





Dear Readers,

Every semester is different, but fall 2017 certainly stands out. We had barely gotten started when we had to close campus due to Hurricane Harvey. Thankfully, our campus was spared, but many of our Javelina family were directly impacted by this catastrophic storm. I am extremely proud of our campus community and the way we worked together to help not only our own people who faced storm damage, but also people in the surrounding communities. We often hear people talk about our campus environment and how much it feels like a second family, and that was evident throughout the recovery efforts after the storm.

Our Javelina family includes people who have a long history of making this university their home while they earn a degree. Everywhere I go, people proudly tell me of their own Javelina family history and how many members of their family have attended the university. It is amazing to learn about the impact we have on families, and you can read about some of those stories in this issue.

Just a few weeks ago, we learned that we had achieved a long-term goal for the university. We were granted AACSB accreditation for our College of Business Administration. This is a significant achievement that took a great deal of hard work, and you can read more about it in this issue.

Thank you for your support throughout 2017. We are looking forward to the spring 2018 semester and continued success.

Shun H. Lallan

Steven H. Tallant President

# javelina

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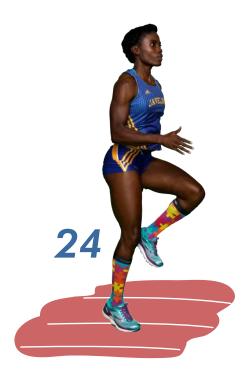


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# President's Picks

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNIVERSITY



#### Golden Key Chapter Wins Key Chapter Status

The Texas A&M University-Kingsville chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society was awarded Key Chapter status—the highest award given by Golden Key, the world's largest collegiate honor society. Key Chapter status is given to those chapters who exemplify outstanding achievement and contributions in the area of Golden Key values and the three pillars of Golden Key—academics, leadership and service.

The chapter was one of 32 globally that received the Key Chapter award for 2016-17. In order to receive the award, the chapter was required to outline five events plus one signature event that brought the chapter beyond gold standing. The application had to show how these six events impacted the campus and the community at large.

Golden Key International Honour Society has 405 chapters across the globe.



#### **New Music Education Complex Construction Begins**

Javelina Nation gathered to officially break ground for the Music Education Complex Sept. 19. The basic building will cost \$47.9 million, with additional costs of \$13.7 million for infrastructure, technology, fees and furnishings. The university was awarded \$60 million in Capital Construction Revenue Bonds from the state to build a new music building. It will be nearly triple in size from the current building from 32,000 square feet to 90,000 square feet. It will have a 450-500-seat performance hall, a 100-seat recital/lecture hall, four large rehearsal halls for band, choir, orchestra and jazz band, and three chamber music/methods halls.

It also will include 48 student practice rooms, 32 faculty studios/offices, five classrooms, two student study areas, one computer music lab, one electronic keyboard lab, one recording studio and one administrative office suite.

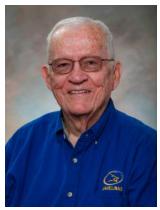
The new building is expected to open in Fall 2019.



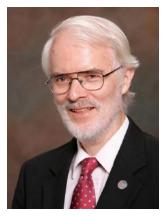
#### College of Engineering Receives Funding for Nuclear Engineering Fellowships

The Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering recently received funding from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to fund the Nuclear Doctoral Fellowship Program. The university will receive \$400,000 over the next four years to fund fellowships for students in the sustainable energy systems or environmental engineering doctoral programs. A total of five students will receive the fellowship over the four-year period.

The fellowships are open to current and future doctoral students in the sustainable energy systems and environmental programs who are or will be doing nuclear-related dissertations. Nuclear projects at Texas A&M-Kingsville include neutronics, thermal hydraulics, advanced reactors, material erosion by ions, radiation dosimetry, and environmental protection and restoration at uranium mining sites.







Dr. Richard Hartwig



Dr. Sonny Davis



Dr. Mike Daniel

#### Four Honored with Emeriti Title

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents recently approved emeritus status for four retired members of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville faculty and staff.

Fred Nuesch has the longest tenure of any of the honorees, putting in 34 years and being named Sports Information Director Emeritus. Nuesch began working at Texas A&I University in 1968 and retired from the SID position in 2003. He remains on campus as coordinator for external relations for the athletic department.

Dr. Richard Hartwig put in 22 years of service with the political science department from 1993 through 2015.

He retired as a full professor and was named Professor Emeritus of Political Science.

Dr. Sonny Davis worked in the history department for 20 years, starting in 1994 and retiring as full professor in 2015. He was named Professor Emeritus of History.

Dr. Mike Daniel served as chair of the health and kinesiology department starting in 2000, and as dean of the College of Education starting in 2008. Daniel retired after 16 years of service as a full professor in 2017 from the Department of Health and Kinesiology. He was named Professor Emeritus of Health and Kinesiology.



#### University Ranked for Leaving Graduates with Low Student Debt

In new studies released by The Student Loan Report, Texas A&M University-Kingsville was highlighted for leaving graduates with low levels of student loan debt and for providing freshman undergraduates substantial amounts of financial aid.

In first report, dubbed Student Loan Debt Per Graduate by School by State, Texas A&M University-Kingsville was ranked #42 in Texas.

This means A&M-Kingsville graduates are entering the workforce with less student debt than their counterparts at other schools.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville also ranked #124 in the Top 250 Public Schools for Freshman Financial Aid report.

This report identifies from which public colleges and universities freshman undergraduate students can expect to receive the most financial aid from. It draws from Peterson's Financial Aid Dataset. which provides financial aid data self-reported by the respective higher education institutions.

