





MANY *Collaborations*
ONE *Vision*





By now we know the revolution will not abate. Relentless technological advances, profound demographic shifts and the boundless flow of information are transforming the way we live, work, study and play. These and other forces increased the pace of life in 2017 as well as the amount of change we witnessed.

In this dynamic environment, where organizations of all kinds face unprecedented challenges and unlimited opportunities, the role of higher education has arguably never been more important. For universities committed to educating students to think critically while being technically sound, ethically grounded and culturally competent, the potential to make a positive impact on society has quite possibly never been greater.

One thing is clear: No university can go it alone. The blueprint for success requires deeper resources and wider reach than any one institution could possibly muster. Increased collaboration—both inside classrooms and research labs as well as beyond campus boundaries—will be critical to universities' success.

To meet these challenges head on and exploit the boundless possibilities they represent, Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is reimagining traditional interactions among faculty, staff and students while forging unconventional partnerships with outside organizations. These alliances take all shapes and forms with entities ranging from the San Antonio Independent School District and Communities in Schools, to Bexar County, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and even the family members of current students.

Through these collaborations, A&M-SA remains singularly focused on its vision of serving as an economic, research and social catalyst that will become nationally recognized for student and academic success, embracing all students, especially those from underrepresented communities.

**INCREASED COLLABORATION
—BOTH INSIDE CLASSROOMS
AND RESEARCH LABS AS
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SUCCESS.**



Partnership boosts student trajectory, teaching competency at local school

Last fall, the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) embarked on a multifaceted partnership with Stewart Elementary School in San Antonio. At this “off-campus lab school,” A&M-SA has begun to implement a multi-year initiative designed to boost the academic trajectory of “at risk” students and develop a stronger teaching competency at the improvement-required (IR) school.

Through a collaboration with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) and Communities in Schools of San Antonio (CIS), and with the funding support of a \$50,000 grant from the San Antonio Area Foundation, the COEHD launched a unique mentoring program for students at Stewart Elementary. The program is called the University Peer Academic Student Support (U-PASS).

At Stewart Elementary, nearly 80 percent of the school’s students are identified as “at risk” of dropping out of school before the age of 12. To reduce these numbers, U-PASS is designed to improve students’ academic performance through mentoring relationships focused on creating pathways to college readiness.

This grant allows current A&M-SA juniors and seniors enrolled in the educator preparation program to use a near-

peer tutor approach that will impact 50 Stewart students in 3rd through 5th grade in high-needs areas over two years. With the assistance of CIS, A&M-SA students are paired with Stewart students based on their at-risk status. The program is designed to change the academic and social landscape at the Stewart Elementary campus by utilizing highly qualified tutors to implement best practices, deliver differentiated instruction and develop lifelong strategies for students to become high school completers.

“Although it is early in this two-year initiative, the students at Stewart love their tutors and have developed a good rapport with them,” said Dr. Shelley Harris, assistant dean of the College of Education and Human Development and program director. “Our A&M-San Antonio tutors are staying longer with the students because they want to help and get to know them. As a result the elementary school students are realizing that they ‘can’ do the work.”

The tutors also conducted home visits to the student’s families to let them know what A&M-SA is doing to help their children. Through this “Block Walk,” the University aims to let the parents/guardians know it is committed to helping them and their children succeed.

The second component of the partnership between A&M-SA and Stewart Elementary involves deployment of a paid teacher residency program funded by a three-year \$740,000-grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In fall 2017, nine clinical teachers (enrolled in A&M-SA’s

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Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies) began a one-year paid-residency, working closely with a mentor teacher and their students at Stewart to build a strong foundation of instruction and classroom management. These A&M-SA teacher-residents are closely supervised by University faculty, who assist in connecting theory they are learning in the college classroom to their practice in the elementary classroom.

In the second and third years of the grant, A&M-SA will expand the teacher residency model to include 10 reading teachers at Stewart, who will earn their Master of Reading degrees, and 10 bilingual education teachers at Stewart, who will earn their Master of Bilingual Education degrees. After completing their one-year residency and earning their degrees, all of the teacher-residents will fulfill a three-year service commitment at Stewart. A&M-SA's long-term goal for the paid teacher residency program is to build a strong instructional and classroom management environment at Stewart Elementary that will continue to grow as teachers and students become more successful.

"The groundbreaking work that's happening at Stewart Elementary is a testament to the partners' shared vision," said W. Sean Kearney, Ed.D., interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "This is an excellent example of a school district, a nonprofit education agency, a private foundation and a public university working together to transform the educational experiences of students and teachers."

A&M-SA collaborates with families for student success

When first-year student Marcos Mireles-Salina decided to attend A&M-SA to major in kinesiology, his mother Yvette Mireles did not know very much about the campus and the activities and resources it offered. She jumped at the chance to learn more when she heard about the Family First seminar launching in fall 2017.

