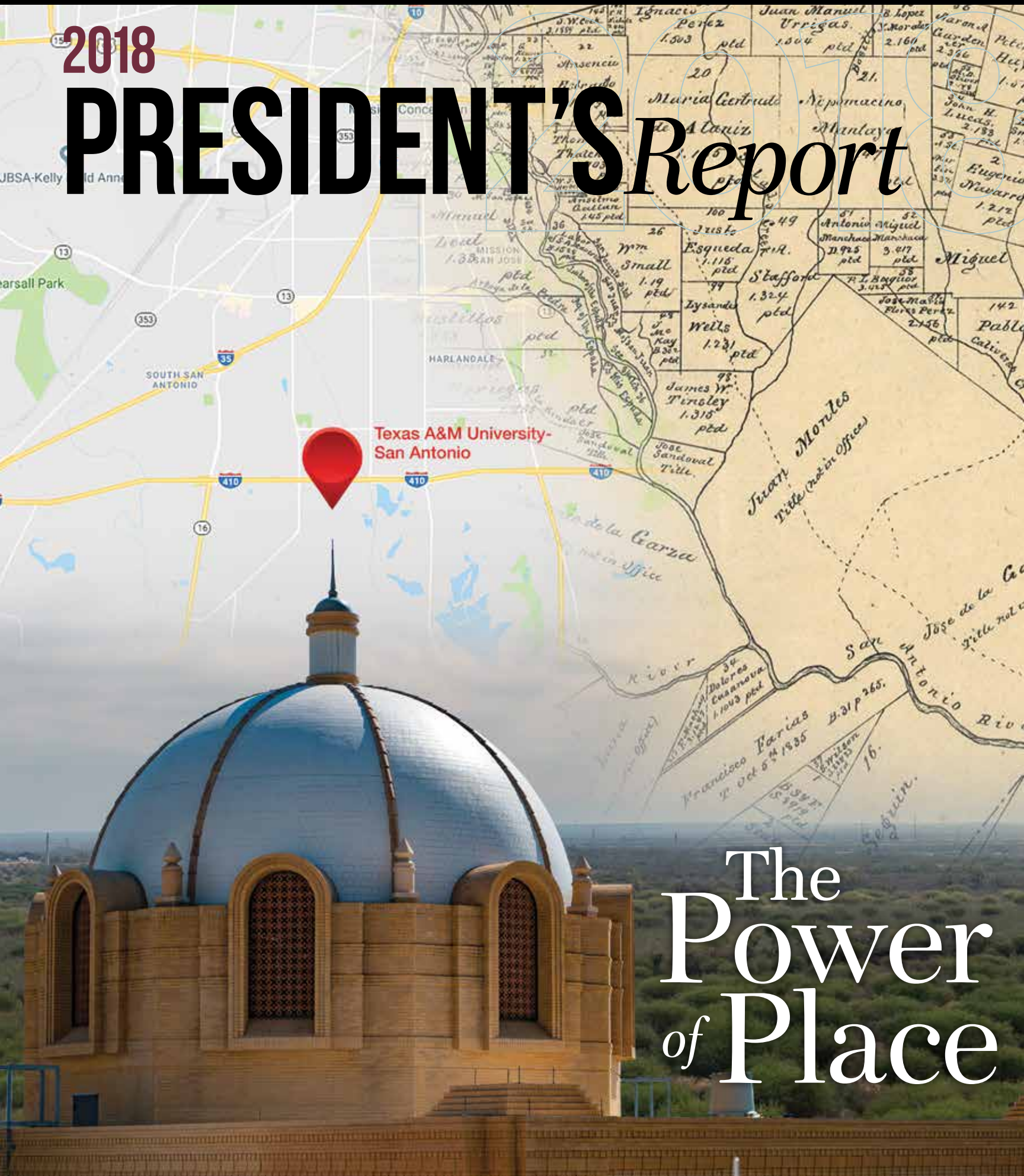


2018

# PRESIDENT'S Report



Texas A&M University-San Antonio

The  
Power  
of  
Place

# FESTIVAL DE CASCARONES



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The Power of Place

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## ON THE COVER

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) was founded at a specific time, *in a specific location*, to provide excellent education to the underserved communities on the city's South Side. As the University celebrates its 10-year anniversary in 2019, A&M-SA continues to embrace and celebrate the history and rugged beauty of its campus along with its rich cultural heritage and enduring military legacy. Photograph by Nan Palmero.



# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is on a mission: To provide high-quality, affordable education to all its students, particularly those from South San Antonio's historically under-represented population.

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This mission is built into the bricks of The Senator Frank L. Madla Building, and the grand copper doors of the Central Academic Building. It's alive in the military-connected students the University serves, and in the diverse artwork hung throughout campus. By embodying the confluence of cultures and military legacy that make San Antonio such a unique city, A&M-SA celebrates the power of place.

But the power of this University is not its past—it is in its future. Since its birth as a standalone university in 2009, A&M-SA has become the fastest growing campus in The Texas A&M University System. This growth continued in 2018 with the completion of the Science and Technology Building and Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

The needs of this region are clear, and I am confident that if we continue to build it, they will continue to come. The possibilities for this 696-acre campus are only as limited as our imaginations.

The key factor in this success will be A&M-SA's commitment to the people and to the place it was created to serve. I know this commitment to mission will be unswerving under the leadership of President Cynthia Teniente-Matson.

We are particularly proud of our commitment to helping many of A&M-SA's students—more than 70 percent—become the first person in their family to earn a college degree. And with one in six students on campus having a connection to the military, we are also proud of our commitment to serving the educational needs of those fulfilling their mission while in service to our nation.

A&M-SA is a young, ambitious campus, much like the people and the place it serves. And—like both—its future is bright.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Sharp  
Chancellor

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two thousand eighteen was another exhilarating year at A&M-SA, highlighted by the opening of state-of-the-art facilities, the introduction of innovative academic programs, the establishment of new endowments and—of course—the accomplishments of talented faculty, staff and students.

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Through it all, our abiding sense of mission and our deep connections to place were stabilizing forces. In the midst of rapid growth and constant change, they serve as a rock-solid foundation on which to continue building our great University.

Serving as the Tricentennial chair of San Antonio's SA300 celebration transformed the lens through which I view our University. The experience enriched my understanding of the seminal moments, key figures and confluence of cultures that make San Antonio such an extraordinary city. It also gave me a greater appreciation for the "importance of place" at A&M-SA. We were founded very deliberately—at a specific time, *in a specific location*—to provide excellent education to the underserved communities of San Antonio's South Side. No matter how much we grow in enrollment or stature, we will never forget that our "reason for being" is grounded very deeply in our geography.

The *2018 President's Report* celebrates the *power of place* and speaks to the vital role it has played—and will continue to play—in the fulfillment of our mission. Innovative academic programs offered in the new Science and Technology Building, including a first-in-Texas partnership with Facebook, will educate the next generation of cyber warriors to bolster San Antonio's leadership position in this burgeoning industry. Career services and co-curricular learning activities offered through the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement enhance knowledge as students pursue internships with local employers, as well as serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Collaborative faculty-student research in the area of water resources science and technology will generate new knowledge and produce highly qualified graduates to help South Central Texas address the intensifying demands on water from the region's growing population. The recently announced Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders will develop leaders who will strengthen their communities by developing innovative, equity-minded solutions to address their most pressing challenges and promising opportunities.

As you learn more about A&M-SA's unique relationship with the land, cultures and communities around us, I hope you will consider ways to celebrate the power of *our place* and harness its potential to advance the University's vision. As San Antonio and the South Side continue to grow, we want to welcome ever greater numbers of the students we were literally built to serve. Because of *our place* in the world, we will be able to say to those students, along with their families and all those interested in joining us in our mission: "Yes, we have a place for *you*."



Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D.  
President



# NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Putting "our place" on the map

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) earned national recognition for several notable accomplishments in 2018, reflecting its strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as its dedication to serving military-connected students and their families.

## A&M-SA breaks into top 100 of *Military Times*' "Best for Vets: Colleges 2019"



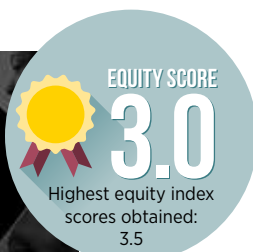
RANKED  
#77

A&M-SA cracked the top 100 of "Best for Vets: Colleges 2019" when the *Military Times* unveiled its rankings in the fall. A&M-SA placed #77 on the list that includes 208 institutions. Now in their ninth 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.

## A&M-SA ranks among top institutions in serving black students

A September 2018 report from the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center graded public institutions across the country. The report, *Black Students at Public Colleges and Universities, A 50-State Report Card*, evaluated every public university in the country on how well it is serving black students. Researchers used four equity indicators to determine each institution's equity index score: representation equity, gender equity, completion equity and black student-to-black faculty ratio. The highest equity index scores obtained were 3.50. A&M-San Antonio, listed at #21, earned an equity index score of 3.0.

**Black Students at Public Colleges and Universities**  
A 50-STATE REPORT CARD



By Shaun R. Harper and Isaiah Simmons  
USC Race and Equity Center

## A&M-SA lands first NSF grant for HSI STEM project

In August, A&M-SA was awarded its first National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for support of the project, "HSIs New to NSF: Retain and Increase Hispanic Students in Computing." The \$249,948 grant is for the three-year project period from Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2021. The grant was awarded through the NSF's inaugural Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE): Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) program, which aims to enhance undergraduate STEM education and build capacity at HSIs.



**\$249,948 GRANT**

Awarded for HSIs New to NSF: Retain and Increase Hispanic Students in Computing.

The overarching goal of the project is to increase the retention and transfer of Hispanic students in computing from two-year to four-year institutions. The A&M-SA project will be led by Principal Investigator Dr. Jeong Yang, assistant professor of computer science. Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, professor and chair of the Department of Computing and Cyber Security, and Dr. Young Rae Kim, assistant professor of mathematics education, will serve as co-principal investigators for the project. Dr. Michelle Janysek, field residency and clinical teaching specialist, will be an independent evaluator to ensure the success of the project in meeting its goals.

## A&M-SA ranked #4 nationally for percentage of Hispanic BA recipients

In its August/September 2018 issue, *Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine* ranked A&M-SA #4 in the nation for its percentage of Hispanic BA recipients. Sixty-nine percent of A&M-SA's 2017 BA degrees were earned by Hispanic students, placing it behind Texas A&M International University, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the University Of Texas at El Paso.

# A&M-SA IN THE NEWS



**KLRN-9, SciTech Now: "Detecting Fake IDs"**  
Feb. 1, 2018

SciTech Now, a KLRN television show, is a weekly broadcast that brings the topics of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to viewers. In February, Dr. Dawn Weatherford, assistant professor of psychology, and her student researchers were featured on the show discussing their research on the accuracy of detecting fake IDs. "Our goal at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, ultimately, is to find ways to increase security, increase protocols, increase trainings and just make everyone a little bit safer," Dr. Weatherford said.



**The Chronicle of Higher Education, "6 Steps to Help First-Generation Students Succeed"**  
March 4, 2018

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson discussed A&M-SA's innovative approaches for student success in an op-ed she wrote for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. She explained how the University constantly evaluates ways to make its procedures "student centered" in order to keep students on track to graduation. She also reviewed details of A&M-SA's student success initiatives, including JagX, Jaguar Tracks, the Family First Seminar and student success coaches.



**Education Dive, "Texas A&M San Antonio Looks to City's Culture and History to Build Student Success Model"**  
March 28, 2018

Several University leaders and students were quoted in this article by online education news outlet, *Education Dive*. The story explored how A&M-SA's distinct mission, approach to accessibility and student success model respond to the unique time and place in which it was founded and operates today.



**Univision Channel 41, "A&M-SA to Offer Facebook-Sponsored Cyber Security University Program"**  
Aug. 29, 2018

In a Spanish-language interview at the A&M-SA-Facebook cyber security announcement on campus, Nan Palmero, associate director of Marketing and Communications, discussed the details of the innovative new program along with the benefits students would enjoy.



**Diverse Issues in Higher Education, "Education Scholar Pushes Boundaries"**  
Sept. 9, 2018

In a profile on Dr. Lawrence Scott, assistant professor of educational leadership, Dr. Scott told the publication that since the time he was a teenager, he has lived by the motto that "success is measured in succession." He noted that he was the first in his family to go to

college or a university, the first to graduate and the first to get a terminal degree. "So I don't just want degree attainment, but I want to make an impact, I want to effect change," Dr. Scott said.

**San Antonio Express-News, "Texas Power Broker: President Cynthia Teniente-Matson"**  
Sept. 24, 2018



The *San Antonio Express-News* featured Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson in its "Texas Power Broker." The article provided a brief biography of Dr. Matson, followed by a question-and-answer section.



**KSAT-12, "Texas A&M-SA Offering Facebook-sponsored Cybersecurity University Program"**  
Sept. 25, 2018

Following the announcement of A&M-SA's participation in the Facebook Cyber Security University Program, KSAT interviewed Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, chair of the Department of Computing and Cyber Security, about the program. "The students who do well will be able to be involved in other activities and conferences, maybe even a grant," Dr. Lodgher explained, adding, "The benefits are endless."



**KABB-29, "Decision 2018"**  
Nov. 6, 2018

Dr. Andrew Sanders, assistant professor of political science, sat with a KABB host throughout the night providing political commentary during "Election Night" coverage as voting polls closed. Sanders commented about early results with much of the coverage focused on the Texas senate race between incumbent Republican Ted Cruz and challenger Democrat Beto O'Rourke.



**WOAI-4, "Castro Exploring a Presidential Run"**  
Dec. 12, 2018

When former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro announced that he was forming an Exploratory Committee to consider making a bid for the U.S. presidency, the station interviewed Dr. Andrew Sanders, assistant professor of political science, in studio. Providing expert political commentary for the station's 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts, Dr. Sanders posited that Castro's early announcement gives him an advantage over other political candidates because it gets his name out early.

# UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Enriching our campus and community

## GENERAL NEWS

### A&M-SA plays prominent role in SA300 Tricentennial



**SA300**, an estimated  
**700 ORGANIZATIONS**  
and  
**500 EVENTS**,  
economic impact of  
**+\$100 MILLION**

The San Antonio Tricentennial celebration, SA300, was a year-long initiative honoring 300 years of the city's rich heritage and diverse culture. An estimated 700 organizations hosted approximately 500 events during 2018 with the help of thousands of volunteers, with a total economic impact on the city of more than \$100 million. In December 2017, Dr. Matson was nominated by Mayor Ron Nirenberg to serve as president of the Tricentennial Commission, and subsequently approved by the San Antonio City Council and Tricentennial Commission. In that role, she took the helm of a group charged with leading the overall effort and managing a multimillion-dollar budget.

A&M-SA also played a prominent role in SA300. The University hosted numerous Tricentennial events on campus and participated more broadly in activities

across town. In January, A&M-SA opened a year-long exhibit at its downtown Presidio Gallery. "San Antonio as a Crossroads: 300 Years of an Evolving Frontier Community" explored the city's vibrant history through photographs, artwork, maps, documents, artifacts and ephemera.

| *San Antonio as a Crossroads*



| *Arts and Culture*



| *Tree-Centennial*

To help celebrate SA300's **Commemorative Week in May**, the University hosted a Tree-Centennial Tree Planting Ceremony. During the ceremony, a blossoming Texas Red Oak tree from the George W. Bush Family Farm was dedicated to A&M-SA, standing as a permanent marker of the momentous Tricentennial year. The planting ceremony was followed by the History and Education Roundtable, which featured lectures from Dr. Mike O'Brien, University provost, Dr. Amy Porter, associate professor of history and Dr. Rodolfo Valdez, associate professor of biology. They discussed the pre-history of archaeology and the history and ecology of the land on which the University is located. As part of Commemorative Week, A&M-SA also hosted the Founders' Day Art and Culture event, featuring Native American, conjunto, mariachi and folklorico performances, art displays, food trucks and other family-friendly activities.

### Chancellor visits campus, tours new building

In July, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp visited the A&M-SA campus. He joined Dr. Matson and Lead Jaguar Ambassador Clayton Jaskinia for a sneak preview tour of the new Science and Technology Building, which opened in August. Representatives from Stantec and SpawGlass led the hard-hat tour through the state-of-the-art facility, pointing out the unique spaces, features and equipment as the construction crew worked to put the finishing touches on numerous details.

Several staff members from the A&M System's Office of Marketing and Communications videotaped the tour and interviewed Chancellor Sharp and President Matson afterward. The video segment aired on July 10 via a monthly e-newsletter that Chancellor Sharp sends to lawmakers, the media and friends of The Texas A&M University System.





## University takes strides on strategic initiatives

After completing its Strategic Plan, *Build.Impact.Transform.* in 2017, the University took significant strides in 2018 toward its four primary goals: enhancing students' academic success, bolstering its overall academic excellence, achieving enrollment growth and fostering community engagement.

The **Strategic Plan's seed funding initiative** is one way A&M-SA elevates its academic excellence and supports students' academic success. Proposals are selected for funding if they directly align with at least one of the four strategic goals. In September, the University announced the award of two seed fund grants. Dr. Philis Barragán Goetz, assistant professor of history, is exploring San Antonio African American History. Dr. Izzat Alsmadi and Dr. Jeong Yang, assistant professors in computing and cyber security, are conducting a project called JAGCoders to build a campus-wide, code-development community.