# DRONES TAKE WILDLIFE RESEARCH INTO THE FUTURE





ildlife researchers, like those at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI) at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, spend countless hours in the

field tracking and observing the subjects of their research. That research has taken a giant step into the future with the development of drone usage. An unmanned aircraft system (UAS), or drone, can bring the researcher closer to the subject than ever before.



Photo: Burned and unburned South Texas tanglehead plots

"We are using UAS to develop products and solutions that can help us answer questions related to habitat research and wildlife detection." Dr. Humberto Perotto, assistant professor for the CKWRI, said.

The UAS program at the CKWRI started in fall 2016 as a partnership with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. "The aim of this collaboration was to map prescribed burned areas and quantify the changes in species and forage standing crop resulting from fire and pasture use by cattle," he said.

"As a result, we generated very high resolution imagery and 3D models that are helping measure the amount of standing forage in South Texas rangelands," Perotto added.

This summer, researchers in the CKWRI started flying the Institute's own drone, a DJI Phantom 4. "The testing phase is now completed and we are starting to fly new projects that will enhance our geospatial technology capabilities across our research programs," he said.

Perotto said they have been testing for optimal altitude and camera angles.

"We have been looking at 150 feet in altitude and we can see mesquite and oak trees and we can determine some vegetation."

They are able to see about half a mile around with the drone, and the camera's images are 50 times better than aerial photographs. "We can take the UAS out for several hours and then take the footage back to the researchers," he said.

"In October, we tested the use of UAS for detecting wildlife. The use of UAS for wildlife detection is an important new area of research and we are currently testing methodologies to detect wildlife species from UAS by looking at altitudes, camera angles and time of the day to make some initial recommendations on how UAS can be used in wildlife detection, particularly white-tailed deer," Perotto said.

"We have been working with a ranch that has ten 200-acre enclosures. We have done deer counts there before, so we know how many deer are in each enclosure. We will take the drone out there and fly transects back and forth and see how accurate the counts are, compared to the number we know are there," Dr. David Hewitt, professor and Leroy G. Denman Jr., Endowed Executive Director of Wildlife Research, stated.



Photo/Circle: White-tail deer from UAS

In the past, helicopters have been necessary for similar monitoring. "The drones are safer and cheaper than hiring a helicopter," Hewitt added.

In addition to better-quality images, Perotto said manpower is not as big an issue with the new ways of looking at animals and forage. "We have four people that have eyes on the drone at all times. If you were using a helicopter for a survey, you would have to gather a lot of people to help."

"We are currently developing projects that aim at quantifying vegetation at very high resolutions," Perotto said. "With these very fine spatial resolutions, we will have access to levels of detail that were not possible five years ago with commercial satellite imagery or traditional aerial photography.

"This is important as it provides new insights on how vegetation distribution can affect wildlife habitat and livestock use in South Texas rangelands at very fine spatial scales. This will complement the research done with remote sensing imagery such as the LANSDAT program from NASA and the National Agriculture Imagery Program from the USDA's Farm Service Agency," he added.

"Our next projects include using UAS to map and quantify biomass using 3D models, refining approaches for white-tailed deer detection and using UAS imagery to provide detailed data for modeling broad scale coastal habitat for shorebirds in South Texas," Perotto said.

Funding for the UAS program has been provided by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Rene Barrientos Tuition Assistance program, Ken Leonard Fund for Cattle Wildlife Interactions, and a Hispanic-serving Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Perotto said UAS technology is something that didn't exist even five years ago. "The sky is the limit as to how we can use this technology to help our researchers."

#### **FACULTY NOTES**



Dr. Hans Schumann, associate professor in the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar and will spend next semester teaching classes in Albania on southeastern Europe's Balkan Peninsula.

As Albania has been accepted as an official candidate for admission to the European Union, Schumann will be working with students and faculty at Luarasi University to help prepare them for a future in international business.

"I am thrilled to have been selected to be a Fulbright Scholar. It is indeed an honor," Schumann said. "I personally love being exposed to other cultures and this will be an adventure. As far as I can see, almost nothing in Albania looks to be written in English and I know no Albanian, Russian or Italian. I have been reassured, however, that I can teach in English and that the students, faculty and I will be able to communicate."

Schumann came to Texas A&M-Kingsville in 2009 and has taught courses in economics, finance, product pricing and international business at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Prior to teaching, Schumann spent 20 years as a marketing and strategic planning executive.



Dr. George Allen Rasmussen was named Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs during the fall 2017 semester. Rasmussen serves as Vice President for Research & Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and will continue fulfilling those duties while Interim Provost. He has been with the university since 2002, serving in both faculty and administrative roles during that time. Rasmussen was dean of the Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences from 2007-2016.

He has also been Associate Vice President for Research, and previously served as an interim provost from April 2009-July 2009. He holds a Ph.D. and a M.S. in Range Science, and a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology.



**Dr. Shad D. Nelson** has been selected as the sole finalist for the position of Dean for the Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences.

Nelson has served as the interim dean of the college since 2016. He also is a professor of plant and soil sciences. Nelson has been a faculty member with Texas A&M-Kingsville since 2001.

From 2006 to 2016, he served as chair of the Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental Sciences.

He holds a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of California, Riverside, along with an M.S. in Agronomy and a B.S. in Horticulture Science, both from Brigham Young University.



**Dr. Thomas M. Spencer** has been selected as the sole finalist for the position of dean for the Honors College.

Spencer has served as the director of Honors Student Affairs at Eastern Illinois University's Sandra and Jack Pine Honors College since 2012.