As one of the newest, and perhaps most innovative, of all the University's community collaborations, the pilot program extends the concept of being college-ready beyond students to include their parents and other family members. Mireles made the 150-mile roundtrip trek from Lockhart every Monday last fall to discover how she could continue to support her son, even when he was so far from home.

"It is helpful to know more about the student success coaches available to Marcos, as well as when he should be registering for classes and other deadlines," she said. "I liked the class and met a lot of other parents and University staff."

18
PEOPLE SIGNED UP
FOR THE INAUGURAL
FAMILY FIRST SEMINAR,
REPRESENTING
10 FAMILIES.

11
OF THOSE ENROLLED
IN THE PROGRAM HAVE A
FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENT AT A&M-SA.



The latest component of the First-Year Experience (FYE) program, Family First is designed to help family members achieve three objectives:

1. Better understand the services and resources provided by the University.
2. Increase their effectiveness in supporting their students' growth and development.
3. Become active members of the campus community.

The community-oriented seminar was free and included 9 one-hour sessions that began October 2 and ended November 28. Eighteen people signed up for the inaugural Family First seminar, representing 10 families. Eleven of those enrolled in the program have a first-generation student at A&M-SA.

Family members who attended the seminar participated in a discussion-based class format led by two FYE staff members. Each class featured a guest speaker covering a special topic, ranging from Making the Transition to College and High-Impact Practices at A&M-SA to Student Career Development.

Twyla Varnado, whose daughter Majestie Joi Varnado is an English major in the class of 2021, strongly recommends the program for first-year parents. "I joined Family First because I want to be a part of the A&M-San Antonio community for the benefit of my daughter," she said. "I enjoy the class because it reinforces what I learned

on my own and shows me that I'm on the right path to support Majestie."

Compared to other universities' programs for family members, A&M-SA's Family First seminar is unique because it offers a structured curriculum that is delivered over the course of nine weeks but is really focused on fostering the family's ongoing role in student success. The University will enhance the program in 2018 based on participant feedback from the fall 2017 pilot.

"The overall goal of our program is to strengthen our relationship with family members," said Dr. Ashley Spicer-Runnels, assistant vice president for student success. "We want them to become informed allies who understand how to best help their students succeed throughout their college years and beyond."

New home for A&M-SA Archives and Special Collections celebrates diverse cultures, shared heritage

October 27th marked the culmination of a sustained collaborative effort between A&M-SA, Bexar County and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). With the grand opening of the renovated Presidio Gallery and underground archive vault at the historic Bexar



County Archives Building in downtown San Antonio, the University welcomed members of the media and San Antonio community to the new home for its Archives and Special Collections. This serendipitous alliance was made possible by the confluence of several unrelated events combined with a shared vision and unwavering commitment by the three partners.

In 2016, the DRT moved its historic Library Collection out of the Alamo in the wake of a dispute with the Texas General Land Office. Not long after that, Judge Nelson Wolff led a successful effort by Bexar County to acquire the old Federal Reserve Bank Building, which was subsequently renamed Bexar County Archives Building. A&M-SA, meanwhile, had begun to think strategically about the facilities it would need to support the long-term growth and management of its Archives and Special Collections.

Judge Wolff, A&M-SA President Matson, Ed.D. and then DRT President General Betty Edwards, M.D. embarked on a series of conversations that would eventually bear fruit. The Bexar County Archives Building turned out to be the best option to meet the University's needs, as it offered sufficient exhibit space as well as administrative offices and archival storage space with the ability to control temperature and humidity. The DRT collection was a good fit with the University's commitment to foster community dialogue about our shared heritage by celebrating San Antonio's diverse history and cultures. From August to December 2016, A&M-SA forged a lease agreement with the County and a Memorandum of Understanding with the DRT. And the partnership was born.

In preparation for the official grand opening in October, A&M-SA gave "sneak preview" tours last summer to more than 100 middle and high school students from the Girls, Inc. program, the Pre-engineering Preparatory Program (PREP) and various homeschool groups. In September, the University sponsored a luncheon and distributed promotional materials at the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Festival "Living Heritage" Symposium, distributing more than 200 Presidio Gallery backpacks to attendees and providing tours of the gallery after the luncheon. Later that month, the three partners hosted a VIP reception for historians and scholars from around the state.

The inaugural exhibit in Presidio Gallery showcased selected pieces from the historic DRT Library Collection of more than 30,000 items, ranging from books and

collections of family papers, to fine art and print collections and maps. In January, the University launched a Tricentennial exhibit called "San Antonio as a Crossroads: 300 Years of an Evolving Frontier Community." Future exhibits will showcase Texas history books, research notes and papers from the Robert Thonhoff Collection; selected items from the Harry Mazal Holocaust Collection comprising approximately 9,000 books; and materials from the La Prensa Archives dating back to the 1920s.

"There is no limit to whom can be served by the many historic collections and narratives housed under this one roof," said Judge Wolff. "You will not be able to see anything like this collection anywhere else in the city of San Antonio or, for that matter, in the state. We hope it will help people understand how so many unique cultures have come together to build a great city."

