

2019 PRESIDENT'S *Report*

A Decade
of Building,
Transformation
and Impact



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

As writer-in-residence at A&M-San Antonio, Laurie Ann Guerrero was commissioned by University President Cynthia Teniente-Matson to write a poem commemorating the A&M-San Antonio 10-year anniversary. She is a former Poet Laureate of the State of Texas and Poet Laureate for the City of San Antonio. Watch Guerrero read her poem here: tamusa.edu/10yearpoem.

Between the Soil and the Sun

In honor of the 10th anniversary of A&M-San Antonio for Cecilia Macias McCardle and Sabrina San Miguel



Laurie Ann Guerrero

This is what I want to tell you:
This is yours—the air and all who breathe it.
We belong to each other, you see.

You need not carry the stones in your heart
any farther. Here, there is no paper, no
number, no fight you need to produce
so that someone else will make space
for you. It's the history in your hands
that build, brick by brick, the rooms
into which you walk. We will mark the days
as they come: a job lost, another child
gone, lines—to vote, to eat, to pay our debts—
conferring, as it were, temperance noted
in books our people could not read. Look here,
this is what I want to say: you are not here
to receive your education, but to build upon
the lessons distilled through generations,
to give your own inherent knowing
in return—in the name of something far greater.
In the spirit of yours and mine whose bodies
hold up the soles of our feet and whose knowing
tames the quivers in our throats. Here is the lot,
cleared, and in its place, the documented
evolution of our work on this land: our breath
in contracts with the earth and with each other.
You are the bloom that holds the root, making
magic between the soil and the sun.

By: Laurie Ann Guerrero

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ON THE COVER

Throughout 2019, Texas A&M University-San Antonio celebrated its 10-year anniversary as a stand-alone institution, rounding out a decade of building, transformation and impact. In this start-up decade, the University evolved from stretches of rough cactus and scrub to a vibrant, fast-growing campus community with distinctive architecture and audacious students, faculty and staff. A&M-San Antonio has achieved regional and national distinction with 12,000 alumni across the globe. Exciting initiatives in motion include the first-of-its-kind ASPIRE collaboration to focus on customized solutions for the needs of each of the seven ISD partners, and the introduction of intercollegiate athletics. Fittingly, the 2019 holiday lighting event, Lights of Esperanza, concluded with a spectacular fireworks display—the first of its kind on campus—celebrating everything A&M-San Antonio has accomplished in the last decade, as well as what is yet to come.



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Texas A&M University-San Antonio was born on a mission to serve all students—particularly those from south San Antonio’s underserved population—with access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Over the past 10 years, the late Sen. Frank L. Madla’s vision has blossomed into a reality that surpassed even his dreams. Enrollment has grown to more than 6,700 ambitious students, making A&M-San Antonio not only the fastest-growing university in the Texas A&M University System, but the entire state of Texas. And plans for a student population of 50,000 are on the drawing board.

The impact of that growth goes beyond the physical growth of the campus infrastructure, which famously celebrates the confluence of cultures that makes south San Antonio the vibrant community it is. A&M-San Antonio has changed the lives of more than 12,000 alumni—more than 63 percent of whom were first-generation students.

Graduating from university not only changes the life of the graduate—it changes the lives of their family and their community. As graduates move on to professional lives and have their own children, the talk around their kitchen tables inevitably moves from “will you go to college?” to “what college will you go to?” This change is at the heart of A&M-San Antonio’s mission.

We are proud of our commitment to our students, one in six of whom has a connection to the military and a dedication to serving our nation. A&M-San Antonio’s student body proudly reflects our community.

Students at A&M-San Antonio have already proven they can compete against anyone, but they will soon have the chance to prove it in competition in the University’s first athletic programs.

That is why we celebrate A&M-San Antonio’s past decade of success and look forward to future growth.

Under the gaze of the University’s Torre de Esperanza, or Tower of Hope, A&M-San Antonio is driving growth in south San Antonio. From the recently announced plans to develop more than 600 acres of land owned by the Verano Land Group to the University’s partnerships with area school districts, A&M-San Antonio is the key to south San Antonio’s future.

The needs of this region are clear, and the possibilities for this 696-acre campus are only as limited as our imaginations. With President Cynthia Teniente-Matson at the reins, A&M-San Antonio not only will continue on its mission, the University will continue to exceed all expectations over the next 10 years.

John Sharp
Chancellor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we settle into 2020, the start of this new decade reminds me that while we might not be able to control where we begin in life, we can influence where we finish. At Texas A&M University-

San Antonio, we are witness to milestones that signal the finish line. From a high school student and family visiting campus for the first time to a donor gifting a life-changing scholarship to a graduate landing the ideal job—each moment at A&M-San Antonio was a critical beginning to influence the future.

At A&M-San Antonio, 2019 was a year of commemorating the 10th anniversary of our founding as a stand-alone institution. Throughout the year, students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends recognized the individuals and organizations instrumental in our beginnings and who advocated for and supported a decade of growth, transformation and impact, including **Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr.** We welcomed record crowds at Lights of Esperanza, Festival de Casacarones and the Dream Makers Scholarship Luncheon.

Over the past 10 years, we learned a lot about the people and region in which our University is located. We have a deeper understanding of the challenges facing first-generation students and the communities where they live, learn and work. This knowledge guides the strategy and initiatives to affect the lives of our students and the quality of life for our region, and it guides the strategy for new academic programs, facilities, services, traditions and partnerships.

The 2019 *President's Report*, “A Decade of Building, Transformation and Impact,” highlights a year of achievements and milestones. While the stories are varied, they are woven together with a theme of audacity. You will read about our faculty, who are engaged in research and service that is benefiting our students, industry and communities. You will also read about 10 alumni, who were honored during our first alumni reunion weekend. One example is **Dr. Gary Guerra** ('09, '12), whose passion for kinesiology led him to develop a prosthetics graduate program in Bangkok, Thailand. You'll also learn about **Sharon Aguillen** ('17), who is CEO and president of the San Antonio

Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D.
President

Area Tourism Council following a 22-year career at Sea World Parks & Entertainment.

This year, A&M-San Antonio was at the heart of economic development and growth in manufacturing and automation. We are leveraging the proximity of our neighbors by having conversations with several corporations to develop collaborations to support career services, internships and academic programs. The commitment of corporations—including Toyota, TJX and Navistar—is evident in their investments in the area.

A&M-San Antonio is at a pivotal point in the dawn of our young University’s next chapter—a unique position compared to other universities across the nation. The next 10 years, while not our first, will still be formative. Given the world’s evolving technological society, our emphasis must remain on preparing students for the future as we leverage our location, new partnerships and the launch of new academic programs and initiatives, including intercollegiate athletics.

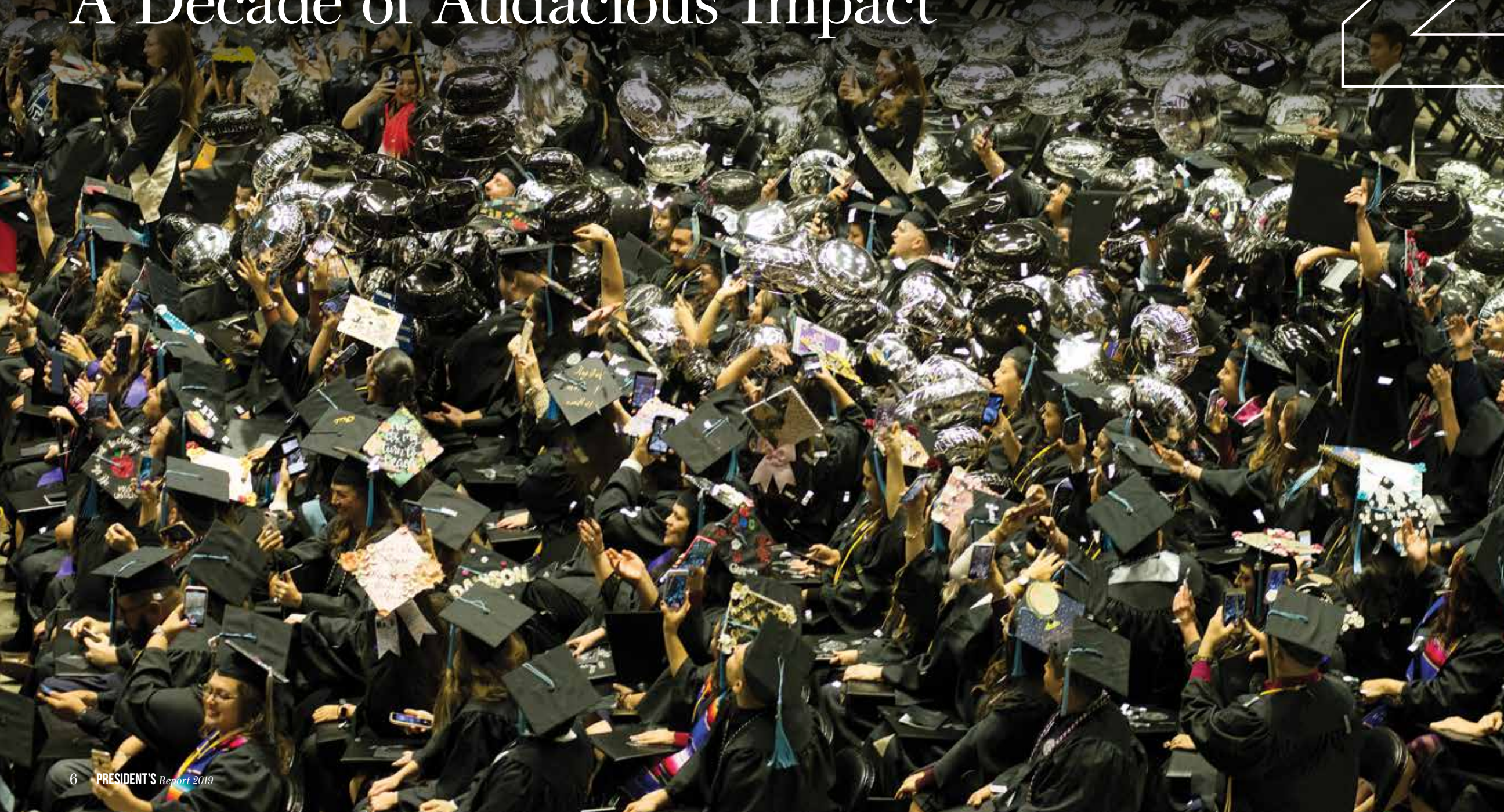
We have new community and industry partners that will play a role in our strategic vision to transform our students’ lives and our region. Some of these are highlighted in the *President's Report*.

In November, we launched a unique collaboration between a public university and seven independent school districts known as ASPIRE (A&M-San Antonio & South Bexar County ISDs Partnership to Impact Regional Equity and Excellence). This collaboration will ultimately lead to better outcomes for students and their families by tackling some of the most persistent and challenging issues of our region, including inadequate financial literacy, the digital divide and services for the health and wellness of the underserved. ASPIRE’s vision will be supported by a \$1 million gift from the **Charles Butt Foundation**.

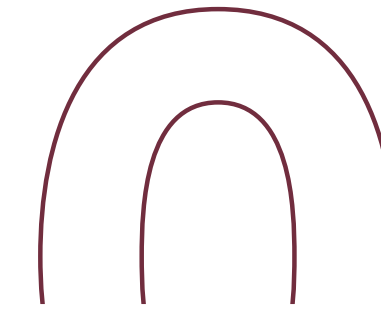
As we look to the future, we will always cherish our past. A&M-San Antonio is one of the most exciting institutions of higher education in the nation, and I can’t think of a more important endeavor to be part of than the transformation and impact that will come. As a new university, we will continue to define the Institution’s path forward with the understanding that what we do will influence the individual journey of so many. I invite you to be part this story.

On A Mission

A Decade of Audacious Impact



2



Twenty years ago, a group of individuals shared a unique vision for south Bexar County: to create a public university. A diverse group of civic and business leaders were brought together by the common belief that such a place would be the catalyst needed for a profound change to address a historically underserved population.



What was once 700 acres of rough cactus and scrub is now home to a vibrant, comprehensive institution serving over 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students. It is a place that holds national and regional distinction. With 12,000 alumni across the globe, Texas A&M University-San Antonio continues to be on an aggressive mission to impact social mobility, to be a driver for economic vitality and to be a leading partner in tackling the persistent challenges that affect the lives of thousands of residents.

While traces of the land's former use can be seen in the feral hogs and cattle grazing the land, they are dominated by signs of progress. The distinctive dome above the Central Academic Building has become a University icon, visible from the 410 East and West Corridor. The cranes in the air represent a new building for each of the past five years, including the new classroom hall that broke ground May 13 and, soon to follow, the College of Business and Library in 2022.

This year, as A&M-San Antonio commemorated its 10th anniversary as a stand-alone institution, students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community were reminded of the extraordinary efforts of the past two decades. They were also reminded that such celebrations are as much about the future of the Texas A&M University System as its past.

Today, the Institution is recognized as a place of discovery, creativity and life-changing moments – a place that has become a beacon for economic and social impact. Many early champions remain embedded in the institution's life, from the bronze statue

of Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr., to portraits of dignitaries, such as the University's inaugural president, Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, and the University's first student body president and student regent, Cresencio Davila.

Whether you are a student, a member of the faculty or staff, a graduate or a friend of the University, the feeling that A&M-San Antonio is making a difference is palpable. It's no coincidence that the Institution attracts faculty from the most distinguished institutions from across the nation; that a growing number of students in the top 10 percent of their class from across San Antonio are enrolled; or that the institution ranks 12th in the nation for graduating the most Hispanic accounting majors.

As the University's enrollment continues to grow, its footprint will evolve to support innovation, the student experience and a destination for the region. The first intercollegiate athletics program will launch in fall 2020, providing opportunities for south Bexar County to experience competition, discipline and tradition together.

What started as a dream 20 years ago is today a catalyst for the dreams of thousands.



There is much to celebrate about A&M-San Antonio's past and even more to celebrate about its future. As the University expands over the next decade, it will endure as a beacon for growth and progress. A&M-San Antonio continues to inspire collaborations, notably through two major initiatives announced in November that will impact the quality of life for south Bexar County residents. The first is VIDA, a master-planned community set to break ground adjacent to A&M-San Antonio

in spring 2020 and serve as a major economic driver for the region. And the second is ASPIRE, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between A&M-San Antonio and seven south Bexar County independent school districts (ISDs) focused on enhancing social mobility, income growth and career readiness.

Throughout the University, there is an entrepreneurial drive. For staff and faculty, the hours are often long, yet there is a shared commitment and understanding that the work is unique. There is a sense that collectively, they are creating a new university that will become the model for others. While this work is life-changing, it is the "how" that is critical. This work is founded in the generous support of those in the community who believe in the University's mission. Some of these believers include:

- The Mays Family Foundation, which brought the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement to life with a gift of \$5 million
- The Charles Butt Foundation, which gave \$1 million to the College of Education and Human Development and the establishment of an Applied Behavior Analysis degree program, with the aim of supporting ASPIRE and improving educational services for children with autism and other developmental disabilities
- The Financial Literacy of South Texas Foundation, which invested \$1 million in scholarships for accounting and finance majors to give these students the opportunity to help advance financial literacy in the community

MILESTONE HIGHLIGHTS OF A DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT AS A STAND-ALONE INSTITUTION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

2009



- Gov. Rick Perry signs Senate Bill 629 into law, establishing A&M-San Antonio as a stand-alone university. The Institution was originally established as an A&M System Center on the Palo Alto Community College campus, approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2000. Following the Institution's establishment, Dr. Rosario Torres-Raines served as executive director from 2000-02, followed by Dr. Garry Ross, who was also dean of academic and student affairs, from 2002-05.
- Students design the A&M-San Antonio class ring for the University.
- A&M-San Antonio chooses the Jaguar as its mascot, and silver, black and "Madla maroon" as its colors.
- The Mr. & Ms. A&M-San Antonio program and the A&M-San Antonio Student Government Association are established.
- Cresencio Davila becomes inaugural president of the Student Government Association.
- Founding librarian, Stefanie Wittenbach, joins the University.
- The first stand-alone December commencement ceremony takes place Dec. 18.

2010



- A groundbreaking ceremony takes place for the Main Campus Building (later renamed the Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr., Building).
- The Institution welcomes inaugural provost, Dr. Brent Snow.
- The Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation, founded in 2008, generates scholarship funds at the Inaugural Dream Maker Gala.
- The University introduces its first Annual Fund, the President's Circle.
- A&M-San Antonio names *We Arise* by Ruben Duarte as its official school song/student anthem.
- The Institution chooses *Bienvenidos* by jazz musician, Jim Cullum, as its alma mater.
- The Staff Council and Student Programming Board, later renamed Campus Activities Board, are established.
- The first issues of the student newspaper, *The Mesquite*, are published.

Investments like these are a demonstration of the A&M-San Antonio mission in action, as they promote innovation, purpose and progress not only within the University, but across the south Bexar County community.

Throughout the A&M-San Antonio 2019 *President's Report*, you will see highlights of the past and, in particular, how the University community commemorated its 10-year milestone. You will see a snapshot of two decades of alumni achievements representing each year of the past decade, plus acknowledgement of some of the key players in bringing the dream of A&M-San Antonio to life and helping it grow. You will also see highlights from some of the year's celebrations,

including General the Jaguar's birthday party, which welcomed some of San Antonio's most recognizable mascots, and a special faculty series representing scholarship, creativity and service.

A&M-San Antonio is a place where excellence and access intersect — where innovation is impacting the lives of individuals across south Bexar County and beyond. What started as a dream 20 years ago is today a catalyst for the dreams of thousands. From rapid physical expansion to increased investment in academic programs to strategic partnerships aimed at improving both quality of education and quality of life, A&M-San Antonio is on a mission: to build a better future.



GREG GARCIA: UNIVERSITY CHAMPION

While A&M-San Antonio is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, the University has had supporters and friends since well before 2009. One of these is the late Greg Garcia, a lifelong Aggie and key figure in bringing the dream of A&M-San Antonio to life.

Alongside the late Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr., Garcia championed the establishment of a four-year institution on the south side of San Antonio from the very beginning. He was there when the approval process first began in 1996, and he remained a devoted supporter through every milestone.

And Garcia's legacy extends beyond A&M-San Antonio, as he served as assistant vice chancellor for governmental affairs with the A&M University System representing several A&M institutions. He was also an alumnus of Texas A&M University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Business in 1962.

Prior to his work with the A&M System, Garcia built a successful career in the private sector at Superior Surgical Manufacturing, Inc., and was a member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Serving on the Legislative Task Force, Public Affairs Steering and Education Task Force committees, he was appointed to the San Antonio Bexar County Bond Oversight Board and named "Diplomat of the Year" by the Chamber.

In recognition of Garcia's remarkable service to A&M-San Antonio, in spring 2019, the University honored him with the Inaugural Meritorious Service Award. Sadly, he passed away in October – a huge loss for our campus community and for the A&M System as a whole. However, his legacy lives on, as we continue to honor him as a friend and father.

ALONGSIDE THE LATE SEN. FRANK L. MADLA, JR., GARCIA CHAMPIONED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SAN ANTONIO FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

2011



- The new Main Campus Building opens to an enrollment of over 3,500 students.
- The Institution's first honorary doctorate is awarded to Texas A&M University System Regent Emerita, Ida "Weisie" Clement Steen.
- The Student Programming Board and the History Club bury a time capsule on campus with University artifacts, intended to be opened in August 2036.
- University leadership coins the phrase, "Military Embracing™," to demonstrate the commitment at A&M-San Antonio to be a military-friendly campus.
- The University establishes the Faculty Senate and proposes to rename its three schools "colleges."

EARLY CHAMPIONS

Along with Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr., countless individuals supported the development of Texas A&M University-San Antonio and enabled the Institution to come to life and continue to grow. From elected officials and organizations to the Texas A&M Aggie network, here is only a snapshot of those friends and supporters whose contributions will live on.