In December, under the guidance of Dr. Yang, two computer science major students, Christian Barrientes and Joshua Sanchez, presented their research paper, "Source Code Analysis for Secure Programming Practices" at the International Conference on Computational Sciences and Computational Intelligence in Las Vegas. Using static code analysis tools, the study thoroughly analyzes Java source code in the textbooks used at a collegiate level and determines whether currently taught fundamental programming practices are keeping pace with the dynamic security landscape.

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**THE STRATEGIC PLAN'S SEED FUNDING INITIATIVE IS ONE WAY A&M-SA ELEVATES ITS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND SUPPORTS STUDENTS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS.**

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A&M-SA also reorganized two of its key divisions and created a new one with the goal of enhancing its student focus, one of its core values. The University realigned front-line critical programs that support academic success to reside within the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Success. In an effort to boost student and parent engagement, the Division of Student Affairs realigned some of its resources to focus more on strengths-based student development, co-curricular learning and student leadership. In addition, the University established a new Division of Enrollment Management to create a comprehensive approach towards strategic student recruitment. This new approach integrates all operational aspects of enrollment management, financial aid and the registrar.

## A&M-SA increases focus on enrollment management



In 2018, A&M-SA created a Division of Enrollment Management to increase its focus and discipline across the recruitment, admissions and enrollment funnel. Following a national search, **Brandy McLelland** was selected as the inaugural vice president over the new division, which also includes the financial aid and registrar functions. She brings more than 20 years of combined experience in consulting and administration in higher education.

McLelland and her team began transforming the function by aligning processes and communications across the enrollment management continuum—from high school through undergraduate education to graduate school and everything in between. The new division completed several additional key initiatives last year.

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In an effort to provide world-class service, the Office of the Registrar announced in May a new partnership with the **National Student Clearinghouse** for enrollment verifications. Through this partnership, A&M-SA students are able to access electronic degree and enrollment information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at no cost. As a result, students now enjoy the convenience of free and easy access to enrollment verifications and information, which they access directly via JagWire.

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Also in May, the Office of the Registrar launched **transcript services from Credentials Solutions**. As a result, students and alumni can order and receive transcripts more quickly without sacrificing the level of service they have come to expect from A&M-SA.

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In September, A&M-SA hosted, for the first time, the **Financial Aid Audit Compliance Professionals (FAACP)** quarterly meeting. Financial aid administrators throughout Texas visited A&M-SA's campus and discussed auditing procedure trends as well as best practices.

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Meanwhile, the Office of Admissions continued to expand its outreach to high school college counselors, including counselors in **Houston and Central Texas**. It will further expand this outreach in Spring 2019 by presenting A&M-SA updates to counselors in Brownsville, McAllen and Dallas.

# UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Enriching our campus and community

## Commission on Equity publishes Equity Statement, impacts accessibility and diversity

Established in 2017, the President's Commission on Equity (PCOE) continued to build on an institutional culture of excellence that values diversity, equity and inclusion—with a particular focus on those who join the University from historically under-represented communities. Following its first full year of operations, the PCOE submitted its inaugural PCOE *Framework Report* in August, based on faculty, staff and student input collected through a charrette exercise in January and subsequent discussions with internal stakeholders. The report listed several noteworthy accomplishments, including the University's official Statement on Equity and its formal definitions of equity, inclusion, diversity and equity-mindedness.

In addition, the Commission played an important role in advancing accessibility across campus in 2018. Examples of this include the universal design of space reflected in the new Science and Technology Building, the formation of a new Electronic Information Resources Access Committee and the launch of an innovative online tool called Ally, which integrates seamlessly into Blackboard, the University's learning management system, and makes digital course content more accessible for users.



In November, the PCOE helped host the University's inaugural Fall Diversity Forum. Jordana Barton, senior advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, delivered an inspiring presentation. A graduate of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the author of *Closing the Digital Divide: A Framework for Meeting CRA Obligations*, Barton talked about the wide gulf between San Antonio's digital haves and digital have-nots, including the implications of this divide on the city's economic future.

As the Commission's work on equity, inclusion, diversity, and equity-mindedness continues to evolve and societal issues arise, it will focus each year on specific goals aligning with the University's Strategic Plan. The PCOE will also address specific topics identified through its forums, semi-annual Convocation ceremonies and charrette activities.

## A&M-SA AT-A-GLANCE 2018/19



6,600+  
STUDENTS

71% first generation

70% Latino

17% military connected

68% receive financial aid

10,300+ alumni

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

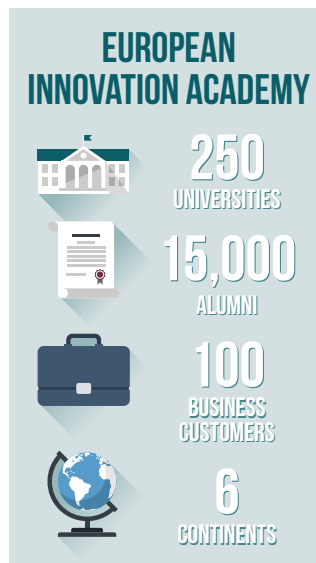
The College of Business (COB) took strides in 2018 to fulfill its mission of preparing students to be successful in a diverse and rapidly evolving world. Through its various undergraduate and graduate programs, it continued to emphasize mastery of analytical, decision-making and technical skills. The COB also increased its focus on experiential learning activities, where knowledge and skills learned in the classroom are applied to a variety of real-world situations, including consulting projects at real businesses, internships with local employers and study-abroad programs.

### Business students return to compete in European Innovation Academy




For the second year in a row, A&M-SA students traveled to Europe over the summer for a unique study-abroad program. Led by COB faculty, the experiential learning trip culminated with several Jaguars participating in the European Innovation Academy (EIA), the world's largest extreme entrepreneurship program.

Hundreds of students representing universities all over the world converged on Turin, Italy, for the three-week EIA program in July. There, 67 teams consisting of five students each transformed original ideas from ideation to minimally viable products to final concepts, ultimately pitching their innovations to venture capitalists for possible funding opportunities. Six A&M-SA students made the University proud: Zachary Franckowiak, Christian Harmon, Lee Hernandez, Benjamin Lopez, Jerrad Parise and Margarito Soriano. Among the winners, A&M-SA was represented in the fifth-place team (Leather Ko) by Margarito Soriano and in the 11th-place team (GoGo Power) by Zachary Franckowiak. GoGo Power also won a special award from Nixon Peabody to assist the team with trademarking its innovation.



### College makes progress toward AACSB accreditation

 In 2018, the COB completed its initial self-study report, called iSER, as part of its multi-year effort to achieve accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This completed the second step in the accreditation process, and the College is working on the next phase, which involves addressing the gaps that exist between the AACSB standards and the COB's existing programs. The College anticipates hosting an AACSB accreditation site visit by 2021. AACSB accreditation is the gold standard by which business schools are evaluated across the globe.

### Internship programs continue to grow

The COB's Internship Program saw record participation among students and community sponsors in 2018. Students participated in these high-impact work experiences during the spring, summer and fall semesters. The semester-long internships allow students to receive on-the-job training and supervision at a diverse array of public, private and nonprofit organizations, including Catholic Charities, the Department of Defense, H-E-B, Hilton Hotels, Merrill Lynch, the San Antonio Water System, Toyota, USAA and Zachry.

# UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Enriching our campus and community

## HR chapter receives award from national association



The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is a global professional human resources membership association. It promotes the role of HR as a profession and provides education, certification and networking to its members, while lobbying Congress on issues pertinent to labor management. In 2018, the University's chapter, SHRM@A&M-SA, received the SHRM 2017-18 Superior Merit Award. This marked the fourth year in a row the A&M-SA chapter has received this award, which recognizes the implemented and sustained collection of innovative programs for its members and the University's student community.

## College leverages local leaders to enhance academic programs

The COB actively engages leaders throughout the San Antonio business community to ensure that its academic programs are aligned with the workforce needs of employers. The College has formalized this process through the creation of three Business Advisory Councils (BACs), one for each of its academic departments: Accounting and Finance, Management and Marketing, and Computing and Cyber Security. Each BAC has six to 10 representatives from local business organizations who are interested in actively supporting the College's educational mission. The BACs meet at least twice annually with members of their respective department, discussing topics ranging from experiential learning and student engagement to the role of advisory council members.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) developed several new and innovative programs in 2018 to enrich its offerings in science and mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, and arts and humanities.

## Latinx Shakespeare festival gives a multicultural twist to classic literature

In April, the COAS hosted "Latinx Shakespeare: A Borderlands Drama Symposium," a day of conversation, workshops and theater exploring the intersections of Shakespeare and Latinx drama. Organized by Dr. Katherine Gillen, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Adrianna Santos, assistant professor of English, the event was made possible by a \$3,000 grant from Humanities Texas. The symposium brought together scholars, teachers, activists and theater practitioners to discuss the diverse ways that Latinx artists are engaging with Shakespeare and how to teach and perform Shakespeare in innovative, culturally relevant ways. More than 130 people attended the symposium, which featured a teaching workshop, two panels, a keynote speech, and a performance and talkback with Josh Inocencio, an emerging Latinx playwright based in Houston.



## Univision Media Lab – Capstone Experience achieves several firsts



In May, the first cohort of communication students graduated from the Univision Media Lab – Capstone Experience. Through this one-of-a-kind, high-impact experience, A&M-SA students participate in a mentoring program with leaders at KWEX 41 Univision San Antonio. Students also work side-by-side with seasoned, bilingual journalists—studying television, radio and digital media as well as advertising and marketing.

In November, Jenny Moore, director of Jaguar Student Media and A&M-SA’s Communication Program, and Vinicio Sinta, manager of the Univision Media Lab, led an experiential learning reporting project on election night. Students in the program took part in Univision 41 San Antonio’s coverage of the 2018 midterm elections, joining the station’s reporters and operators as they produced news stories and reported live from key points in central Texas. Students traveled with Univision crews to help them produce content from a variety of locations, including the headquarters for the Governor Greg Abbott campaign in Austin, the Bexar County Elections Headquarters and the “Vote No” campaign (for Propositions A, B and C in the City of San Antonio). Another group of students supported the effort from the Univision studios in northwest San Antonio, assisting the production teams out in the field with data and social media updates. On the South Side, students focused on the Latino Vote, supported by the GroundTruth Project, based in WGBH in Boston.

Later that month, the Univision Media Lab hosted an end-of-semester Student Showcase at the Univision studios. Students graduating from the program in December had the chance to play their demo reels for the assembled audience, which included their family and friends along with A&M-SA faculty and staff and Univision professionals. The graduating students also praised their Univision mentors who had helped them through the semester, presenting them with thank-you plaques commemorating the life-changing experience.



## Departments collaborate to host celebration of culture

In mid-September, A&M-SA kicked off Latinx Heritage Month, a collaboration between the Department of Social Sciences, the Department of Arts and Humanities and several other offices on campus. The month-long celebration featured a wide array of cultural performances and educational events for members of the University and San Antonio communities. Activities included a Cultural Production Panel, a Latina Music Panel and a panel on violence in the borderlands, as well as a Columbian kite-making and kite-flying festival and a Brazilian Samba dancing and drumming event.

## Speakers enrich educational experience for A&M-SA community



The COAS invited a diverse lineup of guest speakers to campus in 2018. These included Paul Abbate, executive assistant director of the FBI, who delivered a presentation on

terrorism and national security, as well as retired DEA Special Agent Ray Saldana, who spoke to students, faculty and staff on undercover and surveillance operations in Central America and Mexico. Dr. Jonathan Trent, a NASA scientist and director of the OMEGA Global Initiative, presented “The Future of Water, Food & Energy: What Will Life Be Like in 2030?” In addition, the College hosted a panel discussion by the “San Antonio Four,” four San Antonio women who were wrongfully convicted of a crime in the early 2000s and were subsequently exonerated.

# UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Enriching our campus and community

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) prepares aspiring teachers, physical therapists, mental health professionals and other leaders who are passionate about serving their community. In 2018, the College continued to build partnerships with independent school districts, private foundations and local nonprofits. These mutually beneficial collaborations help boost student and teacher performance at the secondary school level while giving COEHD students hands-on experience with potential future employers so they are “Ready from Day One” on the job.



### Partnership with elementary school yields best-in-district results

In Fall 2017, the COEHD entered into a partnership with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) and Communities in Schools, including financial support from the San Antonio Area Foundation, to assist Stewart Elementary School, which had been rated as Improvement Required for four years in a row. In 2018, a group of COEHD students provided “near peer” tutoring to 50 students at the school. As part of this effort, nine COEHD students who are aspiring teachers completed 128 hours each of field residency on the elementary school campus. In addition, eight of the COEHD students who are clinical teachers completed a year-long, paid-teacher residency, and five of them have been offered pre-employment contracts to work for the district after they graduate from A&M-SA. After the first year of the program, students at the newly named Democracy Prep at Stewart Elementary School have outperformed their peers in terms of academic progress. They have shown the greatest percentage growth on district assessments of academic readiness of any school within SAISD.



## Research activities underway at Human Performance Lab

Located in the new Science and Technology Building, A&M-SA's Human Performance Laboratory houses a variety of state-of-the-art equipment for undergraduate and graduate class labs and research data collection. In 2018, health and kinesiology faculty members Dr. Sukho Lee and Dr. Jongil Lim conducted a number of research projects with students Cindy Trinh and Jonathon Martinez, visiting scholars Dr. Hyejung Choi and Dr. Jiyeon Kim, postdoctoral fellow Dr. Kyoungseo Seo, and graduate assistant Joungho Ko. The projects studied a range of research questions, including the effects of mobile texting and walking speed on gait characteristics of normal and obese adults.

## Helping teachers build their leadership skills, advance their careers

The COEHD's Educational Leadership program serves the needs of local school districts by helping them develop highly skilled administrators. In Fall 2018, the program began a partnership with La Vernia ISD for teachers in the district who are interested in earning a master's degree in educational administration with principal certification. Tuition assistance is offered by the district to support individuals in this program.

## Collaboration with Head Start producing early childhood masters



In collaboration with the City of San Antonio Head Start, the COEHD hosts the Early Childhood Summer Institute at A&M-SA. In Summer 2018, the Institute welcomed its fourth cohort to campus. Through the innovative program, Head Start teachers take 18 hours of early childhood content taught by COEHD faculty. Ten cohort members received their master's degrees in early childhood at the Fall 2018 Commencement.

## Developing literacy and bilingual education experts

To meet the needs of the city's culturally and linguistically diverse students, the COEHD has partnered with the SAISD to establish graduate cohorts in literacy and bilingual education. SAISD offers tuition assistance to those teachers interested in developing expertise in these two fields. The bilingual program began its inaugural SAISD graduate cohort in Fall 2018. Ninety teachers applied for a spot in the initial cohort, and 20 were selected by the district. Those students will earn their master's in reading along with the Reading Specialist Certification.

## New programs focused on child development, family counseling

In 2018, the COEHD introduced a new B.S. in Child Development for prospective students interested in a career working with infants, toddlers and pre-kindergarten children. Based on research showing the early years are the most formative in a child's education, the program is designed for people who are interested in working with children and want to change their educational trajectories.

The new M.A. in Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling, also introduced in 2018, develops future marriage, couple and family counselors to serve a variety of family systems. Graduates of this program will be equipped with the skills needed to help couples and families overcome an assortment of mental health issues.

# UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

Enriching our campus and community

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



### A&M-SA Library's Archives and Special Collections hosts the Tricentennial-themed exhibit

Visitors to A&M-SA's Presidio Gallery in 2018 enjoyed an exhibit of San Antonio's vibrant history and rich cultural heritage, as part of the city's Tricentennial celebration. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Bexar County's Spanish Archives, the University of Guadalajara in Mexico and the Canary Islands Descendants Association loaned valuable pieces of history to the exhibit. These included the original San Antonio Constitutive Act document from 1733, the first land grant in San Antonio, a letter from 1865 describing San Antonio during the Civil War and an engraved silver bugle used to play "Taps" to honor those lost between the annual reunions of WWI officers who trained in San Antonio.



### Libraries sponsor activities to engage and inspire

Over the course of the year, the libraries hosted or co-sponsored a number of activities and events meant to inspire, nurture and refresh the minds of students and faculty. Highlights included supporting Money Smart Week with a presentation on building and protecting personal assets, sparking people to participate in a Banned Books Week Read Aloud, hosting a photo booth centered around the theme #WhyIWrite for WriteFest, inviting individuals to write a thank you card for a veteran as part of Honors for Heroes and offering epilepsy training to recognize seizures and provide first aid.



### Library staff growing to meet University's needs

As the University continues to grow in both student population and research output, the Library added new staff in 2018 to support students and faculty in their research endeavors. Joining the Library team last year were Library Specialist James Nail, Processing Archivist Jeremy Zuni, Arts and Sciences Librarian Aida Almanza, Education Librarian Kim Grotewold, Student Worker Monica Gomez and Executive Director of the Library and Special Collections Tim Gritten.





## Library's Archives and Special Collections receives two new collections

Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff donated his official papers related to significant events during his service as City Councilman from 1987 to 1991 and Mayor of San Antonio from 1991 to 1995. Cattle Auctioneer Humberto V. "Bert" Reyes donated his personal collection of papers and artifacts concerning the cattle industry dating back to the 1920s. Both collections are points of pride for the University and will soon be open for all researchers.

## CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY

The Center of Information Technology and Cyber Security (CITCS) had an eventful year, highlighted by the establishment of a new program with Facebook, an NSF grant related to computing and cyber security, and a collaboration with the U.S. Army Research Labs.