Prior to his time at Eastern Illinois University, Spencer was director of the Honors Program at

Northwest Missouri State University and a tenured professor of history. He oversaw the Honors Program there from 2008 to 2012, and was a faculty member from 1997 to 2012.

Spencer received a Ph.D. in History from Indiana University, Bloomington; an M.A. in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia; and a B.A. in History from Trinity University, San Antonio.

## **Bringing South Texas** to South Florida

# A look inside one student's learning experience in the Florida Keys

childhood ambition to help animals motivated 21-year-old Beatriz Jiminez to study veterinary technology at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The Houston native took her passion all the way to Florida and completed an externship at Marathon Veterinary Hospital in the summer of 2017.

"I was nervous at first about traveling so far," explained the A&M-Kingsville senior. "At the end of the day, I decided to take my chances and go for it."

It's not every day that a college student is offered an opportunity to work out of state before graduating, but Jiminez's dedication to perfecting her craft is what helped her grab the life-changing externship.

Through the help and professional network of Dr. Clayton Hilton, director of the A&M-Kingsville Veterinary Technology program, Jiminez was matched with an excellent opportunity.

"Dr. Hilton got back to us with the clinics that were open to the opportunity. Marathon Veterinary Hospital came up, and after doing some of my own research, I found several characteristics that drew me to the clinic. They have the latest technology and offer general and advanced medicine. I also had the privilege to meet the co-owner of the clinic, Dr. Doug Mader, who also is the author and editor of *Reptile Medicine and Surgery*."

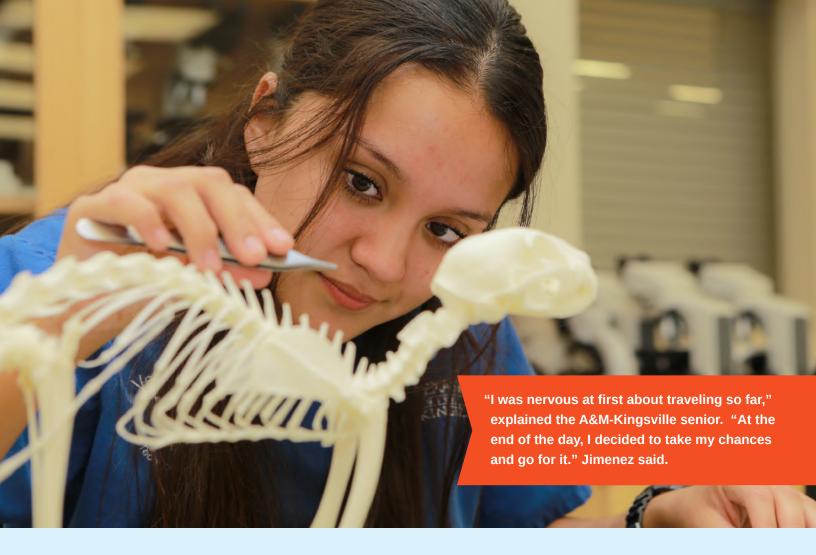


The externship allowed Jiminez to develop handson skills working under the guidance of a leading expert in his field.

"Dr. Mader has an incredibly busy schedule, but during the times he was there, I was able to help him with ultrasounds and performing cystocenteses – the process of using a needle to collect urine samples through the abdominal wall of an animal. We primarily worked on dogs and cats."

Aside from working among some of the best people in the field, Jiminez found that the pace of the clinic, along with the scope of the work performed there, helped her develop a broad set of experiences.

"It's an emergency clinic. In fact, they are the only veterinary hospital that stays open 24 hours in all of the



Florida Keys," she explained. "It was great because I was able to get the overnight experience, and what was especially interesting is that Dr. Mader's wife, Dr. Gerry Diethelm, is a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist. I had no idea it was possible to perform acupuncture on dogs until I worked at this clinic!"

Life as a veterinary technician means that no day is ever the same—a factor that drew Jiminez to the field.

"I was able to see two macaws; one was there boarding, and the other had a broken wing. During treatment, I helped change the food and water, cleaned bedding and administered medication as needed," she explained. "There was also a palm cockatoo that came in from the local shelter, who was not feeling too well. They showed me how to perform venipuncture on him and where to administer subcutaneous fluids."

Jiminez was impressed by the staff at Marathon Veterinary Hospital and even received an invitation to return.

"I was offered a chance to go back to the clinic after graduation, so that is something I want to consider," she noted.

"I'm currently working at Animal Medical Clinic, where I continue to put what I have learned in school into real-life practice. I am so happy to be there. They are an amazing staff who are willing to contribute to my learning process."

Jiminez, who graduates in May 2018, will not only conclude her time at A&M-Kingsville with her degree in hand; she will also finish with a hands-on learning experience for which she is grateful.

"I have always wanted to work with animals, ever since I was little," she said. "When I first came to Texas A&M-Kingsville, my major was animal science. As I got close to my second year here, I was informed about the Veterinary Technology program. It has a lot to offer in terms of the latest technology, and we are even taught how to properly restrain an animal, perform x-rays, and administer medication. Being at this university has been a great experience, and all the professors I have had have been very helpful throughout my college years."



TIVE GEHELACIONS OF CAVELINAS

Harriet Alice Phillips Williams is one of the biggest Javelina fans around. You don't often see Harriet, or "Momma Hog" as she is called, without her blue and gold clothing, reflecting her love of all things Javelina—that includes her family, who share her Javelina pride.