HAROLD OLIVER Worked extensively with the late Texas Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr. to develop bills, riders and legislative and community support for the establishment of the A&M-San Antonio campus; served as inaugural chairman of the board of the A&M-San Antonio Foundation; and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from A&M-San Antonio



CINDY TAYLOR Led the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and spearheaded efforts to bring the A&M-San Antonio campus to the south side of San Antonio



THE HONORABLE JEFF WENTWORTH A Texas State Senator for the 25th District who served as an inaugural member of the A&M-San Antonio President's Circle



THE HONORABLE JOE FARIAS A Texas State Representative from District 118 who worked tirelessly with the late Sen. Frank L. Madla, Jr., for 12 years, advocating for the founding of A&M-San Antonio



ED GARZA Former mayor of San Antonio who served on the inaugural Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation Board of Directors



THE HONORABLE FRANK J. CORTE A former member of the Texas House of Representatives, District 122, and Col. USMC (Ret.), who submitted House legislation enabling the University's establishment



JUDGE NELSON WOLFF Former mayor of San Antonio (1991-95) who donated his personal collection of 36 boxes full of political records and artifacts to A&M-San Antonio's Archives & Special Collections at the Presidio Gallery



RICHARD PEREZ President and CEO of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce who lobbied on behalf of A&M-San Antonio prior to its establishment



JELYNNE LEBLANC BURLEY President and chief executive officer of The Center for Health Care Services and former executive vice president/chief delivery officer for CPS Energy Group who was instrumental in bringing A&M-San Antonio to life

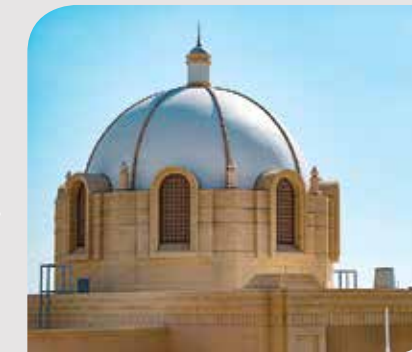


DR. CARL RABA Three-time Texas A&M University alumnus, President's Advisory Board member and 2011 Dream Maker honoree who supported the placement of the A&M-San Antonio campus on the city's south side from the beginning

2012

- The A&M System Board of Regents approves the transition of A&M-San Antonio's three schools to colleges.
- Dr. Mirley Balasubramanya is appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Eric Lopez is appointed dean of the College of Education and Human Development; and Dr. Tracy Hurley is appointed dean of the College of Business.
- The University establishes Festival de Cascarones, an evolution of the prior event, Jaguar Jam. Festival de Cascarones is recognized as the official Fiesta San Antonio finale.
- The Jaguar Ambassadors Program is established.

2013



- The dome is lowered onto the Central Academic Building (CAB), becoming the defining icon for the University.
- The first Ring Ceremony takes place, establishing the tradition for graduating seniors.
- The Jaguar Student Awards are launched.
- Inaugural Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Melissa Mahan, introduces the Jaguar Growl.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Texas A&M University-San Antonio received national recognition in 2019, reflecting its strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as its dedication to serving military-connected students and their families. Several recognitions are highlighted below.

A&M-San Antonio named Voter Friendly Campus, earns Gold Seal for Excellence in student voter engagement



The Voter Friendly Campus designation program recognized A&M-San Antonio as a 2019-20 Voter Friendly Campus. Started through a partnership between the Campus Vote Project and NASPA in 2016, the program awards this designation to institutions that develop a strategic plan to engage administrators, faculty and students in civic and electoral engagement. A&M-San Antonio achieved a student voter engagement rate 40-49, earning the Institution a Gold Seal at the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative that recognizes and supports campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The challenge encourages higher-education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and to make democratic participation a core value on their campuses.

A&M-San Antonio students also received high marks in the recent findings of the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) report, published by the Tufts University Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE). The results indicated that A&M-San Antonio students are voting at a much higher rate than the average of all of the institutions included in the study, especially those aged 18-24.

A&M-San Antonio Fire and Emergency Services program ranked No. 1



On June 17, the Bachelor's Degree Center (BDC) released its 2019 national rankings naming A&M-San Antonio's Fire and Emergency Services program No. 1 for online fire science bachelor's programs. A&M-San Antonio's program was specifically included in the "25 Best Online Fire Science Bachelor's Degree Programs for 2019" category. According to BDC, A&M-San Antonio's program stands out because it enhances students' emergency service capabilities by emphasizing vital management, leadership and administration skills.

A&M-San Antonio named No. 35 in Military Times' 'Best for Vets: Colleges 2020'

35



A&M-San Antonio jumped from No. 77 to No. 35 on the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2020" national ranking in the *Military Times* out of 134 four-year institutions. Now in their 10th year, the rankings are based on a review of publicly available data and the results of *Military Times'* annual survey, the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services and rates of academic achievement. Institutions were evaluated in five categories: university culture, academic outcomes/quality, student support, academic policies and cost and financial aid.

HACU chooses 12 Jaguar participants for Emerging Leaders' Summit—first A&M-San Antonio HACU Leader in Residence

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) selected 12 A&M-San Antonio students to attend the Emerging Leaders Summit, focused on preparing students for internships and career opportunities. The prestigious, one-day event, held at the Concordia University Texas campus in Austin Sept. 17, brought together over 100 local students from 18 colleges and universities to network with professionals and corporate representatives. A&M-San Antonio student Gustavo De La Fuente earned one of only five scholarships to attend the 2019 HACU ¡Adelante! Leadership Institute (Student Track) in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 5-7, in conjunction with HACU's annual conference. Here is a full list of this year's Jaguar participants:

Nelly J. Aboytes
Luis Bernal
Emilio Castelan

Gustavo De La Fuente
Armando Alanis Flores
Cynthia P. Gallegos Lopez

Krystalyn A. Garza
Yazmin Hernandez
Marissa Lyssy

Richard A. Montemayor
Danielle Rios
Dulce Rodriguez

2014

- The Institution celebrates the openings of CAB and the Patriots' Casa, known as the "Academic Home of the Brave."
- A&M-San Antonio is designated as the first Purple Heart University in San Antonio.
- "Boots on the Ground" is introduced, holding that, on Fridays, veterans are invited to wear combat boots, and individuals wishing to show support for the military are invited to wear red shirts symbolizing Remembering Everyone Deployed (RED).
- The Main Campus Building is renamed the Sen. Frank L. Madla Building and celebrated with a dedication ceremony, statue unveiling and proclamation by Gov. Rick Perry.
- A&M-San Antonio receives accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges officially separating it from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.



2015



- Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson becomes the University's second president.
- A&M-San Antonio establishes its first major scholarship endowment, thanks to a \$1 million gift from William "Bill" Greehey, president of the Greehey Family Foundation. The gift is used for the First Generation Endowed Scholarship Fund, created to assist first-generation students.
- The 84th Texas Legislature approves plans for A&M-San Antonio's expansion to become a comprehensive four-year university.
- The Texas A&M System Board of Regents approves the creation of the Institute for Water Resources Science and Technology, the first institute founded in the University.
- The legislature allocates \$11 million to accommodate expected enrollment growth due to 2016 freshman and sophomore admittance.
- City Council adopts SA Tomorrow plan incorporating the transformation of the area around A&M-San Antonio into a major educational and industrial hub for the region.

A&M-SAN ANTONIO IN THE NEWS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio's faculty, students, alumni, partnerships, initiatives and engagement garner media national and regional attention throughout the year. Following are coverage highlights from throughout 2019.

NATIONAL

University Business Magazine, "Campus Security: Helping the College Community Using GIS and IPS" | April 12, 2019

A&M-San Antonio University Police deployed IPS technology across the entire campus in conjunction with the SafeZone app from CriticalArc. The new technology provides campus police with a 3D view of multistory buildings and provides real-time locations of all available officers.

Military Times, "Best for Vets: Top Colleges 2020" | Oct. 28, 2019

Military Times' newest "Best for Vets: Colleges" rankings surveyed hundreds of colleges and universities from across the country on their policies related to military and veteran students, academic outcomes, military-supportive cultures and other factors. In 2019, A&M-San Antonio jumped from No. 77 to No. 35 out of 134 four-year institutions.

University Business Magazine, "How Faculty Become 'Military Competent' to Better Understand Veterans" | Nov. 7, 2019

K.C. Kalmbach, associate professor of psychology at A&M-San Antonio, says supporting veterans in higher education means

that most A&M-San Antonio faculty members buy into the University's motto of being "Military Embracing™." Supporting veterans in higher education and creating a more inclusive environment begins with helping faculty and staff become more "military-culture competent," says Kalmbach, who developed the University's training program.

KLRN-TV, "SciTech Now" | Nov. 14, 2019

Technology has taken a step forward with the invention of a new mobile app that uses voice assistants to help disabled patrons of the San Antonio Public Library. This is thanks to A&M-San Antonio computer science majors Clinton Minton, Artem Skitenko, Harry Staley and David Velez, who worked as a team to create the app, which allows anyone, including the disabled, to have quick and easy access to books and services at the library.

L.A. Parent, "Easier Holiday Travel with Disabilities and Special Needs" | Nov. 22, 2019

Travel with children with special needs can be a challenge. Dr. Carl Sheperis, A&M-San Antonio's dean of the College of Education and Human Development and national autism intervention expert, shared traveling strategies with L.A. Parent Magazine.

REGIONAL

San Marcos Corridor News, "The Best Cyber Offense is a Good Cyber Defense – Texas Cyber NSA-Accredited Schools" | Feb. 19, 2019

While other Texas colleges and universities focus on protecting U.S. military and government agency cyber assets, the program at A&M-San Antonio concentrates on protecting the country's businesses, communities and economic security. Akhtar Lodgher, chair of the department of computing and cyber security and director of the Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security at A&M-San Antonio, explained, "Our unique model empowers students to leverage cybersecurity as a competitive advantage instead of just an 'add-on' IT function. Earning the NSA cyber security certificate through one of our programs makes our students more competitive when they enter the job market and more marketable to private-sector industries that want to protect their companies from cyberattacks."

EAB, "Bill Gates: Here's Why Textbooks Will Soon be Obsolete" | Feb. 28, 2019

EAB, a best-practice business serving the education industry, reported in February that, according to Bill and Melinda Gates, "Textbooks are becoming obsolete." The article goes on to report that universities, including A&M-San Antonio, are switching to electronic materials, a practice that is shown to help students stay in school and achieve higher grades.

Texas Public Radio, "Historians Deploy Science to Explore African American History in San Antonio" | April 19, 2019

Researchers and students from A&M-San Antonio used ground-penetrating radar to examine a rediscovered African American

cemetery. The site was linked to historic African American settlements on the north side of San Antonio.

The Texas Tribune, "Veterans and Workforce Development" | Oct. 28, 2019

A&M-San Antonio Director of Military Affairs and ROTC Richard Delgado, Jr., joined a panel moderated by *The Texas Tribune* CEO Evan Smith to speak about veterans and workforce development.

Texas Monthly, "The Lost Texans of the Louisiana Pines" | Nov. 27, 2019

Texas Monthly makes a visit to the Zwolle Tamale Fiesta and Los Adaes, where Texas State's Spanish colonial roots live on just across the Sabine River. A&M-San Antonio history professor, Francis X. Galán – a historian whose book, *Los Adaes, the First Capital of Spanish Texas*, is being published in 2020—was interviewed about historical significance of the area and its early pioneers.

Austin American Statesman, "Program Helps Drivers with Communication Issues" | Nov. 29, 2019

The Samuel Allen Law, named after an A&M-San Antonio graduate with Asperger's, went into effect in September, allowing drivers with communication issues to register with the Texas Department of Public Safety. If they get pulled over, officers receive an alert when checking their license plate numbers so they know they might need to alter their approach.

2016



▲ The first four-year cohort (class of 2020) participates in the inaugural Jaguar March and freshman convocation.

⚙️ The Provost's Distinguished Faculty Awards are introduced.

⚙️ The Institution welcomes its inaugural Vice President for University Advancement, Dr. Richard Ortega.

⚙️ The Texas Historical Commission places an official marker in the plaza in front of the Central Academic Building, recognizing the campus as a historic site.

⚙️ A&M-San Antonio receives the first 9/11 Survivor Tree seedling in San Antonio.

⚙️ The first annual Arise Dinner welcoming transfer students takes place.

⚙️ Dr. Eric Lopez, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, is named the inaugural ACE Fellow for academic year 2016-17.

⚙️ University Marketing & Communications reveals new A&M-San Antonio Jaguar logo.



▲ The Institution hosts the first Lights of Esperanza, an enhanced community-wide event celebrating holiday lighting of the campus.

2017

⚙️ A&M-San Antonio convenes the President's Commission on Equity (PCOE).

⚙️ The U.S. Department of Education designates A&M-San Antonio as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).

⚙️ The University opens Esperanza Hall, its first on-campus student residence.

⚙️ The Dean's List and the President's List are established.



⚙️ The Institution announces the Campus Master Plan to develop an academic plan and strategic partnerships to enhance enrollment and become a model for student and academic success.

A&M-SAN ANTONIO IN THE NEWS

LOCAL

San Antonio Express-News, "A&M-San Antonio has a Plan for Intercollegiate Sports" | Feb. 19, 2019

The San Antonio Express-News was one of the first to report that A&M-San Antonio is working on introducing intercollegiate sports over the next few years starting with soccer, basketball and e-sports, among others.

Rivard Report, "Texas A&M-San Antonio Sees Intercollegiate Sports as Ticket to Higher Profile" | May 9, 2019

President Cynthia Teniente-Matson details the University's efforts to establish a Recreation and Athletics Center on campus to support an intercollegiate athletics program.

Rivard Report, "10 Years In, There's Still Room to Grow for Texas A&M-San Antonio" | May 12, 2019

The Rivard Report looks back over the past 10 years and at the future growth of A&M-San Antonio, incorporating insight from the University's first president, Maria Hernandez Ferrier, from students and from the current president, Cynthia Teniente-Matson.

KABB Fox News 29 San Antonio, "Texas A&M-San Antonio Celebrates 10 Years with Groundbreaking Ceremony" | May 13, 2019

Fox 29 San Antonio reported on the kick off of A&M-San Antonio's 10-year anniversary celebration, which included the

groundbreaking for a new building. A Texas Senate bill was signed on May 13, 2009, designating A&M-San Antonio as a stand-alone institution.

San Antonio Express-News, "A&M-San Antonio Wants to Jump-start Student Traditions" | May 18, 2019

President Cynthia Teniente-Matson encourages students to be part of setting the traditions for the University, telling them they are also founders. If there is a club or student activity missing, Matson says the University will help them establish it. The mission for students is to create what it means to be an A&M-San Antonio Jaguar.

San Antonio Express-News, "Nontraditional College Student Graduates from Texas A&M at San Antonio with honors" | May 20, 2019

A&M-San Antonio is where 55-year-old Joyce Raposo completed her long sought-after communications degree. She graduated from A&M-San Antonio after three decades of working long days, taking night classes and weathering life's challenges. The communication major graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average and an invitation to the Lambda Pi Eta honor society of the National Communication Association. The Texas Intercollegiate Press Association awarded her first place for her feature story about Marikate Maggio, an 18-year-old freshman at A&M-San Antonio who died in a car accident in September. Raposo was the first recipient of a \$5,000 Freedom Grant from My Education Solutions for an essay about her legacy at the University.

KABB Fox News 29 San Antonio, "New Court Program Will Help Foster Kids Pursue Higher Education" | July 26, 2019

State lawmakers have set aside nearly \$3 million to make sure foster kids growing up in Bexar County go to college. Children's Court is working with local colleges like UTSA, A&M-San Antonio and the Alamo Community Colleges District to help foster children navigate roadblocks that far too often keep them from pursuing higher education.

San Antonio Business Journal, "Texas A&M-San Antonio to Start College Sports Program" | Aug. 9, 2019

South San Antonio institution, A&M-San Antonio, plans to field multiple men's and women's sports teams and will seek to compete at the NAIA level.

Spectrum News, "Texas A&M San Antonio Welcomes Largest Freshman Class to Date" | Aug. 16, 2019

A&M-San Antonio marked a milestone with the largest freshman class of more than 700 students. Most of the school's 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students are from San Antonio, where there has been a 30 percent increase in the past three years. That includes a 43 percent jump in students from Southside ISD.

San Antonio Business Journal, "Table of Experts: Education, How Universities are Building San Antonio's Talent Pipeline" | Oct. 25, 2019

Drs. Carl Sheperis, Amy Lewis and Mirley Balasubramanya of A&M-San Antonio discussed the future of higher education at the

San Antonio Business Journal's #TableOfExperts on Education. The article goes into detail about how A&M-San Antonio is changing higher education.

KSAT-12, "New Development Near Texas A&M-San Antonio to Have Space for Housing, Retail, Trail System" | Nov. 19, 2019

KSAT-12 TV and other regional media reported SouthStar Communities, a development company, will build housing, offices, restaurants and retail space off Loop 410 South, at the entrance to the A&M-San Antonio campus. The project, named VIDA, will include a trail system, the "Mad," named after Senator Frank Madla, one of the founders of the original bill creating A&M-San Antonio. The development project is anticipated to break ground in 2020.

Rivard Report, "Texas A&M-San Antonio to Work with South Side Districts to Improve Teaching, Student Outcomes" | Nov. 22, 2019

A&M-San Antonio has partnered with seven south Bexar County independent school districts (East Central, Edgewood, Harlandale, Somerset, South San Antonio, Southside and Southwest) to develop educational programs and services. This collaborative effort will tackle teacher shortages and address curriculum development challenges and gaps in services for children with special needs. The program, known as Impact Regional Equity and Excellence initiative, or ASPIRE, was made possible in part by a \$1 million gift from the Charles Butt Foundation.

The Jaguars Remembered tradition is established to pay tribute to University community members who passed away in the preceding year.

The National Security Agency designates A&M-San Antonio as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense.

The Terwilliger Family Foundation pledges a \$250,000 endowment to support the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders.

A&M-San Antonio partners with Univision San Antonio to form Univision Media Lab – Capstone Experience on the University campus, helping shape the next generation of media professionals.

The Mays Family Foundation makes the largest contribution to A&M-San Antonio to date: a \$5 million gift to establish the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

The College of Business relocates from Brooks City-Base, consolidating all colleges on the new campus for the first time.



Presidio Gallery opens at the Bexar County Archives Building, in partnership with Bexar County, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and A&M-San Antonio.



The new Science and Technology Building opens, bringing plans for a traditional campus quad to fruition.

The University celebrates the dedication of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approves the establishment of the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders in recognition of a \$1 million gift from the Honorable Henry G. Cisneros.

A&M-San Antonio becomes the first university in Texas, and only the ninth in the nation, to participate in the Facebook Cyber Security University Program.

President Matson interviews President Bill Clinton for the release of the book he co-authored with James Patterson, *The President is Missing*.

The Outstanding Senior and Senior of Distinction Awards are introduced.

Brandy McLelland joins A&M-San Antonio as the Institution's inaugural vice president of enrollment management.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio's ambitious strategic plan "Build. Impact. Transform." continues to support an audacious track to become a national model for student and academic success. This year, students, guided by scientists, entrepreneurs and thought leaders in technology and other industries, tackled real-world problems from cyber security to accessibility, connecting with high-profile organizations such as the National Security Agency and the U.S. Air Force. The following are highlights from the 2019 efforts. The following are highlights from the 2019 efforts.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL NEWS



Campus advances equity and inclusion

The President's Commission on Equity (PCOE) continues to guide an institution-wide strategy that increases an understanding of social inequalities while supporting the rich diversity and heritage of the community served by A&M-San Antonio. The work of the PCOE supports strategic goals to build a culture of excellence that values equity and inclusion and to create an equitable environment.

Engaging with such issues impacts the student experience, including undergraduate students potentially completing six hours of relevant coursework to increase their knowledge. Since fall 2018, the University community has heard from national, regional and local leaders including Jordana Barton, senior advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Kay Iwata, president of K. Iwata Associates, Inc.; and Dr. Christine Drennon, director of Urban Studies at Trinity University.