The facility gives A&M-SA a great opportunity to advance its educational mission as a comprehensive four-year university and premier academic institution. In the near-term, this will entail building its undergraduate research activities and bolstering its research capacity in general. The venue also establishes a strong presence for A&M-SA's Library in archival collections. In the long-term, it will enable the University to promote a wider range of educational opportunities to broader audiences. This will include training and educational preparation for teachers, historians and social scientists throughout the state. The University also plans to integrate the facility and its collections with academic programs, including borderland studies, political science, and Texas history and culture.

"It is truly inspiring to be in a place like San Antonio—where the university, the county and the DRT could come together to make our community an even better place to live," said President Matson. "By opening up this one-of-a-kind collection to people of all backgrounds, we hope to shed a light on the past that will illuminate the way to a brighter future."

Editor's Note: Access to Presidio Gallery and A&M-SA's Archives and Special Collections is free and open to the public, Mon-Fri between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Teachers can schedule tours for their students. Researchers can also access the materials and reserve a space in the Reading Room by appointment.



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ALUMNI UPDATE

Texas A&M University-San Antonio's (A&M-SA) Office of Alumni Affairs has a mission to provide graduates with lifelong benefits and meaningful opportunities to stay involved with their alma mater. Under the direction of Mary Kay Cooper, Ed.D., director of alumni affairs, graduates have begun to re-engage in the life of A&M-SA in record numbers and many different ways.

This includes taking advantage of alumni benefits such as e-mail for life, free official academic transcripts, access to career services and discounted tickets to Six Flags. In addition, graduates have attended on-campus events including Festival de Cascarones and Lights of Esperanza; volunteered as guest speakers at Lunch and Learns for faculty, staff and students; and participated with students on service learning projects through the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

Please be sure to keep us apprised of your latest news and contact information by filling out the online Alumni Update Form at <http://bit.ly/alumtamusa>.



Former SGA presidents meet with A&M-SA president and director of alumni affairs

In May, President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D. and Director of Alumni Affairs Mary Kay Cooper, Ed.D. hosted four of the six former A&M-San Antonio Student Government Association (SGA) presidents for a luncheon on campus. During the SGA presidents reunion, Dr. Matson briefed the alumni on recent University highlights and key planning initiatives. Attendees then discussed ideas for creating a superlative and engaging alumni experience for A&M-San Antonio graduates.

Alumni don winter wear and hard hats for sneak preview of Esperanza Hall

In January, approximately 25 alumni outfitted with hard hats braved the cold weather for an exclusive tour of the Esperanza Hall construction



site. During the event, coordinated by Dr. Mary Kay Cooper, director of alumni affairs, the group previewed furniture samples, heard about the upcoming meal plans and ventured through the building—getting a special sneak preview glimpse of the University's first residence hall.

A&M-SA hands out one-of-a-kind alumni-exclusive Fiesta medals



In exchange for updating their contact information with Dr. Mary Kay Cooper, director of alumni affairs, alumni were given a free alumni-exclusive Fiesta medal at Festival de Cascarones on April 30. Nearly 200 alumni stopped by the Alumni Affairs tent for the medal. A&M-SA was reportedly the only University in town offering alumni medals during Fiesta.

City Base Entertainment hosts alumni events



A&M-SA corporate partner City Base Entertainment hosted two events for graduates this year. More than 70 alumni and guests showed up for a mixer in June, where they enjoyed delicious food and drink as well as a showing of the new movie, *Wonder Woman*. At a second event in September, more than 170 A&M-SA alumni and guests partook

in food and drink along with laser tag and a showing of the movie *Kingsman*. Special thanks to City Base Entertainment for its hospitality!

My Education Solutions sponsors party for alumni following Fall Fest

My Education Solutions sponsored an alumni after party following Fall Fest on October 21. After hosting a booth at Fall Fest, My Education Solutions moved its swag and services to the President's Rose Garden behind Madla to continue the festivities with alumni. Graduates were invited to participate in Fall Fest and re-engage with their former student organizations before relaxing, socializing and playing cornhole with classmates and friends.



College of Education and Human Development unveils Outstanding Alumni Wall of Fame



In November, the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) unveiled its Outstanding Alumni Wall of Fame. With attendees looking on, Interim Dean Sean Kearney, Ed.D. drew back the veil to reveal photos of the first class of Wall of Famers. The group included 12 alumni representing five San Antonio-area school districts: Janelle Barclay '09, Vanderburg Bedson '11, Jacklynn Campbell '15, Tameika Elissa Gonzalez '16, Christian MacDonald '15, Cassandra Ramon '15, Lori Puente Rodriguez '13, Thomas Rux '14, Blake Sammons '14, Dawn Silva '14, Samantha White '17 and Pegalaina Work '09.