### A&M-SA and U.S. Army Research Laboratory host cyber security workshop



In July, A&M-SA and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) hosted a workshop for students, faculty and alumni called "Hands-On Cybersecurity: Exploitation and Pivoting." Participants learned about the tools and methodologies that cyber-attackers use to pivot through networks, as well as some of the defenses that organizations can use to detect and protect

themselves from such threats. Participants worked in teams to solve cyber security-related challenges.



### Faculty and students attend cyber conferences

In August, Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, director of the CITCS, Dr. Jeong Yang, assistant professor of computer science, and three computer science major students, David Velez, Artem Skitenko and Christian Barrientes, attended the Black Hat Conference and DEF CON held in Las Vegas. Their attendance was made possible by Facebook scholarships offered through A&M-SA's participation in the Facebook Cybersecurity University Program. Black Hat is the world's leading information security conference, providing attendees with the latest in research, development and trends. DEF CON is one of the world's largest hacking conferences.



### A&M-SA and Facebook unveil first-in-Texas cyber security program

In August, A&M-SA announced that it had joined the Facebook Cyber Security University Program, making it the first university in Texas to join the program and the ninth in the nation. Facebook representatives joined President Matson, U.S. Rep. Will Hurd, and members of the University and San Antonio communities on campus for the formal announcement and interviews with media. The partnership bolsters A&M-SA's position as a prominent leader in the cyber security education community. Following the announcement, Facebook engineers offered cyber security demonstrations to A&M-SA students and guests.

In Fall 2018, A&M-SA began offering a hybrid course in cyber security taught by Facebook experts and A&M-SA faculty. The three-credit hour course provides students a variety of benefits, such as enhanced curriculum, mentorship opportunities, project development and hands-on training in combating simulated cyber-attacks. In addition, top-performing students are able to pursue security internships with Facebook and scholarships to attend special industry competitions.

## INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESOURCES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New academic programs

The Institute for Water Resources Science and Technology (IWRST) completed plans in 2018 to launch B.S. and M.S. programs in water resources science and technology (WATR) in Fall 2019. Students in the programs will enjoy research opportunities with faculty experts, additional training at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's H.B. Zachry Training Center and internship opportunities with local agencies and organizations. The programs will empower graduates to become leaders in addressing the mounting water issues affecting all of Texas.

A&M-SA also initiated efforts to establish partnerships in 2018 with two community colleges to launch a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.) degree in WATR expected to start in Fall 2020. Students from the community colleges will then be able to enter either A&M-SA's B.A.A.S. or B.S. degree programs, depending on their prior course work. A 2018 article in the *Texas Water Journal* described the new programs as a national model for post-secondary education to address urgent workforce needs at various levels in the water industry.



### Workshops, forums and research projects

In 2016, A&M-SA hosted several forums that brought top water experts from Texas and beyond to campus to discuss sustainability research on the nexus of water, energy and food. As a direct outcome of those forums, six pilot research projects have been initiated in the San Antonio area since that time. IWRST along with Texas A&M University System partners and researchers at the University of California-Riverside leveraged the momentum of this ongoing work to submit a successful proposal to the National Science Foundation, which awarded the collaborative \$2.4 million for research on decision support for solving food, energy and water nexus problems in a water-stressed environment.

In January 2018, IWRST took the first major action on this grant when it hosted the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Workshop. Nearly 100 San Antonio water, energy and food stakeholders came to campus for presentations on the status of pilot projects and upcoming nexus work. Facilitated small-group sessions were also held to obtain stakeholder input regarding research questions to be asked and opportunities for stakeholder engagement with researchers. In September, IWRST Director Rudy Rosen, Ph.D. moderated and co-organized a technical session and stakeholders' forum titled "Opportunities for Integrative Planning Across Water, Energy, and Food Sectors in the San Antonio Region" at the 2018 Texas A&M Conference on Energy.

In April, the IWRST hosted a water data expert workshop to develop a plan for an "Internet of Texas Water." The workshop was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Texas Water Development Board and a \$2,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network on Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semiarid regions.

In addition, the IWRST team collaborated with industry and academic partners in 2018 to create a water workforce development plan for Texas and the nation.

## MAYS CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**In today's competitive global market**, it takes more than a degree to stand out. When employers interview recent college graduates, they look for candidates with some kind of real-world experience. The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement is committed to developing students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Toward that end, it offers students experiential learning opportunities, such as service learning and internships, combined with civic engagement, career services and access to resources and relationships. In 2018, the Mays Center increased its staff, enhanced its programming and opened a new 4,200-square-foot facility in the new Science and Technology Building—thanks to a \$5 million gift from the Mays Family Foundation in 2017.



### InScape: The Outside In Tour of the City of San Antonio



During this inaugural spring break externship program in March, 40 Jaguars participated in the two-day experience with employees of the City of San Antonio. In addition to shadowing city professionals in different areas of human resources, students attended presentations, networked and discussed relevant human resource topics. InScape: The Outside In Tour of the City of San Antonio was offered in partnership with SHRM@A&M-SA, the A&M-SA student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management.

### Alternative Break 2018

In the spring, the Mays Center launched its inaugural Alternative Break program. Eight exemplary students were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool to participate in a humanitarian trip to aid the hurricane-afflicted city of Beaumont, Texas. Accompanied by Civic Engagement Coordinator Christina Guerra and Mays Center student worker, Henry Martinez, each student committed more than 32 hours of selfless service to the Texas community. The Mays Center intends to incorporate Alternative Breaks into student programming on an annual basis.

### Choose.Act.Impact. Day of Service: Tricentennial Edition



Nearly 200 Jaguars volunteered on Sept. 29 to celebrate the University's commitment to civic pride and community engagement through a morning of selfless service. In partnership with the San Antonio Tricentennial Commission and local non-profit institutions, including Haven for Hope, American Sunrise, San Antonio State Hospital, San Antonio Pets Alive, the San Antonio Food Bank and Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, A&M-SA celebrated its largest day of service yet.

### New "Experience Transcript" enhances post-graduate opportunities

In the fall, the Mays Center launched the A&M-SA Experience Transcript, which presents a record of the experience a student gains while attending the University. The transcript lists a student's experiences in the following areas: awards, high-impact practices, community service, internships, events, student organizations and leadership, and study abroad. It is maintained through JagSync 2.0, an online platform designed to track students' involvement in activities and memberships on campus. The transcript is also aligned with marketable skills as identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), including effective communication, critical thinking/problem solving, leadership, teamwork/collaboration, professionalism/work ethic, global/intercultural fluency, quantitative reasoning and career management. Career advisors at the Mays Center guide students on how they can best utilize their A&M-SA Experience Transcript when pursuing post-graduate opportunities.

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Building the A&M-SA legacy

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) students consistently demonstrate excellence in their academics, extracurricular activities and personal achievements. Following is a sampling of Jaguar accomplishments for 2018.

## Senior elected as president of Chancellor's Student Advisory Council



A&M-SA senior Clayton Jaskinia was elected to serve as president of the 2018-19 Chancellor's Student Advisory Council (CSAC). The CSAC is a student-led council made up of two students from each A&M System university who meet biannually to address student issues common to all campuses within the System. Jaskinia's duties as president include representing the students of the A&M System, educating and stimulating student involvement in student affairs and acting as a liaison to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents on system-wide student affairs initiatives. He is majoring in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in special education EC-12, and serves as a Lead Jaguar Ambassador.



## Computing science student wins prestigious award

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE), which is the International Honor Society for Computing and Information Disciplines, provide four UPE/ACM scholarship awards annually. Artem Skitenko, a computing science major at A&M-SA, was one of four students nationwide who received one of these \$1,000 awards in 2018. The selection criteria included the student's academic record, ACM Student Chapter and/or related activities, and a faculty member's recommendation.



## Clean sweep for A&M-SA students at history competition

In March, the History Club traveled to the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Annual Conference in San Marcos. Ryan Barrientos, club president, and Claudia Martinez-Garcia gave the club's chapter report. Lindsey Summerville, club officer, presented her award-winning paper, "Jewish Immigration: The Complicated History of the Galveston Movement, 1907-1914." A&M-SA history students Catarina Garza, Albert Gonzales, Mark Snyder and Philip Ferraro took first, second, third and fourth place, respectively, at the conference for best undergraduate history papers.

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

Also in March, Dr. John Smith, associate professor of kinesiology, and Dr. Sukho Lee, associate chair in the Department of Counseling, Health, and Kinesiology, accompanied kinesiology students to the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (TACSM) annual meeting. Hosted in 2018 by The University of Texas at Austin, this regional meeting focuses on the promotion and advancement of medical and other scientific knowledge related to sport and exercise. A&M-SA students Michaela Pollaro, Victoria Lansford and Andrew Avila presented their research "Effect of Oral Rinsing with Pre-Workout on Cycling Time Trial Performance." In addition, student Joungbo Ko presented "Effects of Twenty Sessions Core Stability Exercise on Functional Movement and Balance." At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony, Pollaro was recognized by TACSM as the A&M-SA Kinesiology Student of the Year.



## Students garner awards at Model UN competition



In April, five A&M-SA students participated in the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Javelina Model United Nations (UN). Model UN is an educational simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations and the United Nations. After 24 cumulative hours of debating resolutions, three A&M-SA delegates earned awards. Tabitha Suarez represented team Cuba and took home the prize for Most Immersive. John Suk represented team Egypt and won Most Knowledgeable. Karl Mitchell represented team Ethiopia and won Most Supportive.

## Three Jaguars excel at the Texas A&M College of Medicine Summer Research Program



Alejandro Soto, Amelia Blydenburgh and Desiree A. Garza participated in the Texas A&M College of Medicine Summer Research Program. The A&M-SA students were selected by the Department of Science and Mathematics' Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC). The purpose of the program was to give

undergraduate students interested in biomedical research the opportunity to work in a laboratory and perform a research project over the summer. During the 10-week program, students worked closely with Texas A&M University College of Medicine faculty on research projects in basic or clinical science disciplines. In a note to A&M-SA Provost Mike O'Brien, Dr. Brett Mitchell, associate professor of medical physiology and director of the program, said: "I want to thank you for sending 3 AWESOME students to our program this past summer. They did a fantastic job not only in the labs but also presenting their work... We look forward to having more (of your) students next summer!"

## Four undergraduate students land AFCEA scholarships

In November, four undergraduate students pursuing studies in computing and cyber security were recognized at the Alamo ACE Conference. They were awarded a total of \$12,500 in scholarship money from the Alamo Chapter of the Armed Forces Communication Electronics Association (AFCEA). The Jaguar honorees were Jayson Gremmer, David Ardin, Jason Varkey and Zachary Helms.



## Jaguar receives national scholarship from National Federation of the Blind

Harry Staley, a computer science major at A&M-SA, was one of 30 students to receive a national scholarship from the National Federation of the Blind in 2018. He was recognized for his achievement in the field of artificial intelligence. Of his recognition, Staley commented, "I am honored to be among this year's scholarship class. I would like to thank the A&M-SA faculty, staff and the Disability Support Services team for their hard work in helping make my academic accommodations a reality."



## College of Business student nets national and local SHRM Foundation scholarships

Paula Smith, a business student and Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter member and officer, was selected to receive the \$2,500 Undergraduate Scholarship from the SHRM Foundation. The Foundation receives four applications for every one scholarship awarded. Paula's application was rated among the highest by Foundation judges. For this achievement, the SHRM@A&M-SA chapter awarded Paula its MATCH scholarship of \$2,500. Paula was the first A&M-SA recipient of the SHRM national scholarship.



## Strengths-based campus boosts students' success in school, career and life

As illustrated by A&M-SA's strategic plan and its goals, the University is fully committed to the academic and personal success of students. Backed by Gallup's powerful science, **CliftonStrengths** is a program designed to help college students achieve success in academics, career and life. The program offers a 30-minute online assessment that identifies students' top five strengths and gives feedback on how best to use and improve those strengths. Students learn how to maximize what they naturally do best and how to leverage their strengths in their interactions in and out of the classroom.

This academic year, A&M-SA is completing its third consecutive year of being a Strengths-based campus. The University now has eight certified *CliftonStrengths* coaches on staff. In 2018, more than 550 new freshmen attended a one-hour *CliftonStrengths* class during their extended new student orientation. The University also offers to all students a *CliftonStrengths* Series. These sessions assist students in identifying their individual strengths, deepen their understanding of the dynamics of individuals' strengths working together and articulate their strengths in job interviews and future career opportunities.

The *CliftonStrengths* coaches are also available to provide group workshops and conduct individual trainings for A&M-SA employee groups. In 2018, the University's Women@Work initiative offered professional development sessions for faculty and staff to help them identify and maximize their strengths in their interactions with students and peers.

# CAMPUS LIFE

Shaping the A&M-SA of tomorrow

Campus life at A&M-SA continued to evolve in 2018, with the opening of new facilities and the introduction of services, resources and programs designed to support students' wellness, academic success and extracurricular engagement.

## GENERAL NEWS



### New facilities enhance learning, community engagement

On September 25, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and A&M-SA President Cynthia Teniente-Matson were joined by elected officials, community leaders and members of the University community to celebrate the grand opening of the new Science and Technology Building. More than 100 people attended the ceremony, which took place in the University quad outside the building's new courtyard entrance.

Thanks to the disciplined oversight of the Division of Business Affairs and the University's facilities, design, construction and project management partners, the building opened on time and under budget. It was made possible by the support of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents as well as funding from the 84th Texas Legislature, which approved funding of \$11 million to support comprehensive expansion and \$63 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds. The initial 140,000 square feet of space that opened in August 2018 includes more than 50 classrooms, dedicated research labs, a 24-hour computer lab, a coffee shop and a variety of student study spaces.

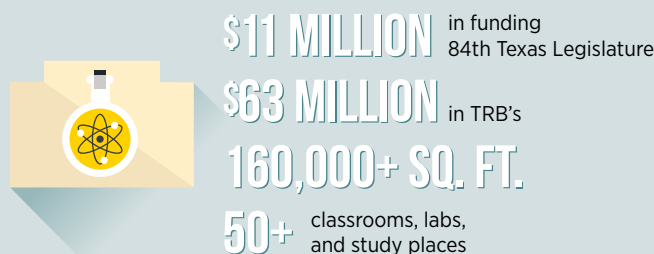
The Science and Technology Building houses A&M-SA's kinesiology, natural sciences and cyber security programs. It is also home to the Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security and the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. An additional 28,000 square feet of space will open in Spring 2019 to accommodate classrooms, faculty offices and labs for new STEM programs in areas such as cyber engineering technology and electronic systems engineering technology.



Following the grand opening of the Science and Technology Building, guests moved inside for the dedication of the 4,200-square-foot Mays Center. Dr. Edwin Blanton, executive director of the Mays Center, presented

benefactor Lowry Mays with a plaque in gratitude for the \$5 million Mays Family Foundation gift that made the new space possible. A portrait of Mr. Mays, which hangs in the Mays Center foyer, was also unveiled. The Mays Center develops students into career-ready and community-minded graduates by providing them with opportunities for service learning and civic engagement, as well as career services and resources.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING



## Plans moving forward for new building

The University neared completion of the design for a new \$30 million, 45,000-square-foot building, scheduled to open in Fall 2020. Funded by A&M System, the new Academic and Administration Building, Phase 1 will provide 19 lecture rooms, 20 faculty offices, and incubator classrooms, along with an art suite and a language lab suite.



## Esperanza Hall reaches capacity in its second year

After welcoming its inaugural group of 260 students in Fall 2017, Esperanza Hall welcomed more than 340 students this fall, increasing its occupancy by more than 30 percent. A state-of-the-art living and learning community offered in partnership with American Campus Communities, Esperanza Hall continued its Move-In Day tradition, as current student, staff and faculty volunteers welcomed the newest Jaguars and their families to campus and helped them get situated in their rooms. Students living in the residence hall represent cities throughout Texas and states all over the country, including California, Colorado, Florida, Missouri and South Carolina. Esperanza Hall hosted more than 90 events and programs for residents throughout the year, focused on topics including academic success, employability, financial literacy, health and wellness, and community building.

### ESPERANZA HALL 2018/19

1 LEARNING/LIVING FACILITY

340 STUDENTS FROM 10+ STATES AND COUNTRIES

30%+ INCREASE IN RESIDENTS

90+ EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



## University completes feasibility study of athletics program

In 2018, A&M-SA began to develop a vision and plan for campus athletics. In addition to supporting enrollment goals of the University's Strategic Plan, an athletics program enhances a campus-wide sense of community by providing social and entertainment opportunities. Athletics will also allow the Jaguar campus community to connect with individuals, families and organizations throughout the San Antonio community.

Chaired by Provost Mike O'Brien, Ph.D., the Athletics Steering Committee collected input from faculty, staff and students to determine the University community's interest in athletics. Based on that input and extensive research, the Committee presented a set of recommendations for an athletics program at a forum open to students, faculty and staff in the fall. Recommendations included pursuing membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), which will give A&M-SA the flexibility to build an athletics department at its own pace.

The campus community's response was extremely positive, and in 2019 A&M-SA will begin to navigate the necessary legislative processes, athletic conference applications and program hires for developing a robust athletics program customized to fit its student population. The first season of on-campus sports is projected to occur in Fall 2020.

## DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

### Center offers students one-stop shop for academic resources

To advance its strategic goal of becoming a national model for student and academic success, the University completed plans to install a new modular building that will serve as a one-stop shop for students to enhance synergy for academic success, retention and time to degree. The Advising Center, Tutoring Center and student success coaches will relocate to the new modular, which is scheduled to open for the Spring 2019 semester.