University strengthens leadership with key new hires

A&M-San Antonio enhanced the growing Jaguar leadership team throughout 2019 with several strategic hires in academic and administrative leadership including:



Dr. Carl Sheperis
Start date: Feb. 1, 2019
Dean of the College of Education and Human Development
With more than 20 years of professional experience, over 100 professional publications, seven textbook authorships and numerous awards, Dr. Sheperis is considered an expert in pediatric mental health and autism intervention. He brings to the department a strong commitment to the advancement of professional counseling through mentorship, teaching, research and service.



Dr. Jeanette De Diemar
Start date: March 25, 2019
Vice President for Advancement and External Relations
Dr. De Diemar is an award-winning creative/communications strategist with more than 20 years of professional experience in executive leadership, integrated marketing and communications, higher education and public relations. The American Marketing Association 2014 Higher Education Marketer of the Year, she brings to the leadership role international expertise in reputation management, brand development and crisis communications and the impact of data.



Dr. Vijay Golla
Start date: Aug. 8, 2019
Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies
Dr. Golla has a proven record of increasing research and developing

programs with extensive experience in research and administration. A tenured professor in the Department of Science and Mathematics, he provides strategic vision and support to faculty, staff and students in support of the University's research and graduate education goals.



Dr. Amy Lewis
Start date: July 16, 2019
Associate Dean of the College of Business
With nearly 20 years of academic work experience, Dr. Lewis brings expertise in business, management and leadership to the University. She has published extensively in the areas of social identity, teams and managerial cognition, and she has provided statistical, research methodology and salary/compensation consultation to a variety of individuals and organizations.



Vanessa Torres
Start date: Sept. 3, 2019
Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management
Torres is a leader in local higher-education marketing who specializes in integrated communications, strategy and implementation. She is active with several professional and community organizations, including the American Marketing Association-San Antonio and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of South Texas.

A&M-San Antonio brings Sandra Cisneros' Macondo Writers Workshop to campus

In collaboration with Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say (NP), A&M-San Antonio hosted acclaimed author Sandra Cisneros' Macondo Writers Workshop for the second consecutive year. Over 45 Macondo writers, known as Macondistas, stayed in Esperanza Hall and attended several workshops throughout the week of July 23-28, focusing on literary topics such as poetry, fiction and memoir. Participants enjoyed presentations from Cisneros and renowned anthropologist/writer, Ruth Behar, plus sessions led by all-star faculty including Sherwin Bitsui, Helena Maria Viramontes and Joy Castro. Collaboration with NP, a Houston-based nonprofit promoting Latino literature and literacy, will allow A&M-San Antonio to host the exclusive workshop for the next three years.

Founded by Cisneros in 1995, Macondo Writers Workshop fosters the voices of diverse, socially engaged writers to promote creativity, generosity and community service. Macondistas work in all literary genres, focusing on geographic, cultural, economic, gender and spiritual borders. Learn more at macondowriters.com.

2019

- The Institution hosts an Art Walk to celebrate the new additions curated to supplement the campus art collection.
- Dr. Matson serves as President of the San Antonio Tricentennial Commission.



- The University plays a prominent role in SA300, the city's yearlong Tricentennial celebration, by hosting a number of official events throughout the year.

- The Financial Literacy of South Texas Foundation invests \$1 million to fund scholarships for accounting and finance majors, and stipends for financial literacy projects.
- The University breaks ground on new, 55,000-square-foot Academic and Administration Building, scheduled to open in 2020.
- Military Times* ranks A&M-San Antonio No. 35 in "Best for Vets: Colleges 2020," advancing 42 places from the 2019 ranking.

- The University holds first five- and 10-year alumni reunions at Alumni Reunion Weekend.
- Dr. Vijay Golla joins the University as the inaugural Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies.
- A&M-San Antonio students vote on a student fee to support an Intercollegiate Athletics Program, with over 86 percent of participants voting in favor. Their approval paved the way for competitive sports to start in fall 2020.



- A total of 1,597 degrees are conferred, bringing the alumni network to over 12,000 and setting a University record.
- The University is designated as an official polling site.
- The Institution unveils the Timeline Wall in CAB, commemorating its 10-year anniversary.
- A&M-San Antonio collaborates with other local institutions in support of the Bexar County Foster Youth Initiative.
- The University launches 10-year anniversary book at the annual Festival de Cascarones in April.

- The Board of Regents approves new A&M-San Antonio intercollegiate athletics program, set to launch in fall 2020.
- A&M-San Antonio announces ASPIRE, an initiative to develop in-district Lab Schools, programs and services through partnerships with seven south Bexar County ISDs.
- SouthStar Communities announces VIDA master-planned community, set to break ground in spring 2020 adjacent to A&M-San Antonio. VIDA will contribute to the Institution's "live-work-play-learn" vision.



- The Charles Butt Foundation provides \$1 million in support of the College of Education and Human Development and a new Applied Behavior Analysis degree program.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

NSA sponsors 'Aggies Invent - Cyber 2019'

The University hosted the 2019 Aggies Invent - Cyber event Oct. 25-27, a 48-hour design, build and present challenge sponsored by the National Security Agency (NSA) that attracted more than 30 participants from the Colleges of Business and Arts and Sciences. The teams, guided by 15 mentors, presented to a team of judges from NSA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., who determined the winners. The three winning teams received \$500 to \$1,000 for their ideas in solving complex real-world scenarios related to cyber security solutions. The winning teams include:



First Place: "Web Sleuths" (William Welsh, Noah Rincon, Christine Saucedo, David Velez, Kain Sparks)



Second Place: "Deadly Winds" (Diego F. Falla, Maira Inez Arias Perez, Ruben Andrade, Issac Guerra)



Third Place: "Algorithm Aces" (Harry A. Staley, Alvin Tran, Clinton Minton, Joshua I. Madrigal, Christian Thomas, Jonathan Michael Rosett)



A&M-San Antonio JagCoders extend real-world cyber security applications during Esri San Antonio workshop

Esri San Antonio, a San Antonio-based software company, provided College of Business (COB) students with opportunities to apply coding skills during a daylong workshop April 22 through the University's JAGCoders initiative. During the workshop, presenters conducted labs and led hands-on exercises focused on introducing students to the in-demand Geographic Information System (GIS) using Esri software applications. As an extension of this workshop, COB faculty plan to consider a longer-term collaboration with Esri San Antonio.

Computer Science students design voice-activated system for city library website



A team of A&M-San Antonio Computer Science students created a voice-activated system to assist differently-abled visitors to the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) website. Guided by San Antonio's CivTechSA

Program, students worked alongside entrepreneurs and the city of San Antonio. The collaboration exposes students to current civic challenges and solutions while investing in the growth of San Antonio's startup and technology communities. Dr. Izzat Alsmadi, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, guided the team. To learn more about CivTechSA, visit civtech-sa.com.



Instructors tackle real-world scenarios to develop curriculum during NSF summer workshop

Computing instructors participated in a two-day summer training workshop to develop curriculum based on real-world environments to generate collaborative problem solving. The workshop guided methods to develop curriculum and learning experiences. Hosted by the A&M-San Antonio National Science Foundation (NSF) project management team, the workshop delivered hands-on training in cyber security modules and model-eliciting activities including evaluation and research assessment methodologies. The computer science curriculum programming courses incorporated the set of security modules at A&M-San Antonio and San Antonio College during fall 2019.

Gift from Myra Stafford Pryor Charitable Trust funds student laptops

A \$14,250 grant awarded by the Myra Stafford Pryor Charitable Trust supported the purchase of 10 laptops. These laptops will support COB students in projects and activities that extend their academic experience, including competitions.



CCS faculty connect with the Philippines on the state of cyber security

Department of Computing and Cyber Security (CCS) faculty met with dignitaries from the Philippines to discuss "Sustaining Cyber Security." As part of the San Antonio Council for International Visitors, the delegation featured several dignitaries, including Angelo Diaz Buenviaje, chief of staff, Office of Senator Grace Poe, Philippine Senate; Harry Ruiz Lorenzo, assistant chief, Cyber Security, Research and Analysis Division, Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group; and Alwell Canizares Mulsid, information systems analyst II, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Cybersecurity Bureau. The delegation toured the University and discussed the pipeline of students from high school to university in cyber security, along with related challenges and achievements.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.



A&M-San Antonio 'Inspires the Aspirers' – hosting International Girls in ICT Day celebration

Encouraging and empowering girls and young women to consider careers in information and communication technologies (ICT), A&M-San Antonio hosted International Girls in ICT Day April 25. International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a U.N. specialized agency for ICTs. The main goal of celebrating International Girls in ICT Day at A&M-San Antonio is to motivate, empower and recruit women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and enhance equity and diversity in the community, according to Dr. Smriti Bhatt, assistant

professor of computing and cyber security, who organized the event. International Girls in ICT Day at A&M-San Antonio featured a panel discussion on opportunities and challenges for women in tech, student resume reviews by the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement and two speakers including Dr. Barbara Hewitt, founder of San Antonio Women in IT (SAWIT), and Debi Pfitzenmaier, founder of San Antonio Youth Code Jam. The speakers and panelists shared their experiences and inspiring stories, encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in IT and STEM.

\$1 million grant kick-starts cyber research at A&M-San Antonio

A&M-San Antonio will advance cyber research through a newly established Cyber Engineering Technology/Cyber Security Research Center with a \$1 million grant from the A&M System Chancellor's Research Initiative. The center will be housed in the Department of Computing and Cyber Security within the College of Business. Some of the major research areas to be investigated at the center include security and privacy in the Internet of Things and cloud computing, secure vehicle-to-vehicle communications and cyber physical systems.

The grant will also be used to enhance research collaborations with local and regional research institutions, and it will be shared with the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), which will receive about a third of the money. Another portion of the grant will support existing degree programs at A&M-San Antonio, such as Cyber Engineering Technology, as well as future graduate programs. The winning proposal was submitted by the Department of Computing and Cyber Security faculty, Drs. Smriti Bhatt and Lo'ai Tawalbeh, under the supervision of Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, department chair.

CAST Tech students compete in CyberPatriot XII

Nine teams of CAST Tech High School students competed in CyberPatriot XII Rounds 1 and 2, hosted by the Department of Computing and Cyber Security Nov. 15 and Dec. 6, respectively. Around 40 students from CAST Tech competed in each round using department facilities. CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association, aims to inspire K-12 students to consider careers in cyber security and other STEM disciplines critical to our nation's future. In addition to hosting CyberPatriot on campus, Computing and Cyber Security faculty has reached out to CAST Tech about providing mentors for the students in the future.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



HOLT CAT supports Hola STEM, University's first South Texas Women in Business workshop

The COB and Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Engagement hosted the inaugural Entrepreneurial Spirit: South Texas Women in Business Workshop Nov. 1. The workshop drew 140 participants and was followed by a networking event hosted by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The workshop featured inspiring women speakers from organizations including Alamo Travel Group, the Priority Group and the Socionomics Institute. Corinna Holt Richter, president of HOLT CAT, delivered the keynote speech titled, "The Values of HOLT Make us Who We Are."

HOLT CAT also supported Hola STEM 2019 at A&M-San Antonio in July with a \$25,000 gift. During the Hola STEM

program, 14 middle-girls from Harlandale Independent School District enjoyed math, science and engineering curriculum with hands-on robot coding, programming and model-eliciting activities. Dr. Young Rae Kim, principal investigator, and Dr. Mi Sun Park, co-principal investigator, from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction led this year's event.

In addition to Hola STEM, HOLT CAT's support made it possible for the investigators and their team to launch four-week, after-school programs at local middle schools in spring and fall, as well as a one-week summer school program on the University's main campus.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.

NEISD parents visit the home of the Jaguars



It's never too early to start thinking about the future! In connection with North East Independent School District (NEISD), the Department of Curriculum and Instruction brought 15 parents of Eisenhower Middle School students to the A&M-San Antonio campus April 23. The parents — many of whom had never visited a college campus before — enjoyed a tour and lunch provided by the College of Education and Human

Development (COEHD), plus a visit from A&M-San Antonio President Cynthia Teniente-Matson. Dr. Karen Kohler, adjunct professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, collaborated with Rachel Hicks, family specialist at NEISD, to arrange the visit.

Summer camp enriches over 100 bilingual students, plus Bilingual Program participants

More than 100 bilingual students in Pre-K through first grade participated in a summer enrichment camp with pre-service teachers from the University's Bilingual Program. In collaboration with Southwest Independent School District (SWISD), the project offered an enriching educational experience for the students, as well as an authentic, field-based experience for pre-service teachers seeking English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement certification. Drs. Esther Garza, Myriam Guerra and Hsiao-Ping Wu made the camp possible, in collaboration with administrators, teachers and students from SWISD.



A&M-San Antonio students host family night at M.L.K. Academy

Forty students hosted a family night for M.L.K. Academy students and their families to enjoy. Highlighting the future of M.L.K. Academy as an arts, communication and technology-integrated campus, the event featured a band performance, a shadow puppet play, an art exhibit by the students and staff and a green screen that allowed students to “travel the world.” This service learning opportunity demonstrated the ongoing partnership between A&M-San Antonio students and COEHD faculty to support M.L.K. Academy's charter rewrite to become M L King Academy for Arts Integration, which focuses on integrating the arts throughout the school campus.



Week of the Young Child celebrates the abilities of children in the community

In April, the University community celebrated Week of the Young Child, a national initiative highlighting the abilities of children in the community. As part of the initiative, COEHD offered a series of engaging activities in partnership with two local elementary schools.

The Kinesiology Department connected with Madla Elementary School to sponsor “Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds,” where 54 student participants enjoyed fitness activities, as well as a tour of the Kinesiology Lab with a lesson and hands-on activity. Dr. Maria Acevedo-Aquino, assistant professor in the early childhood program, sponsored the second day with her students.

Over 35 guests enjoyed Artsy Thursday in partnership with Palo Alto Elementary School. The students offered literacy-based dramatic play experiences and creative activities for kindergartners and first-graders to enhance their oral language abilities. The week closed with an author celebration and Family Literacy Night, where A&M-San Antonio students provided literacy activities for campus and community families. The event featured local author Xelena González and local illustrator Adriana Garcia, creators of *All Around Us*, who gave a workshop featuring their book and held a book signing.

COEHD talks future of teacher education at Chancellor's Summit

COEHD invested in the future of education with the Texas A&M University System Chancellor's Summit on Teacher Education at Embassy Suites, Brooks City Base, Sept. 22 and 23. The event provided a forum to discuss the way the A&M System recruits, prepares, certifies and supports educators and leaders to ensure every graduate is ready to provide schools with high-quality, modern and impactful teaching and/or leadership from day one. Delegates consisted of senior representatives from the Chancellor's Office, university leaders, education deans, faculty and department leaders, student representatives and community stakeholders, including school district teachers and school district administrators.



Kappa Delta Pi welcomes 45 new members

Jaguar student organizations are growing! Kappa Delta Pi, the Jaguar Awards 2018 Student Organization of the Year, inducted 45 new members during its spring initiation in the Vista Room March 24. The prestigious organization also elected five new members to officer positions. Special guests for the induction ceremony included Dr. Carl Sheperis, dean of COEHD, and Dr. Melissa Mahan, vice president for student affairs.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

WATR collaboration's education and research impacts San Antonio

A&M-San Antonio's year-old degree program in Water Resources Science and Technology (WATR) addresses the state and national water industry workforce shortage and the need to increase public awareness of critical water issues, according to Dr. Walter Den, WATR program coordinator.

The collaboration continues to develop a network of local and regional stakeholders including the San Antonio Water System, San Antonio River Authority, Edwards Aquifer Authority, the City of San Antonio, U.S. Geological Survey, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services, as well as well-known engineering consulting firms. It provides a crosscutting platform bringing together established STEM disciplines with management and social sciences.

Starting in fall 2020, the program will launch a third degree in the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.) degree. The WATR program, recognizing the benefits to expand its footprint to other parts of Texas, now also partners with Blinn College to offer a pair of 2+2 degree programs, where students completing their Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in a prescribed major with Blinn can transfer to A&M-San Antonio's WATR program to earn their Bachelor of Science (B.S.) or B.A.A.S. degree. This is part of A&M System's RELIS campus – a collaborative ecosystem built to foster advanced research, technology development, testing and evaluation, higher education and hands-on career training. In the first academic year, the master's program already attracted a double-digit number of applicants and admitted seven students, and about 10 students are pursuing a B.S. degree.

The city of San Antonio recently awarded \$219,000 to the Institute for Water Resources Science and Technology through Proposition 1 Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project. The yearlong project, started in September, will focus on research, data and education to protect the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer in Bexar County from the effects of discharge of hazardous and polluting materials from contaminated water runoff during first responder emergency actions.



Project collaborators that will team up include the Edwards Aquifer Authority, which has contributed over \$80,000 in additional support, the San Antonio Fire Department, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and the San Antonio River Authority, which administers the grant. Due to the large size and varied economy of San Antonio, and its location as a major hub of medical, military and transportation activity, huge quantities of highly hazardous materials are stored in or pass through Bexar County. The project will help protect drinking water and species diversity during response to domestic and foreign attack, terrorism and other emergencies such as accidental fire, fire by arson, explosion, flood, high wind and lightning, according to Dr. Rudolph Rosen, visiting professor, institute director and project leader. To learn more about A&M-San Antonio's WATR program, visit tamusa.edu/watr.



Rivard Report covers historic discovery on University property

Upon the discovery of an African American cemetery on University property in recent years, the Rivard Report interviewed members of the Jaguar community for a March 2019 feature. The feature included insight from assistant professor of history, Dr. Philis Barragán Goetz; history student research intern, Moriah Torres; and Dr. Mike O'Brien, provost and professor of history. The University aims to preserve the site and make archival material available to the public, according to Dr. O'Brien.



Scholars share expertise at symposium on borders and borderlands

Fifteen scholars from across the country shared their expertise on the role of borders at the First Biennial Symposium on Global Borders and Borderlands History Program April 20. Organized by History Program faculty in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, the symposium featured an all-day, conference-style discussion about historical and contemporary issues concerning borders and borderlands.

Model United Nations team shines at conferences

Now in its second year, the A&M-San Antonio Model United Nations team traveled to conferences both in and out of state throughout 2019. Led by Sarah Kupcho, political science lecturer, the team also secured a number of awards, including Best Delegate (Carrie Russell), Most Knowledgeable (Tabitha Suarez) and Outstanding Delegate (Tony Nieves). Next year, the team will represent Guatemala at the National Model United Nations conference in Washington, D.C. In their efforts, the team advocates for international cooperation and peacekeeping, human rights, climate change and global activism.

Students also celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace by addressing the climate emergency during Peace Day Austin in September. At the event, students met and discussed these issues with Aditi Joshi, United Nations Association, Austin chapter president, and Paul Breen, vice-consul of Ireland.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.



Psychology Program hosts 27th annual ARMADILLO conference

The Psychology Program of the Department of Science and Mathematics was honored to host the 27th Annual Meeting of ARMADILLO, the Southwest Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Oct. 4-5. Over 100 researchers and students from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana attended and shared their research in the areas of memory, decision-making, linguistics, learning and other topics. Drs. Dawn Weatherford and William Blake Erickson, psychology faculty, co-organized the conference, and University faculty members Drs. Cory Ross, Malin Lilley, Alan Daniel and Mario Baldassari were among the presenters. A&M-San Antonio student Angelee Rodriguez also presented her work funded by psychology honors society, Psi Chi. Award-winning researcher of mind and consciousness, Nelson Cowan of the University of Missouri, delivered this year's keynote address.