Williams is the middle link in a chain of five generations of family members who attended classes at Javelina Nation over the decades. This semester, her grandson, Ryan Smith, joined the university family as the fifth generation.

Harriet's father, Andrew Ramsay Phillips, was the first member of the family to become a Javelina. He earned two degrees from Texas College of Arts and Industries—his bachelor's degree in economics in 1949 and a master's degree in economics in 1950. In the late 1950s or early 1960s, Harriet's grandmother, Ellen Pratt Ramsay Phillips, received a master's degree, also from Texas College of Arts and Industries.

Harriet officially joined the Javelina family in fall 1969, receiving her bachelor's degree in secondary vocational home economics in 1974 from Texas A&I University. "I had my first taste of Texas A&I while attending a Dad's Day football game. My brother, Andy, was attending school here at the time and my parents decided to attend the game and Dad's Day activities," she said.

"My brother had been talking about the 'issues' surrounding the game. The kicker had stubbed his kicking toe on the door of his dorm room and did not know if he would be available for the game. The story is famous because that kicker kicked the winning field goal with less than a minute left in the game, to give the Javelinas the victory and remain undefeated. I was a sophomore in high school then and I told myself, 'That is where I want to go to college,'" Harriet said.

Harriet's daughter, Lisa Ann Williams Smith, attended Texas A&I University for two semesters in fall 1991 and spring 1992.

And that brings us to the present, where Harriet's grandson, Ryan, is in his first semester as a kinesiology major, with the hopes of becoming a high school soccer coach. Keeping with tradition, Ryan works on campus for the sports information department, the same area his mother worked when she was a student.

Did Harriet have any influence on her grandson becoming a Javelina? "I don't think so, but I do know that from the day he was born, Ryan has attended every home Javelina football game and almost all of the women's and men's basketball games," Harriet said.

"During his senior year at Richard King High School in Corpus Christi, he was getting offers from universities to run cross country and he would ask me 'Grandma, what should I do?' and I would tell him to do what made him happy. Of course, truth be told, deep down in my heart, I wanted him to come to the best university on the planet. The day he told me that he had been accepted to Javelina Nation, I just sat down and cried tears of joy," she said.

Ryan said he decided to attend Texas A&M-Kingsville because he grew up around campus. "It just feels like home to me. I looked at other schools and applied to several others, but at the end of the day, I knew I'd become a Javelina," he said.

Not only has Javelina Nation been good to Harriet's family, but it brought that family together as she met her husband, Eugene James Williams, while both were students.

"I wanted to go to a dance in Corpus Christi in December of 1970," Harriet said. "I said something to my roommate and she knew of someone who was 'crazy enough to go with you.' On Dec. 5, 1970, Eugene Williams invited me to go to a Javelina men's basketball game so we could get to know each other. We went to the dance the next day and the rest is history."

Eugene proposed 10 days later.

"And 46 years later, we are still attending Javelina men's basketball games and football games, and women's basketball games, softball and baseball games, and volleyball and beach volleyball games," she said.

For "Momma Hog," Javelina Nation is more than a university, it is family—a sentiment she would share with students thinking about attending Texas A&M-Kingsville.

"Texas A&M-Kingsville is a place to receive an education that will allow you to achieve your dreams and goals for the future. It is close to home, yet the college atmosphere is one that allows the individual to belong to the family of university students, faculty and staff."



Rafael "Ralph" Rubalcaba

#### MY JAVELINA FAMILY:

# The Rubalcabas

At Texas A&M University-Kingsville, for some, Blue & Gold is a family tradition.

Rafael "Ralph" Rubalcaba III says he never felt pressure from his alumni family to attend their alma mater, but the exposure to all things Javelina sure helped when it came time to make a decision.

"My first memory of the university was coming to a playoff game when I was in second grade. The stadium was sold out, the band had to play on the track, and they put extra stands in the end zones. That was the greatest atmosphere to be in as a kid. That's when I got addicted to football," Rubalcaba said.

It was memories like those that led Rubalcaba to pursue football at the collegiate level. The Raymondville native accepted an offer to play at A&M-Kingsville, and his family couldn't have been prouder.

"I was excited. I would take him and his brothers to the Javelina football games while they were all growing up," dad Rafael Rubalcaba Jr. said. "Obviously, he was thrilled when Coach Jaime Martinez recruited him. While other colleges came calling, Ralph had always been intrigued with the Javelinas' rich history."

Ralph recalled, "When I got into high school, the routine was I play Friday, then on Saturday, my dad, brothers and I would drive up to come watch the Hogs. We loved doing that every weekend, it was our hobby. Others like hunting and fishing, but for us, what we enjoyed doing was coming to watch the Hogs play."



Ralph played center for the Javelina football team for four years. His family was at his side for support. They attended every home football game and made a tradition of having game-day breakfast together.

"Every Saturday, my family would be here, as well as some close family friends of ours. My family called itself 'Ralphie's Pack,'" Ralph said—the Rubalcabas' own version of Porky's Pack, the university's athletics-based kid's club seen at football games.

Ralph graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing in May 2017. He is currently working toward a master's in business administration.

"My Dad would always say, 'You will meet your lifelong friends in college,' and I now see what he was talking about. I've met some great people while I've been here, both in football and in school, and I'm grateful for that," Ralph said.

Ralph credits his father and his uncle, two proud alumni, for showing him what Javelina pride looks like. His uncle, George Rubalcaba, graduated from Texas A&I in 1973 and his father graduated in 1985; both earned civil engineering degrees.