The Tutoring Center, meanwhile, expanded its services in 2018 to support supplemental instruction for the introductory-level biology classes. The Writing Center, which remained in the Central Academic Building, expanded its space to support more students.



### New center enhances focus on student-centered teaching and learning

The Center for Academic Innovation is committed to advancing effective student-centered teaching and learning, as well as supporting the scholarly activities required to support these efforts. In 2018, the Center launched a new website to facilitate the University community's ability to tap into its services. These services include teaching resources (e.g., course design for accessibility), professional development (e.g., distance learning workshops, one-on-one consultations), academic tools (e.g., Blackboard, Digiication), and learning spaces (e.g., Media Scape Active Learning Classroom, Faculty Innovation Center).

### University welcomes first group of Greater Texas Foundation Scholars

Thirty-three students throughout Texas made up the first cohort of Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) Scholars at A&M-SA during the 2018-19 academic year. All scholars graduated from an Early College High School (ECHS) and are on track to complete their bachelor's degrees in three years or less, while graduating with little to no debt. Thanks to a \$1.4 million grant from the GTF Scholars Program in 2017, A&M-SA is able to advance its mission by offering up to 40 annual scholarships to select Texas ECHS graduates admitted to the University over the course of eight years.



### New partnerships improve transfer process for students

In 2018, A&M-SA expanded its transfer partnerships, which now include active agreements with Alamo Colleges, Laredo College, Coastal Bend College, Richland College and Southwest Texas Junior College. These partnerships allow students to take the maximum number of courses possible before transferring with all college-level courses earned counting towards their intended major.

### ECHS students experience A&M-SA's power of place

In Fall 2018, A&M-SA welcomed 28 students from Northwest ECHS to take courses on campus. The University plans to expand and welcome an additional 17 ECHS students for Spring 2019, totaling 45 students served through the program. ECHSs are innovative high schools that give students in grades nine to 12 the opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit, all at no cost to their families.



## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

In 2018, the Division of Student Affairs refocused several of its departments to provide enhanced services and support to students. In addition, the Student Transitions and Family Programs Department was created to better orient incoming students and their families to the University community and highlight the critical link between family support and student success.

### Military Affairs



The Office of Military Affairs provided military-connected students and their families with a full range of services, resources and activities last year. A&M-SA students, staff and faculty spent the Friday before **Memorial Day** showing appreciation for the men and women who served our nation. The Jaguar contingent placed American flags at the headstones of fallen service members at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



The Office of Military Affairs hosted the **Travis Manion Foundation's 9/11 Heroes Run**. The event is designed to unite communities internationally with the goal to never forget the sacrifices of the heroes of September 11th and the wars that have occurred in the wake of that tragedy. These heroes include veterans, first responders, civilians, and military servicemen and women.



**Operation Legacy** brings veterans, families of fallen heroes and Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) supporters together through local service projects. The event unites communities through a common cause, with volunteers living the “If Not Me, Then Who...” mantra and leading a movement of character, leadership and selfless service. The Office of Military Affairs hosted a Patriots’ Casa planting for Operation Legacy to beautify the grounds around A&M-SA’s “academic home for the brave.”



Richard Delgado Jr. was elected chair of the **San Antonio City Commission of Veterans Affairs**, where he serves as Mayor Ron Nirenberg’s representative. The mission of the Commission is to serve the City Council in an advisory capacity on legislative issues affecting the City’s military population, both active and retired. It also serves as the community’s liaison and advocate for veterans’ affairs; advises the City Council on issues affecting San Antonio veterans and their families; and makes recommendations for improving services.

# CAMPUS LIFE

Shaping the A&M-SA of tomorrow

## Student Activities

**Forty student organizations** hosted more than 1,400 events during the 2017-18 academic year, nearly doubling the number of events in 2016-17. Activities included hosting guest speakers, community service projects, fundraisers, cultural events, educational forums and workshops, as well as food, clothing, and book drives.

**Fraternities and sororities** at A&M-SA enhance student learning by hosting activities that encourage leadership development, organizational management, interpersonal and group dynamics, social development, philanthropic spirit, career development and academic achievement. In 2018, the A&M-SA Fraternity/Sorority Expansion Committee completed its review and selection of fraternities and sororities that were interested in starting chapters at the University. The committee decided to extend invitations to one sorority and one fraternity. The organizations chosen to begin the charter process in Fall 2018 are Delta Chi Fraternity, a member of the North American Interfraternity Conference, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

**The Campus Activities Board (CAB)** hosted several events throughout 2018 that provided interactive activities and fostered cultural awareness on the A&M-SA campus. This included CAB's signature event, Fall Fest, which took place in October and was attended by more than 1,000 faculty, staff, students and members of the San Antonio community. CAB also managed the Mr. & Ms. A&M-SA program. During the 2017-18 academic year, Mr. & Ms. A&M-SA (Greg Garcia and C Arce) represented the University at 29 on-campus and off-campus events.

**40 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS  
HOSTED MORE THAN**  
**1,400** events during the  
2017-18 academic  
year, nearly  
**2X** the number of  
events in 2016-17.



## Recreational Sports



Recreational Sports sent one of A&M-SA's men's flag football teams to the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Region IV Flag Football Tournament in College Station. The team advanced from pool play for the first time in school history. One men's and one women's basketball team competed in the NIRSA Region IV Basketball Tournament in Houston. Both teams advanced from pool play for the first time in school history. In addition, three new club sports organizations participated in extramural competition: women's volleyball, women's soccer and women's basketball.

## Counseling and Wellness

The Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services assisted more than 4,400 students through prevention and outreach programs in 2018. The office collaborated with University departments and community partners to deliver programs on a diverse array of topics: Suicide Prevention Training, a Healthy Relationships Program, Creating Solutions: Becoming an Active Bystander, Alcohol & Other Drugs: Safe Spring Break, Sexual Assault Awareness Workshop: Let's Talk Before We Touch, and Coffee Chats focusing on Healthy Relationships, Effective Communication, Healthy Boundaries and Conflict Management.

In addition, Student Counseling & Wellness Services staff served as members of the University's LGBTQ+ Taskforce and Safe Space committees. This included participating in the greater San Antonio Pride Parade and holding Pride events on campus to educate, support and create an inclusive environment.

## Alcohol and Other Drug Committee

The Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Committee strives to educate the campus community about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to reduce and prevent problems associated with usage and decrease the amount of high-risk behaviors. Committee members represent departments across campus, including the Dean of Students, Rights & Responsibilities, Counseling & Wellness, Recreational Sports, Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, University Police, First Year Experience and Student Government Association. AOD administers the Alcohol Education Course for all students under 21; it implemented 30 programs and 12 trainings in 2018.

## International Affairs



The Office of International Affairs launched the **DREAMERS Resource Hub** website as a valuable resource for students classified as DREAMERS. The Hub offers a plethora of immigration-related information for undocumented students registered at A&M-SA. As part of this effort, the Office secured Ask-a-Lawyer Legal Clinics, pro-bono sessions throughout the year in response to DREAMERS' need for immigration support. Legal services were provided by Catholic Charities/Caritas Legal Services.



The Office of International Affairs also hosted two big events in 2018, one designed for the campus community and one that involved educators throughout San Antonio. As part of **International Education Week** in November, which sought to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide, the Office hosted several activities with an international flair, including a flag parade, poster fair, teas and cookies, and a fashion show, which was held during the annual all-employee Thanksgiving Luncheon. In addition, the Office of International Affairs held the **San Antonio Forum of International Educators Conference** in November, featuring guest speakers from several federal government agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, and Customs and Border Protection-San Antonio, along with an immigration representative from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

## Disability Support Services

The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) served nearly 500 students during 2018, spanning the spring, summer and fall semesters, representing an increase of more than 30 percent over 2017. Among its many accomplishments, DSS expanded its assistive technology offerings with the additions of Fusion and Equatio. Fusion is a combination of Zoomtext, a magnification and visual enhancement software, and JAWS, a screen reading software for individuals with any level of vision impairment. Equatio is a software that integrates with Read & Write software to provide accessible digital math. Equatio and Read & Write are available to every campus community member.



In addition, A&M-SA was one of five A&M system schools to be chosen to participate in a 3-D mapping pilot project. DSS, which served as the University liaison for the project, houses the completed raised line maps that provide orientation for campus community members who are blind or vision impaired. DSS also collaborated with Academic Affairs, the Center for Academic Innovation, Information Technology Services and the Electronic Information Resource Accessibility Committee to launch Blackboard Ally. This innovative tool automatically scans all the online course content loaded in Blackboard, the University's learning management system, checking for accessibility issues. If any issues are found, Ally converts that content into alternative accessible formats, including MP4 and HTML 5.

# FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) faculty and staff logged a number of noteworthy achievements in 2018, ranging from presentations and publications to honors, awards and appointments.

## PRESENTATIONS

In October, **Gilbert Barrera**, assistant professional in accounting, and Robert Hufnagl, accounting senior at A&M-SA, teamed with Lt. Marcus Booth, director of the Financial Crimes Unit at the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) to give a presentation at the Accounting Education Conference of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. The presentation described the unique Forensic Accounting Internship Program launched by SAPD and A&M-SA in 2018. The conference took place at the University of Texas at Dallas, and its purpose was to assemble accounting faculty from across the state for updates on recent trends in accounting education and its future.



**Dr. Edwin Blanton**, executive director of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, presented “Sailing Uncharted Waters: Establishing a New Experiential Learning Center” at the 47th Annual Conference of the National Society for Experiential Education held in Savannah, Georgia.

**Emily Bliss-Zaks**, Arts & Sciences librarian, and Deirdre McDonald, research services manager, co-presented the poster, “Designing for the Unknown: Making Online Information Literacy Modules Work for Your Campus,” at the Distance Librarian Conference.

In May, **Lionel Cassin**, chief information security officer, presented “Protecting Banner Grade Integrity” at the 2018 Texas Connection Consortium Conference.



**Dr. Adrian Guardia**, associate professional in management, and **Dr. Edwin Blanton** co-presented “Experiential Learning and Community Engagement: A Case Study on Inscape” at the Academy of Business Research fall conference. The presentation was based on a paper they co-authored with **Dr. Chin-Yen (Alice) Liu**, assistant professor of management.

**Malena Huerta**, international programs coordinator, presented “Bilingual Literacy” at the Family Literacy Workshop hosted by Beacon Elementary School.

**Dr. Jesus Jimenez-Andrade**, assistant professor of accounting, presented two papers at conferences in 2018. In May, he presented “Do Accounting Scandals Affect Capital Market Returns?” at a European Accounting Association conference in Milan, Italy. In August, he presented “School for Scandal? A Grounded Theory Approach to Corporate Risk Management,” with Dr. Timothy Fogarty, professor of accountancy at Case Western Reserve University, at the American Accounting Association annual meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

**Dr. Taegoo Kang**, assistant professor of accounting, presented a paper titled “Corporate Investment and Accounting Earnings: The Role of Earnings Persistence” at the 2018 American Accounting Association annual meeting. Co-authored with Dr. Inho Suk of SUNY Buffalo, the paper examines the role of accounting earnings and its persistence in firms’ real investment decisions.



**Cheryl Le Gras**, director of Student Activities, presented a *CliftonStrengths* session at The UTSA Women’s Professional Advancement and Synergy Academy at Hotel Valencia River Walk in May. In addition, Le Gras was invited to present at FranklinCovey’s Higher Education LeaderU Global Summit in Salt Lake City in October. Her presentation, “Developing a Three-Tier Approach to Student Leadership,” was based on the A&M-SA’s Jaguar Leadership Institute.

**Dr. Melissa Mahan**, vice president of Student Affairs, co-presented “The Future’s So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades. Vet Orientation Is More than Free Sunglasses” with colleagues Amy O’Keefe and Brittanie Romine from Texas Women’s University and April Brown from Texas Christian University at the Student Veterans of America Conference in San Antonio.

Two International Affairs employees gave several presentations at the San Antonio Forum-International Educators Bi-Annual Conference on the A&M-SA and Trinity University campuses in 2018. **Sylvia Medel**, director of International Affairs, presented “DACA Policies, Current News and Issues.” **Priyanganu Risal**, international student coordinator, presented “Financial Documentation: Exploring School Policies,” “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Updates” and “Building a Peer Mentor Program.” Medel and Risal co-presented “Immigration and Study Abroad Issues.”

In April, Registrar **Rachel Montejano**, Associate Registrar **Cynthia De Leon** and Ellucian Applications Director Nathan Davis presented at the 2018 Degree Works Annual Conference in San Diego. Their presentations were titled “Validating Your Programs in Degree Works: A Continuing Adventure,” “Degree Works Technical” and “Degree Works: Seamless User Class Access.”

**Bryant Moore**, First-Year Experience librarian, and **Sarah Timm**, public services manager, co-presented “Life as a Librarian” at Vale Middle School Career Day.

**Kim Nanez**, director of the Student Academic Success Center, was a panelist at the Dream Summit hosted by San Antonio ISD and the Mexican Consulate in October.



**Dr. Rudy Rosen**, director of the Institute for Water Resource Services and Technology, organized and served as session moderator at three technical water conferences in 2018. The sessions and conferences included “Opportunities for Integrative Planning Across Water, Energy, and Food Sectors in the San Antonio Region” at the 2018 Texas A&M Conference on Energy in College Station; “Connecting Texas Water Data Workshop: Building an Internet for Water” at the Texas Advanced Computing Center in Austin; and the “Water-Energy-Food Nexus Stakeholder Information Sharing and Engagement Workshop” held at A&M-SA.

**Dr. Shahil Sharma**, assistant professor of finance, presented a paper at the Midwest Finance Association (MFA) in San Antonio. “Asymmetric response of financial markets to energy sector shocks: Evidence from a regime-switching model” was co-authored with Diego Escobari, associate professor of economics and finance at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.



**Dr. William Spindle**, vice president for Business Affairs and CFO, and consultant **Chris Rice** presented “A&M-SA Master Plan: Transforming Education & Campus Experience” at the annual Texas College & Universities Facilities Conference in September.

Assistant Police **Chief Roger Lee Stearns** presented “Utilizing Command and Control Technology to Enhance Operations” at the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators annual conference in June.



**Clarissa Tejeda**, career advisor, served as workshop facilitator at ESC Region 20’s Regional Gifted and Talented Student and Parent Conference last spring. She presented “Career Exploration through Multiple Intelligences” at the conference, which engaged more than 400 GT students and parents in discussions to build student skill development and career readiness.

# FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

**Mercedes Torrez**, tutoring services coordinator, presented “Come Chillax with Us: Outreach Events as Creative Play in the Center” at the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) Conference in October. She also presented “Layered Leadership: Creating Opportunities for Skill Development in Tutors” at the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA) Conference in October.



In January, **Dr. Ed Westermann**, professor of history, presented at the 6th annual Holocaust: Learn & Remember program produced by the San Antonio Public Library in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. In his presentation on artistic depictions by survivors of the Holocaust, he discussed the insights that the works of art offer as a method for understanding genocide. In November, Dr. Westermann delivered the annual Jose la Luz Saenz Veteran’s Lecture for 2018 at South Texas College. His topic “Drunk on Genocide?” relates to the influence of alcohol and atrocity in the Holocaust.

**Rose Wilkes**, academic advisor, **Kathryn Zepeda**, academic success coach and **John De La Rosa**, academic success coach, co-presented “My Class Is at 8? In the Morning?” at two conferences: the 51st Annual College Reading & Learning Association Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the 2018 National College Learning Center Association Conference in Niagara Falls, New York.

**Julie Williams**, assistant director of the Student Academic Success Center, presented “Creating Your Ideal Testing Center” at the National Testing Center Association (NCTA) Conference in September.



## PUBLICATIONS

Following is a sampling of the publications by A&M-SA faculty and staff in 2018.

**Dr. Izzat Alsmadi**, assistant professor of computing and cyber security, and co-authors published “Network Slicing to Improve Multicasting in HPC Clusters” in *Cluster Computing*. Dr. Alsmadi also published “Regions-of-Interest Discovering and Predicting in Smartphone Environments,” with co-authors in *Pervasive and Mobile Computing*.

**Dr. Hambisa Belina**, assistant professor of accounting, published “On the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) and Sticky Selling General and Administrative Costs: Evidence from Health Insurers” in the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.



**Dr. Walter Den**, professor of science and mathematics, and co-authors published “Strategic Optimization of Water Reuse in Wafer Fabs via Multi-Constraint Linear Programming Technique” in *Water-Energy Nexus*.

**Dr. Blake Erickson** and **Dr. Dawn Weatherford**, both assistant professors of psychology, published a book chapter, “Suspending Disbelief: Circumventing Person Perception to Deliver the Ultimate Vacation” in *Westworld Psychology: Violent Delights* (Sterling, 2018).



**Dr. Qi Han**, assistant professor of mathematics, and Dr. Wei Chen published “A Non-Integrated Hypersurface Defect Relation for Meromorphic Maps over Complete Kähler Manifolds into Projective Algebraic Varieties” in the *Kodai Mathematical Journal*.



**Dr. Shelley Harris**, associate professor of curriculum and instruction, published her first book, *Effective Teaching: Educators Perspective of Meaning Making in Higher Education*. The peer-reviewed book is an edited volume of essays written for current educators to share their effective practices in higher education.

**Dr. Keming Li**, assistant professor of finance, published “Innovation externalities and the Customer/Supplier Link” in the *Journal of Banking and Finance*.