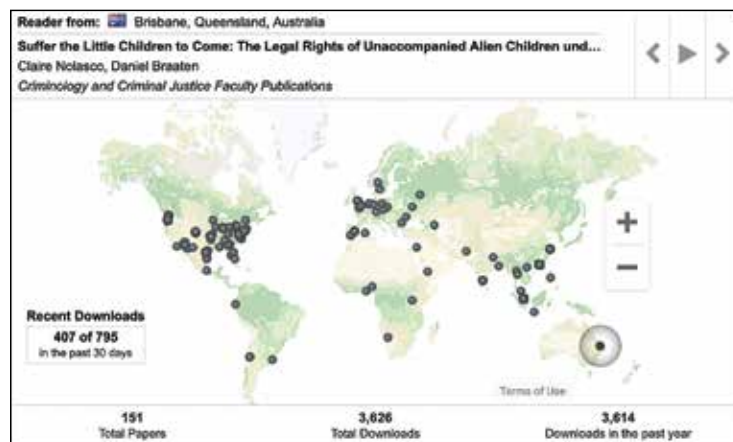
LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Presidio Gallery celebrates 10-year anniversary with special exhibits

Presidio Gallery hosted two special exhibits commemorating A&M-San Antonio's 10-year anniversary and Texas history. "The Building of a Legacy: A Retrospective Exhibit" covered the history of the University beginning with a plat map of the property dating back to the early 1800s. The exhibit gave visitors a glimpse into the making of A&M-San Antonio and a feel for the unique culture of the campus by highlighting things like annual celebrations and the fact that the University is a Military Embracing™ campus. Archives and Special Collections also hosted "Step into the History," an exhibit showcasing Texas history material from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas collection.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Jaguar scholarship goes global with 'Digital Commons @ Texas A&M University-San Antonio'

Individuals around the world can benefit from the work of the Jaguar community thanks to "Digital Commons @ Texas A&M University-San Antonio." The open-access Institutional Repository, launched by the University Library at the request of the Faculty Senate, allows researchers, students and the public to access the scholarship, research and creative works of A&M-San Antonio faculty. People from every continent except Antarctica have already accessed the repository.

Faculty earn cash honoraria for open textbook reviews

The University Library awarded cash honoraria to faculty for their reviews of open textbooks. Since 2016, over 4,000 students enrolled in courses using a freely accessible open textbook as a required course material. At a conservative estimate, students saved more than \$200,000. Here are the 2019 faculty recipients and their academic fields:

- Philis Barragan Goetz, History (A&S)
- Nicholas Creel, Government/Political Science (A&S; former faculty)
- Milly Daniel, Psychology (A&S)
- James Finley, English (A&S)
- Theresa Garfield, Special Education (COEHD)
- Elizabeth Hasseler, History (A&S)
- William Kiser, History (A&S)
- Elisabeth Krimball, Education Administration (COEHD)
- Eun Hye Kwon, Kinesiology (COEHD)
- Carla Mendiola, History (A&S)
- Rebekah Piper, Reading (COEHD)
- Megan Pope, Communication (A&S)
- Merritt Rehn-DeBraal, Philosophy (A&S)
- Robert Vinaja, Computer Science (COB)

MAYS CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Internship Grant helps students meet financial need and focus on career path

A new Internship Grant for students will make it possible for students to gain relevant work experience prior to graduation while helping fill financial need, rather than seeking other employment not related to their intended career path. To learn more or contribute to the program, visit tamusa.edu/mays.

BUILD. IMPACT. TRANSFORM.

MAYS CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



\$1 million gift launches Financial Literacy Fellows Program for accounting and finance majors

Accounting and finance majors received major support from the Financial Literacy of South Texas Foundation (FLSTF), which invested \$1 million to fund the Financial Literacy Fellows Program. This fellowship offers upper-level finance and accounting majors hands-on experience in peer-to-peer education and consulting, such as presenting financial information to freshmen and meeting with peers for money coaching office hours. The FLSTF funds go toward scholarships for these students, plus stipends for financial literacy projects.



Students sharpen career skills through HIRED! Professional Development Program

With its focus on sharpening professional skills, the HIRED! Professional Development Program for Student Employees now also serves as credit toward a professional development certificate under the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders for any interested student. In these interactive sessions, students practice career competencies ranked most important by hiring professionals across the nation. These include competencies such as leadership, teamwork, global fluency and critical thinking.



Mays Center brings cutting-edge virtual media to campus

A partnership between A&M-San Antonio's Mays Center and the San Antonio College Department of Digital Media brought Skill-Building Virtual Reality to campus. The application focuses on deepening student connections to community engagement and developing essential leadership and job search skills for the modern employment market. Program participants explore cutting-edge virtual media that will help them make the most of their Jaguar experience.



Build. Impact. Transform.

In just 10 years, University property has grown from cactus and scrub to a vibrant, growing campus community — and this is only the beginning. These images show the land of 10 years ago compared to what Texas A&M University-San Antonio will look like upon completion of the University's Campus Master Plan.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Building the A&M-San Antonio legacy

Texas A&M University-San Antonio students embody academic excellence, earning national recognition and demonstrating the all-around audaciousness that characterizes the Jaguar community. The following highlight some of their achievements in 2019.

Facebook™ scholarship winners explore cyber security at world's leading conferences



To explore trends and issues in the growing field of cyber security, nine students and three faculty from the Department of Computing and Cyber Security received Facebook™ scholarships to attend the world's leading hacking, security and developer conferences, attended by thousands of industry insiders and professionals:

- Students—Harry Staley and Joshua Devenport—and Dr. Kevin Barton, associate professor, attended the 2019 Enigma Conference and visited Facebook™ headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., in January.
- Dr. Jeong Yang, assistant professor, and students Amanda Beller and Michelle Nguyen attended the 2019 Women in CyberSecurity Conference in Pittsburgh in March. Dr. Yang also accompanied students Artem Skitenko and Michael Ramirez at the 2019 Facebook™ F8 Conference in April.
- Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, professor and chair, and three students—James Mick, Josh Sanchez and Gabe Campbell—attended the 2019 Black Hat and DEF CON conferences in Las Vegas in August.

B.A.A.S. major becomes CodePath 'Guru'



Based on his exceptional performance, Tech Fellow Clinton Minton, B.A.A.S. (cyber security track) major, earned distinction as a CodePath "Guru." Sponsored by Facebook™, the fall 2019 CodePath cyber security course, led by Dr. Kevin Barton, welcomed several

Department of Computing and Cyber Security students. As a "Guru," Minton will serve as a trainer for other Tech Fellows.

History students present at Black San Antonio History Conference

Honoring local African American history, students presented their research at the Black San Antonio History Conference May 4. Co-sponsored by the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum and A&M-San Antonio, the conference addressed themes such as early African American professionals, politics and arts and culture. Dr. Philis M. Barragán Goetz, assistant professor of history, organized the event and mentored the student presenters.

MBA student wins best paper honors at ABR conference



MBA student Ernest D. Hernandez represented the College of Business (COB) well at the Academy of Business Research Fall 2019 conference in San Antonio, where he won "Best Paper for the Management Session." The paper, titled "Legitimizing Social Entrepreneurship," represented research he conducted in Dr. Josephine Sosa-Fey's Seminar in Management class. Academics from across the nation attend the conference every year.



Jaguar Awards 2019 recognize outstanding student leaders

The Jaguar community recognized and celebrated the University's outstanding student leaders at the Jaguar Awards Ceremony April 13. The Office of Student Activities recognized leadership and involvement in the A&M-San Antonio community at this year's awards, incorporating awards from Recreational Sports and the Mays Center. In honor of the University's 10-year anniversary, 10 students received the Outstanding Senior Award. See a full list of honorees online at tamusa.edu/presidentsreport.

Together, this year's honorees hosted over 1,600 events, from tabling on campus, guest speakers, community service projects, fundraisers and cultural events to Bible studies, workshops, educational and political forums, food/clothing/toy/book drives and general meetings. Co-hosted events also saw an increase, collaborating with offices such as Military Affairs, the Office of Counseling and Wellness, Student Activities, Recreational Sports, the Mays Center, the University Library and the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Committee. To conclude the ceremony, the Student Government Association swore in its 2019-20 officers, and the President Elect made closing remarks.

Established in 2009, the Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the main governing body for A&M-San Antonio students. SGA represents the student voice in actively identifying and representing all student interests, serving as a bridge between students and faculty and administration by communicating and addressing student concerns, issues and ideas. Senior Business Management major La-Tieka Sims serves as the 10th SGA president, representing students for 2019-20. Following is a list of all SGA presidents since the program's establishment:

Cresencio Davila: 2009-10
Richard Delgado, Jr.: 2010-11
Zaria Rodriguez: 2011-12
Melissa Hadley: 2012-13
Andres Holliday: 2013-14 and 2014-15

Allison Garcia: 2015-16
Erick De Luna: 2016-17
Mary Walker: 2017-18
Marissa Lyssy: 2018-19
La-Tieka Sims: 2019-20

Educational Leadership major wins first We Teach Texas Leadership Fellowship



The University's first-ever We Teach Texas Leadership Fellow Scholarship went to Victoria Valdez, an Educational

Leadership major who teaches at Southwest Independent School District. The statewide We Teach Texas initiative aims to find talented local teachers invested in their communities and groom them into academic and administrative leaders who will guide their school districts to success. As a recipient, Valdez will pursue a Master of Science in Educational Administration at A&M-San Antonio.

Student leader represents A&M-San Antonio on special A&M System council

Becoming a voice for A&M-San Antonio, History major Martin Calderon won the Chancellors' Student Advisory Council election to serve on the A&M System's Council for Academic Technology and Innovative Education (CATIE). Giving student leaders an avenue to share concerns common to all A&M System campuses with Chancellor John Sharp, the council includes two student representatives from each institution. CATIE primarily focuses on the guiding principles of innovative strategy, evaluation, recommendation and implementation of strategies, regulations and compliance within academic technology.

Calderon, in collaboration with CATIE members, provides strategic direction, guidance and recommendations on technology-enriched teaching, learning and assessment initiatives. He serves as student body vice president and as a member of the Delta Chi fraternity, and he works as a legislative aide in the Texas House of Representatives.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Building the
A&M-San Antonio legacy



College of Business students pitch business stories to editors of *The Mesquite*

In order to sharpen their public relations skills, 13 senior marketing students pitched business-related story ideas to three editors of *The Mesquite*. Story ideas included topics related to cybernetics, intellectual property theft, Big Brother surveillance, the “retail ice age,” self-driving cars, robotics, drones, cloud doctoring, cryptocurrency, Brexit and business tools to help campus organizations succeed.

Dr. Jeanette De Diemar, vice president for advancement and external relations, served as a guest coach. Dr. Ruby A. Daniels, Department of Management and Marketing faculty, and Teresa Talerico, faculty advisor for *The Mesquite*, organized the collaboration. Students across the University now have the opportunity to pitch news stories, broaden content and participate in publishing stories that educate and inform our diverse student body at mesquite-news.com.



Creativity Takes Flight for College of Business students

Showcasing their creativity, College of Business students Josh McKinney, Vivian Tran, Emilee Jones, Jazmine Prieto and J.R. Valdez pitched a hypothetical marketing plan to an airline Nov. 19. Dr. Ruby Daniels, Department of Management and Marketing lecturer and the students’ Principles of Marketing instructor, praised the team’s engaging approach, which demonstrated the importance of critical and creative thinking in business.

Kinesiology students shine at Sports Medicine Annual Meeting



Over 20 kinesiology students joined the conversation at the University at the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (TACSM) 2019 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Feb. 28-March 1. Accompanied by Dr. John Smith, associate professor in the College of Education and Kinesiology, students heard and gave presentations on promoting and advancing medical and other scientific knowledge related to sport and exercise. This year, several A&M-San Antonio students presented among 138 from students across the region:

- Victoria Garcia, Joshua Kyllingstad, Gilbert Rodriguez and Amanda McCreery: effects of cannabidiol cream on delayed onset muscle soreness
- Marcus Blaylock: effect of activity log on functional outcomes in elderly physical therapy patients
- Jonathon Martinez: effect of pre-workout supplement on vertical jump and anaerobic power
- Cindy Trinh: predicting VO2max from 1- and 1.5-mile runs
- Kayla Swiantkiewicz: effect of partner and individual exercise on motivation and fitness

TACSM recognized Trinh as the 2019 A&M-San Antonio Kinesiology Major of the Year at the conference’s Recognition and Awards Ceremony.

MBA Students Present Research at 23rd Annual Western Hemispheric Trade Conference

Tiffany Oliver and Miguel Flores, MBA students in the College of Business, accompanied by faculty sponsor, Dr. Josie Sosa-Fey, presented their research at the 23rd Annual Western Hemispheric Trade Conference sponsored by Texas A&M International University in April 2019.

Oliver had the distinction of receiving the sole Best Student Paper Award for her research on “The Importance of Subordinate Emotional Intelligence Development in the Workplace.” She discussed various empirical studies demonstrating that, while a high level of emotional intelligence among leaders benefits business organizations, it is the level of emotional intelligence of subordinates that is also crucial to the overall success of business enterprises. Her manuscript was published by Taylor & Francis in August 2019.



Flores discussed his research on the “Challenges of Knowledge Management.” He focused on identifying and proposing solutions to problems affecting the management of knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer that is designed to promote innovation and enhance efficiency in business enterprises. He cited various examples from his own experience as an engineer.

COB students represent University at 22nd Annual Texas Regional Ethics Bowl



Department of Management and Marketing students made a great team at the 22nd Annual Texas Regional Ethics Bowl Nov. 16, placing 15th out of 26th. Drawing participants from colleges and universities across Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas this year, the intercollegiate competition allowed students to analyze and discuss current ethics cases.

Students film new take on Shakespeare for Qualities of Mercy Project

Students in Dr. Katherine Gillen’s Intersectional Shakespeare class had an enriching experience participating in the Qualities of Mercy Project out of Whittier College. This year’s project asked 14 university classes from across the country to produce short videos based on a specific portion of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*.

CAMPUS LIFE

Shaping the A&M-San Antonio of tomorrow

As Texas A&M University-San Antonio continued to grow in 2019, so did the campus life experience. Student life in and out of the classroom provides Jaguars with opportunities to discover their passion, develop leadership skills and engage with community organizations.

GENERAL NEWS

A&M-San Antonio joins Bexar County foster youth initiative



Bexar County youth with a history of foster care have a new pathway of support in their journey of higher education. Launched in 2019, the Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Pilot Program is a county-wide collaboration between A&M-San Antonio and several other local institutions, including the Alamo Colleges District, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Child Advocates San Antonio and Bexar County Children's Court. Established via a \$3.5 million appropriation by the 86th Texas Legislature, the initiative will enhance existing practices and programs; provide opportunities for relevant applied research and evaluation; and offer targeted support to improve college access, enrollment and retention/graduation rates.

Students vote to support fee for intercollegiate athletics



Building community is a key benefit of intercollegiate athletics. Health and wellness is also an important aspect of the student development experience—providing opportunities for A&M-San Antonio students to participate in an array of options for

fitness, recreational clubs and intramural sports to competitive athletic competitions. Students were involved in the University-wide effort for the past two years including forums, listening sessions and consultation.

In March, A&M-San Antonio students voted on a student fee to support an Intercollegiate Athletics Program, with over 86 percent of participants voting in favor. Their approval paved the way for competitive sports to start in fall 2020.

In the spring, student leaders testified before the state legislature to share their perspective and their participation in this process, including Clayton Jaskinia, former Jaguar Ambassador, and Marissa Lyssy, former Student Government Association president and December graduate.

The support of Texas State House Rep. Leo Pacheco (representing District 118) for leading the passage of HB 1439, Sen. Pete Flores on the State Senate side, as well as the support of other elected officials and University friends, were critical to the process.

In August, the Board of Regents approved the student fee and gave authority to move forward. The mix of men's and women's sports was selected based on student input, as well as local and regional interests, and it follows the spirit of Title IX. "An athletics program is integrally linked to a school's branding and reputation ... Texas A&M-San Antonio is ready to compete," said Chancellor John Sharp, following the A&M System Board of Regents' approval.

Finally, the Regents' approval triggered the remaining phases in the development of the athletics programming and the University's ability to recruit a director, athletics staff and coaches and, finally, student-athletes.

First up is men's and women's soccer, with women's softball and men's golf launching in fall 2020. Men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball programs will start upon the completion of the on-campus recreation center (currently expected to open in summer 2022).

Behind the scenes and across the University, staff are updating the Facilities Master Plan to support athletics and recreational sports, as well as recruiting staff and coaches and, most importantly, launching student-athlete recruitment. A faculty athletics representative created a University-wide intercollegiate athletics implementation committee. Many hands have been hard at work coordinating resources, facilities, staffing, finances, marketing and communications. Next up is the recruitment of coaches who will oversee the recruitment of student-athletes.

Jaguars empower women at inaugural Jag Women Rock! Award Show

The Office of Student Involvement hosted the Annual Women Empowerment Week in March, introducing a new initiative, the "Jag Women Rock!" Award Show. The show celebrates and highlights the talents, intelligence and achievements of faculty, staff, students and alumni who make valuable contributions to the University campus and community. The 2019 award winners included:



The Malala Yousafzai Award | Jeong Yang
The Sandra Oh Award | Karina Salmon
The Melissa Sanchez Award | Melissa Chaidez
The Oprah Winfrey Award | Meagan Lancia
The Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson Award | Amy Lewis
The Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier Award | Weixing Ford
The Michelle Obama Award | Sarah Pinon
The Shonda Rhimes Award | Marissa Lyssy



Student leaders attend inaugural Henry G. Cisneros Emerging Leader Conference

More than 100 students gathered last fall for the inaugural Cisneros Emerging Leader Conference, which kicked off the 2019 program of events for the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders. Students interacted with leaders and speakers from the City of San Antonio and sessions led by University faculty and staff. The conference featured the Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, former mayor of San Antonio and secretary of U.S. Housing and Urban Development, who shared his vision for the program, as well as his personal journey from local to national leadership roles.

The conference is one of many activities supporting the Institute's Henry G. Cisneros Leadership Certificate Program, which currently enrolls over 80 students to equip them with the knowledge, skills and experiences to effect social and economic change in their communities and beyond, while fostering a unique perspective and motivation for positive change. The program includes financial literacy, time management, communication, and equity and diversity in leadership. To learn more about the Cisneros Institute, visit tamusa.edu/henrycisneros.

Greek life sets new records on campus



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., became the first National Pan-Hellenic organization on the A&M-San Antonio campus to initiate three women into its new chapter April 13. This brings the total number of social Greek organizations on campus to four, including:

- Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- Sigma Delta Lambda Sorority, Inc.
- Delta Chi Fraternity
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

BUILDING UPDATES

The Jaguar community continued the tradition of building for a brighter future with several new developments in campus expansion throughout the year. On Jan. 11, elected officials, community leaders and the Jaguar community celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Phase II of the Science and Technology Building. Phase II of the project added 28,000 square feet to the initial 140,000-square-foot facility, which officially opened in September 2018. Guests toured the new Phase II section, which houses psychology research laboratories, engineering technology laboratories, a physics research laboratory, a shared research laboratory for the geology and Water Resource Science and Technology Program and faculty offices.



The University also made progress toward supporting the growing student population with a groundbreaking of the new Classroom Hall as part of the University's 10-year anniversary commemoration May 13. Marking a construction milestone on Dec. 3, the campus hosted dignitaries from across the county and city for a traditional topping-off and beam signing ceremony for the new Classroom Hall. Scheduled to open in fall 2020, the 50,000-gross-square-foot facility will bring technology rich teaching and learning spaces in a mix of traditional classrooms, studio and lab spaces, faculty offices and natural light-filled student study spaces.

CAMPUS LIFE AND IMMERSION



Student Involvement, Recreational Sports and Student Transition and Family Engagement (STFE) united under Campus Life and Immersion to give students a holistic experience from the time they participate in New Student Orientation and JagX to when they arrive on campus for classes and start getting involved in the Jaguar community both in and out of the classroom.

In fall 2019, students explored activities and organizations during the inaugural First 50 Days program. The program, designed to engage new students with a variety of programs during their first few months as a college student, featured themed weeks to support students' transition into university life including Week of Welcome, Getting Involved, Civic Engagement, Diversity & Equity, Health & Wellness, Financial Literacy, Leadership and Pride and Traditions week.