"This university, to my family, means the foundation on which my career future was based, as well as my personal future. I met my wife there, and it provided me the education to acquire a great job and financial stability for my family," George said.

Ralph, Rafael and George aren't the only Rubalcabas with ties to the university.

"My brothers currently attend here, as well as my cousin," Ralph said. "Cosme is a senior, who will graduate in the spring, Adrian is a sophomore, and my cousin Danielle is a junior. My sister is a senior in high school right now and we're convincing her to come here, and my brother Ivan is a seventh grader, who already says he wants to be a Hog, too.

"We'll be around for a while. We love Javelina Nation," Ralph said.



#### **Stronger Teachers**

Officials from the College of Education and Human Performance and the Office of Student Access at Texas A&M University-Kingsville have received a \$2.75 million five-year Title V grant from the United States Department of Education to enhance teacher preparation.

The Javelina Teacher Preparation Enhancement Project (JTPEP) will begin this year and is funded through 2022. University officials will implement services and activities that increase the capacity and effectiveness of the University-Based Educator Preparation Program (UBEPP).

"The Title V Teacher Prep Grant, in partnership with the Office of Student Access, will provide a greater opportunity for our local education agencies and prospective teachers to learn about the latest technological trends that will impact the future of teacher education," said Dr. Alberto Ruiz, dean of the College of Education and Human Performance.

"On-site teachers and student teachers will be allowed to increase their professional development through in-service training provided by the grant. We will be providing prospective teachers that have better qualities in the classroom. It will be a great opportunity for the South Texas region and beyond," he said.

"The college will be able to provide training for teachers already out in the field and then utilize them as mentors for our students heading out to student teach," said Dr. Mary Gonzalez, associate vice president for student access. "This will ensure area district partners benefit from the university offering teachers enhanced professional development and stipends."

#### **Successful Students**

Texas A&M University-Kingsville has received \$5.2 million from the United States Department of Education to fund new and continuing Upward Bound programs that will be used at various high schools throughout the Coastal Bend.

Dr. Mary Gonzalez, associate vice president for Student Access, said the money is divided over four programs and each grant is for five years. "Programs that provide critical linkages for completion of high school and matriculation to a university are vitally important in our region and across the state of Texas. The university is acutely aware of the importance of outreach and helping all students succeed in furthering their education."

Two Upward Bound and two Upward Bound Math and Science programs were funded. A new Upward Bound Rural program was funded for Premont and Raymondville Independent School Districts and an existing Upward Bound Math and Science rural program was refunded for the Robstown Independent School District, with Premont added.

Gonzalez said each of the programs will serve 60 students, two-thirds of which must be first generation college students and low income as defined by the federal government. The remaining one-third must be at risk of dropping out or have one of the two previous criteria.

"Some attend the surrounding community colleges, but the matriculation rates to college overall average 86 percent over the last 10 years, Gonzalez said. "The majority does eventually attend Texas A&M-Kingsville and their persistence in college is higher for students that are first generation and low income."

Gonzalez also received continuing funding for the Ronald McNair Program for \$1.3 million over the next five years and another \$1.2 million over five years for the Educational Opportunity Center regular program. The McNair Program prepares undergraduate juniors and seniors who are aspiring to continue their study in graduate school. The Educational Opportunity Center provides adults 19 years old and older who have dropped out of school, with information and services aimed at supporting return to a secondary or post-secondary education.







fficials at the College of Business Administration at Texas
A&M University-Kingsville are still celebrating after they
were notified in November, that they had been accepted
for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of
Business (AACSB). This puts the Texas A&M-Kingsville business college
among the top five percent of all business schools around the world.

"This is great news for the university and for the College of

"This is great news for the university and for the College of Business Administration," Dr. Steven H. Tallant, university president, said. "Everyone has worked hard for several years to achieve this goal—from the dean, Dr. Natalya Delcoure, to the faculty, to the students. I am proud of the tremendous amount of work our staff and faculty put into this effort, so that we can advance our business college to the next level. I also want to thank the Dean's Leadership Board for giving their time and expertise during this entire process."

"One of the most gratifying discoveries through the accreditation journey has been about how we – faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends of the college, employers and other key stakeholders – collectively share in the mission and vision of the college," Delcoure said. "From different perspectives and using different expressions, everybody spoke the same language. Achieving accreditation cemented this unity, created a feeling of belonging to a community and network of excellence."

"This is an amazing accomplishment and Bay Ltd. is proud to be affiliated with Texas A&M University-Kingsville," Edward A. Martin, president and chief executive officer of Berry Contracting, and member of the Dean's Leadership Board, said. "This latest accolade of receiving AACSB accreditation is yet another testament of their leadership's commitment to continuously improving their programs. They are dedicated to providing their students with a relevant education and giving them the tools they need to

secure a professional position after graduation."

"The College of Business Administration will be able to recruit at the highest level," alumnus Leonard A. Bedell, president and chief executive officer of Mobil Steel International Inc. and member of the Dean's Leadership Board, said of the accreditation. "The AACSB is the highest accreditation of all (that) universities (can earn).

"As an alumnus, I am very grateful and proud of the efforts and leadership of College of Business Administration Dean Delcoure and the support of President Tallant. This is a major accomplishment and I am very proud that our college is making significant contributions to the lives of our students, faculty and the community," Bedell said.

"AACSB congratulates
Texas A&M University-Kingsville and
Dean Natalya Delcoure on earning accreditation," Robert D. Reid,
executive vice president and chief
accreditation officer of AACSB International, said of the news. "AACSB
accreditation represents the highest achievement for an educational
institution that awards business
degrees. The entire CBA team—including the administration, faculty,
directors, staff and students—are
to be commended for their roles in
earning accreditation."