After welcoming the crowd and discussing the importance of alumni, Dr. Kearney introduced honorees and gave them a chance to share memories of their educational experience at A&M-SA. The brainchild of Dr. Vivien Geneser, associate professor of early childhood, the Wall of Fame honors those COEHD graduates whose outstanding work has been recognized by their respective school districts with a range of awards, including New Teacher of the Year, First-Year Teacher of the Year, Rising Star Award and Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Free Trade Alliance San Antonio appoints alumnus as president and CEO

Last fall, the Board of Directors of Free Trade Alliance San Antonio announced the appointment of Carlos Jarquin '13 as its president and CEO. Since joining the organization in 2009, Jarquin has risen through the ranks from international trade specialist to the vice president of exports and foreign investment. "Carlos Jarquin has demonstrated tremendous leadership capabilities and a solid knowledge of international business," said retiring president and CEO Jose E. Martinez." He has a knack of making and sustaining connections and creating strong networks, which are crucial in our business."



Alumni participate in University events for Hispanic Heritage Month

This fall, several A&M-SA alumni participated in events on campus to help the University celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. In collaboration with First-Year Experience, Elena Castoreno '16, Richard Delgado, Jr. '10, Amado Navarro '16, Celestino Valentin '10, '11 and Marie Valentin '10, '11 were on a panel in October discussing their callings in life—how they are doing what they were born to do. The topic was directly related to the Common Read, an initiative for students, faculty and staff designed to cultivate common intellectual conversations on specific themes. Later in the month, Erica Gonzaba '16 (above with Dr. Mary Kay Cooper) spoke on the topic of career paths at a Lunch and Learn event.



If you're interested in sponsoring an alumni event, contact Dr. Mary Kay Cooper at (210) 784-1121 or alumni@tamusa.edu. Alumni Affairs is also on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.



ALUMNI PROFILES

DORA LEIJA '13, '15

College of Education and Human Development

Dora Leija was raised in a bilingual household in Texas—a state where approximately 35 percent of residents speak a non-English language. So, it is perplexing to Leija, a pre-K bilingual education teacher, that there are not more elementary bilingual education programs in San Antonio—the second largest city in the state.



Leija realized early in her career that keeping quiet about her concern would not suffice. She decided to take action and is now bringing her concerns to the Texas Legislature.

Years before marching up the steps of the Texas State Capitol to speak with legislators, Leija began her undergraduate studies at Texas A&M-San Antonio. She earned her bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies in 2013, followed by a master of arts in bilingual education.

“My career aspiration is to be a principal,” says Leija, “and I knew I needed my master’s degree to get there.”

Leija’s favorite memory in graduate school was a weeklong trip to Málaga, Spain, as part of the University’s Spain Study Abroad program. In 2014, she traveled to Spain with fellow bilingual education students and Assistant Professor Nancy Garcia, Ed.D. During her stay, she listened to presentations by Spanish academic experts and co-taught in a Spanish-speaking pre-K classroom. Leija gained invaluable experiences and learned new skills abroad that she continues to utilize.

“The students in Spain were so loving and affectionate,” recalls Leija. “When they saw me, they would run up to me, and hug me and kiss me on both cheeks. It made me feel so welcome. It was an unforgettable experience.”

After her trip, Leija valued her A&M-SA education even more. She found that the challenging courses and encouraging professors made her academic experience invaluable. When asked to select her favorite professor, she reeled off a list of more than five faculty members.

“They all went out of their way to show they cared,” she says. “I wasn’t just another number in a classroom.

They got to know me and became family. We all still keep in touch.”

Leija also remains close with her former Bilingual Education Student Organization (B.E.S.O.) members. As the former club treasurer, Leija was actively involved in fundraising, networking and campus events. B.E.S.O. made her feel that she belonged.

After graduation, Leija entered the workforce at the Carroll Early Child Education Center in the San Antonio Independent School District. Already in her fifth year, she focuses on teaching English to her Spanish-native students, and goes well beyond the required 45-minute language lesson each day to help her students progress.

Last year, Leija was inspired to become an advocate for bilingual students and teachers statewide. She jumped at an opportunity to apply for the Teach Plus Texas Policy fellowship. This highly competitive program provides 30 Texas teachers with leadership opportunities to deepen their knowledge of education policy and gain a voice in decisions that affect their students and the teaching profession.

Leija was awarded the fellowship in 2017 and immediately hit the ground running. She and the other fellows meet monthly to review current legislature that may affect teachers and decide on a course of action.

“I want Texas legislators to know the importance of language,” she says. “And I want to see more successful bilingual programs.”

Leija attributes her advocacy and educational foundation to her alma mater. She recommends A&M-SA to anyone interested in her passions—education, language and service. For her, all roads lead to Texas A&M-San Antonio.

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ROXANNE WEST '14

College of Arts and Sciences

When Roxanne West '14 started her career as a legal caseworker for Child Protective Services, she quickly learned that her profession is an around-the-clock responsibility. There is no typical day, and every case she oversees is unique.