Campus Life and Immersion welcomed incoming students to campus for fall 2019 with a series of events, including storytelling and portrait project, Dear World. On Aug. 28 and 29, students, faculty and staff gathered to tell personal stories and make connections during the internationally recognized event.

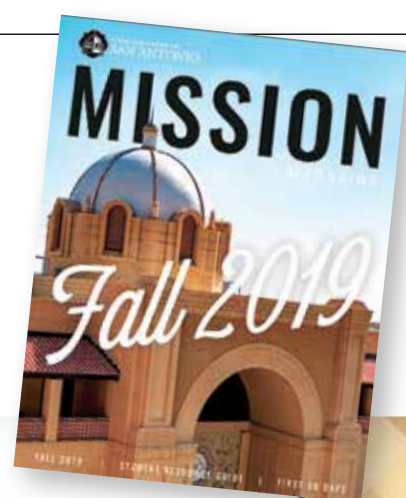


Transfer student opportunities expand

Established in June, the 200th chapter in the nation of Tau Sigma National Honor Society for Transfer Students welcomed a first class of 150 transfer students. This effort followed the establishment of the Transfer Student Engagement Office in May. The Jaguar community also celebrated National Transfer Student Week for the first time on campus Oct. 21-25. Campus Life and Immersion collaborated with several departments across campus to offer a comprehensive listing of resources and opportunities for engagement in the first 50 days of the fall semester. With that came a publication given to every incoming freshman and several hundred transfer students, faculty and staff, available online at tamusa.edu/welcomeweek.

Juan Espinoza, coordinator for transfer student engagement, presented "Transfer Student Engagement & Persistence Through Involvement" at the College Student Leadership Summit, hosted by the Alamo Colleges district at San Antonio College Sept. 27. Katrina King, Tau Sigma president and Jaguar Ambassador, and La-Tieka Sims, Student Government Association president, also participated in the summit.

Incoming freshmen learned their individual strengths by taking a top five strengths assessment at the JaX orientation program during the summer. The strengths assessment helps students maximize their potential. Three new *CliftonStrengths* coaches were added, bringing the total to 10.



RECREATIONAL SPORTS



University appoints inaugural fitness and wellness coordinator

A new student resource was added to Recreational Sports with the appointment of the inaugural fitness and wellness coordinator. Amber Graham expanded the number of fitness classes offered and transformed Workout Wednesdays into a full Workout Week program as part of Rec Sports' holistic wellness program. She also oversaw the Jaguar Triathlon. Recreational Sports plans to bring varsity e-sports to campus by hosting several events and starting the process of hiring a head e-sports coach.

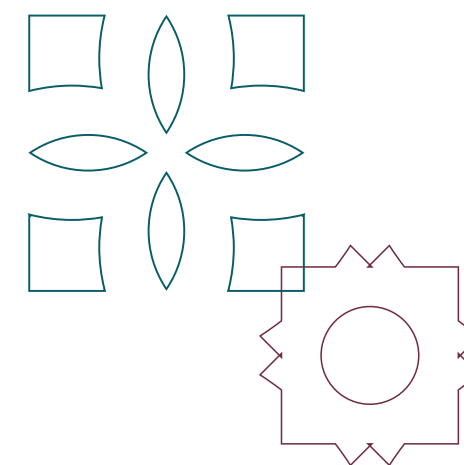
A&M-San Antonio launches esports program, names inaugural coach

A&M-San Antonio is joining a growing national trend in launching an intercollegiate esports program. The University, which recently launched an intercollegiate athletics program, launched the esports program to foster STEM learning, open additional scholarships for students outside of traditional competition and bring competitive leadership and success to more students.

The University appointed Travis Yang as the inaugural esports coach in February 2020. Yang, who brings more than a decade of experience in esports as a coach and competitive player, will focus on the strategic and psychological aspects of competition, and work on developing a deep pool of resources for the team to draw upon both in and outside the game, as well as the resources to support the student-athletics in and out of the classroom.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) enhanced cultural awareness on campus with several interactive activities. These included CAB's signature event, Fall Fest, in October, which drew more than 1,000 faculty, staff, students and members of the San Antonio community. During the 2018-19 academic year, Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio Isaac Castro and Elisha Bedford represented the University at 37 on- and off-campus events. CAB also launched "Hump Days" popup events, which take place every other Wednesday to help students relax and de-stress during the middle of the week.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Student Counseling and Wellness Services

Helping students navigate the challenges related to health and wellness, the expanded Student Counseling and Wellness Services (SC&WS) program offered a number of educational seminars and workshops, introduced two new therapy programs for students – Anxiety Management and a Self-Care (Take Time for Yourself Tuesdays) support group – and delivered Suicide Prevention and six Active Bystander trainings to the campus community.

SC&WS collaborated with the Office of Military Affairs to host the first Mental Health Monday, represented the LGBTQ+ Taskforce Committee and delivered a presentation on healthy relationships to diverse student organizations such as the Mexican American Student Association and the Black Student Union.

SC&WS connected with multiple community organizations including La Hacienda Treatment Facility, Guardian House, True Counseling, Laurel Ridge Treatment Facility and United Way of San Antonio to assist in its mission of helping facilitate students' academic and life goals and enhancing their personal growth and well-being.

Finally, SC&WS won the Jaguar Excellence Award at Employee Development Day June 5. This award recognized the program's efforts to educate students on the negative effects of party drugs by representing on the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Committee, launching the Counseling Center's first Glow Dance party and starting First Fridays.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Due to the growing efforts of the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention Committee, in summer 2019, the committee received the A&M-San Antonio Inaugural Jaguar Excellence Award for "outstanding commitment" to the University community. The committee's student worker – Kinesiology major Jasmine Zuniga – received the Undergraduate Student Worker of the Year award.

In order to reduce and prevent problems arising from drug and alcohol use and abuse, the committee launched a social norms campaign with the slogan, "Jaguars: Step In. Speak Up. Support." The committee created flyers, banners and Esperanza Hall elevator wraps giving students information on bystander intervention, resources on campus, social norms surrounding alcohol and how they can report incidents.

Over 300 students attended four Jaguar First Friday events in the fall. The AOD Prevention Committee developed Jaguar First Fridays as a monthly, late-night event alternative for students to higher-risk activities such as drinking and other drug use. Of the attendees, 115 students completed a post-event survey, with 87 percent strongly agreeing or agreeing that Jaguar First Friday provided an alternative to higher-risk activities.

The AOD Prevention Committee also reported positive results from the survey for this year's AlcoholEDU, a course originally implemented in 2018 to educate students on the effects of alcohol use and abuse. The University requires all students under 21 to take the AlcoholEDU course in their first semester of attendance. For 2019-20, 84 percent of students designated themselves as abstainers/nondrinkers – an increase from the 2018-19 course survey of 77 percent, which compares favorably to the national average of 59 percent.

The AOD Prevention Committee oversees the implementation of recommendations from the College's Alcohol Task Force and the Campus Alcohol Prevention Action Plan with the ultimate goal of decreasing high-risk drinking and other drug use among A&M-San Antonio students.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In order to help newly admitted international students transfer into their academic journey, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) established the first-ever International Ambassadors Program. Inducted at a fall 2019 inauguration ceremony, program volunteers – who consist of international and domestic students – will attend OIA events, help prospective international students with pre-arrival preparation and answer any questions on campus life at A&M-San Antonio.



Innovation in Accessibility

A&M-San Antonio became one of only 12 schools in the United States—and the only school in San Antonio *and* the first A&M campus—to launch Aira, a service for individuals who are blind or low-vision, at an event Aug. 27. Hosted by Disability Support Services (DSS) in collaboration with Lydia Harkey, electronic information resource accessibility officer, the event was attended by Texas Workforce Solutions, the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Low Vision, and Bibliotech. Aira is a service providing blind and low-vision individuals with access to visual information with artificial intelligence and trained, sighted guides. To learn more, visit tamusa.edu/dss.

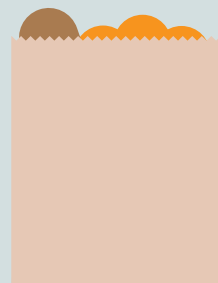
DSS also represented A&M-San Antonio at the Chancellor’s Symposium on Accessibility during the spring semester, in collaboration with Academic Affairs, the Center for Academic Innovation and Information Technology Services. As part of the ALLY Implementation team, DSS presented at the Texas A&M System Technology Summit on effectively implementing ALLY for universal design and accessibility at the University. Members of the Electronic Information Resource Accessibility Committee—including Sherita Love, Pru Morris, Lydia Harkey and Sarah Ramseur—represented the implementation team.

DSS increased its assistive technology offerings to accommodate growth, as DSS served over 580 students in 2019. New technological offerings include two Brailliant Refreshable Braille Displays, a BrailleNote Touch Plus, Zoomax Snow 10 Pro High-Definition Handheld Video Magnifiers, Phonak Roger Selects and Roger Pen wireless microphone transmitter technology, and Comtek Personal FM Systems.

THE GENERAL'S STORE HAS SERVED OVER

4,000

pounds of food to the University community with an average of 15 pounds of food received per household each week.



Eight Financial Literacy Fellows engaged in

160 TOTAL HOURS

of training and outreach programming in the fall 2019 semester, impacting over 200 students.

APPROXIMATELY **3,500**

hours of volunteer service were logged into GivePulse by the campus community for 2019.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

A&M-San Antonio proudly expresses its Military Embracing™ commitment through engagement, thought leadership and experiences. Throughout 2019, the Department of Military Affairs hosted a number of University and community awareness-raising events, and facilitated University traditions.

In the fall and spring, military-affiliated students and guests who participated in the Fall and Spring Patriot Cord Ceremonies—a pre-graduation tradition—heard from keynote speaker Michael “Rod” Rodriguez, retired Special Forces Green Beret, president and chief executive officer at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation; and J.R. Martinez, Army veteran, burn survivor, actor, motivational speaker, *New York Times* best-selling author and “Dancing with the Stars” season 13 winner. Each shared their personal stories and joined in the cord ceremony.

In honor of the University’s 10-year anniversary, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery July 23, 2019 by Richard Delgado, Jr., director of A&M-San Antonio Military Affairs.

During November, students, community members, faculty and staff participated in a series of events hosted by the department including the annual Veteran’s Day Parade, a screening of the film *Surviving Home* and the annual Veteran’s Day lunch, as well as conversations on military student and family transitions. A&M-San Antonio was a presenting sponsor during the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce 2019 Celebrate America’s Military event in November, which brings together the military, business, chambers of commerce and community leaders.

“Meeting our military-connected students where they are is a mission our team takes very seriously,” Delgado said. “We stand ready to assist.”



612

STUDENTS completed an internship for credit during spring and summer 2019.

100

students attended externship days, which were extended to 5 days in 2019.

The number of career advising appointments increased from

333 IN 2018

TO

955 IN 2019.

The fall 2019 Career Fair had a record-high attendance of over

250 STUDENTS.



FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty and staff logged an impressive number of academic and professional accomplishments in 2019, from presentations and publications to honors, awards and appointments. Here is a sampling of what they have achieved.

PRESENTATIONS



Dr. Mohammad Abdel-Rahman, assistant professor of CIS, presented and published “Identifying Users’ Concerns in Lodging Sharing Economy Using Unsupervised Machine Learning Approach” in the IEEE proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Data Intelligence and Security in South Padre Island, Texas, June 28-30, and published “Discovering Patient Portal Features Critical to User Satisfaction: A Systematic Analysis” in the proceedings of the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences in Grand Wailea, Maui, Hawaii, Jan. 8-11.



Dr. Maria Acevedo-Aquino, assistant professor in the early childhood program, presented “Global Literature and Young Children” as part of the Hot Topics in Literacy Series on March 28. The presentation focused on how to teach children about cultures from around the world through the use of children’s literature. The Hot Topics in Literacy Series is a program initiative from the reading program and takes place three times each spring semester. More than 100 students and faculty attended the presentation.

Dr. Izzat Alsmadi, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, presented “Using Maximum Weighted Cliques in the Detection of Sub-Communities’ Behaviors in OSNs” at the Future Technologies Conference 2019, held Oct. 24-25 in San Francisco, and “Cyber Security Intelligence, Current and Future Trends” at the A&M-San Antonio 10-Year Anniversary Faculty Lecture Series in September.

Gilbert Barrera, JD, CPA, MPA, Accounting, and Lt. Marcus Booth, director of the San Antonio Police Department Financial Crimes Unit, spoke at the Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Education Conference Oct. 4. The topic involved the A&M-San Antonio forensic accounting internship program and an explanation of how evidentiary issues affect the work product of a forensic accountant.



Dr. Karen L. B. Burgard, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, was an invited presenter for the Spencer Foundation grant-funded conference, Racial Literacy in the History Classroom: Creating Equitable Educational Spaces, held June 26-28 at Hunter College in New York. This conference was called by renowned academics in the field of racialized historical understanding and brought together scholars from across the country to discuss the intersection of racial literacies and history education. Dr. Burgard’s presentation focused on the current national discussion regarding Confederate sites, monuments and the naming of buildings after Confederate generals, as well as challenging the historical curriculum presented at historical sites and museums.

Zechun (Jacob) Cao, lecturer of computing and cyber security, presented “Detecting Intruders by User File Access Patterns” at the 13th International Conference on Network and System Security (NSS) in Sapporo, Japan, in December.



Dr. Dennis Elam, associate professor of accounting, presented “Socionomics: An Early Warning Device for CEOs” at the Academy of Business Research meeting in San Antonio in October. He addressed the San Antonio Institute of Internal Auditors, the Business and Industry Committee of the San Antonio CPA Society and the San Antonio Institute of Management Accountants on the Uresti Four Winds Fraud. He co-taught a mock business class for alumni with **Dr. Weixing Ford** of the Marketing Department on Saturday morning of the inaugural class reunion. He also presented “Conquer Accounting” at the Texas Society of CPAs Educator Conference in Austin.



Dr. Katherine Gillen, assistant professor of English, presented “Race, Rome and Shakespeare’s England” at the American Shakespeare Center in July, and “Teaching Latinx Shakespeare” at the Texas Humanities Summer Institute, Rice University, in June. She also gave an invited talk in September on “Decolonizing Shakespeare: The Power of Borderlands Community

Theater,” with **Dr. Arianna Santos**, at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Syed Harun, department chair of accounting and finance, presented “The Impact of Counterparty Risk on Global Equity Returns, Global Banking Stock Returns, Oil Prices and Global REITs” and “The Influence of Consumer Sentiments on Financial and Real Estate Market Indicators” with Akash Dania at the Southwestern Finance Association 2019 Annual Conference in March.



Dr. Ho Phi Huynh, assistant professor of psychology, and his team of researchers, led by Evelyn Escamilla, analyzed more than 400 students’ self-identified strengths and weaknesses. The team discovered that, although students listed more strengths than weaknesses, they spent significant effort explaining their weaknesses, as indicated by time spent thinking about weakness and the number of words used to describe weaknesses. These findings suggest that students are generally more preoccupied with their weaknesses than their strengths, indicating that they are ultimately not as vain as society proclaims. Results were presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association’s Annual Meeting in Albuquerque.

Sha Johnson, senior instructional designer and manager of faculty development, and **Kim Grotewold**, librarian for the College of Education and Human Development, co-presented “Student Drivers on Highways of Self-Directed Learning: Teaching Metacognitively” at the international Teaching Professor Conference in New Orleans in June.

Dr. Beu (Eve) Lee, assistant professor of accounting, presented “Disguised Opinion Shopping” at the 2019 American Accounting Association Midyear Conference in Dublin, Ohio, May 9-11.



Dr. Malin Lilley, lecturer in psychology, and collaborators found that telling the story of an individual animal affected by human-made pollution encourages people to help with conservation efforts more than telling people about the plight of an entire species. Dr. Lilley presented this finding at the 2018 International Conservation Marketing and Engagement Congress to exchange ideas with other scientists, wildlife organizations and marketing specialists on the best ways to save currently endangered species.



Bryant Moore, first year experience librarian, presented “Agents of Change: Innovative Strategies to Transform the First Year Experience” during a national webinar.



Bryant Moore and **Sarah Timm**, first year experience librarian and public services manager for the University Library, respectively, co-presented “Life as a Librarian” at Vale Middle School Career Day.



Pru Morris, collections services manager, presented “Implementing ALLY: A Collaborative Effort Towards Universal Design and Accessibility at Texas A&M University-San Antonio” at the Texas A&M University System Technology Summit (with **Lydia Harkey**, **Sherita Love** and **Sarah Ramseur**). She is certified in digital accessibility by the Texas Distance Learning Association.

Marina Narvaez, business librarian, presented “The Coupling of Online and In-person Library Instruction” at the Greater Austin Area Information Literacy Symposium.

Dr. Sajjadur Rahman, associate professor of economics, presented “Oil Price Uncertainty and the U.S. Stock Market” at the Canadian Economics Association conference in Banff, Canada, May 30-June 2.



Dr. Rudolph Rosen, director of the Institute of Water Resources Science and Technology, attended and helped facilitate workshops sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Border Solutions Alliance. The alliance aims to bring researchers from the United States and Mexico together, to address critical issues that impact both nations.

Dr. Rosen’s work included a presentation at a workshop at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces titled, “Innovative, Multidisciplinary Water Research to Address the Needs of the US-Mexico Border Corridor,” and at La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México campus in Juriquilla, Mexico. Dr. Rosen also gave presentations and conducted large and small group facilitation at the Healthy Borders, Healthy Waters Educational Curriculum Workshop at La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México campus in Juriquilla, Mexico. This research workshop connected the Border Solutions Alliance activities with ongoing work by the NSF Research Coordination Network for Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semiarid Regions. Rosen is a Co-PI on the NSF network.

These efforts on border water align with a proposal by Dr. Rosen and collaborators to establish a new model of water education that better prepares students for entry to the future water workforce and is the subject of two recent publications: “Water Education

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Leadership in Texas” and “Water Security for Texas: A Post-Secondary Education Pathway for Water Workforce Readiness.”

Dr. Shahil Sharma, assistant professor of accounting and finance, presented “Explaining the Asymmetric Response of Stock Markets to Oil Price Shocks” at Southwestern Finance Association March 14 in Houston.

Sarah Timm, public services manager for the University Library, presented as part of a program titled “Why Reinvent the Wheel: Speed Dating with Planners for Adult Programs” on how to host a successful game night in your library at the Texas Library Association’s 2019 annual conference.

Robert Vinaja, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, presented “Mobile Payments in Developing Countries” at the Academy of Business Research Conference in San Antonio in November; “Half a Century of Decision Sciences: A Mixed-Methods Content Analysis” and “Smart Cities and Data Analytics: A Comparison Between Developed and Developing Nations” at the Decision Sciences Institute National Conference in New Orleans in November; and “A Content Analysis of Data Analytics Degree Programs: A Global Approach,” “A Review of Open Data Initiatives in Developing Countries” and “A Review of Applications of Analytics of Things” at the proceedings of the 50th Annual Conference of the Decision Sciences Institute Southwest Region in Houston in March.

PUBLICATIONS



Dr. Pride Abongwa, assistant professor of geology, conducted research on surface water and shallow groundwater in Oklahoma, where he evaluated aquifer geology and its effects on water quality. He investigated the role in which surface mining has on overall water quality. As part of this research, high school science teachers in Oklahoma were also trained on sample collection and the scientific process. This research was published in *Shale Shaker* - Oklahoma City Geological Society Issue No. 2. Dr. Abongwa also evaluated the effect of rainfall on nutrient cycling in the environment. He particularly looked at how low total dissolved solids in rainwater dilute surface water, causing reduction in the overall ionic concentration of the system. In this research, he used stable carbon isotope as a proxy to trace the dilution effect of rainwater on inland surface water bodies. This work was published in *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*.