**Marina Narvaez**, business librarian, published “A Money Smart Week Event: The Partnering of Students, Faculty, Library, and Surrounding Community” in *College & Research Library News*.

**Dr. Robert Page**, assistant professor of biology, and co-authors published “Insights into the Introduction History and Population Genetic Dynamics of the Argentine Black-and-White Tegu (*Salvator merianae*) in Florida” in *Genetica*.

**Dr. Rudy Rosen**, director of the Institute for Water Resource Sciences and Technology, and co-authors published “Water Security for Texas: A Post-Secondary Education Pathway for the Water Workforce” in the *Texas Water Journal*.

**Dr. Shahil Sharma**, assistant professor of finance, published “Identifying Price Bubble Periods in the Energy Sector” in the *Journal Energy Economics*. Dr. Sharma, with co-author Diego Escobari, associate professor of economics and finance at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, also published “Identifying Price Bubble Periods in the Energy Sector” in *Energy Economics*.

**Dr. Ed Westermann**, professor of history, published the co-edited volume *Air Force Advising and Assistance: Developing Airpower in Client States* with the British trade press Helion in October 2018. The book examines the development and success of air force advising efforts through a number of historical case studies.

**Dr. Jeong Yang**, assistant professor of computer science, and co-author **Dr. Young Lee**, associate professor of computer science, published an article, “Evaluations of JaguarCode: A Web-Based Object-Oriented Programming Environment with Static and Dynamic Visualization” in the *Journal of Systems and Software*.

## HONORS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

**Jo Anna Benavides-Franke**, dean of students, was selected to serve on the Medina Valley ISD Bond Committee to analyze and prioritize the district’s needs for the upcoming bond proposal in May 2019.

**Dr. Edwin Blanton**, executive director of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, was elected to the board of directors of the Alamo Public Telecommunications Council, which governs KLRN, San Antonio’s public television station.

**Dr. William Bush**, professor of history, received the Texas State Library and Archives Commission Research Fellowship in Texas History, Texas State Historical Association.

**Dr. Gary Coulton**, associate professor of psychology, recently participated in his first meeting as a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Psychology Field of Study (FOS) Committee. The Psychology FOS Committee is charged with identifying the block of courses that may be transferred to a general academic teaching institution, and for which the student must receive full academic credit toward the degree.



**Dr. Mariya Davis**, assistant professor of special education, was elected president for the Texas Council for Learning Disabilities.

**Dr. Walter Den**, professor of science and mathematics, was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of *Water-Energy Nexus* (Publisher: ScienceDirect). He was also invited to serve as a member of the task group of International Roadmap for Devices and Systems (IRDS) and was appointed to serve as the Treasurer of the Environmental Chemistry Division, American Chemical Society (ACS).

# FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Crush Empire recently recognized the blog of **Dr. Dennis Elam**, associate professor of accounting, as one of the Top 50 Accounting Blogs. This was the second time Dr. Elam's blog was recognized by the online education company that provides a range of innovative test-prep solutions. Other accounting blogs included in the top 50 were Bloomberg, Intuit Tax Pro and *Journal of Accountancy*, the official magazine of the American Institute of CPAs.

**Juan Espinoza**, administrative coordinator, was selected for the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce City South Leadership Academy. This nine-month program is designated to identify, develop and motivate potential leaders in the community to address the needs of the South Side.



**Dr. Theresa Garfield**, associate chair for the Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation, was appointed by the Council for Exceptional Children Executive Team to revise the National Standards for Special Education.

In 2018, the Procurement and Auxiliary Team earned valuable professional certifications. **Daniel R. Garza**, **Chris Scott** and **Johnny Guevara** passed the Certified Texas Contract Manager (CTCM) Exam, with Scott also passing the Certified Texas Contract Developer (CTCD) Exam. **Jessica Nino**, meanwhile, completed the City South Leadership Academy on May 11, 2018.

**Tim Gritten**, executive director of the Library & Special Collections, served as the chair of the Management & Leadership Community of Practice within the Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA).

**Briana Hagelgans** will serve on the Research Committee for the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, where she will encourage quantitative and qualitative research studies being done throughout the nation in the fields of concurrent and dual enrollment.



**Krystina Irvin**, director of Experiential Learning in the Mays Center, earned the Experiential Learning Certification Level I through the Institute for Experiential Learning. The certification program is targeted to practitioners and scholars who wish to deepen their knowledge and practice of experiential learning.

**Karen Ivy**, director of Career Services in the Mays Center, was selected to serve on a national committee with the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). The Honors and Awards Committee assists in leading efforts to acknowledge top programs, organizations, and universities that make a notable impact to the field.



**Dr. William Kiser**, assistant professor of history, won the Historical Society of New Mexico's 2018 Gaspar Perez de Villagra Award for best book on the history of New Mexico and the Southwest Borderlands. His book, *Borderlands of Slavery: The Struggle over Captivity and Peonage in the American Southwest*, was published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2017.

**W. Chris Leach**, M.P.A., CPA, controller and associate vice president for Financial Services, served as a member (and past chair) of NACUBO's Accounting Principles Council, as well as a member of SACUBO Small Institutions Constituent Committee.

**Dr. Melissa Mahan**, vice president of Student Affairs, served as faculty for the NASPA Center for Women Alice Manicur Symposium, providing engaging in-depth discussions and one-on-one mentoring to future student affairs professionals.

**Deirdre McDonald**, research services manager, served as the co-editor of the Library and Information Services Editorial Board for MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching). McDonald also served as the Higher Education Representative for the San Antonio Independent School District Library Media Services Task Force.

**Sylvia Medel**, director of International Affairs, and **Priyangana Risal**, international student coordinator, served as chair and co-chair, respectively, of the 2018 San Antonio Forum of International Educators.



**Bryant Moore** won the second annual First-Year Experience Innovation Award for outstanding achievements in first-year experience programming. Each year, Credo Reference and Case Western Reserve University's Kelvin Smith Library recognize one librarian and one library to receive a prize of \$1,500 and an award plaque honoring their outstanding achievement. The ceremony honoring Moore will take place at the 2019 Association of College & Research Libraries Conference.





**Pru Morris**, digital resources manager and interim library director, served on the Canary Islands Visit Steering Committee to plan for the dignitaries of the Canary Islands to visit San Antonio for the Tricentennial celebration. The committee was chaired by the City of San Antonio’s International Relations Office. Morris also served as secretary of the Council of Research and Academic Libraries (CORAL).

**Kim Nanez**, director of the Student Academic Success Center, is chair of the Multicultural Concerns Community in the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) (appointed from 2018-2020).



**Dr. Ramona Pittman**, associate professor in the Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation, was selected to attend the Higher Education Leadership Programs for Women.

**Dr. Rudy Rosen**, director of the Institute for Water Resource Sciences and Technology, was elected to the board of the *Texas Water Journal*.

**Dr. Corinna Ross**, professor of biology, joined the editorial board of the *American Journal of Primatology* and guest edited a special issue, “Marmosets as Translational Models for Aging Studies.” Dr. Ross was also part of a collaborative scientific group, which included **Dr. Dawn Weatherford**, assistant professor of psychology, and **Dr. Alan Daniel**, assistant professor of psychology, that was awarded a \$410,900 grant to further develop marmosets as models for Alzheimer’s disease.



**Dr. Lawrence Scott**, associate professor of educational leadership, was named as the 2018 “40 Under 40 Man of the Year” by the *San Antonio Business Journal* (SABJ). The surprise was unveiled at a SABJ dinner honoring the 40 recipients on February 22. Dr. Scott was recognized for his educational leadership and for his philanthropic efforts with Community for Life, a nonprofit organization focused on raising money for college scholarships.

In July, **Karen Tucker**, officer in the University Police Department’s Office of Victim Services and Crime Prevention, received her national advocate credentials through the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA). She and her partner K-9 Oakley (victim assistance dog) are dedicated to providing a professional victim-centered response to assisting victims of crime.

The Texas A&M University System inducted **Dr. Ed Westermann**, professor of history, and nine other System faculty to the 2018 Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators. Established in 2011, the Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators honors individuals from Texas A&M System universities who have made significant contributions to the field of teacher education. Honorees received a commemorative medallion and a certificate recognizing their commitment and dedication to those who are teaching the next generation.

# FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is committed to generating new knowledge through rigorous academic research. In 2018, faculty members investigated a diverse array of research questions to address a number of real-world problems.



## Connections between border militarization and policing in segregated cities

**Dr. Jennifer G. Correa**, associate professor of sociology, and Dr. James M. Thomas, assistant professor of sociology at The University of Mississippi, have collaborated to study violence resulting from militarization on the U.S.-Mexico border and violence occurring through the rise of military-style policing in segregated U.S. cities. In their findings, they see connections between the two environments.

In the article, “From the Border to the Core: A Thickening Military-Police Assemblage,” published in the international sociological journal, *Critical Sociology*, Dr. Correa and Dr. Thomas draw a specific connection between the seemingly disparate deaths of two people: Esequiel Hernández, an 18-year-old high school sophomore shot in 1997 by a camouflaged Marine in the small border town of Redford, Texas, and Michael Brown, an unarmed young black man in Ferguson, Missouri, shot by police officer Darren Wilson in 2014. Drawing from the scholarship of anthropologist Gilberto Rosas, they develop their own concept of a *military-police assemblage* to describe a thickening militarization from the border to the interior of the U.S. wherein military logics and practices are used to control populations deemed a threat. Similar to the militarized zones along the U.S.-Mexico border, these places are patrolled by heavily armed police, and they have deliberately established color lines that cast a spotlight on black and brown individuals as “exceptions and aberrations.”

Their research has recently found traction in the popular press; it was featured in the CityLab article, “What Border Security and Police Violence Have in Common,” written by journalist Tanvi Misra, whose work also appears in *The Atlantic*, the British Broadcast Corporation and National Public Radio.



## Exploring alternative sources of innovation to fuel firms' success and survival

Technological innovation has long been recognized as a key factor driving firms' near-term success and long-term survival. This innovation process requires continuous investment in a variety of things, including capital equipment, skills, education, research and development, and even management practices. History has shown it can be a long, arduous and unpredictable process. **Dr. Keming Li**, assistant professor of finance, has conducted research to explore ways that firms can reduce these innovation costs, specifically by taking advantage of “externalities from innovation” made by other firms, such as customers, competitors or neighboring firms.

In “Innovation Externalities and the Customer/Supplier Link,” published in the *Journal of Banking and Finance* in 2018, Dr. Li proposed a novel channel through which innovation externalities can positively affect firm performance. Using patent and patent citations data, he produced two important findings. First, customer innovative outputs have significant positive effect on future supplier innovative outputs. Second, he found that the effect of innovation externalities is mainly through customer demand and knowledge diffusion. This is different from previous studies in that it shows innovative activities not only help firms in generating cash flow or increasing stock value but also in transferring knowledge among firms. Dr. Li’s findings represent a significant step in helping firms understand alternative sources of innovation they can tap into other than traditional forms of investment.



## Defining strategies, tools and best practices for school counseling programs

In his research with several colleagues, **Dr. Ernest Cox**, assistant professor of counseling and guidance, sought to develop a useful resource to help school districts in Texas tailor their counseling programs to meet the diverse needs of their students. *Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs (5th Edition)*, published by The Texas Counseling Association, represents the culmination of this collaboration.

Based on their research, Dr. Cox and co-authors define new organization, competencies, domains, strategies and tools for developing school counseling programs, including best practices and statutory requirements for these programs. The authors propose a four-quadrant model for school counseling programs, including guidance curriculum, responsive services, individual planning and system support. They also provide a clear

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**DR. ERNEST COX, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE, SOUGHT TO DEVELOP A USEFUL RESOURCE TO HELP SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN TEXAS TAILOR THEIR COUNSELING PROGRAMS TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENTS.**

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set of recommendations about how school counselors at the elementary, middle and high school levels should balance their time between the four quadrants. In addition, the authors address the reality that many schools ask counselors to spend their time on non-counseling related duties that tend to be administrative or clerical, noting that such duties take away from the valuable time that should be spent on meeting students’ counseling-related needs.

Designed for new and seasoned school counselors, directors of guidance, campus administrators and counselor educators, the publication will assist schools in implementing comprehensive programs for student success across all grade levels. It also can help counseling staff identify ways to engage parents, administrators, and teachers as well as local community members to support school counseling programs.

# FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Following is a sampling of additional A&M-SA faculty and student research.

### Multicultural education and literacy research



**Dr. Rebekah Piper**, assistant professor of literacy, completed a qualitative, multiple-case study of seven African American students, ages eight to 12 years, who were provided literacy instruction focused on people, stories and accounts of the American Civil Rights Movement. The results indicated that students became more engaged, provided thoughtful analysis and often used a critical lens and even questioned what was being presented in the reading material provided. This work informs teacher education as preparation practices should include an emphasis on issues of equity and diversity.

### Antecedents and effects of accounting scandals



**Dr. Jesus Jimenez-Andrade**, assistant professor of accounting, is conducting studies into the causes and effects of accounting scandals, including their impact on capital markets. Dr. Jimenez-Andrade's line of research also seeks to understand the dynamic interplay between executives' actions, shareholders' perceptions and analysts' expectations, as well as who is ultimately held accountable for such scandals.

### Manifest Destiny and New Mexico



In his new book, *Coast-to-Coast Empire, Manifest Destiny and the New Mexico Borderlands* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2018), **Dr. Billy Kiser**, assistant professor of history, explored U.S. expansionist efforts following Zebulon Pike's expeditions in the early 19th century. The book follows a diverse cast of characters—from explorers, traders and settlers, to boundary adjudicators, railway surveyors and the U.S. Army—as they crossed into and through New Mexico, transforming it into a battleground for competing influences determined to control the region.

### Energy drinks, drug use and adolescent health



**Dr. Wanda E. Leal**, assistant professor of criminology, has investigated the relationship between energy drinks and drug use, as well as the implications on the health of adolescents. In one study using a nationally representative sample of 8th, 10th and 12th graders, Dr. Leal and Dr. Dylan B. Jackson, assistant professor of criminology at UTSA, found that energy drink consumption is significantly associated with increased soft drug use, which is, in turn, associated with significant increases in hard drug use. The authors concluded that energy drinks appear to pose an important threat to adolescent health in the form of soft and hard drug use, suggesting that the United States may want to consider adopting energy drink policies similar to European countries and Canada, which require warning labels on beverages with high caffeine content.

## Implications of equity crowdfunding as new means of raising capital



Equity crowdfunding (ECF) allows projects to be financed via the Internet through solicitation of small investments from a large base of potential backers as a donation or in

exchange for a reward or voting rights. In the last few years, ECF has expanded to produce dynamic global funding networks. **Dr. Stephanie L. Black**, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Linda Y. de la Viña, the Peter Flawn Professor in UTSA's Department of Entrepreneurship and Technology Management, are conducting research that sheds light on federal and state laws pertaining to ECF, as well as how the relatively new means of raising capital could change the traditional equity-financing continuum. They propose several implications with the emergence of ECF: total equity seed funding will increase, time to fund will be compressed and transaction costs will decrease.

## Using photo-elicitation in ethnographic education research



**Dr. Michael L. Boucher, Jr.**, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, has explored the use of photographs to elicit responses in ethnographic research in classroom settings. Specifically, he uses

photo-elicitation to study successful white teachers' relationships of solidarity with their students of color. By viewing photos of classroom interactions between themselves and their students, teachers are able to reflect on their practice, interrogate their own ideas about race and theorize around their negotiated teaching relationships in multiracial classrooms.



## Student Research Symposium celebrates diverse portfolio of student research

More than 150 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the University's fourth annual Student Research Symposium from May 4-5. The academic event featured research from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and the College of Education and Human Development. Each year, the Symposium provides students the opportunity to present their research findings while building confidence in their presentation skills and enhancing their mastery of academic subject matter.

During the two-day event, students shared their research through oral presentations, roundtable discussions and poster presentations. This year's research spanned a wide range of academic disciplines and subjects, including titles such as "Teachers' Attitudes Towards the Incorporation of LGBTQ-themed Multicultural Children's Literature," "Negotiation Reveals Aspects of Emotional Intelligence" and "An Analysis of Legislative Responses to Cyberbullying in the United States."

# UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Reinforcing our connections

As Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) grows in stature, its traditions continue to serve as the connective tissue binding current faculty, students and staff to the University's rich history and enduring culture.

## Ring Ceremonies (Spring and Fall)

Approximately 220 students received their A&M-SA class rings during the Jaguar Ring Ceremony on April 7. After the students received their rings on the Auditorium stage, they continued the tradition by walking outside to the President's Seal. There, a loved one places the class ring on the recipient's finger. The guest alumni speaker was Juan Valesquez. The Seal is usually a no-walking zone, and the restriction is only lifted only for this special occasion. The fall ceremony was held November 3, when an additional 188 Jaguars participated in "Honoring the Ring" ceremonies. The alumni guest speaker was Brian Harrin, who delivered an uplifting message to the newest ring recipients.



## Six alumni honored during Jaguars Remembered ceremony

On April 20, the University held its second Jaguars Remembered Ceremony in the President's Rose Garden. Hosted by the Student Government Association and the Office of Alumni Affairs, the event commemorates Jaguars who passed away in the last year. Modeled after Texas A&M University's Muster Roll Call, Jaguars Remembered reinforces A&M-SA's close ties to the Texas A&M System family. This year's ceremony honored six alumni: Kevin Johnson '16, Jarek Majdanik '11 '14, Gloria Martinez '03, Herman Monroe '16, Suresh Sah '11 and Nicholas Weaver '12.