Sometimes, her cases prove heart wrenching. It is not unusual for her to receive calls from children in the middle of the night. Often, these children are simply yearning for a listening ear and a reliable confidant. West has proven to be that and more.

West believes her profession is more than a job—it is a calling. Long before she graduated from Texas A&M-San Antonio with her psychology degree, she yearned to help children whose families are plagued with addiction and abuse. As a daughter of an addict, West wanted to ensure that other children with similar upbringings have the resources and support they need to not only survive, but thrive. Because of her relatability and professionalism, she is a trusted source for children when their parents are completing court-ordered addiction and counseling classes.

West attributes many of her professional skills to what she learned as a student at A&M-SA. As a military wife, whose husband was active duty, West made a few stateside and one transcontinental move during the pursuit of her bachelor's degree. West's husband was eventually

stationed in her hometown of San Antonio, and upon returning there, West enrolled at A&M-SA to complete her bachelor's in psychology with a minor in criminology.

"Even though I was a first-generation student—a mom, not just out of high school, and with a young kid—I still felt like I belonged," says West.

West says an abnormal psychology course taught by Associate Professor K.C. Kalmbach, Ph.D. was her favorite undergraduate experience because it really challenged her. She continues to utilize the knowledge and skills she learned from Dr. Kalmbach in her career to identify abnormal parental behaviors. West believes her education and career are a fulfillment of her destiny.

"It was all worth it," she says. "When I get to witness a reunion with a family, it is definitely worth it."

West is currently pursuing a master's degree in counseling at A&M-SA. Upon graduation, she will continue working with children—positively influencing their lives one case at a time.



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ALUMNI PROFILES

STEVE RENDON '14

College of Business

Steve Rendon '14 has worked wonders with his hands since he was a little boy. Growing up in Uvalde, Texas, in a home without internet, video games or nearby neighbors, Rendon relied on creativity, innovation and manual labor to keep him occupied. So, it was no surprise to Rendon's family that, after earning a bachelor of business administration in management from Texas A&M-San Antonio, he went back to his roots: handwork. But this time, it's for his own business—Bar SR Leather—a craft leather goods company.



As the CEO and sole operator, Rendon wakes up before 7 a.m. each morning to work from his home-based leather shop. He starts his workday by making sales calls, followed by posting photos of new products to his social media channels. He then begins crafting custom orders using full-grain and top-grain leather.

Rendon usually works until midnight or later, taking breaks to spend time with his wife and children until they go to bed for the night. Then, he goes back to the shop for a few more productive hours of work. What may seem like a laborious day to most people is a thrilling norm for Rendon.

"Everyone who says, 'Do what you love so you never work a day in your life' is absolutely right," he says. "Finding passion for something will not only make you happy; ultimately, it will also give you purpose."

While Rendon drew inspiration for his purpose from his childhood, his experience as a student at A&M-SA was another source of motivation.

Rendon knew he wanted to learn the fundamentals of business, and the University's College of Business offered the close-knit environment that suited him. "I knew that in business, you get to interact with people and you have the opportunity to help people. I wanted to do both at a campus where I could grow. That's why I chose A&M-San Antonio," says Rendon.

Most of his classes were held at the University's former Brooks City Base campus. Rendon recalled that in the

small setting on that campus, he was encouraged to come out of his shell and interact with fellow business students who are now close friends.

"Being in the College of Business helped me mold myself into something better than I was when I started," Rendon says. "The classes, the faculty and the interactions were transformative."

He recalls faculty member Douglas Carter being one of his most impactful instructors. He was able to rely on Carter as a knowledgeable teacher, a seasoned mentor and a trusted friend.

Beyond the classroom, Carter proved to be a valuable resource during the launch of Bar SR Leather. When Rendon reached out to his former professor for entrepreneurial advice, Carter knew exactly what to do, connecting Rendon with one of A&M-SA's MBA instructors. The instructor then created a class project in which his MBA students analyzed Rendon's business plan and provided him with feedback. Rendon called the opportunity "invaluable," and was honored to have fellow Jaguars help him succeed.

Rendon hopes that more A&M-SA students decide to pursue entrepreneurship, but more importantly that they use their time as students to discover their purpose.

Rendon advised, "Take courses that challenge you and will help you develop. The sooner you find your purpose, the better."

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EXECUTIVE GUEST SPEAKERS

Nobel Laureate packs Vista Room during combined Chancellor and Presidential Lecture Series

In February, Dr. Roy Glauber, physicist, Nobel Laureate and Harvard professor, visited campus to impart wisdom and share scientific experiences as part of a lecture for a combined Chancellor Sharp Distinguished Lecture Series and President's Lecture Series.

In his presentation, "Some Recollections of Los Alamos and the Nuclear Era," Glauber discussed what it was like to be recruited as an 18-year-old Harvard student to work on the atom bomb. He also recounted the growth of his career as a physicist at Harvard that ultimately led to his winning a Nobel Prize and making a lasting impact on the field of quantum optics.