Dr. Izzat Alsmadi, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, authored and co-authored multiple publications, including “Does Size Matter? An Evaluation of Institutional Internet Ranking Metrics,” available at SSRN; “Is Bigger, Better? Exploring U.S. News Graduate Education Program Rankings and Internet Characteristics,” published in *Interchange*; and “Testing Assessment of Group Collaborations in OSNs,” a chapter published in *Emerging Research Challenges and Opportunities in Computational Social Network Analysis and Mining*.

Zechun (Jacob) Cao, lecturer of computing and cyber security, co-authored “Creativity in Trusted Data: Research on Application of Blockchain in Supply Chain,” published in the *International Journal of Performability Engineering*.



Dr. Jeanette De Diemar, vice president for advancement and external relations, outlined a comprehensive strategy for an integrated and results-driven approach to reputation management through effective organizational change management in the autumn/fall issue of the United Kingdom’s *Journal of Education Advancement and Marketing*. She and her co-author, Lesli Cartaya Franco, examine the use of technology, known and evolving, on communications and marketing, and the need for higher-education institutions to consistently learn and master new channels to communicate effectively with internal and external audiences, stakeholders and influencers. The article addresses ways to produce unique and platform-specific content strategies.

Dr. Walter Den, professor in the Water Resources Science and Technology Program, and his collaborators discovered the capability of an environmentally friendly chemical agent in a critical process for transforming biomass waste into fuel. They have also found a way to control how the chemical reaction would take place in water for decontamination, much like the way the active ingredients of drugs are delivered in a slow and controlled manner. This work was published in *Scientific Reports*. Dr. Den and his collaborators also have developed the basis of a sensor using a nano carbon material for the detection of toxic chemicals. This type of sensor can especially be critical for protecting workplace safety in the event of chemical leaking. This research was published in *Environmental Progress & Sustainable Energy*.

Dr. Qi Han, assistant professor of mathematics, described some intrinsic compact embedding properties of general Sobolev function spaces, with applications to partial differential equations. This research was published as a single-authored paper in the *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, co-edited by Washington University in St. Louis and Texas A&M University-College Station, which has been presented in Texas Differential Equations Conference at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Ho Phi Huynh, assistant professor of psychology, and his colleagues examined the impact of sports coaches’ humility on players and teams. They found that humble coaches are effective because they can build strong relationships based on emotional trust, as opposed to trust based on competency. Ultimately, humble coaches may be more effective because of their ability to build meaningful connections. This research was published in *Psychological Reports*. In a separate project, Dr. Huynh examined whether people would be more aggressive when negative outcomes were expected or when they came as a surprise. Results indicated that although people tend to think they would be more aggressive if outcomes were worse than expected, their actions show that they are more aggressive when outcomes are exactly as bad as they expected. These findings suggest that it may be important to brace people for impending negative outcomes by offering them hope (even if they will ultimately be let down). This study was published in *North American Journal of Psychology*.



Dr. William Kiser, assistant professor of history, published “We Must Have Chihuahua and Sonora’: Civil War Diplomacy in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” as the featured article in the June 2019 issue of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*. The article draws from a book project under advance contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press.



Dr. Sukho Lee, professor in the Department of Counseling, Health and Kinesiology, co-authored “The Effectiveness of Physical Activity Interventions for Low-Income and Ethnic Minority Children and Youths: A Meta-Analysis,” published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*.

Dr. Jingbo Liu, lecturer of mathematics, and her collaborators made important contributions to the extension of the Hilbert-Waring theorem, named after British mathematician Edward Waring and German Mathematician David Hilbert, to integral quadratic and Hermitian forms, with applications to theoretical cryptography. This research was published in the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, which has been presented as an invited talk in the International Conference on the Arithmetic Theory of Quadratic Forms at Seoul National University, South Korea.



Dr. Marvin Lutnesky, chair for the Department of Science and Mathematics, and his collaborators discovered that the amount of power transferred to fishes during electrofishing (how scientific workers typically capture fishes) varies much more than previously known. This makes choosing the settings for equipment more difficult due to the different fishes that may be

in the community sampled. The work was published in the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.



Dr. Michael O’Brien, provost and vice president for academic affairs, co-authored *The Importance of Small Decisions*, published by MIT Press. The book explores different kinds of decisions and maps their outcomes, drawing on these results to introduce a map of social behavior that captures the essential elements of human decision-making.



Dr. Robert Page, assistant professor of biology, and his colleagues examined how the frequency of coloration variants in the Eastern Red-backed Salamander differs among populations in Northern Ohio as a function of landscape and environmental features using spatially explicit modeling. Their results suggest that this color polymorphism is not maintained by a single evolutionary force, but rather via the combinatorial effects of gene flow, genetic drift and natural selection. This research was published in *Ecography*.



Dr. Amy Porter, professor of history, contributed “Tejanas and Ranching: Maria Calvillo and Her Ranching Enterprises,” a chapter in *Texas Women and Ranching: On the Range, at the Rodeo and in Their Communities*, published by Texas A&M University Press. The book explores the variety of roles women played on the western ranch, covering topics from early Tejana businesswomen to rodeos and fence-cutting range wars.



Dr. Lo’ai Tawalbeh, associate professor of computing and cyber security, published seven papers in international conferences, two journal articles in indexed referred journals and two book chapters in 2019. He is also one of two Co-PIs who wrote the proposal for the Chancellor’s Research Grant of \$700,000 awarded to A&M-San Antonio. He is an IEEE senior member and has more than 90 refereed publications.



Dr. Hsiao-ping Wu, associate department chair and associate professor, **Dr. Esther Garza**, associate professor, and **Dr. Myriam Jimena Guerra**, assistant professor, of the Bilingual Program co-authored *Second Language Education for Teacher Candidates and Professionals*.



FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



DR. CARL J. SHEPERIS, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, is leading a national dialogue on some of today's most pressing issues related to pediatric mental health and public policy. Currently focusing on the neuroscience of autism, Dr. Sheperis is

considered an expert in pediatric mental health and autism intervention. He is often a source expert featured by national media. Recently, he shared strategies for traveling with children who have special needs with *L.A. Parent Magazine*.

With a career spanning more than 20 years, he has authored over 100 professional publications and seven textbooks, including *Assessment Procedures for Counselors and Helping Professionals* (8th ed.) and *Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Fundamentals of Applied Practice*, which are used at hundreds of universities all over the world. Here are some highlights from Dr. Sheperis' work in 2019 toward advancing professional counseling through research, teaching, mentorship and service:

- He gave keynote addresses for the North Carolina Counseling Association's annual conference in February and for the American Counseling Association of the Virgin Islands Annual Conference in March.
- He was the plenary speaker for the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling National Conference Sept. 13, which brings together the top researchers in the counseling profession.
- He was the distinguished speaker on the panel of deans and scholars at the Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas Leadership Conference Sept. 27. The panel focused on ways to improve leadership quality in education. The conference addressed critical issues in professional counseling and the importance of advocacy.
- He served as co-chair of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Global Forum annual meeting in Washington Nov. 14. The meeting focused on the development of policy and practices for addressing the social determinants of mental health.
- He gave keynote addresses for the North Carolina Counseling Association Conference in February and for the American Counseling Association of the Virgin Islands Annual Conference in March.

HONORS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Mohammad Abdel-Rahman, assistant professor of CIS, received a Research Council Award/A&M-San Antonio research grant of \$5,000. The proposal, titled "Users' Concerns in Sharing Economy: A Text Analytics Approach," involved using unique data collection and an unsupervised machine learning method to uncover the needs and concerns of the users of lodging sharing economy.



Dr. Smriti Bhatt, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, won a sub award for the NSF Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) grant proposal, titled "CC* Team: SouthWest Expertise in Expanding, Training, Education and Research (SWEETER)" from Texas A&M University-College

Station. SWEETER is a large collaborative initiative to enable peer-to-peer research support with virtual and on-premise training and workshops to enable and build research collaborations among researchers. Dr. Bhatt collaborated with several faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences at A&M-San Antonio, as well as faculty members from A&M main campus.

Dr. Claire Nolasco Braaten, associate professor of criminology, was appointed contributing editor of *Criminal Law Bulletin* from August 2016-March 2019. *Criminal Law Bulletin*, published by Thomson-Reuters, is the top-ranked peer-reviewed journal in criminal law and procedure in the United States (on both combined score and journal citations metrics) based on law journal rankings published by the Washington & Lee School of Law. As contributing editor, Dr. Nolasco was primarily charged with increasing the readership and visibility of the journal through her academic and creative efforts by writing peer-reviewed articles that would draw the interest of legal, criminology and criminal justice scholars.



James Finley, assistant professor of English, was part of the faculty of a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar in Concord, Mass., for teachers interested in using Thoreau's writings in their classroom. This was the second time the seminar ran, and the second time Finley was invited to participate.

Dr. Katherine Gillen, assistant professor of English, received two short-term research fellowships—one from the Folger Shakespeare Library and the other from the Huntington Library—to work on her book project, *Race, Rome, and Early Modern Drama: The Whitening of England and the Classical World*.

Dr. Beu (Eve) Lee, assistant professor of accounting, received the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA, #217564) certification, awarded April 26.

Dr. Malin Lilley, lecturer in psychology, was presented with the Excellence in Service to Students Award by the A&M-San Antonio chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Dr. Lilley received this award for her involvement in the Health Professions Advisory Committee.

Dr. Malin Lilley, lecturer in psychology, received the Ron Weisman Graduate Student Award for best oral presentation at the 2019 meeting for the Comparative Cognition Society. Dr. Lilley and her collaborators documented the development of beluga whale behavior, finding that, like dolphins, young beluga whales frequently engage in sexual behavior that is not for reproductive purposes.



Norma Martinez interviewed **Dr. Philis Barragán Goetz**, assistant professor of history, on TPR's *Fronteras* radio program in February about her forthcoming book, *Reading, Writing, and Revolution: Escuelitas and the Emergence of a Mexican American Identity in Texas*, which will be published by the University of Texas Press in 2020.

Bryant Moore, first year experience librarian, won the second national First Year Experience Innovation Award for outstanding achievements in first-year experience programming, and presented on best practices for engaging students and reducing library anxiety during the awards ceremony.

Dr. Brenda Rowe, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, is the University's 2019 Piper Professor nominee and the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Rowe's research focuses on current legal topics impacting the administration of criminal justice, such as the death penalty, solitary confinement, challenges to the validity of jury verdicts decided based on racial and ethnic bias and evolving Fourth Amendment jurisprudence. She was awarded the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2019 Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award for her outstanding contributions to the field of criminology and criminal justice.



Dr. Edward Westermann, professor of history, was nominated by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and appointed by the Texas Senate as a commissioner to the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission in January.

Prof. Lodgher receives prestigious Regents Professor Award



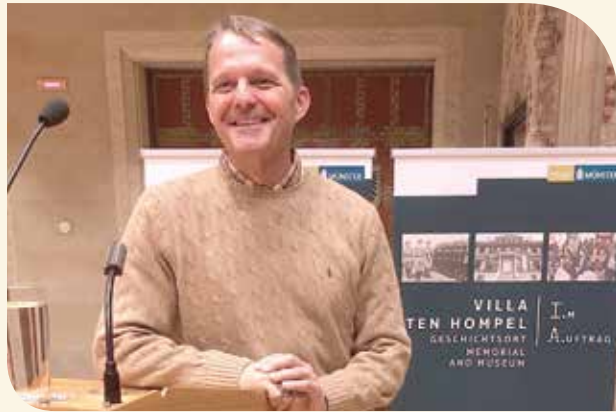
DR. AKHTAR LODGER, chair of A&M-San Antonio's Department of Computing and Cyber Security, became the first in University history to be recognized as a Regents Professor of the A&M System. He was one of 15 faculty members nominated for the award from across the A&M System.

His current research interests include cyber security and software engineering. He has worked on NSA- and NSF-funded grants for creating modules for infusing cyber security concepts into all core subjects of computer science education. He has over 25 years of software development experience in a wide set of application areas such as RFID systems, transactional systems, software engineering and mobile applications. For the last 15 years, Dr. Lodgher has worked diligently to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups including women who enroll in computer science, which has been supported by an NSF grant to nurture and foster innovation in undergraduate students. He is the director of the Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security (CITCS), which is part of the A&M-San Antonio NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.

Established in 1996, the Regents Professor Awards program honors individuals with the rank of professor or equivalent who have provided exemplary service as faculty members to their university, agency or health science center component, as well as in the community, the state of Texas and/or on the international level within the nine A&M System institutions including Galveston campus, the System Health Science Center and the Agricultural and Engineering Programs. To learn more, visit tamus.edu/academic/regents-awards.

FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION

Faculty and staff at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are committed to generating new knowledge through rigorous academic research. In 2019, researchers across departments investigated a wide variety of research questions to address real-world issues from the role of humility in coaching players and teams (Huynh, et al., 2019) to institutional Internet ranking metrics (Alsmadi, et al., 2019). The following are highlights of the 2019 accomplishments of two outstanding members of the A&M-San Antonio faculty. See a more comprehensive listing of publications from our faculty and staff in *Research and Scholarship 2017-2019*, available online at tamusa.edu/provost.



DR. EDWARD B. WESTERMANN, professor of history, has published extensively on modern European history, military history, the Holocaust and issues in war and society. Winning multiple teaching awards and honors, he is a fellow of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Keene State College's Genocide Studies and Prevention Program; a Clements Center Fellow of Southern Methodist University's DeGolyer Library; a three-time fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service; a former Fulbright Fellow at the Free University of Berlin; and a former J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (AY 2018-2019).

In 2019, Dr. Westermann presented at Traversing Landscapes of Violence: Nazi Germany and the Canadian Prairies, a conference at the University of Winnipeg in October focusing on transnational violence related to the Holocaust and Canada's Indigenous First Nations. Also in October, he spoke at the Facing Police and the Holocaust conference in Muenster, Germany, in honor of Holocaust historian Christopher Browning and sponsored by the German state government of Nordrhein-Westfalen and the Villa ten Hompel. In November, he delivered the 22nd Jan L. Tucker Memorial Lecture to the International Assembly and the National Council for the Social Studies annual conference in Austin. Finally, Dr. Westermann was appointed a commissioner on the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission by the Lieutenant Governor's Office.



DR. BRENDA ROWE, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, is an award-winning expert whose research focuses on a variety of important current issues, including the death penalty, solitary confinement and challenges to the validity of jury verdicts based on racial and ethnic bias. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, including *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *The Prison Journal*, *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

In 2019, Dr. Rowe received the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2019 Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award, in recognition of her outstanding academic contributions. The University has also honored Dr. Rowe for her excellence in teaching, selecting her as the recipient of the 2019 Piper Professor Award and the 2019 Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching. Dr. Rowe also received the University's Faculty Award for Distinguished Service in 2017.

UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Reinforcing our connections

As Texas A&M University-San Antonio enters a new decade, its traditions continue to serve as the connective tissue binding current faculty, students and staff to the University's rich history and exciting future. Following are highlights from this year's Jaguar traditions and special 10-year initiatives.

Local celebrity mascots celebrate General the Jaguar's 10th birthday



General the Jaguar celebrated his 10th birthday with some of the most recognizable mascots in San Antonio at the fall President's Picnic Aug. 28. Students, faculty and staff enjoyed photo-ops with the Spurs Coyote, the Rampage T-Bone, the SA Missions Ballapeno and General the Jaguar himself, plus food, cake and music during the birthday celebration.

The University community originally voted on the Jaguar as their mascot in spring 2014, announcing the mascot's name of "General the Jaguar" at the inaugural President's Picnic Aug. 27, 2014. During the President's Picnic that year, General the Jaguar received military stars pinned to his shirt to symbolize the University's strength as a military-embracing campus. General the Jaguar is currently a Brigadier General (one-star General Officer grade rank), and he hopes to rise in rank over the course of his career at A&M-San Antonio.

Festival de Cascarones closes Fiesta San Antonio

Talk about ending on a high note! The community came out in record numbers to celebrate the final day of Fiesta San Antonio at Festival de Cascarones April 28. Nearly 6,400 visitors enjoyed live music, food and games, along with a screening of *Black Panther* in the Auditorium and performances by headliner Vertical Horizon, Houston-native country singer Olivia Lane and Austin-based Selena tribute band Bidi Bidi Banda. The University also launched the A&M-San Antonio 10-year history book, selling copies onsite at the bookstore kiosk.



Lights of Esperanza transforms campus into winter wonderland

The University decorated campus facilities with over 30,000 twinkling lights in celebration of the holiday season during Lights of Esperanza Dec. 3. Thousands of faculty, staff, students and guests from the community enjoyed family-friendly activities, including ice skating, snow slides, live performances and photos with General Claus. As an added bonus, this year's celebration ended with a stunning fireworks display – the first of its kind on campus. See more photos from Lights of Esperanza 2019 at tamusa.edu/lights.

UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Reinforcing our connections



Students presented with class rings at 2019 RING CEREMONIES

In recognition of their accomplishments, over 490 students accepted their A&M-San Antonio class rings during the Jaguar Ring Ceremonies April 6 and Nov. 2. At both the spring and fall ceremonies, students walked from the Auditorium stage to the President's Seal, where a loved one placed the ring on each recipient's finger. Although the Seal is usually a no-walking zone, the University lifts the restriction for this special occasion. Angelica Avila and Armando Prado, Jr., served as the alumni guest speakers for the spring and fall ceremonies, respectively, uplifting and inspiring the newest ring recipients. All recipients received a 10-year anniversary commemorative ring box with their order. Read the full transcript of Prado's speech at tamusa.edu/armandoprado.



"MY UNIVERSITY RING IS A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER OF MY ALMA MATER AND ALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES I HAVE MADE WHILE A JAGUAR. IT IDENTIFIES ME AMONG MY PEERS AS A MEMBER OF THE EVER-GROWING ALUMNI COMMUNITY OF A&M-SA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ALWAYS GIVING BACK AFTER GRADUATION."

—Armando Prado, Jr., alumni guest speaker, fall 2019 Ring Ceremony

THE A&M-SAN ANTONIO CLASS RING REPRESENTS a student's hard work, success and devotion to the University. Students wear their rings with a sense of pride, as well as to remind them of the bonds they forged with classmates and professors. These relationships will always be part of who they are and who they will become. As part of the 2019 Ring Ceremonies, a total of six Jaguar students received Ring Awards.

SPRING 2019



LUZ CANO

Luz Cano is a first-generation student who graduated in May 2019 with a 4.0 GPA in Bilingual Education Early Childhood-6th Grade. During her time at A&M-San Antonio, she was active with the National Society of Leadership and Success and the Bilingual Education Student Organization. She also served as a peer mentor with the A&M-San Antonio DREAM Peer Mentoring Program. A mother of two small children, Cano dedicated her ring to her own mother, Juanita, and family for supporting her.

DAWN COLLINS

Dawn Collins was a Sociology major with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies who graduated from A&M-San Antonio in May 2019. She considers her time at the University to be a great opportunity for learning and mentoring. "I believe that education is a gift," she says. "You cannot return it, but you can pass it on to others." Collins credits her family and friends for all of their support throughout her journey as a Jaguar, especially her husband. And, "in keeping with my faith, I am especially grateful to God, without whom none of this would be possible."



LA-TIEKA SIMS

La-Tieka Sims is majoring in Business Management who anticipates graduating in spring 2020. As a very active student on campus, she has held the roles of Student Government Association (SGA) senator and Campus Activities Board president in spring 2019. She currently serves as the 10th SGA president. Sims is very thankful to A&M-San Antonio for the incredible opportunities that have helped her grow as a person and develop into a stronger leader. She dedicates this award to her son, Asher, who is her inspiration for returning to school and not settling for less; her partner Felice, who has been a major supporter who continues to remind her to push the boundaries of what she thinks she can do; and her family, who have always known she was capable of greater things than she believed of herself.