## Campus celebrates eighth Festival de Cascarones

On April 29, A&M-SA celebrated its 8th Festival de Cascarones, the official Fiesta San Antonio finale event. This annual event builds a sense of community among faculty, staff, students and visitors while bringing awareness to the campus. More than 7,000 people attended the family-friendly event, presented by H-E-B. It featured seven hours of non-stop, fun-filled activities, including headline performances by Blue Water Highway, Secondhand Serenade, Austin-based Selena-tribute band Bidi Bidi Banda and A&M-SA student-led bands.

## May Commencement sees record number of graduates



On May 19, an impressive 740 Jaguars donned mortarboards and graduation gowns at the Spring 2018 Commencement Ceremony at Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio—making it the largest graduation ceremony to date. Faculty, staff, family and

friends joined in celebrating the occasion, congratulating the graduates and welcoming them into the ranks of Jaguar alumni.



## A&M-SA transfer students celebrate Arise tradition

On August 21, A&M-SA celebrated Arise, the beloved tradition that welcomes all new transfer students to campus. The inspiring event featured a dinner for students and guests along with welcome remarks by President Matson, Vice President of Student Affairs Melissa Mahan and SGA President Marissa Lyssy. Attendees also participated in the Pinning the Jaguar and Jaguar Flower Release rituals.



# UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Reinforcing our connections



## President's Picnic welcomes campus community back for fall semester

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff attended the annual President's Picnic, August 29, on the West Lawn. Food and refreshments included "make-your-own chips," snow cones and cookies. Attendees participated in a variety of activities, including archery, rock painting and karaoke. Campus organizations provided information to students about their respective services. The annual President's Picnic is a celebration bringing together the University community and welcoming new and returning Jaguars to campus with fun in the sun.



## Class of 2022 joins campus community in Jaguar March

A&M-SA's Class of 2022 participated in the traditional Jaguar March on August 17. The incoming freshmen walked the "Miracle Mile" from the Torre de Esperanza to the fountain where they were greeted warmly by an enthusiastic crowd of upperclassmen, faculty and staff. As part of the celebration, President Matson presented the Key of Hope Community Award to Dr. Mike Flores, the new chancellor of the Alamo Colleges District. She recognized Dr. Flores, who had served as president of Palo Alto College since 2012, for his contributions to advancing education and expanding opportunity for all people in San Antonio.

## Campus Activities Board hosts Fall Fest

The 2018 Fall Fest held October 20 attracted faculty, staff, students and members of the San Antonio community. Fall Fest is a community event that is planned by A&M-SA's Campus Activities Board (CAB), a sponsored student organization. It featured plenty of fun for the family and free, live entertainment.







## Texas First Lady addresses graduates at December Commencement

On December 18, faculty, staff, family and friends turned out in droves to honor the nearly 800 undergraduate and graduate students walking the stage at Freeman Coliseum. They also heard Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott deliver the keynote commencement address. Mrs. Abbott promotes volunteerism and service to others throughout the state through her initiative “Texanthropy.” A&M-SA also reached a milestone, graduating its 10,000th student since becoming a standalone university in 2009.

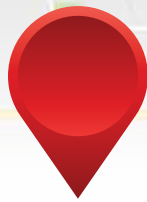
## Lights of Esperanza creates winter wonderland for local community

A&M-SA illuminated its campus November 27 during “Lights of Esperanza,” a celebration where more than 30,000 twinkling lights decorating campus facilities are switched on for the holiday season. More than 1,500 faculty, staff, students

and members of the surrounding community enjoyed the myriad activities, including an outdoor ice rink, a snow slide, a reindeer petting zoo, and the Disney movie *Prep and Landing*, along with refreshments, entertainment and giveaways.



# The Power of Place



## Texas A&M University- San Antonio

was founded at a specific time, in a specific location to provide excellent education to the underserved communities of the city's South Side. As A&M-SA prepares to celebrate its 10-Year Anniversary in 2019, the University's sense of place has never been greater.

A&M-SA today is a rich tapestry that is still being woven, just like the great city that surrounds it. But even as the University grows and changes, it continues to embody and celebrate—very intentionally—the confluence of cultures and the military legacy that make San Antonio such a great place to live, work and play.

A&M-SA is also deeply committed to helping its surrounding communities address the unique challenges and opportunities they face—from economic disparity and illiteracy to pioneering water conservation efforts and a burgeoning cyber security industry. The University does this by delivering innovative programs, services and resources to students and their families, as well as by reaching out to assist school districts, businesses and organizations throughout San Antonio and beyond.





## Embracing confluence of cultures and military legacy

As a public university, A&M-SA has the responsibility to be a faithful advocate of the many cultures represented by its faculty, staff and students, as well as the broader community. The University embraces an institutional culture of excellence that values diversity, equity and inclusion—particularly for those from historically under-represented communities. At the same time, located in Military City U.S.A. and with a student body that is 17 percent military-connected (veteran, active duty, or military spouse or dependent), A&M-SA is committed to serving the brave servicemen and servicewomen in the U.S. military.



## Celebrating rich cultural heritage

One of the ways A&M-SA fulfills this responsibility is by celebrating San Antonio's rich cultural heritage throughout the year. In July, A&M-SA hosted the Macondo Writers Workshop. Thirty-four writers participated in the 2018 workshop, studying fiction, poetry and non-fiction under award-winning faculty, including Reyna Grande, Allison Hedge Coke and Stephanie Elizondo Griest. Founded in 1995 by Sandra Cisneros, acclaimed writer, MacArthur Fellow and author of *The House on Mango Street*, Macondo gathers writers from all genres to work on geographic, cultural, economic, gender and spiritual borders. The program, named after the town in Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, is an association of socially engaged writers who seek to advance creativity, foster generosity and effect non-violent social change.



In the fall, A&M-SA hosted Latinx Heritage Month, featuring a wide array of cultural performances as well as enhanced educational events for members of the University and San Antonio communities. Academic-enrichment activities included a Cultural Production Panel, featuring a group of accomplished writers, performance artists and academic scholars. Cultural activities included a Latina Music Panel, featuring discussion and performances by Tish Hinojosa, Shelly Lares, Amalia Ortiz and Lourdes Perez, along with a Columbian kite-making and kite-flying festival and a Brazilian Samba dancing and drumming event.



A&M-SA also refreshed the curation of its art collection on campus in 2018. The collection, which features more than 120 pieces displayed throughout five buildings, includes works from Kathy Sosa's "Huipiles Series" and Lionel Sosa's "The Vaqueros Series" as well as the musical-themed pieces of Brother Cletus Behlman. The initiative was designed to enhance people's enjoyment of and appreciation for the artwork, including a website with photographs and background information on each piece of art.

On September 24, the University hosted an Art Walk for members of the campus and San Antonio communities. Attendees had the opportunity to stroll around, meet the artists, admire the many paintings and learn more about them.



The Power of Place



## Honoring long military legacy

In 2018, the University continued to meet the educational needs of its military-connected students and their families, while participating in a wide range of events and programs designed to celebrate the city’s military history and honor those who serve. One example of this was the “Purple Up Patriots’ Casa” event, hosted by the Office of Military Affairs to show support for military children. Purple—which signifies “joint” or “all services” in the military world—represents the blending of the colors of the five branches of the Armed Forces.

Texas has the second largest number of military school-aged children in the nation. In light of this, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation declaring that the State of Texas recognize April 2018 as the Month of the Military Child. April 13 was “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day.” By celebrating this special day, A&M-SA reaffirmed its support for military children (and their families) who remain resilient and steadfast through deployments and separations, many moves and multiple transitions.

## Embracing Hispanic-Serving Institution designation, fostering inclusive excellence

San Antonio is the seventh most populous city in the United States, and one of the nation’s most economically segregated cities. Its income disparity cuts largely along geographic lines. The northern area is characterized by more wealth, higher education levels and greater economic activity, while neighborhoods in the urban core have markedly higher rates of poverty and unemployment along with lower education attainment. Through a variety of educational programs and community outreach activities in 2018, A&M-SA took strides toward becoming an economic, research and social catalyst for the historically under-represented South Side it was founded to serve.

## Delivering bilingual and literacy education

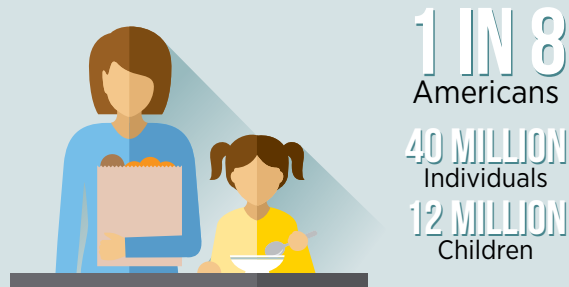
To meet the needs of the city’s culturally and linguistically diverse students, A&M-SA has entered a partnership with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) to establish graduate cohorts in literacy and bilingual education. SAISD offers tuition assistance to those teachers interested in developing expertise in these two fields. The bilingual program began its inaugural SAISD graduate cohort in Fall 2018. Ninety teachers applied for a spot in the initial cohort, and the district selected 20 to fill the cohort. Those students are working toward their master’s in reading and will obtain reading specialist certification.

## Meeting basic needs of students, faculty and staff

With a student population that is 71 percent first-generation and 70 percent Hispanic, including 49 percent of undergraduate students who received Pell Grants in 2018-19, A&M-SA surrounds its students with a constellation of services designed to keep them on track to graduate in four years. These include several on-campus resources to help meet the basic needs of lower-income students.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.” An estimated 1 in 8 Americans are food insecure, equating to 40 million Americans, including more than 12 million children. In 2017, the University opened General’s Store, an on-campus food kitchen established through a partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank to provide food supplies to more than faculty, staff and students battling food insecurity. During the 2017-18 academic year, 18 student workers and volunteers worked 230 hours at the store, serving more than 131 customers, who received 22 pounds of food on average.

### FOOD INSECURITY IN THE U.S.



### A&M-SA GENERAL’S STORE 2017/18



In addition, the Career Clothes Closet, operated by the Office of Career Services, features a collection of business-appropriate garments donated by members of the A&M-SA community. Students can check out a variety of clothing items to present a professional image when they go to interview for jobs, work at internships or attend networking events.



## Empowering students through STEM

**A&M-SA takes a proactive approach** to meet employers' rising demand for STEM skills. While some of these activities are designed for A&M-SA students, many focus on promoting an interest in STEM among younger students.

During the spring 2018 semester, for example, Dr. Young Rae Kim and Dr. Mi Sun Park, curriculum and instruction faculty members, worked with two undergraduate teaching assistants to launch an after-school STEM robotics project with Harlandale ISD. Through the project, participating students developed and implemented several integrated STEM activities by using coding and robotics. The activities built upon common threads and connected the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The project team, led by Dr. Kim, received positive feedback from the parents, staff and participating students.



Dr. Kim and his team also hosted Hola STEM, a summer school program for students aged nine to 11 from Harlandale ISD. Nineteen students participated in the two-week camp held July 23 - August 2. Funded by the University's Strategic Planning Initiative Seed Fund, the program sought to develop a seamless pathway that supports students' increased interest and engagement in STEM majors and bridges their knowledge into the next school year. The Hola STEM campers learned science, math and engineering through participation in mathematical modeling activities, math storybook and integrated STEM activities including coding and robotics.



In November, 40 high school girls and seven middle school girls from Harmony School of Innovation, Harmony Science Academy and the School of Science and Technology participated in a "Women for Science" program at A&M-SA. As part of the program, organized by Dr. Ummugul Bulut, assistant professor of mathematics, student groups conducted experiments in biology and cybersecurity labs.

## Developing emerging leaders

**In 2018**, A&M-SA announced the establishment of the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders. Its mission is to prepare students to address the many challenges facing the nation, including disparities in health, economic insecurity and mobility, racial segregation and limited access to social capital.

The Institute's co-curricular activities will include leadership-focused field, domestic and international trips; a student-led leadership conference; and workshops focused on personal leadership and job-search skills. Outreach and community engagement will include a mentorship program for A&M-SA students and local high school students, an annual leadership conference open to the local community; and leadership-focused speaker series. It also will develop a robust research program, hosting faculty, research fellows and leadership scholars from other institutions as visiting faculty to participate in research and other academic activities related to leadership and student development.

The Institute will equip students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to affect social and economic change in their communities and beyond, while fostering a unique perspective and motivation for positive change.

## Addressing unique challenges and opportunities in South Texas

**A&M-SA educates students to think critically** while being technically sound, ethically grounded and culturally competent. Increasingly, the subject matter our students study addresses the workforce needs of San Antonio's evolving economy, as well as the distinctive geography and climate of South Texas. New programs in water resources science and technology, STEM and cyber security are examples of the University's response to these unique challenges and opportunities.



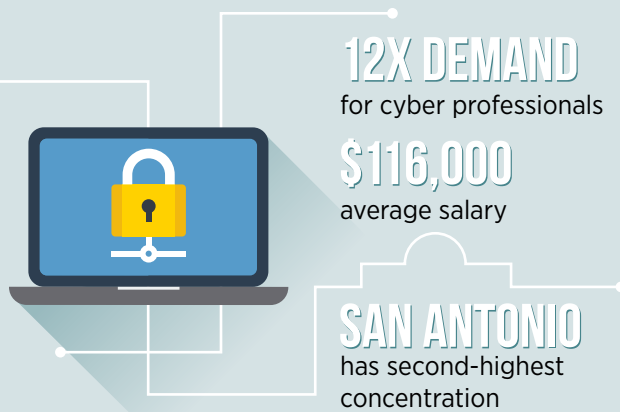
The Power of Place

## Meeting the demand for cyber security

A burgeoning cyber security industry has grown out of San Antonio's strong military heritage, and today the city has the second-largest concentration of cyber security experts in the nation. According to a recent national report, the demand for cyber security professionals is growing at 12 times the overall job market. These professionals report an average salary of \$116,000, which is nearly three times the national average.



## CYBER SECURITY



Following the National Security Agency (NSA) recertification of A&M-SA as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education in 2017, the University announced in 2018 an innovative partnership with Facebook to deliver cyber security education. A&M-SA joined the Facebook Cyber Security University Program, making it the first university in Texas to join the program and ninth in the nation. The partnership bolsters A&M-SA's position as a prominent leader in the cyber security education community.

In Fall 2018, A&M-SA began offering a hybrid course in cyber security taught by Facebook experts and A&M-SA faculty. The three credit hour course provides students a variety of benefits, such as enhanced curriculum, mentorship opportunities, project development and hands-on training in combating simulated cyber-attacks. In addition, top-performing students are able to pursue internships with Facebook and scholarships to attend coveted industry competitions, including the Black Hat Conference and DEF CON in Las Vegas.

A&M-SA's end goal is to educate the next generation of cyber warriors. These graduates will help defend America's national security infrastructure as well as individuals and businesses from the growing number of cyber-attacks waged by other nations and organizations.

## Pioneering water conservation

San Antonio is widely recognized as a pioneer in its water conservation efforts. But the city still faces the persistent challenges of managing dwindling water resources and mitigating threats to water quality—while minimizing collateral damage to wildlife and ecological systems.

Three years ago, A&M-SA established the Institute for Water Resources Science and Technology to create water-focused research and career opportunities for our professors and students. In 2018, the University opened a water research laboratory in the new Science and Technology Building, and continued to build strategic partnerships with organizations like the San Antonio Water System. In Fall 2019, A&M-SA will launch undergraduate and graduate programs in this discipline. Through these programs, students will pursue research projects with faculty experts, internship opportunities with local employers and additional training at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's H.B. Zachry Training Center—preparing them to address the intensifying demands on water from the region's growing population.

## A place for those we serve, with room to grow

Ten years after its founding as a standalone university, A&M-SA is located on a sprawling campus south of San Antonio's vibrant downtown. It does not have the type of easy access to city neighborhoods offered by some urban campuses. But the University embraces the rugged beauty of its 696-acre campus along with the plants and wildlife that are native to the area. A&M-SA's unique setting offers one very important thing: room to grow.

That's significant, particularly in light of the City of San Antonio's SA Tomorrow plan to provide even higher quality of life for all its residents, which will increase by 1 million over the next decade. As the South Side and the rest of the city grow around A&M-SA, the University will welcome ever greater numbers of the students it was literally built to serve. Because of the University's physical place in the world—its land, the distinctive character of San Antonio and the South Side, and the unique challenges and opportunities facing South Texas—A&M-SA will always have a place for those students.

An op-ed column by Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson

## Strengthening Our Commitment to South-Side Youth

It's no secret that Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) was founded at a specific time—in a specific location—to provide excellent education to the underserved communities of San Antonio's South Side. But many people are not aware of the different ways we honor this commitment. Some of these activities happen well before students enter the halls of our University's beautiful campus. We have forged two recent partnerships designed to benefit the youth of this community.

This fall, A&M-SA and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County entered a partnership to inspire at-risk Latino youth to remain in school and pursue higher education. The A&M AgriLife Extension oversees the Texas 4-H program. Specifically, A&M-SA will focus efforts on the Juntos 4-H program, which helps Latino youth in grades eight through 12—along with their families—gain the necessary knowledge and skills to bridge the gap between high school and college.

The Juntos 4H program was first developed by North Carolina State University in 2007 as the Juntos program. It became Juntos 4H in 2015 when N.C. State developed a partnership with the National 4H Council, with financial support from New York Life Foundation.