Synonymous with the highest standards of quality, AACSB accreditation inspires new ways of thinking within business education globally, and as a result, has been earned by less than five percent of the world's business schools. Today,

Ba

there are 799 institutions across 53 countries and territories that maintain AACSB accreditation. Furthermore, 185 institutions maintain an additional specialized AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs.

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# Moment with an Expert



#### Dr. Jeffrey Glick

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Interim Chair of History, Political Science and Philosophy

#### ON PHILOSOPHY

hilosophy is typically defined as the study of the nature of reality and existence, of what it is possible to know, and of right and wrong behavior.

Philosophy has had its cynics through the years, who have hung labels like "ponderous," "subjective" and "outdated" on it. For some, this raises the question -- "Is philosophy really worth studying?"

Dr. Jeffrey Glick would say that, by asking this question, you are practicing philosophy.

Glick serves as an associate professor of philosophy at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and he is currently the interim chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy.

Glick has been with A&M-Kingsville since 2011, and before that, he served as a

visiting assistant professor at the University of Rochester. He holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and a B.A. from California State

University, Northridge. Glick has authored articles and reviews, presented at international

conferences, and teaches classes on logic, ethics, and free will, among other topics.





## How did the study of philosophy begin?

The beginnings of the study of philosophy are hard to identify without controversy. Philosophy developed in different ways, at different times, in different parts of the world. The type of philosophy that is taught in most English-speaking institutions around the world -- and the type I am trained in -- has its origins in Ancient Greece in the seventh century BCE. But it really takes off when Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle arrive on the scene around 400 BCE. Philosophical thought occurs whenever people consider topics like what really matters in life, what we know about the world, or what it means to be a person.

### What are some common misconceptions about philosophy?

One common misconception about philosophy is that it is something only a select group of especially intelligent and well-read people can do. The reality is that philosophy involves developing a set of analytical and conceptual skills that can be deployed to clarify diverse types of questions in every field of inquiry. For example, the method that Socrates used—asking careful questions and logically evaluating the details of the answers—was initially used to investigate the nature of piety and the extent of our knowledge of geometry. But, that method can also be applied with equal effectiveness to questions like who committed a murder, or how best to design the layout of a city. Clear thinking, rational evaluation of evidence, and openness to possible objections are skills that anyone can cultivate.

#### What drew you to philosophy?

The thing that drew me to philosophy is that it is the only subject where one can ask any question about anything. No other field is as open about the range of issues that can be addressed. For example, in studying contract law, students are not advised to investigate different theories of the basis for contractual obligations. In studying engineering, one does not typically engage with disputes over the nature of numbers. But in philosophy, fundamental questions are the meat and potatoes of the field. Philosophers studying knowledge might well find support for their views from theories of syntax, psychology or formal logic. Even logic itself is a subject of discussion and

controversy within philosophy. It is intellectually liberating to have the entire horizon of human thought within the range of one's research.

# Texas A&M University-Kingsville offers a minor in philosophy. What can a philosophy minor do for a student academically and/or after graduation?

A minor in philosophy is a powerful tool. A good analogy is to think of your major as a sport that you play and philosophy as the weight room and track. All athletes, regardless of their sport, can benefit from the fitness and strength that develop from attending to basic physical conditioning. Similarly, all majors can benefit from sending their brains to the intellectual gymnasium of philosophy. You learn to identify correct and incorrect reasoning in all areas. You develop the immensely useful ability to spot [nonsense]--, no matter how much rhetorical perfume coats it. And you develop the writing skills to express clear arguments in ways that take all relevant evidence seriously.

# What does the future hold for the field of philosophy? How does it change and grow with the times—or do the times change around it?

The future of philosophy involves both a continuation of research projects from the ancient past and the creation of new projects that arise as a result of scientific and technological progress. Philosophers of today are still interested in understanding what it means to have free will, which has been a topic of philosophical investigation for centuries. But now, unlike a thousand years ago, we can incorporate the results of neurology, cognitive psychology, and computer science to help us better understand what it means to make a free choice -- or, perhaps, why no one can make a free choice! Similarly, theories of right and wrong from the past can be deployed to help us navigate the difficult moral dilemmas that have never before faced humanity. For example, how much genetic manipulation of an embryo should parents be allowed to buy? Genetic augmentation is coming; we, as a society, will need to decide how we are going to regulate it. This raises philosophical questions about social inequality, the duties of parents to their children, and the role of government in controlling people's lives and decisions.



# IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES IN MUSIC PLAY





has shown that young children who receive music education show an increase in their IQ compared to their counterparts who did not. However, music programs are often the first to be cut when a school district seeks financial savings.

One Texas A&M University-Kingsville faculty member is trying to change that with music play classes. Dr. Catherine Ming Tu, assistant professor of music education, guides her music education students in the ways to be a successful teacher, but she also instituted the Javelina Music Play program.

"The Children's Music Development Lab offers one nine-week session of Music Play each fall and spring. Javelina Music Play classes at the Department of Music are part of an innovative program designed to stimulate creativity and the music potential of young children," Tu said.

She bases her lab on *Music Learning Theory for Newborns and Young Children* by Edwin Gordon. "Gordon's research suggests that children are born with high music aptitude, but unless they are introduced and cultivated in a musical environment, that music aptitude will decrease as they get older before stabilizing around age nine," Tu said.