Texas Poet Laureate strengthens the mission of International Women's Day

In March, members of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) community attended a reading, reception and book signing with Texas Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero on International Women's Day. She addressed themes of self and collective empowerment in her poetry and each student received one of her books, gifted by Dr. Katherine Bridgman and the University Writing Center. Guerrero, who is also A&M-SA's inaugural writer in residence, concluded her campus visit with a writing workshop attended by 25 faculty-nominated students.

In addition to being the current Texas Poet Laureate, Guerrero is also a former San Antonio Poet Laureate. She also won the Academy of American Poets Prize from Smith College and the 2012 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize for her first full-length collection, "A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying."

Former trade and investment minister for Mexico speaks at President's Distinguished Lecture Series

The Honorable Mario Rodriguez-Montero, former head of Mexico's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) office in Canada and former minister for trade and investment for the Embassy of Mexico in Canada, was a guest speaker for the President's Distinguished Lecture Series in April.

The event attracted faculty, staff and students as well as local community members and leaders. In a talk titled "The Future of NAFTA and Beyond: A Different Perspective," Rodriguez-Montero shared a unique insider's perspective on his many experiences working on NAFTA.





ADVANCEMENT UPDATE



Foundation still going strong

The mission of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Foundation (Foundation) is to facilitate funding for A&M-SA and create a University that will empower our citizens with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide for a prosperous community. Since the Foundation's inception, it has partnered with the University to raise more than \$12.9 million in philanthropic support. During that time, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 5,500 well-deserving students.

Golf tournament raises funds for 20 scholarships

In May, the Foundation hosted the 2017 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Twenty-six teams teed off at the event, whose proceeds support A&M-SA through scholarship awards. The funds raised in 2017 will provide 20 academic scholarships to students.

A&M-SA takes its act on the road with Fiesta at the Capitol

On April 25, A&M-SA transported the traditions of Fiesta San Antonio to the Capitol of Texas. University community members, state legislators and their staff joined together for an evening of food, dancing and fellowship.

President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D. and Vice President of Advancement Richard Ortega, Ph.D. addressed the crowd, thanking them for their attendance and support and explaining Fiesta traditions. Additional remarks were provided by Texas State Senator Carlos Uresti and Texas House Representative Tomas Uresti. The Guadalupe Dance Company traveled from San Antonio to entertain guests with traditional Folklorico performances.





Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon honors Alvarez

The Foundation held its eighth annual Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon at the Witte Museum's beautiful new Mays Family Center on October 11. During the luncheon, which was attended by 360 people, the Foundation honored Carlos Alvarez, chairman and CEO of the Gambrinus Co., with the Dream Maker Award. Sarah Lucero, Emmy Award-winning journalist from KENS 5, served as the mistress of ceremonies. A&M-SA students Tiffany Austin, Luz Cano and William Manning spoke at the 2017 luncheon, sharing their personal remarks about why the scholarship donations are so meaningful to students.

Scholars' Appreciation Luncheon unites donors and scholarship recipients

On November 9, the Office of University Advancement hosted more than 80 attendees at the inaugural Scholars' Appreciation Luncheon. The event served as an opportunity for scholarship recipients to express their appreciation while mixing and mingling with donors at lunch.

During the ceremony, Texas A&M University-San Antonio Foundation and Holt Cat scholarship recipient, C Arce, gave her testimony and expressed the many opportunities her scholarships have afforded her. Vice President of Advancement Richard Ortega, Ph.D. and Vice President of Student Affairs Melissa Mahan, Ph.D. also provided updates on student programming and saluted donors for their generous support.





ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

SPOTLIGHT ON GIVING/DONOR PROFILES

MAYS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The **Mays Family Foundation** was founded in 2004 by Lowry Mays (pictured here) and his wife of more than half a century, Peggy Pitman Mays.

Since that time, the foundation has contributed more than \$55 million to the communities in which Mays family members live, work or serve. Today, the foundation represents the culmination of the American dream that Peggy and Lowry have lived combined with their boundless generosity, and it is an asset that will serve their communities for generations to come.

In August, the Mays Family Foundation made a \$5 million gift to support the University's Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

The Center's programming focuses on converting classroom knowledge and theory to "real life" in-demand work settings through volunteerism, internships, service learning, civic engagement and career development.

"We are grateful to the Mays Family Foundation for its commitment to supporting causes that aid,

empower, enrich and educate," said Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-SA.

"As a result of the Foundation's generosity, our students will have more opportunities to learn through hands-on, high-impact activities, including serving our community."

A portion of the \$5 million gift, which is the largest gift in the history of A&M-SA, will be used to complete construction of the newly named Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. The 4,200-square-foot facility will be housed within the Science and Technology Building opening in fall 2018. The donation will also help fund growth of Center staff and enhanced programming.