VALERIA ELIZABETH CAZARES

Valeria Elizabeth Cazares, an Interdisciplinary Studies major who is minoring in Mexican American Latinx Borderland Studies, is proud to represent the University and feels she is now part of a new generation of traditions and values. A soon-to-be first-generation college graduate, she says the University ring signifies that she has come one step closer to reaching her academic goals and her future career.

“Having the opportunity to receive the University ring from Dr. Matson, who I have collaborated with through Jaguar Tracks 1 and President’s Leadership Class, is proof to myself that I have taken advantage of every opportunity presented to me,” she says. “I not only pushed myself to be the best I could be, but also encouraged all the students I interacted with to push themselves. This class ring not only signifies the endless nights of studying, chapter reading and group projects, but my dedication to obtaining my bachelor’s degree for my own professional and personal development.”

Cazares hopes to use her voice as a ring recipient to let other first-generation students know not to be scared of the idea of “what if.” She wants others to understand that the “what if” could lead to amazing opportunities and friendships. Her biggest advice is to not be scared to ask questions, and to understand the importance of getting involved on campus because it helps create a sense of community and belonging.



DANIELLE JOY RIOS

Danielle Joy Rios, Biology major, explains she struggled with academic performance and personal matters during college. However, through grit and perseverance, she strengthened her work ethic and, with newfound confidence, she pushed through her difficult circumstances. She realized that staying calm, putting things in perspective and keeping an open mind helped her deal with academic and personal struggles.

“This University is where I ventured out, grew confidence and continued to grow personally and academically,” she says. “It has equipped me with tools and knowledge that are valuable to the workforce and the betterment of society. To be a Jaguar is to be strong, to be deliberate and meaningful—to be responsible and to express humility ... The ring is an embodiment of all that the University is, as well as a connection to what I have experienced and accomplished here.”

The class ring holds an even deeper meaning for Rios: Her family ancestor, sculptor Pedro Huízar, designed the Rose Window, a widely recognized historical image that is incorporated in many of the University’s design elements, including the class ring.



STHEFANY LIZETH GARCIA

As a first-generation student, Sthefany Lizeth Garcia, a Business Management major with a concentration in Entrepreneurship, says her family has been part of her entire journey through college. “I’ve been dreaming about the day that I get to proudly wear an A&M ring and be part of the ceremony,” she says. “The ring signifies more than a piece of jewelry. It represents all the sacrifices my family and I have made. It represents a promise that I will inspire and help other first-generation students. The ring represents the memories and family I’ve created at my second home, A&M-San Antonio. Every time I look at that ring, it will remind me of beautiful memories.

“Over the past years, there have been many challenges in my life, but there’s a reason I keep going. My parents are my biggest motivation. When things get tough, when I feel overwhelmed, they are what keeps me going. As a first-generation student, I had a dream to be the first to graduate from a university in my family. Dreams do come true, and the ring symbolizes the amazing things that can happen if you work hard.”



Jaguars enjoy family-friendly fun and crowning of 11th Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio at Fall Fest 2019

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) went all-out for a special 10-year anniversary rendition of Fall Fest 2019 Oct. 19. Faculty, staff, students and friends enjoyed more attractions, rides and vendors than ever, including inflatables, a merry-go-round, a zip line, a petting zoo, a headlining performance by Nashville recording artist Connor Clemmons and much more.

Guests were also treated to the crowning of the 11th Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio, Zachary Frankciowak and Alyssa Alvarado. Frankciowak, a Business Management major, serves as the president of Delta Chi Fraternity and is a member of the Men’s Soccer Club, Jaguar Business Club and Yoga Mind. He will represent the University and its students for the 2019-20 academic year. Alvarado, a Biology major, is a student worker for the University Police Department and a member of the Mexican American Student Association and the National Society of Leadership and Success. She represented the University for the fall 2019 semester.

In spring 2020, Karina Salmon was crowned the new Ms. A&M-San Antonio. Salmon, a Kinesiology major, is active with President’s Leadership Class, the Mexican American Student Association and the Kinesiology Club.

Established in 2009, Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio represent the University and attend a number of events throughout the year, including Fiesta; participate in community service events sponsored by the University and/or CAB; and uphold the highest standards in academics and professionalism. In honor of the University’s 10th anniversary, here is a list of all Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio representatives since the creation of the program:

2010

Mr. - Steven Wiatrek
Ms. - Melissa Sanchez

2011

Mr. - Antonio Gomez
Ms. - Stefanie Gower

2012

Mr. - Justin Garcia
Ms. - Josephine Martinez

2012-13

Mr. - Armando Prado
Ms. - Jenna Marie Mata (removed for cause),
Mary Laredo

2013-14

Mr. - Felipe Lopez
Ms. - Cassandra Ramon



◀ 2020



2019 ▶



2014-15

Mr. - Christian MacDonald
Ms. - Savannah Villanueva

2015-16

Mr. - Yamell A. Valencia
Ms. - Shelby A. Benzoni

2016-17

Mr. - William Manning
Ms. - Cindy Silva

2017-18

Mr. - Greg Gonzalez
Ms. - C Arce

2018-19

Mr. - Isaac Castro
Ms. - Elisha Bedford

2019-20

Mr. - Zachary Frankciowak
Ms. - Alyssa Alvarado/Karina Salmon

UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Reinforcing our connections



Jaguars welcome class of 2023 at Jaguar March

An enthusiastic crowd of faculty, staff and upperclassmen greeted the Jaguar class of 2023 at the end of the “Miracle Mile” from Torre de Esperanza to the fountain at this year’s Jaguar March Aug. 21. Once the freshmen reached the fountain, the community celebrated President Cynthia Teniente-Matson’s presentation of the Key of Hope Community Award to 15 outstanding individuals:

The Honorable Pete Flores
(Texas Senate, District 19)
The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
(Texas Senate, District 21)
The Honorable Donna Campbell
(Texas Senate, District 25)
The Honorable Jose Menendez
(Texas Senate, District 26)
The Honorable Trey Martinez Fischer
(Texas House, District 116)
The Honorable Philip Cortez
(Texas House, District 117)
The Honorable Leo Pacheco
(Texas House, District 118)

The Honorable Roland Gutierrez
(Texas House, District 119)
The Honorable Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
(Texas House, District 120)
The Honorable Steve Allison
(Texas House, District 121)
The Honorable Lyle Larson
(Texas House, District 122)
The Honorable Diego Bernal
(Texas House, District 123)
The Honorable Ina Minjarez
(Texas House, District 124)
The Honorable Ray Lopez
(Texas House, District 125)

About Jaguar Ambassadors

The Jaguar Ambassadors program began Aug. 29, 2012, with two ambassadors and later expanded to a total of six ambassadors during the same academic year. They serve A&M-San Antonio by welcoming guests of the president and VIPs at special events, answering questions about the campus and assisting at functions. Jaguar Ambassadors help the Institution in its effort to become the university of choice for potential students and drive its higher education model through its audacious student leadership.

About President’s Leadership Class (PLC)

The President’s Leadership Class (PLC), which began in 2016-17 with Cohort 1, welcomed Cohort 4 in fall 2019. The PLC program incorporates leadership into a cohort-style program for freshmen who meet the application requirements and GPA needed for the program. The PLC program welcomes a new cohort each fall semester with a group of 25 incoming students. The highly selective program recruits high-achieving students. A variety of staff members teach PLC courses, also including service components for the student leaders and group projects that apply practical skills learned in the classroom to real-world scenarios.

JAGUAR AWARDS 2019

recognize outstanding student leaders

The Jaguar community recognized and celebrated the University’s outstanding student leaders at the Jaguar Awards Ceremony April 13. The Office of Student Activities recognized leadership and involvement in the A&M-San Antonio community at this year’s awards, incorporating awards from Recreational Sports and the Mays Center. In honor of the University’s 10-year anniversary, 10 students received the Outstanding Senior Award. Here are the 2019 winners:

- Outstanding New Student Organization of the Year:** Delta Chi Fraternity Colony
- Most Improved Sport Club of the Year:** The Jaguarettes Dance Team
- Student Organization Champion Award:** Christina Guerra, civic engagement coordinator for the Mays Center
- Student Organization Community Service Award:** Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Beta Theta Chapter
- Adviser of the Year:** Dr. John Smith, adviser to the Kinesiology Club
- Student Leader of the Year:** Claudia Martinez Garcia
- Sport Club Leader of the Year:** Marisol Salas-Rios
- Student Organization President of the Year:** Blanca Mora, Catholic Student Association
- Sport Club of the Year:** Women’s Soccer Club
- Student Organization of the Year:** Kinesiology Club
- Student Volunteer of the Year:** Nastasja Desch
- Undergraduate Student Worker of the Year:** Jasmine Zungia, Alcohol and Drug (AOD) student worker under the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Graduate Assistant of the Year:** Kelda Sattler, graduate assistant in the College of Education and Human Development’s Special Education Department
- Outstanding Senior Award Winners:**

William Benedict	Ryan Day	Amy Senger
Luz Cano	Misty Ferrell	Cindy Trinh
Dawn Collins	Ashley Hughes	
Clifford Crews	Chris Obinzu	

Among the Outstanding Senior Award winners, Ryan Day was named Senior of Distinction and given awarded a medallion to wear at commencement. To conclude the ceremony, the Student Government Association (SGA) swore in its 2019-20 Officers, and the President Elect made closing remarks.

Together, this year’s honorees hosted over 1,600 events, from tabling on campus, guest speakers, community service projects, fundraisers and cultural events to Bible studies, workshops, educational and political forums, food/clothing/toy/book drives and general meetings. Co-hosted events also saw an increase, collaborating with offices such as Military Affairs, the Office of Counseling and Wellness, Student Activities, Recreational Sports, the Mays Center, the University Library and the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Committee. To conclude the ceremony, the Student Government Association swore in its 2019-20 officers, and the President Elect made closing remarks.

ALUMNI UPDATE



The Texas A&M University-San Antonio Office of Alumni Affairs seeks to provide graduates with lifelong benefits and meaningful opportunities to stay informed and get involved with their alma mater. Alumni Affairs staff encourage graduates to take advantage of the many alumni benefits, including access to career services, email for life, a webinar series and a virtual book club. Volunteering for service-learning projects, participating in University activities on or off campus and serving as guest speakers at Lunch and Learns are just a few of the ways that alumni can stay connected with faculty, staff, students and friends.

You can keep the A&M-San Antonio Office of Alumni Affairs updated on your status by completing the online Alumni Update Form at tamusa.edu/alumniupdate. Alumni may also stay connected in the online alumni community at tamusa.edu/alumnicommunity, join the Texas A&M-San Antonio Alumni group on Facebook or follow @TAMUSAalumni on Twitter and Instagram.



Alumni receive official class rings

For the first time, and in honor of the 10th anniversary of the University, former Student Government Association presidents awarded alumni with official class rings. Through a competitive process, alumni applied to receive a class ring and to process in the Ring Ceremony. Blanca Banda '08, '18 was chosen for the spring Ring Ceremony, and Manny Casarez '15 was chosen for the fall.

Alumni enjoy educational programming

A short series of educational programming was offered to alumni on campus in spring 2019 starting with a "How to Buy a Home" workshop presented by Cassadie Jobe '15. Presentations on financial literacy, also offered by Jobe, and a student loan repayment workshop, offered by financial aid director Phil Rodgers, rounded out the semester's offerings.

Graduates connect at affinity mixers

In concert with faculty, the alumni office has been offering affinity mixers for alumni in certain majors or colleges. July 2019 saw the first: a mixer for history alumni. It was closely followed by a College of Education and Human Development mixer, as well as a bilingual education mixer. Graduates have been quite happy to meet with those in their majors and industries while reconnecting with their faculty.

Inaugural Reunion Weekend kicks off

The University's first class reunions were held in June 2019. The class of 2014 celebrated its fifth reunion, and the class of 2009 celebrated its 10th reunion. Reunion alumni were invited to experience "A Day in the Life of a Jaguar." Attendees stayed overnight in Esperanza Hall, the first residence hall on campus, played games, had a pizza party and then attended classes the next morning. Breakfast and lunch with favorite faculty, as well as a tour of campus, rounded out the inaugural Reunion Weekend.



Alumni Brunch draws over 300

The second annual Alumni Brunch, held prior to the University's Festival de Cascarones official Fiesta event, drew almost 350 alumni and guests to the President's Rose Garden on campus. There was a photo booth, craft sodas and plenty of cascarones to break.

Alumni Affairs hosts sporting events

Sporting events are always a popular addition to the alumni calendar. This year, graduates attended Alumni Night at the Rampage, as well as at the San Antonio FC. In addition, there was both a spring and fall Alumni Night at the Spurs.

ALUMNI PROFILES

HONOR ROLL OF EXCELLENCE

From prosthetics research in Asia to aging and nutrition to health and wellness—Jaguar alumni are on a mission.

Alumni awards represent a stellar opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Established in 2018, A&M-San Antonio alumni awards were expanded this year to include 10 alumni from across Texas and the globe in celebration of our 10th anniversary.

Each representing a class year from 2009 to 2018, the alumni were honored during the annual awards ceremony held on campus in October 2019. Distinguished Alumni and Recent Graduate honorees were awarded for their outstanding professional accomplishments, while Spirit of the Jaguar honorees were recognized for providing exceptional service to our campus and community. For young alumni, they are well on their way to distinguishing themselves close to home and well beyond, conducting research in prosthetics, studying the world's largest colony of marmosets, gaining insight into aging and nutrition and working in social services.

To learn more about these alumni, visit tamusa.edu/alumniawards.

GARY GUERRA '09, '12—Distinguished Alumni

A native of San Antonio and a first-generation college graduate, Gary Guerra received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in kinesiology under the guidance of Associate Professor John D. Smith. Following additional training in the prosthetics program at California State University, Dominguez Hills, he practiced as a prosthetist for a while, but knew his calling was in research and assisting people in resource-limited environments.

Guerra went on to earn his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science from Loma Linda University's rehabilitation science program in 2017. He then began his academic career, initially as a faculty member in a prosthetics orthotics program in Florida. He has dedicated the last several years of his life to building a graduate prosthetics program in Bangkok, Thailand, and guiding purposeful, clinically relevant research for Southeast Asia and the world.

MARINELLA MURILLO '10—Spirit of the Jaguar



Recently retiring from a 40-year career in the federal government, Marinella G. Murillo has served the San Antonio and South Texas community all her adult life. Serving as a volunteer for various city, county and national political campaigns, she is passionate about promoting south side economic development, as well as environmental, social and domestic violence issues.

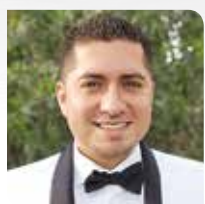
While she has been active with many local organizations and received numerous awards for her service, Murillo has also garnered national recognition. She was the first Latina to serve on the Federally Employed Women's National Board of Directors and the American Federation of Government Employees Council 222 Executive Board at the federal level.

Beginning her career with the U.S. Small Business Administration and later transferring to U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Murillo has gone the extra mile for many as an EEO counselor and mediator, federal women's program manager and union official. She graduated summa cum laude from A&M-San Antonio, and she plans to pursue a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis on nonprofit leadership.

ALUMNI PROFILES

HONOR ROLL OF EXCELLENCE

ANTONIO VILLARREAL '11, '14—Distinguished Alumni



Monterrey, Mexico, native Antonio Villarreal is the global sourcing-export manager for H-E-B in San Antonio. Having been with H-E-B for five years now, he works with H-E-B partners across multiple departments; acts as the liaison between hundreds of stores across Texas and Mexico; and has helped source many private-label authentic products from across the globe. Four years ago, he launched CIAO ITALIA - H-E-B MEXICO, a month-long sales event with the objective of introducing authentic Italian cuisine, culture and products to H-E-B Mexico's consumers.

While pursuing his master's degree in international business and marketing from A&M-San Antonio, Villarreal, aka DJ TONYC (ton*ik), was a full-time DJ/event coordinator and marketing entrepreneur. He is the founder and owner of the Barbaoca & Big Red Festival, which is in its ninth year and gathers over 30,000 attendees. He also served as a consultant to the Miller-Coors Company, Dos XX and Red Bull North America for targeted brand management projects. Today, Villarreal works with leaders across the company to strategize H-E-B's next big move.

GISELLE CALVILLO '12—Distinguished Alumni



As a business owner and entrepreneur, Giselle Calvillo has been recognized as an effective and motivational team leader with over 22 years of experience in health and fitness. She has spent 13 of those years in leadership roles, owning/operating a small personal training business and founding premier local fitness company, MixFit SA.

Since graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology from A&M-San Antonio in 2012, Calvillo has been an active alumna, volunteering at numerous University events and offering movement opportunities to faculty and staff. She and her team at MixFit SA are dedicated to educating San Antonio and south side residents on proper fitness and wellness, thus creating a healthier community and better quality of life.

FIDELA ARROYO '13—Spirit of the Jaguar



San Antonio native Fidela Arroyo has a passion for helping people overcome their obstacles. Graduating from A&M-San Antonio with her bachelor's degree and more recently attaining her Master of Science with an emphasis in Applied Criminology, she has used her degrees to help those who are in need and/or incarcerated. She works closely with law enforcement, rehabilitation facilities, court liaisons, Haven for Hope, the Salvation Army and more entities in order to help her clients.

Also passionate about helping parents provide for their children, Arroyo started a party rental company in 2014, hosting school carnivals, charity events, birthday parties, weddings and much more. She is also very involved in her community as a motivational speaker, event promoter and organizer.

BIANCA GOODRUM '14—Spirit of the Jaguar

Bianca Goodrum is a licensed professional counselor who received her Master of Arts in Counseling & Guidance from A&M-San Antonio in May 2014. She is a proud Jaguar, as well as a proud Aggie: She received her Bachelor of Science in Health from A&M-College Station.

Goodrum has worked with the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas and Clarity Child Guidance Center, where she has helped individuals cope with the grieving process, overcome the restricting effects of mental illness and improve their ability to function within their lives. She currently serves as a counselor at the Rape Crisis Center, where she works with survivors of sexual violence and their family members.

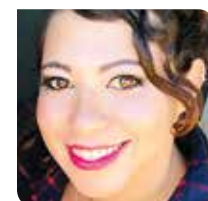
A third-year Counselor Education and Supervision doctoral student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Goodrum conducts research on counselor wellness, and helps youth cope with the challenges of grief, mental illness and traumatic experiences. She also loves working with future Counselors-in-Training (CITs) and their development, and she is excited to use her Ph.D. to help her one day lead and guide future CITs.

KRISTAL EAKER '12, '15—Spirit of the Jaguar

Kristal Eaker is a 2012 and 2015 graduate of A&M-San Antonio with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in business with a concentration in management/human resources. She began her recruiting career while a student worker in the College of Business, soon joining the team full-time and finding her niche in transfer advising.

Eaker has also served as an active volunteer for A&M-San Antonio and beyond, with a passion for helping service members and active duty responders. While a student, she helped raise funds for the San Antonio Fire Department and volunteered with the Military Affairs Office on campus, assisting numerous active-duty, retired, separated, Green-to-Gold and ROTC students. More recently, she has been active with several organizations dedicated to assisting veterans, their families and the homeless, including Project Phoenix, the Travis Manion Foundation and the SA Rodeo Ticket Committee's Military Affairs Office.

JESSICA GREIG '16—Recent Graduate



While pursuing her bachelor's degree in biology at A&M-San Antonio, Jessica Greig conducted a research study on maternal obesity in common marmosets. After graduating cum laude in May 2016, Greig joined the Texas Biomedical Research Institute as a research assistant. There, she continued her research on marmosets, collaborated with scientists from around the country, secured authorship on multiple papers published in national peer-reviewed journals and presented her research at multiple national and international conferences.

After three years as a research assistant, Greig realized she wanted to be part of the care and well-being of marmosets in addition to conducting research. On Aug. 1, 2019, she assumed the role of colony supervisor at Texas Biomedical Research Institute, making her the institute's youngest supervisor. She works alongside some of the world's leading researchers in areas such as aging, nutrition, neuroscience and infectious diseases. She feels it is her duty to make sure that the animals are given the best care while they help push our scientific knowledge in these areas.