The study of the role music plays in early childhood is a relatively new field, she noted. "(It) emerged in the 1990s due to the neurological findings associated with brain research. Neurologists stressed the importance of the first five years of life and the necessity for creating environments that provide appropriate stimulation of the five senses for optimum development and growth."

In 2016, Tu conducted research with Dr. Brenda Hannon, Associate Professor of Psychology at Texas A&M-Kingsville, on the effects of a daily literacy-based music program on preschoolers' linguistic skills and IQ.





"In the study, 43 children were exposed to a 13-week music program for five 30-minute music lessons per week. The control group did not have any additional music instruction besides their regular instruction," Tu said. "Results dictated that the experimental group had significant improvement in their IQ when comparing pre- and post-tests to their control group."

"Music is best learned if informal music guidance is begun as early in life as possible," she said. "In the Music Play Program, children are guided by their teachers, parents and caregivers to develop music skills through fun, playful, socially interactive music activities.

"Older children are introduced to a variety of musical instruments. The goal of the program is to help children increase their music aptitude or music IQ and develop initial music skills that prepare them for a lifetime of music enjoyment and appreciation," Tu added.

Javelina Music Play is for young children from birth to eight years old, divided into three age groups: Babies Music Play, for children from birth to three years old; Kids Music Play, for children three to six years old; and the Javelina Orff-Schulwerk Youth (JOY) ensemble, for children six to eight years old.

"The Babies Music Play class is all about exploration with children listening to a variety of styles, tonalities and meters," she said. "Babies learn music in much the same way they learn a language. After listening to the sounds of her native language for some months, a child goes through a stage of language babble, in which she experiments with speech sounds that do not make sense to adult listeners.

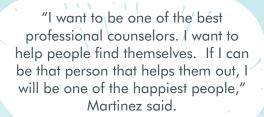
"Soon afterward, she 'breaks the code' of her language and is able to first imitate words and then use them meaningfully in phrases and sentences on her own. Babies also go through stages of music babble, in which they make sounds that typically do not make musical sense to adults," Tu said.

Class size is limited to 12 children per class, and each child is accompanied by a caregiver for the entire class time. Caregivers participate in class with children younger than three. Depending on the social and emotional needs and desires of the older children, a caregiver may or may not participate.

Tu said she also believes outreach and service to the South Texas community play an important role at Texas A&M-Kingsville. In addition to providing high-quality early childhood music instruction to children in the Kingsville area, she hopes to provide instruction at several other locations around South Texas.

Although the Javelina Music Play program at Texas A&M-Kingsville has only been in existence for two years, it is thriving and continuing to grow in scope and mission, Tu said. "Because this program is based within a university, it can develop along several dimensions. Young children can receive outstanding instruction in music, university students can enhance their education, and music education as a profession can continue to move forward through research."

Tu believes that every child is born with an innate and profound musicality. "At the most basic and obvious level, this musicality is demonstrated every day in such things as our ability to walk and talk. Our musicality is a gift and with proper nurturing, it grows with your child."



# NCAA Woman of the Year Finalist, and a Whole Lot More

exas A&M-Kingsville track and field standout Kaina Martinez was named as one of the nine finalists for the 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

According to NCAA, schools nominated a record 543 women for the award this year, which conferences then narrowed to 145 nominees to be considered by the committee. The Top 30 honorees, including 10 from each of the three NCAA divisions, have demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics, community service and leadership.

The Belize native excelled in academics, graduating summa cum laude earning a 4.0 GPA and earning bachelor's degrees in speech communication and sociology. She also earned plenty of distinctions on the track.

A sprinter for the track and field team, Martinez won two NCAA Division II national championships in relay events for outdoor track and field, including the 4x100-meter relay in 2016 and the 4x400 relay in 2015. She also collected 12 conference championship titles in several events, including the 400, 200, 100, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay.

Martinez was also voted the 2017 Lone Star Conference Female Track Athlete of the Year by the league's head coaches, an award she achieved for the second consecutive year. She is the first woman in A&M-Kingsville history to attain such an accomplishment.

The All-American also has represented her home country of Belize in international competition during the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

"When I got to the Olympics, as an individual you want to achieve something and you go through all these different obstacles. Being able to overcome all that to achieve something that you've wanted to, I was like 'I'm here, I made it,'" she said.

Success didn't always come easy for Martinez. She says it took years of hard work and dedication.

"The process of actually getting here, as a student athlete was a long one. In fact, I wasn't an athlete for two years prior to coming here, but that didn't stop me. I got the opportunity to be a student athlete at the age of 28. Back when I was at home in Belize I didn't achieve what I wanted. I remember when I finished high school, I said 'I'm never going to stay at just a high school certificate,' I wanted more," Martinez said.

She is currently studying to earn her master's in counseling at A&M-Kingsville.

"I want to be one of the best professional counselors. I want to help people find themselves. If I



Photo: Martinez at the NCAA Women of the Year Ceremony

can be that person that helps them out, I will be one of the happiest people," Martinez said.

Whether it be through counseling or coaching, Martinez has a heart of service, saying her happiness comes from helping others.

"I figured that there are other kids like me, that would not get that opportunity to go beyond natural talent. I wanted to make sure that I contribute to somebody's life."

She founded the "Kaina Martinez Children Annual Track and Field Camp" in her hometown in Belize, which she has hosted on an annual basis for five years. Martinez also served her country as an officer cadet in the Belize National Coast Guard.

"I started the camp to use it as a catalyst to help kids find themselves and see the purpose of education and sports because you can't really have one without the other. As much as I love sports, it's not everything. You only have so many years to do sports, so I tell my kids, education first," she added.