In Bexar County, Juntos 4-H has 35 participants from Harlandale High School who began participating in the program three years ago. As part of the new partnership, Harlandale ISD will provide Juntos 4-H participants with transportation to the A&M-SA campus, where they will participate in two hours of 4-H programming on Saturdays. These students will have an opportunity to engage in STEM and other college-preparatory curriculum, learn leadership skills, get firsthand college-life experiences and meet successful role models.

I am equally excited about A&M-SA's recent Trefoil sponsorship of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, which is headquartered in San Antonio and serves nearly 15,000 girls in 21 counties. This program focuses on the arts, environmental awareness, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, STEM, healthy living, community engagement and citizenship.



We also will work with these girl scouts to earn A&M-SA's "Embracing Patriotism" patch, which is in keeping with the University's Military Embracing™ identity. Each girl who completes our Embracing Patriotism Initiative curriculum—covering topics such as commitment, respect, honor, courage and excellence—will earn our distinctive patch. A&M-SA is the newest Trefoil sponsor of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, and only the seventh sponsor of a unique patch.

By supporting youth through partnerships with Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and Juntos 4-H, A&M-SA not only makes an investment in our future but also strengthens our commitment to the underserved communities of San Antonio's South Side. Ultimately, our shared goal is to inspire our youth to stay in school, pursue higher education and become responsible, contributing members of society.

To learn more about how A&M-SA supports youth through community partnerships, visit [tamusa.edu](http://tamusa.edu).



The Power of Place

# ALUMNI UPDATE

The Office of Alumni Affairs at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) 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 a variety of alumni benefits such as email for life, free official academic transcripts, access to career services and discounted tickets to Six Flags. Participating in on-campus or off-campus activities, such as Festival de Cascarones and Lights of Esperanza, volunteering for service-learning projects or serving as guest speakers at Lunch and Learns are only a few of the ways that alumni stay connected with friends, faculty, staff and students.

You can keep the A&M-SA's Office of Alumni Affairs apprised of your status by completing the online Alumni Update Form at <http://bit.ly/alumtamusa>. Alumni may also stay connected in the online alumni community at <https://jaguarconnect.tamusa.edu>, or follow these social media areas: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TAMUSAalumni/> and <https://twitter.com/TAMUSAalumni>.

## Inaugural alumni award recipients honored

A&M-SA took another significant step in its evolution as a comprehensive four-year university in October when it presented its first-ever alumni awards during a ceremony just before Fall Fest. University officials presented the Recent Graduate Award, Spirit of the Jaguar Award and Distinguished Alumni Awards to three worthy recipients.



The Honorable **Ben Zeller '09**, Victoria County Judge, earned the Distinguished Alumni Award, which is presented to alumni who have stellar professional careers. Zeller, who completed his master of business administration degree at A&M-SA in '09, was elected Victory County judge in November 2014 as one of the youngest county judges in Texas. He also is past-president of the South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association. Prior to becoming Victoria County judge, Zeller had a successful career in the financial sector.



**Richard Delgado Jr. '10**, A&M-SA's director of Military Affairs, earned the Spirit of the Jaguar Award, which recognizes alumni who have demonstrated excellent service and volunteerism to the University and/or community. Delgado has spearheaded numerous community service initiatives, including relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.



**Alyssa De La O '16** earned the Recent Graduate Award, which recognizes alumni who have earned an undergraduate degree in the last three years and are doing exciting things in the world. In addition, to working in the Office of Admissions at UT Health San Antonio's Long School of Medicine, De La O wrote the lyrics for the A&M-SA Fight Song and mentors students on San Antonio's South Side.



## Alumnus serves on Veteran Employment Panel at Texas Tribune Festival

Alumnus Richard Delgado Jr. '10, director of A&M-SA's Office of Military Affairs, served as one of four experts on the panel "From Deployment to Employment" during the Texas Tribune Festival held on September 29. Delgado, along with Jodey Arrington, U.S. Rep. R-Lubbock; Ruth Ruggero Hughs, chairwoman of the Texas Workforce Commission; and Paul Rieckhoff, founder and CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, discussed the issues and challenges that many veterans face in transitioning into the civilian workforce. *Texas Tribune* reporter Alana Rocha moderated the panel.



## Alumnus wins Lone Star Emmy

In August, Wyatt Matson, '18, an alumnus who majored in communications, received a Lone Star Emmy in the category of News Series for his role as production assistant on "La Vision de Paquito," a story about a boy who overcame retinal cancer.

## University hosts inaugural alumni brunch

Before Festival de Cascarones commenced Sunday, April 29, on-campus festivities were already underway with an inaugural A&M-SA Alumni Brunch hosted in the President's Rose Garden. The social event drew more than 400 alumni and their guests to their alma mater.

## Double alumnus recognized in "40 Under 40"



Blaine Beckman '15, '17 was selected to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* 2018 "40 Under 40." The *San Antonio Business Journal* recognized Beckman at a dinner event on

February 22 at the Pearl Stable in San Antonio.

## Alumni Affairs hosts alumni night with the San Antonio Spurs



More than 30 A&M-SA alumni and family members reconnected with old friends and made new social connections at the AT&T Center on November 4 while cheering on the San Antonio Spurs basketball team. The Orlando Magic beat the Spurs 117 to 110 in a thriller.

## Heroic alumnus-journalist rescues dog while reporting



In June, Alex Luna '18 was hailed as a local hero after risking his life to save a drowning puppy while he was covering a story as a reporter for the *San Antonio Express-News*. As Luna was wrapping up a story on local flooding, someone alerted him and a San Antonio Park Police officer about a puppy flailing in floodwaters. Eager to help, the two men quickly devised a plan, and the park officer lowered Luna on a rope to save

the desperate pup. Luna graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications. He is former assistant editor of *The Mesquite* and a graduate of the Univision Media Lab - Capstone Experience.

## Alumni director chairs alumni relations track for CASE conference



For the second year, Director of Alumni Affairs Mary Kay Cooper, Ed.D., chaired the alumni relations track at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV regional conference. As chair, Dr. Cooper recruited industry experts to present on a variety of alumni topics. Those presentations included "Using Career Services to Enhance Alumni

Engagement," "Reorganizing and Revitalizing a Student Org to Support Alumni Relations and University Advancement" and "How Those Iconic Professors (you know the ones!) Can Open Doors to Alumni Engagement." More than 500 people attended the conference.

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## ALUMNI PROFILES

### CYNTHIA LEE '08

College of Arts and Sciences



Cynthia Lee '08, office manager in A&M-SA's College of Business, led a Jaguar journey that became a family affair.

Coming from a family whose roots were from Opelousas, Louisiana, Lee grew up in San Antonio. She was the oldest of four siblings. A younger sister died of colon cancer. Lee has four children of her own—three daughters and a son. She also has nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A beneficiary of her own words that she once used to motivate her daughter, Lee found herself a student in

A&M-SA's College of Arts and Sciences pursuing a bachelor's degree in human relations at the age of 47. Her pursuit of higher education actually began before A&M-SA at the Alamo Colleges. "I had never set foot on a college campus to take classes," Lee said. "So I was talking to my daughter one day and I said 'I'm too old to go to college.' And she says, 'Mom, you're never too old to learn.'" Knowing that she had pushed her children to pursue higher education, Lee was not in a good position to dispute her daughter. She acknowledged to herself that she needed to go to college, too.

Lee had been employed for 19 years with the *San Antonio Light*, a newspaper that closed in 1993. She had brief stints working in a pharmacy and for the Sheriff's Department. She worked another seven years in private industry, which ended with surgery on her hand. At the time she decided to earn her college degree, she was working as a substitute teacher, and the closest campus for her to attend was Northeast Lakeview College.

"When I called the school, a young lady answered the phone and her name was Patrice Butler," Lee said, recalling that she

was somewhat afraid. Although the woman was quite young, she implored Lee to visit her at the school. "I went in and I still credit her to this day. Had it not been for her treating me the way she did when I went in, I never would have gone to school. She made me feel so comfortable and was really, really nice."

By the time Lee found herself in the halls of A&M-SA, she had about 133 college hours. She became the first African American employee of Texas A&M University Kingsville System Center-San Antonio when she was hired in April 2007 while it was still operating on the Palo Alto College campus. She was an administrative assistant for both the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences simultaneously. Lee said a fellow employee, Carolyn Green, and Dr. Tracy Hurley, dean of the College of Business, noticed all of the college hours she had and encouraged Lee to complete a degree. She committed herself to completing that degree by attending school on her lunch breaks and after work.

Lee's educational perseverance carried over to her husband, Andre Lee, Sr., who earned a degree in business, and daughter Stephanie Burton, who earned a master's degree guidance and counseling. They both graduated from A&M-SA on the same day in Spring 2013.

Nowadays, Lee works as the office manager in the College of Business, handling most of everything that concerns faculty, staff and students. When the College encounters a student problem that appears to be intensifying, Lee tries to defuse the situation before it escalates. Her training in human relations, which she describes as a combination of psychology, criminology and sociology, has helped her be effective in such instances.

Lee said she would advise today's students to "never give up." Without an education, she explained, young people are at a roadblock.

# GILBERTO DOMINGUEZ '12

College of Education and Human Development



A love of history and a desire to share it drove A&M-SA alumnus Gilberto Dominguez '12 to pen two books.

**D**ominguez, who earned his Master of Science degree in counseling and guidance in 2012, explained that he is not a trained historian, but that he has “always been interested in little quirks about history—you know, things that are not as well known.” He turned his knowledge about those “quirks” into his latest book, called *It Happened in San Antonio*, which was released in November.

Dominguez grew up on the West Side of San Antonio in what he described as a poor family. When he was in the eighth grade, Dominguez’s family moved to Cathedral City, Calif., where they lived for about a year. “We came back to Texas November 22, 1963, the day John F. Kennedy was shot,” he said. After returning to San Antonio, he attended John F. Kennedy High School, graduating in 1967.

**“ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN LITTLE QUIRKS ABOUT HISTORY—YOU KNOW, THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS WELL KNOWN.”**

—Gilberto Dominguez

“Through the years I started taking notes and would think, ‘you know, I never knew about this. Why isn’t there more about this?’ There are a lot of things about San Antonio that are not as well known, so I thought ‘maybe I should turn it into a book,’” Dominguez said.

His first book, *They Answered the Call: Latinos in the Viet Nam War*, was published in 2007. A labor of love, Dominguez’s book is all fact. “Basically what I did was interview about 21 or so Latino veterans. That book took me 20 years to write because I was doing it part-time,” Dominguez said. “I went to different parts of the country that had sizable Latino populations to interview all these combat veterans.” He felt combat Latinos were an under-represented military group that had garnered a number of Medals of Honor, yet very little had been said about them.

*They Answered the Call* is about what Latino soldiers were doing before they went into the war, what they did during the war and its after-effects. It also describes what these men experienced when they came back to the United States.

After high school, Dominguez briefly attended San Antonio College before joining the Army. He was deployed to Viet Nam from March 1969 to March 1970. He graduated from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) in 1974 with a degree in journalism, and eventually earned his master’s degree in education there. He landed a position as a public affairs specialist and editor with the U.S. government at Kelly Air Force Base and worked in the federal government for 30 years.

To fulfill his desire to someday assist veterans, Dominguez decided to pursue an advanced degree in counseling and found himself at A&M-San Antonio. Although he did not know much about A&M-SA when he started, he investigated the campus because it was new. After going through the application process with the Military Affairs staff, he determined the University was both “student friendly and veteran friendly.”

Dominguez, who is retired, and his wife RoseMarie, live in San Antonio.

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## MICHAEL JOHNSON, ALUMNUS '18

College of Business



With a graduation cap on, butterflies fluttering in his stomach and blood rushing from the excitement of walking the stage in the Spring 2018 Commencement ceremony, Michael Johnson received his bachelor's degree with joy.

**A**t just 20 years old, Johnson made history at A&M-SA as one of the inaugural freshman cohort students to graduate two years ahead of his anticipated graduation date in 2020.

A native of San Antonio, Johnson attended an early college high school academy, where he was able to garner

college credits that transferred to A&M-SA. He is the first in his family to graduate from college.

But his story of success did not come without hardships. When Johnson was just 14 years old, his mother passed away after battling cancer. He acknowledges that his mother's passing was a sad point in his young life, but he knew she would not have wanted him to stop working towards his dreams.

"She pushed me to do well in school," he said. "She was a big motivator for me and she definitely instilled traits in me that pushed me to do more while moving forward."

Johnson had his heart set on attending A&M-SA. He loved its small size and close-knit atmosphere. After being admitted as a Jaguar, he hit the ground running and took a full course load each semester and attended summer school along the way. Johnson's strong commitment to his educational endeavors set an example for his younger sisters, who began attending their first fall semester in college this year.

This past summer, Johnson completed an internship at Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union (RBFCU). His aspiration is to work professionally within a financial institution. With a Bachelor of Business Administration degree under his belt, he intends to earn his MBA from A&M-SA by 2020.

**"SHE PUSHED ME TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL, SHE WAS A BIG MOTIVATOR FOR ME AND SHE DEFINITELY INSTILLED TRAITS IN ME THAT PUSHED ME TO DO MORE WHILE MOVING FORWARD."**

—Michael Johnson (on his mother)

Johnson is an example of an audacious Jaguar on a mission to conquer his goals—both short-term and long-term. The core advice he espouses is to "go after your dreams." With persistent effort, he said, students can accomplish whatever they set their hearts on.

# ADVANCEMENT UPDATE



## Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon honors Dr. Henry G. Cisneros

The Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation honored the Honorable Henry G. Cisneros with the Dream Maker Award during its Ninth Annual Dream Maker Scholarship Luncheon held October 3 at the Witte Museum's beautiful Mays Family Center. Dr. Cisneros was recognized for his leadership to San Antonio and the nation as well as his longtime support of A&M-SA through his service on the President's Advisory Council and philanthropy. University officials announced the naming of the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders in recognition of Dr. Cisneros' gift of \$1 million.

Nearly 500 people attended the luncheon, where generous supporters contributed more than \$148,000 to provide scholarships to assist A&M-SA students in attaining their degrees. This fundraising total represented a 78-percent increase over the previous year. A&M-SA alumnus Christian McDonald '15 provided a testimonial as a scholarship beneficiary, and current student Gabi Medina shared why donating to the Jaguar Emergency Fund is meaningful to students. A&M-SA alumna Erica Gonzaba '16 served as the event's mistress of ceremonies. Marissa Lyssy, A&M-SA's Student Government Association president, led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Foundation Golf Tournament tallies largest scholarship sum to date



The Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation raised more than \$60,000 for student scholarships at the 2018 Foundation Golf Tournament. This represented a 52-percent increase from last year—making the 2018 outing the largest and most successful scholarship golf tournament to date.

The University is especially grateful to the members of the Texas A&M-San Antonio Foundation Golf Committee, as well as all of the donors, sponsors and participants for all their continued support. For the second year in a row, comedian and TV personality Cleto Rodriguez from "Where's Cleto" served as the emcee of the awards ceremony. Jaguar Ambassadors played a key role in the successful operation of the tournament, greeting and assisting participants and dispensing prizes to winning teams.



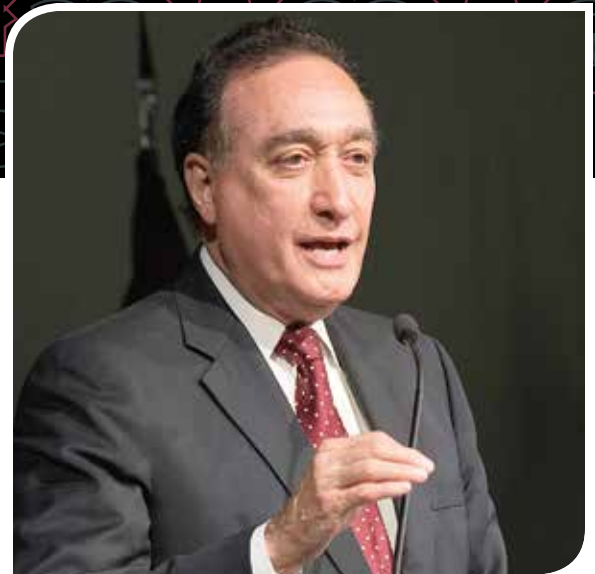
## President Matson shares A&M-San Antonio updates at appreciation reception

To show gratitude and appreciation to A&M-SA donors, University Advancement hosted an intimate reception for select donors on the President's Balcony just before Lights of Esperanza in November. President Matson shared University updates with the assembled group. Donors mixed and mingled with fellow A&M-SA champions and enjoyed a scenic view of campus as it was illuminated by more than 30,000 twinkling lights.

# ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

## PROFILES IN GIVING

### DR. HENRY G. CISNEROS



**P**ropagating his distinguished career of leadership in public service, the Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, Ph.D., is helping establish a new leadership institute with a \$1 million gift to A&M-SA. Dr. Cisneros is a former mayor of San Antonio who went on to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the administration of President William “Bill” J. Clinton.

Dr. Cisneros’ lead gift, celebrated during A&M-SA’s 2018 Dream Maker Luncheon in October, established the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders at A&M-San Antonio. The Cisneros Institute will develop emerging leaders to strengthen the communities of South Texas and beyond by effecting social and economic change. Students participating in programs will be well-prepared to solve some of the region’s most pressing problems.

Building upon his deep affection for his alma mater, Texas A&M University in College Station, Dr. Cisneros serves on the President’s Advisory Council at A&M-SA, and he credits the A&M System for significantly influencing his life.