"By integrating classroom activities with hands-on service learning in the community, A&M-San Antonio is perfectly aligned with the Foundation's mission," said Kathryn Mays Johnson, president of the Mays Family Foundation. "We are honored to support this academic center and look forward to seeing the many ways it transforms students and our community."



WE ARE HONORED TO SUPPORT THIS ACADEMIC CENTER AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE MANY WAYS IT TRANSFORMS STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY.



DR. FRANK MADLA III

The late Senator Frank Madla Jr.'s profound legacy is woven into the fabric of Texas A&M-University San Antonio. In 1999, he requested a legislative proposal to establish an institution of higher education on the South Side of San Antonio. Thanks to his unwavering commitment, A&M-SA, then known as Texas A&M University-Kingsville System Center-San Antonio, was established in the year 2000.

Although current students may not know his story, they see Senator Madla's lasting legacy on campus every day. "Madla Maroon"—one the University's colors—is painted around campus on signage and buildings. And his likeness will forever be a part of the University's landscape, as his statue stands tall in front of the Frank Madla Building—the first building constructed on the main campus.

Senator Frank Madla is remembered by many as a pioneer, teacher and a kind-hearted man. And to his son, **Dr. Frank Madla III**, he is all of those things, but most importantly he is dad and a mentor who taught him the importance of giving.

Dr. Madla (pictured on left with his father) grew up on the South Side of San Antonio, where his father was a school teacher before running for public office. As a teacher and community advocate, he instilled the importance of education in his son.

Dr. Madla is a 1987 graduate of Texas A&M University-College Station, where he received a bachelor of science in biomedical science. In 1992, he received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (now UT Health San Antonio), where he completed his internship, residency training and chief residency years. He currently works as a hospitalist, specializing in internal medicine in San Antonio.

In 2002, Dr. Madla married Nenette Cardenas-Madla. They currently reside in Helotes at the Madla family farm, where Senator Madla was born and raised.

Between tending to patients and his family's remote farm, Dr. Madla still finds time to serve A&M-SA—continuing his father's legacy while creating his own. He has served on the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Foundation Board since 2008. And years ago, he established the Madla Endowment to provide continuous financial support for A&M-SA students.

"If a student comes up to me and says, 'I'm interested in medical school,' or 'I'm interested in being a physician's assistant, a nurse practitioner or a nurse,' that's where I step in," Dr. Madla says. "I offer them the opportunity to shadow me at work and to accompany me during hospital rounds. I have found this to be a great chance for students to assess their desire to pursue a medical education."

Over the years, Dr. Madla has witnessed the University's evolution since his father's passing in 2006. He is not surprised by the rapid growth on campus, and is pleased that his father's tireless determination and perseverance was well-worth the effort.

"If he were here, dad would never say, 'I told you so' to people, because it sounds negative," says Dr. Madla. "But he knew there was a need on this side of town. He knew if the school was built, students would come."



“

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ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

DR. CARL RABA

For Carl Raba, Jr., Ph.D., the legacy of the Texas A&M University System runs through his veins. He is a three-time alumnus of Texas A&M University whose family holds 15 degrees from the System. And in 2004, Dr. Raba was given the Distinguished Alumnus award by the Texas A&M University System. So, it was a no-brainer for him to support the effort to build a campus in his native city of San Antonio—located just a few miles from where he grew up.

“It was not just about planting the flag here from Texas A&M University System” says Raba. “It was about providing educational opportunities for students to achieve their full potential. And the universities, in the 1990s, were predominately on the north side of town. To be able to go classes if you lived on the far south side was almost an impossibility. So, the location of A&M-San Antonio was very important.”

Dr. Raba serves on the President’s Advisory board and was the 2011 Dream Maker honoree. To ensure success for A&M-SA students, Dr. Raba supports four students annually through the Bunny Jean Raba Opportunity Scholarship and the Cathy Raba Turcotte Scholarship. He established the scholarships in honor of his late wife and daughter, both of whom had a passion for education.

Dr. Raba’s firm belief in the achievement of higher education stems from his childhood. His parents fervently encouraged him to go

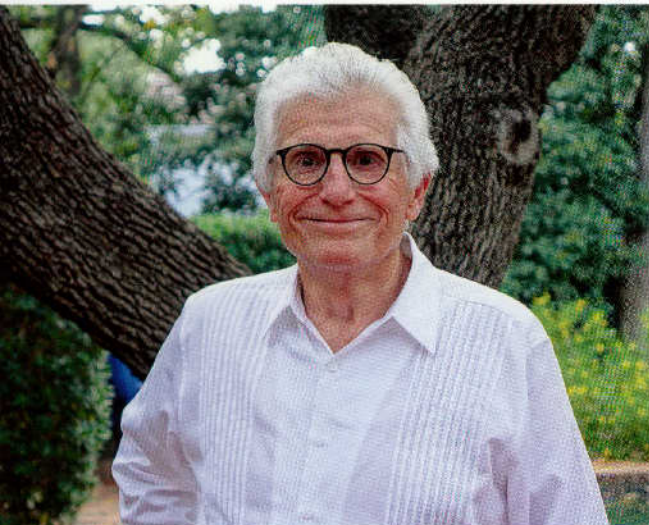
to college to open the door of possibilities. As a first-generation graduate, he understands the ample opportunities that were afforded to him because of his degree attainment and experiences in the military.