SHARON AGUILLEN '17—Distinguished Alumni



Originally from Niagara Falls, N.Y., Sharon Aguillen pursued a career path that married her two passions: tourism and entertainment. While earning a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Technical Theater, she worked at travel and tourism entities, leading her to a 22-year career at Sea World Parks & Entertainment (formerly Busch Entertainment Corporation). After earning her MBA from A&M-San Antonio, she joined the executive team at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Fla.

In January 2019, Aguillen launched her own company, TCB Productions, LLC, which specializes in show production and project management. In August 2019, she returned to San Antonio to assume the role of CEO and president for the nonprofit San Antonio Visitor Alliance (formerly the San Antonio Area Tourism Council). She has served on the board of directors at the North San Antonio Chamber and HemisFair, and she is currently the chair of the entertainment committee for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions.

BLANCA BANDA '08, '18—Spirit of the Jaguar



As an alumna of A&M-San Antonio and A&M-Kingsville, Blanca Aracely Banda has had the privilege to witness the development of A&M-San Antonio. Pursuing a Master of Business Administration, she strives to be involved in her university and community, serving as a member and officer in 11 organizations within the University and two organizations within the San Antonio community: RAICES and Catholic Charities.

A proud Jaguar, Banda dedicates her award to the spirit of Esperanza that walks the halls of the University. "It was the hope of the Hon. Sen. Frank Madla that gave us A&M-San Antonio," she said. "May that same hope become a reality in our lives, hope in ourselves and hope in others."

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon honors Paul Denham



Each year, the Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation honors a distinguished individual who demonstrates a commitment to making a profound and lasting impact on education at A&M-San Antonio and in South Texas. At the annual Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon Nov. 18, the Foundation honored this year's recipient, Paul Denham.

Denham, an engineer with the Land Development Division of Civil Engineering Consultants, was recognized for his advocacy for financial literacy work, having made significant efforts in expanding financial literacy education in the community and in support of A&M-San Antonio. In spring 2019, Denham and the Financial Literacy of South Texas Foundation board unanimously voted to establish a \$1 million endowment at A&M-San Antonio. The gift will fund scholarships for accounting and finance majors, as well as stipends for financial literacy projects, supported by the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

The Dream Maker Luncheon is the Foundation's largest annual fundraiser with proceeds going toward scholarships to support the University's students. This year's event drew a record-breaking number of sponsors and attendees and set a new record for scholarships of nearly \$204,600. A&M-San Antonio alum and New York City-based media professional Jon Salas '13 served as master of ceremonies.

Denham joins the Dream Maker Society alongside past honorees, the Honorable Henry Cisneros; Carlos Alvarez; Lowry Mays; Dr. Carl Raba; Peter Holt; Weisie and the Honorable John Steen; Peggy and Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.; Coach Gene Stallings; William "Bill" Greehey; and Regent Elaine Mendoza. See photos from the event online at A&M-San Antonio on Flickr.

Building the Future Ariel Garcia, Class of 2020



Education major Ariel Garcia is on a mission to help future generations succeed by becoming a teacher—and the scholarships she has received through the Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation are helping make this dream a reality.

Thanks to the generous support of the Foundation and its donors, Garcia is able to focus more on her studies, to graduate debt-free and to be the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. Maintaining a close relationship with her family and serving as an inspiration for her brother, Garcia says she knows her parents are very proud of this accomplishment. But her father says it best: "She's actually my hero."

See Garcia's full story online at tamusa.edu/arielgarcia.

University enters innovative ASPIRE collaboration with seven south Bexar County ISDs

A&M-San Antonio announced in November a first-of-its-kind partnership to benefit students across seven south Bexar County independent school districts (ISDs) called ASPIRE. Formally known as the A&M-San Antonio and South Bexar County ISDs Partnership to Impact Regional Equity and Excellence, ASPIRE aims to develop educational programs and services in support of existing programs to overcome challenges common to all seven ISDs, such as curriculum development, teacher shortages and gaps in services for special-needs students.



By incorporating customized solutions for each district, ASPIRE will create equitable opportunities, enhance social mobility and promote income growth and career readiness in south Bexar County and the greater San Antonio area. Participating ISDs include East Central, Edgewood, Harlandale, Somers, South San Antonio, Southside and Southwest. To learn more about ASPIRE, visit tamusa.edu/aspirepr.



Foundation Golf Tournament raises \$63,000-plus for scholarships

The Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation raised more than \$63,000 to support scholarships at the 2019 Scholarship Golf Tournament April 11. Twenty-nine teams and 116 players completed 18 holes of golf and networking culminating with an awards ceremony honoring the most outstanding teams. Held at the Republic Golf Club, the tournament raised the largest amount to date, thanks to increased interest and generous community support. Some of the year's top sponsors included LNV, Valero and SpawGlass.

The Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament focuses on generating scholarship support for qualified, deserving A&M-San Antonio students. Since the Foundation's inception, it has partnered with the University to raise millions of dollars in philanthropic support, providing scholarships for well over 5,500 students.

University Advancement thanks supporters with DONOR THANK-YOU CAMPAIGN

University Advancement launched a Donor Thank You Campaign in November to thank A&M-San Antonio's donors for their generous support. Major gift donors, first-time donors and recurring donors who have supported the University in any capacity over the years received a special postcard, as well as a phone call from a student volunteer. Student volunteers gathered in the Advancement suites to call donors and write thank you notes. Volunteers included Martin Calderon, Student Government Association vice president, and Zachary Franckowiak, Mr. A&M-San Antonio 2019-20. In order to make University donors feel valued and excited about their gifts to A&M-San Antonio every year, the Donor Thank You Campaign will continue as an annual event.

PROFILES IN GIVING



Pictured L to R: Ariel Garcia, Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation scholarship recipient; Paul Denham, 2019 Dream Maker Society Scholarship Luncheon honoree; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, A&M-San Antonio president; and Alexander A. Travieso, vice-chair of the Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation.

PAUL DENHAM Knowledge is Power

An understanding of finance is key to a life of economic freedom and mobility. This is why Paul Denham is passionate about expanding financial literacy education, particularly to historically underserved communities.

A San Antonio native whose parents instilled in him the importance of education, Denham is a proud Aggie, having earned his degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University-College Station. Today, he is a licensed Professional Engineer, serving as senior project manager for the Civil Engineering Consultants (CEC) Development Division. Throughout his seasoned career, he has enabled the design and development of 50,000 single-family lots in Bexar County alone.

Outside of work, Denham advocates for financial literacy education as a board member of the Financial Literacy of South Texas Foundation. In support of his passion and the foundation's mission, he and the board unanimously voted in summer 2019 to establish a \$1 million endowment at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Supported by the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, the endowment will help fund stipends for Financial Literacy Fellows,

as well as scholarships for financial and accounting majors. In honor of his support to the University, as well as his devotion to strengthening our community, A&M-San Antonio was proud

“FINANCIAL LITERACY IS POWER, AND THESE KIDS ... THIS IS GOING TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES.”

to celebrate Denham as the 2019 Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon honoree in November. In his speech, Denham spoke about the importance of “leveling the playing field” through financial literacy.

“Financial literacy is power, and these kids, these students ... this is going to enrich their lives,” Denham said. “They are going to have families that know exactly what finances are, how to set them up and how to run their families. They are going to spread that through this community, and this city is going to be better because of it.”

PROFILES IN GIVING



Pictured L to R: Marissa M. Mireles, Jaguar Ambassador; Cindy Taylor, Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation board member; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, A&M-San Antonio president; Janie Martinez Gonzalez, Webhead founder and CEO; and Marilic Pimentel, Webhead business operations director, People and Culture Department.

JANIE MARTINEZ GONZALEZ Closing a Gap

If technology is the future, then those who create and advance technology could be called the architects of the future. Janie Martinez Gonzalez is a leader in this effort, as well as a trailblazer for women and Hispanics in business and technology.

“THERE CONTINUES TO BE A GAP BETWEEN THOSE WHO PRODUCE TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE WHO CONSUME IT. OUR JOB IS TO CLOSE THAT GAP IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.”

Gonzalez is the founder and CEO of Webhead, a market leader in Web, IT and business intelligence. Established in 1994, the company was on the forefront of the digital movement—and it was one of the first Web development companies in Texas to have a Latina CEO. Selected as a San Antonio Women's Hall of Famer and a San Antonio Hispanic Innovator among her

honors and awards, she is a self-described “first generation everything.” She is passionate about creating opportunities, assisting individuals and communities in need and advancing higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

Gonzalez supports these efforts in a wide variety of philanthropic work, including as a member of the Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation Board of Directors. This year, Gonzalez presented A&M-San Antonio with a check for over \$10,000 to support the President's Circle, the A&M-San Antonio Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Janie M. Gonzalez Scholarship Fund. Through these efforts, Gonzalez is investing in the future of the cyber security talent pipeline.

“There continues to be a gap between those who produce technology and those who consume it,” she said. “Our job is to close that gap in meaningful ways.”

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured L to R (above): John Sharp, Texas A&M University System chancellor; Janie Martinez Gonzalez, Webhead founder and CEO; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, A&M-San Antonio president; Dr. Shari Becker Albright, Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation president; Juanita Sepulveda, Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation board member; and Dr. Carl Sheperis, dean of the A&M-San Antonio College of Education and Human Development.

CHARLES C. BUTT **Securing the Future**

Charles C. Butt feels a sense of responsibility to help educators provide the best possible education so that all children can have a secure future. In a letter he wrote upon launching a leadership development program for educators, he expressed his commitment to strengthening public schools and addressing the challenges facing educators—challenges like limited funding, scarce resources and diminishing public support.

Butt, who inherited his family's San Antonio-based H-E-B supermarket chain in 1971, formed the Charles Butt Foundation in 2000 to support educational, cultural and health institutions. H-E-B consists of more than 300 stores and generates more than \$20 billion in revenue, according to *Forbes*.

Butt believes that giving back is the right thing to do. His parents instilled this belief in him while he was growing up, as he witnessed his family setting aside 5 percent of earnings for charitable causes. He grew the H-E-B family grocery business into a multi-billion-dollar operation, and his charitable foundations give generously in the areas of hunger relief, education, health, the environment, diversity and the arts. Butt supports the premise

The Corporate Partnership program at A&M-San Antonio builds partnerships with businesses and corporations that support the University's vision and have invested millions in the growth and development of the A&M-San Antonio campus. These corporate partners support the Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon and the Scholarship Golf Tournament, as well as sponsor events like Fall Fest, Festival de Cascarones and Lights of Esperanza.

In addition, the University's corporate partners engage with students, alumni, faculty and staff throughout the year at signature A&M-San Antonio events, as well as in University publications, on social media and at community-supported events. Corporate partners also provide

that great teachers prepare great students. In 2017, he founded the Holdsworth Center of Excellence in Education Leadership, committing \$250 million to develop educational leaders to impact K-12 students in Texas public schools.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2019, A&M-SAN ANTONIO'S CORPORATE PARTNERS CONTRIBUTED \$1.4 MILLION IN DONATIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS.

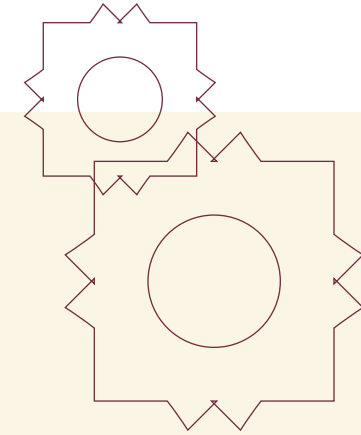
The alignment between Butt's passion for supporting public education and the needs of public schools on the south side of San Antonio was the catalyst for a \$1 million gift to support A&M-San Antonio's College of Education and Human Development, and to support the College's educational efforts through the A&M-San Antonio and South Bexar County ISDs Partnership to Impact Regional Equity and Excellence (ASPIRE). Under this collaboration, seven participating school districts will join forces to leverage assets, improve academic advancement and access services, such as the Autism RISE Center, to impact nearly 70,000 K-12 students in the historically underserved south side of Bexar County.

learning and employment opportunities for students through internships and job fairs. A&M-San Antonio receives support from various corporate and business partners such as Valero, Wells Fargo, SpawGlass, Whataburger, Holt Cat, H-E-B and others. These corporate partners, plus more University supporters, are listed in Donor Highlights.

As a vital corporate sponsor, H-E-B supports key University events and provides pivotal funding for educational projects such as the CAST STEM partnership with Southwest ISD. The CAST STEM project provides teacher training in STEM disciplines. H-E-B's gift of \$20,000 through the Charles Butt Foundation leveraged a \$100,000 grant from the CAST Network to bring the project to fruition.

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS 2018-19

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is enriched by the generosity of individual, corporate and foundation donors. Each gift advances our institutional mission: contributing to preparing graduates for the world ahead. Such support provides opportunities for scholarships, internships, research and experiences that extend access to the higher-education experience. We are deeply grateful to our past and current **206 donors**, who provided **over \$4 million** in cash gifts and in-kind contributions from Sept. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2019.



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PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Students are at the heart of every gift to Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The President's Circle community is deeply connected to A&M-San Antonio's core mission to expand the future for a historically underserved population while advancing excellence and access to quality higher education. Donors, whose annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more, are further advancing opportunities for students and their community.

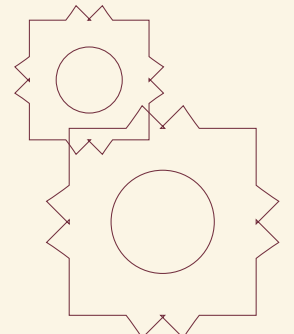
Gifts support the University's ability to respond to the most pressing needs of students while contributing to the advancement of innovations and emerging opportunities. At the president's discretion, the President's Circle provides University-wide support where there is the greatest need. This includes emergency aid for students, student and faculty research, and learning grants to support transformational opportunities for discovery, research and exploration. The President's Circle also brings distinguished speakers to campus, providing unique and thought-provoking experiences and discussions.

President's Circle members (Sept. 1, 2018–Dec. 31, 2019)

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Partnerships fostered by Texas A&M University-San Antonio continue to reflect the diversity of the organizations and communities the Institution serves. Engagement and education characterized faculty, staff and student efforts throughout 2019, with Jaguars actively pursuing service opportunities and joining community events to celebrate and commemorate. Here are a few of those activities.

College of Arts and Science faculty connect with Bexar County middle-schoolers at CORE4 STEM expo

Drs. Chris Mares and Robert Page of the College of Arts and Sciences introduced 150 Bexar County middle-school students to the basic principles of microscopy and DNA isolation during the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's annual two-day CORE4 STEM expo in November. Dr. Mares oversaw a module that provides students with exposure to light microscopy, focused on viewing prepared slides and wet mounts created from pond water. Dr. Page presented a module showing students how to isolate DNA from plant tissue (kiwis and bananas) using household chemicals, such as dish soap, table salt, pineapple juice and rubbing alcohol. This was the fourth consecutive year these A&M-San Antonio faculty presented at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's CORE4 STEM expo.



A&M-San Antonio hosts San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 10th Annual CORE4 STEM Family Day

A&M-San Antonio served as host site for the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's CORE4 STEM Family Day, held Nov. 9. Families and students from elementary through middle school participated. This was the second year A&M-San Antonio participated as a host site. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce partnered with A&M-San Antonio to provide families with the opportunity to discover higher education and career opportunities within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields through hands-on sessions. This half-day workshop included activities such as programming robotic spheres and learning about kinesiology at A&M-San Antonio's state-of-the-art labs. Dr. Young Rae Kim welcomed the families, along with Drs. Sukho Lee, Eunhye Kwon and Mi Sun Park, and undergraduate student assistants helped implement the activities.



A&M-San Antonio participates in record numbers at civic marches

On Jan. 21, Jaguars walked from the Martin Luther King Jr. Academy to Pittman-Sullivan Park, holding signs and chanting in solidarity for freedom as a show of support for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Over 114 Jaguars participated in San Antonio's 2019 2.75-mile MLK March—nearly doubling the 2018 participation.

Jaguar students marched with President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, who served as the honorary grand marshal, during San Antonio's 23rd César Chávez March for Justice on Saturday, March 30. The annual event commemorates the humanitarian efforts and spirit

of Chávez, who encouraged Latinos to embrace their heritage and overcome injustices and inequalities.

Fifty-six members of the Jaguar community participated in the June 29 Pride Bigger than Texas 2019 Parade. Members and allies of the LGBTQ community took to the streets to celebrate Pride, an outdoor event celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) social and self-acceptance, achievements, legal rights and pride. A&M-San Antonio's Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement had the largest attendance for Pride in University history.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

M.L.K. Academy students and families win Jaguar Swag at BACK TO SCHOOL JAMBOREE

COEHD faculty handed out school supplies and Jaguar swag to students and their families at the M.L.K. Academy Back to School Jamboree April 9. Drs. Melissa Jozwiak, Karen Burgard and Michael Boucher from COEHD were in attendance, and the Mays Center donated a spinning wheel for guests to spin for prizes such as T-shirts, lanyards and drawstring backpacks.



University designated official polling site

In 2019, the Bexar County Elections Department selected the University as an official Election Day Voting Center, providing a convenient voting location for registered voters from Bexar County. More than 280 Bexar County residents voted on campus in November, and, through the Mays Center partnership with MOVE Texas and the League of Women Voters, over 500 Jaguars registered to vote for the first time. “We want our students to be inspired to participate in the political and voting processes that shape our neighborhoods, city, state and nation. That type of active involvement over time helps students grow to become leaders in their own communities,” said Christina Guerra, A&M-San Antonio’s civic engagement coordinator. The University also earned distinction as a Voter Friendly Campus for 2019-20.

Students win White House Volunteer Service Award

Eighteen A&M-San Antonio students received the White House’s prestigious President’s Volunteer Service Award for their commitment to community service. Each student completed over 100 volunteer hours of community service. A few Jaguars spent their spring break in Wilmington, N.C., as part of the A&M-San Antonio Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement Alternative Spring Break Program. Students were in the area to help rebuild homes that were devastated by Hurricane Florence.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Texas A&M University-San Antonio Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position For the Years Ended August 31, 2019 and 2018

Amounts in Thousands

	2019	2018
Operating Revenues		
Tuition and fees (net of discounts and allowances of \$13,963 and \$11,006, respectively)	\$ 30,299	\$ 31,901
Other sales of goods and services	540	514
Federal grants and contracts	456	785
State grants and contracts	2,272	1,326
Other grants and contracts	426	283
Auxiliary enterprises	531	389
Other operating revenues	229	126
Total Operating Revenues	34,753	35,324
Operating Expenses		
Instruction	25,643	23,767
Research and public service	650	707
Academic support	8,103	7,631
Student services	15,736	11,422
Institutional support	9,492	8,249
Operation and maintenance of plant	8,744	6,371
Scholarships and fellowships	10,967	9,959
Auxiliary enterprises	388	349
Depreciation and amortization	8,444	6,186
Total Operating Expenses	88,167	74,641
Total Operating Loss	(53,414)	(39,317)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Legislative revenue	32,463	32,216
Federal grants and contracts	14,583	13,649
Gifts	2,151	1,749
Investment income (net of investment expenses of \$115 and \$91, respectively)	1,967	2,141
Other nonoperating revenue (expenses), net	(3,953)	(214)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	47,211	49,541
Income Before Other Revenues and Transfers	(6,203)	10,224
Total Other Revenues and Transfers	56,304	(6,324)
Change in Net Position	\$ 50,101	\$ 3,900

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PRESIDENT'S *Report* 2019

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The President's Report is published by the Division of University Advancement and External Relations on behalf of Texas A&M University-San Antonio for the members of its community, donors and other friends of the Institution.

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Sponsored by H-E-B **H-E-B**
FESTIVAL DE CASCARONES - APRIL 26, 2020



FALL FEST - OCT. 17, 2020



LIGHTS OF ESPERANZA - DEC. 1, 2020

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