“A&M is probably the single most important force, other than my parents, in shaping my life,” Dr. Cisneros said at the 2018 Dream Maker Luncheon. I know I owe an incredible debt of gratitude.”

“As a freshman,” Dr. Cisneros explained, “I arrived at A&M the youngest in my class. It was the first time I’d been away from home for any appreciable length of time in a tough environment, which is the corps of cadets at A&M—the largest producer of military officers outside of the U.S. military academies.”

Dr. Cisneros went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in city management in 1968. He earned a master’s degree in urban and regional planning in 1971. He completed another master’s degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1973, and

a doctor of public administration from George Washington University in 1976.

He honed his skills in those fields in San Antonio and other cities. As a young college graduate, Cisneros was the assistant director of President Lyndon Johnson’s “Model Cities Program” and worked as a White House Fellow for Senator Elliot Richardson—both positions were inspirational catalysts for his lifelong interest in building dreams, especially in underserved communities.

**“A&M IS PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FORCE, OTHER THAN MY PARENTS, IN SHAPING MY LIFE.”**

Dr. Cisneros continued to sharpen his public service talents during three terms on San Antonio’s City Council (the youngest person to do so), and as its mayor from 1981 until 1989. His leadership experience in public service was called to the federal level in 1993, when President Clinton appointed him to head HUD, where he served until 1997. From 1997 until 2000, he served as president of the National League of Cities. In addition to his public service, Dr. Cisneros has led major businesses, including working as chief operating officer of Spanish-language network Univision. He serves as chairman of CityView, a real estate company that focuses on affordable housing around the country, and as a principal of Siebert-Cisneros-Shank, an investment banking company based in New York.

Having grown up on San Antonio’s west side, where his grandparents settled when they left Mexico after the Revolution, Dr. Cisneros said he considers that neighborhood his home. He has consistently embraced diversity and inclusiveness as powerful tools for making this world a better place. It is his hope that his \$1 million pledge to establish the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders at A&M-SA will help the next generation accomplish that.

# ELVA RUIZ



**A**fter a distinguished career in the science field in government, Elva Ruiz returned to her San Antonio roots with her heart set on ensuring a legacy—one that ultimately will provide financial support to A&M-SA students.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Ms. Ruiz left home at age 17 to pursue higher education at Shorter College, an all-girls, Baptist-affiliated institution in Rome, Georgia. After completing her undergraduate degree in biology, she decided to move to Boston in hopes of pursuing graduate courses at Harvard University. She did not complete her work at Harvard, because at that time she could not afford it.

After a period of time, Ms. Ruiz entered the Peace Corps. She worked for two years in Malaysia, where she was instrumental in establishing a medical technicians training program at the Kuala Lumpur Institute of Tropical Medicine Research. When she returned to the United States, she worked for a while as a trainer for Peace Corps volunteers.

Ms. Ruiz's career really took flight when she began using her scientific training by working as a technician for the Medical Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Soon after, she became a program analyst at the Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH. Over the years, she took courses in administration and science through government-sponsored training at George Washington University and American University. Through executive leadership training, Ms. Ruiz eventually became a program director for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute.

In that position, she presented to the Board of Scientific Counselors justification for studies in the area of cancer awareness, prevention and control. If the Board accepted her justification, funds for request for applications were then allocated. Universities, cancer centers and other research entities could apply. At the time, nationwide successful applicants included the UT Health Science

Center in San Antonio (now UT Health San Antonio). Ms. Ruiz said her primary role was manager for the funded programs. She retired from that work and returned home to San Antonio about 10 years ago.

Ms. Ruiz felt that as she was getting older, she needed to begin making decisions about what she wanted to do with her estate. "I've always had a will ... I don't have any heirs, per se," she explained. Consequently, she began researching colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations in the San Antonio area to see if she could help in her areas of interest. "When I came back, I decided to look around to see who was doing the most to really direct educational assistance to Mexican Americans born and raised in San Antonio," Ms. Ruiz explained. That was one of the things that impressed her about A&M-SA.

"My initial meeting with Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, former president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and Marilu Reyna, previous vice president for Institutional Advancement and University Communications, decided me on Texas A&M San Antonio," she said. She also noted that her conversation with Dr. Richard Ortega, vice president for University Advancement, regarding A&M-SA's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs was insightful. "I wanted to have the little bit that I'm going to be leaving to possibly be reinvested to make it grow," she said.

These factors led Ms. Ruiz to begin building her legacy gift with A&M-SA. "It's not that much," she said, "But whatever amount it is, I've decided to give the University a quarter of my residue estate."

Being able to assist Mexican Americans whose roots are in San Antonio and who want to pursue STEM education is important to Ms. Ruiz because, as she explained, the opportunities and training afforded to her through her employer are not always readily available.

# ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

## CORPORATE PARTNERS UPDATE

Launched in 2017, A&M-SA's Corporate Partnership Program has allowed companies to bolster their brands locally while strengthening their ties with the University by directly engaging with students, alumni, faculty and staff in signature events through the year. To participate as a Corporate Partner, a company provides a minimum level of \$10,000 annually in the form of monetary and/or in-kind support. This funding primarily is used to provide scholarships to students with financial need or to a defined program of direct support to students. Following are the 2017-2018 participants in the A&M-SA Corporate Partnership Program:





## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

A&M-SA is grateful to the 198 donors who provided more than \$1.8 million in cash gifts in fiscal year 2017-18. This represents a 12-percent increase over the previous fiscal year. In addition, the University has more than \$4.1 million in outstanding pledges mostly payable in the next several years.

The following Honor Roll of Donors reflects the actual cash or in-kind contributions received during the 2017-18 fiscal year, which runs from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Each level of giving lists individual donors first, followed by corporate and foundation contributors.

### List of Donors for Fiscal Year 2017-18

#### \$1,000,000 and above

Mays Family Foundation  
Greehey Family Foundation

#### \$100,000 to \$999,999

Univision Communications Inc.  
HOLT CAT  
Carlos and Malu Alvarez

#### \$25,000 to \$99,999

Terwilliger Family Foundation, Inc.  
Henry G. Cisneros  
San Antonio Bowl Association  
James R. Adams  
San Antonio Area Foundation  
Communities Foundation of Texas  
City of San Antonio

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

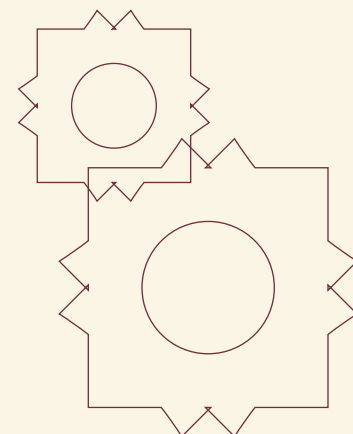
Valero  
Lionel Sosa  
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Texas A&M University System  
Alterman, Inc.  
Glazer's Beer & Beverage  
Course Hero, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Shiner Beers  
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New Frontiers Charter School  
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Texas A&M System Capital Offices

#### \$1,000 to \$4,999

Douglas Carter  
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API

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation  
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# ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Cleary Zimmermann  
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McCombs Foundation  
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Physicians PremiER  
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Continuing Education  
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R&J Music Pavilion  
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Charles W. Schwartz  
William Gordon  
Carolyn Labatt  
Zachry Construction  
Corporation  
San Antonio Water  
System  
FirstMark Credit Union  
Mark Tolley

### Up to \$999

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Security Service Federal  
Credit Union  
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Tracy A. Hurley  
Eric J. Lopez  
Shawn M. Morris  
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Paul C. Salinas  
Nastasha N. Leach  
Alejandro J. Leal  
Anthony Medina

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

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

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

### Gifts of the President's Circle:

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

### List of President's Circle Members for Fiscal Year 2017-18

#### **Audacious (\$20,000 and above)**

Thomas Timmer  
William B. Kopper

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

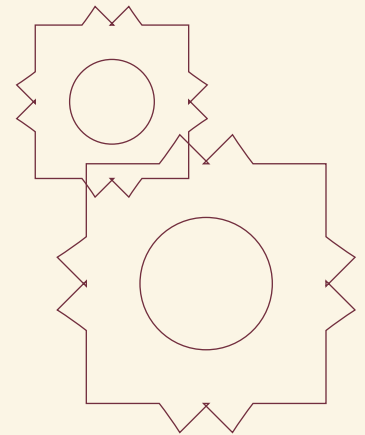
Minnie Stevens Piper  
Foundation

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

Vivien L. Geneser  
William & Patricia  
Gordon  
Tracy A. Hurley  
Carolyn Labatt  
Melissa K. Mahan  
McCombs Foundation  
Charles W. Schwartz  
CPS Energy  
Amy C. Lewis  
Richard P. Ortega  
Alterman, Inc.

#### **Up to \$999**

Eric J. Lopez  
Henrietta P. Hildebrand  
The Chronicle of Higher  
Education, Inc.  
Carolyn W. Green  
Mark Tolley



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) demonstrated its commitment to supporting local, state and national communities through an array of activities in 2018. Service, engagement and education were hallmarks of faculty, staff and student efforts throughout the year.

## Jaguars enjoy camaraderie in San Antonio's March for MLK Day

On January 15, nearly 70 Jaguars participated in the three-mile march from MLK Academy to Pittman-Sullivan Park to support the legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This was the first University-involved San Antonio Tricentennial event of the year. With an estimated 300,000 participants in San Antonio's march in 2018, the city is widely recognized as having the largest MLK March in the country.

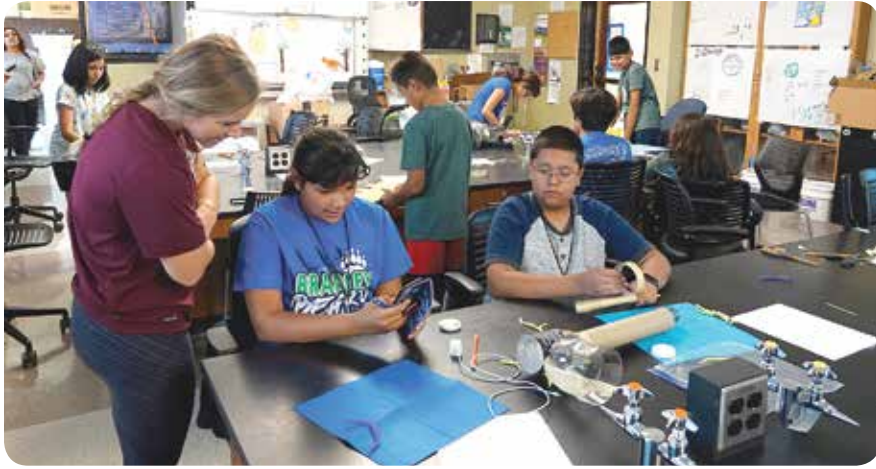


## Choose.Act.Impact. A&M-SA assists San Antonio community

Led by the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, 94 Jaguars served the San Antonio community for the year's first Choose.Act.Impact. Day of Service held February 24. Participants served the community by volunteering at the Guadalupe Community Center, the San Antonio Food Bank, Camp CAMP and A&M-SA.

On September 29, 189 Jaguars showed the University's commitment to civic pride and community engagement through a morning of selfless service. Through partnership with the San Antonio Tricentennial Commission and local non-profit institutions, including Haven for Hope, American Sunrise, San Antonio State Hospital, San Antonio Pets Alive, the San Antonio Food Bank and Mitchell

Lake Audubon Center, A&M-SA celebrated its largest day of service yet. A record 706 hours of service were logged by Choose.Act.Impact. by the end of 2018.



## A&M-SA hosts and co-sponsors Science Mill STEM Camp

The Hill Country Science Mill hosted a one-week summer camp, “Adventures in STEM,” for 30 local middle school students at the A&M-SA campus from August 6-10. The campers were led by Science Mill instructors, including A&M-SA alumnus Daniel Guerra, and five A&M-SA student interns: Sergio Zavala, Ana Martinez-Lopez, Michael Richter, Laura-Gene Vega and Rebekkah Winslow. Campers participated in activities exploring various careers in science and technology, including building rockets and exploring microbes. This was the third year that the Hill Country Science Mill brought its camp to A&M-SA to provide hands-on learning opportunities for local San Antonio kids. All of the kids who attend the camps at A&M-SA did so on full scholarships. The camp was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences.

## “What’s Next, Texas?” civil dialogue integrated on campus

In September, A&M-SA was proud to introduce the first-ever Texas edition of the prestigious “What’s Next, Texas?” civil dialogue series. Adapted from programming hosted in Alabama, Kentucky and



West Virginia, this innovative public dialogue program challenges groups of diverse individuals from shared communities to come together to solve common problems through deliberative discussion. In observance of Latinx Heritage Month, this program’s theme was focused on voter education and engagement in San Antonio’s Latinx youth community. Over the course of three sessions, 14 members of the Jaguar community, SAISD, Spawglass and the greater San Antonio area worked together to develop a plan to increase civic participation and address perceived flaws in the current outreach systems. The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement plans to integrate “What’s Next, Texas?” into regular semester programming.

## A&M-SA hosts San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Core4 STEM Family Day

A&M-SA served as host site for the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Core4 STEM Family Day held November 2. More than 30 families and students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in a fun-filled day. They engaged in activities that introduced them to topics focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Activities included sphero racing, flying drones, learning about the human body, and math and science problem-solving exercises in a “panic” room activity. 2018 marked the ninth year of the program, and it was the first year A&M-SA participated as a host site. Abe Maldonado, USAA director of information technology, delivered the keynote address to the families. Maldonado shared his professional journey and the importance of engaging with STEM early on. Dr. Young Rae Kim, Dr. Eunhye Kwon, Dr. Mi Sun Park and undergraduate student assistants from the College of Education and Human Development were organizers and helped implement activities.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**Texas A&M University-San Antonio**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
 For the Year Ended August 31, 2018

	<u>FY 2018 Total</u>	<u>FY 2017 Total</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Tuition and Fees	\$ 42,907,282.75	\$ 35,154,497.84
Discounts and Allowances	(11,006,026.32)	(9,010,827.79)
Professional Fees		
Auxiliary Enterprises	388,642.65	311,880.33
Discounts and Allowances		
Other Sales of Goods and Services	514,077.02	359,282.27
Discounts and Allowances		
Interest Revenue	20.79	(352.70)
Federal Revenue - Operating	741,730.30	69,095.07
Federal Pass Through Revenue	43,352.21	233,510.37
State Grant Revenue		
State Pass Through Revenue	1,325,545.88	1,016,800.00
Other Grants and Contracts - Operating	282,957.98	151,639.16
Other Operating Revenue	126,834.24	87,393.53
	<u>\$ 35,324,417.50</u>	<u>\$ 28,372,918.08</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Instruction	\$ 23,767,403.48	\$ 19,111,162.33
Research	345,042.21	443,566.13
Public Service	362,136.12	398,069.69
Academic Support	7,630,583.42	5,702,101.97
Student Services	11,422,009.43	11,712,501.26
Institutional Support	8,248,936.67	8,071,521.35
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	6,371,052.85	5,028,333.95
Scholarships & Fellowships	9,958,561.06	8,770,194.81
Auxiliary	349,367.90	566,802.64
Depreciation/Amortization	6,186,428.51	5,833,510.68
	<u>\$ 74,641,521.65</u>	<u>\$ 65,637,764.81</u>
<b>Total Operating Income [Loss]</b>	<u>\$ (39,317,104.15)</u>	<u>\$ (37,264,846.73)</u>
<b>Nonoperating Revenues [Expenses]</b>		
Legislative Revenue	\$ 32,215,892.87	\$ 29,000,713.45
Federal Revenue Non-Operating	13,649,328.73	11,503,662.75
Federal Pass Through Non-Operating		1,444.00
State Pass Through Non-Operating		
Gifts	1,748,701.37	830,013.36
Investment Income	2,231,789.66	2,540,061.43
Investing Activities Expense	(90,815.53)	(62,444.66)
Interest Expense		(3,331.48)
Borrower Rebates and Agent Fees		
Gain [Loss] On Sale or Disposal of Capital Assets		
Settlement of Claims	(159,174.08)	
Other Nonoperating Revenue	6,573.69	460.05
Other Nonoperating [Expenses]	(60,711.32)	(1,595,344.32)
	<u>\$ 49,541,585.39</u>	<u>\$ 42,215,234.58</u>
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues [Expenses]</b>	<u>\$ 49,541,585.39</u>	<u>\$ 42,215,234.58</u>
<b>Income [Loss] Before Other Revenues and Transfers</b>	<u>\$ 10,224,481.24</u>	<u>\$ 4,950,387.85</u>

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET



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President



**Melissa Mahan, Ph.D.**

Vice President  
for Student Affairs



**Brandy McLelland**

Vice President  
for Enrollment Management



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**Jessica Loudermilk**

Chief of Staff,  
Director of Presidential Operations

## PRESIDENT'S Report 2018

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Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson

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Dr. Richard Ortega

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### Copy and Production Managers:

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Nan Palmero

### Writers:

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David E. Perryman

Jim Suydam

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Naissa Lopez

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Brandon Oliver

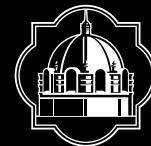


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For information about campus safety and security, please refer to the Annual Security Report located on our University Police Department web page at [tamusa.edu/upd/cleryinfo](http://tamusa.edu/upd/cleryinfo).

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SAN ANTONIO

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