Dr. Raba earned a bachelor’s, a master’s and a doctoral degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 1961, 1962 and 1968 respectively. As a student, he was in the Corps of Cadets. He was also commissioned with the U.S. Army in 1961 and served as a company commander in the 16th Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division from 1963 to 1965. He achieved the rank of Captain.

In 1968, Dr. Raba launched the engineering and consulting firm, Raba & Tolson Consultants Engineers, Inc. with his business partners Bunny Jean Raba and Ronald Tolson. The company, now known as Raba Kistner Consultants, Inc., has more than 400 employees and serves an international client base. After decades of leading the company, Dr. Raba now serves as the chairman emeritus.

Dr. Raba today spends much of his time serving the communities that once served him. He lives by the words of late University of Texas Coach Darrel Royal, “You gotta dance with who brung ya.” Those words have stuck with him for decades.

“People have been good to me—taking time out for me. Time is irreplaceable. You can always write a check and make more money, but you can’t replace time,” says Raba. “So, I want to give my time back to the ones that ‘brung’ me, and those are the people at Texas A&M.”



“

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University launches Corporate Partnership Program

Last year, A&M-SA launched a new Corporate Partnership Program. The program enables companies to bolster their brands locally while strengthening their ties with A&M-SA by directly engaging with students, alumni, faculty and staff in signature University events throughout the year. Support from Corporate Partners is used primarily to provide scholarships to students with financial need or to a defined program of direct support to students.

A&M-SA sincerely appreciates the support and engagement of its Corporate Partners:



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

A&M-SA is grateful to our 160 generous donors who provided \$7,288,526 in cash, pledges and in-kind commitments in fiscal year 2016-17. This represents a significant increase from the \$852,000 received in fiscal year 2015-16. The following Honor Roll of Donors reflects the actual cash or in-kind contribution received during the 2016-17 fiscal year, which ran from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. Each level of giving lists individual donors first followed by corporate and foundation contributors.

LIST OF DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

\$1,000,000 and above

Mays Family Foundation

\$100,000 to \$999,999

Henry G. Cisneros
Holt Cat
Northeast Independent School District

\$25,000 to \$99,999

James R. Adams
Aracely Garcia-Granados
Carl F. Raba
AHMSA International Inc.
AFCEA Educational Foundation-Alamo Chapter
City of San Antonio Pathway to Leadership
Scholarship
John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Rosemary Kowalski
City Base Entertainment
Mission Verde Alliance
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Valero Energy Foundation
Whataburger

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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LNV, Inc.
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\$1,000 to \$4,999

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CDI Technology Services
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Enterprise Holdings
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Golf Tournament Raffle &
Putting Contest
Graham Weston Gift Fund
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Spa
Harlandale Independent School
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HOPE - Hispanic Organization
for Public Employees
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Linebarger Goggan Blair &
Sampson, LLP
Matt Foundation
Minnie Stevens Piper
Foundation

Palo Alto College
R&J Music Pavilion
Raba-Kistner Consulting
RCL Services Group, LLC/Mayfair
Investments, LLC
RSM US LLP
Sequel Financial Group, LLC
SKANSKA USA Building
SWBC
The Helen K. Groves Fund
Vermeulens
Y & L Consulting
Zachry Construction
Corporation
Zachry Interests Inc

Up to \$999

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*The Honor Roll of Donors includes
President's Circle members.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

LIST OF PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

A&M-SA's President Circle plays a vital role in providing funding for specific presidential initiatives. Members are philanthropists who believe in A&M-SA and its mission.

Gifts of the President's Circle:

- Underwrite new initiatives by the University President that enhances A&M-SA's strategic plan, especially to help meet regional needs with state-wide impact.
- Provide support for faculty and student research and learning achievements.
- Bring distinguished speakers to campus for keynote lectures.

Audacious (\$20,000 and above)

James R. Adams
Thomas Timmer
Anonymous Donor

Aspiring (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

Rosemary Kowalski

Aiming (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

There were no President's Circle members in the Aiming level in fiscal year 2016-17.

Agile Member (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation/
Joyce Ellis

Pathway to Prosperity (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Michael Bolner
Gary Coulton
Vivien L. Geneser
Carolyn Green
Richard P. Green
Jerry Hoog
Tracy Hurley
Amy Lewis
Eric J. Lopez
Melissa Mahan
Richard P. Ortega
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Sampson, LLP / Carri Baker
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Mays Family Foundation /
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William Raba
SWBC / Charlie Amato
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Whataburger
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