On August 25, Hurricane Harvey left behind waves of destruction and heartbreak along the Texas Gulf Coast. Its impact continues to be felt months after it came ashore. However, in the midst of that devastation rose the true spirit and compassion of humanity, a spirit which proves that everything truly is bigger in Texas.

Members of Javelina Nation have been doing their part to help in the recovery, putting on their work gloves and most comfortable shoes to head out and make a difference in any way that they could.

Part of that assistance came in the form of a white pickup truck carrying members of Kappa Delta Chi. Javelina alumna and McAllen native Jessica Saavedra offered her help in hard-hit Rockport, where she and other sorority members picked up debris and offered sets of hands anywhere that they were needed.

"Kappa Delta Chi has strong ties to the community," she explained. "Many of us didn't even think twice about helping, even if we had prior commitments. We tried our best to head out there for the cleanup effort because we wanted to help in any way that we could."

The group of volunteers were met by several other Texans ready and willing to offer their support.

"Our group was paired up with a husband and wife that came from Austin. They had chainsaws and other machinery, which worked out because our group didn't have any of that," Saavedra said. "It worked out because we worked together to clear debris from properties that had fallen branches all over their yards and on top of their houses."



Photo: Left to right: Amanda Cantu, Veronica Ortiz, Jessica Saavedra, Tiffany Trevino, Sara Lim, Queta Oyervides, Lyza Hughes and Samantha Diaz.

Kappa Delta Chi was not the only organization from Javelina Nation that set out to make a difference in storm recovery. The A&M-Kingsville Wildlife Society also lent a helping hand in Refugio, a city that suffered vast infrastructure damage.

George West native Jae Edlin said small groups of volunteers turned into larger groups that had one distinct goal in mind—make a difference.

"I began assisting family and friends that were impacted by the storm," said Edlin. "This turned into helping entire communities and bringing teams between 10 and 30 people to head out to help strangers and friends. We cleaned up fences and properties, cut up downed trees and brush," Edlin said. "We used chainsaws and other tools to clear lots and also assisted with supply deliveries." Despite sometimes being exhausted from working long hours to get as much done as they could, all Javelina parties involved say they intend to go back and offer additional help. "We will definitely go back to help rebuild the city after the additional debris is cleared." reassured Saavedra. "There were so many people from out of town who did not have a tie to the community, but saw the devastation on the news and decided to help when they didn't have to. Even people who lost their homes were out there doing what they could. It was amazing to see."

# Javelina organizations that helped in Harvey Recovery include:

Rodeo Team

**Campus Activities Board** 

Javelina Sapphires

National Society of Black Engineers

Theta Phi Alpha

Student Government Association

Residence Hall Association

Sigma Chi

Delta Chi

Pre-physical therapy

Society of Women's Engineering

Omega Delta Phi

American Society of Medical Students

American Association of Environmental Engineers

Football

Women's Basketball

Men's Basketball

Women's Tennis

Baseball

Student Athletic Advisory Committee





Sea turtles can rest assured, knowing they have a friend in Javelina Nation alumna
Dr. Donna Shaver. She received her Master of Science degree in 1984 and has since had a remarkable career in conservation.

#### What was your course of study?

My major was biology and my minor was range and wildlife management. My thesis project was: *The surf zone fish fauna of Padre Island National Seashore.* 

#### What are some of your accolades?

I have delivered more than 110 scientific presentations and have authored or co-authored more than 90 publications and reports dealing with sea turtles. I've been interviewed by *Dateline, Discovery News, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Texas Country Reporter, Texas Monthly,* and numerous other media outlets. I have received several awards for my work and was named *ABC World News Tonight's* "Person of the Week" on July 29, 2005, as well as the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* 2011 "Newsmaker of the Year" on January 1, 2012.

#### Please describe your current occupation.

I am chief of the division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery for the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore. I have worked with sea turtles for the last 37 years. I oversee a variety of sea turtle research and conservation projects conducted in Texas, and I am the Texas coordinator of the Sea Turtle Stranding and

Salvage Network. I collaborate with other researchers in the U.S. and Mexico, and provide training and leadership to hundreds of biologists and volunteers working with sea turtles in Texas and Mexico.

I work exclusively with sea turtles. All five species that occur in Texas are federally and state classified as threatened or endangered. Most of my work is on Kemp's ridley, the most critically endangered sea turtle species in the world. Work has been underway for decades to form a secondary nesting colony of this species at Padre Island National Seashore as a safeguard against extinction. I began nest detection efforts for this species at the National Seashore in 1986 and these efforts have grown

through time, as has nesting here.

During 2017, a record 219 Kemp's ridley nests were recorded at Padre Island National Seashore, bringing us one step closer to attaining the goal of forming a secondary nesting colony of this native species in that location. We search the beach for nests and retrieve the eggs for protected care.









Hatchlings are released under protection and the public is invited to attend about 25 releases of hatchlings each year. Thousands of people attend, and many travel here from other states or other countries to see it. During 2017, more than 17,000 people attended the 27 releases held, which set a new attendance record. This project has been widely publicized.

#### How did your education prepare you for your career?

My education at A&M-Kingsville prepared me to conduct field biology activities. I learned how to collect accurate biological observation and collection data. Most importantly, I learned a keen appreciation of the wildlife and habitats of Texas and Mexico.

## What is one of your fondest memories about being a student at A&M-Kingsville?

One of my fondest memories of being a student at Texas A&M-Kingsville was the field trips that we took in Texas and Mexico to study the fauna there. We saw beautiful and interesting places and animals in Texas and Mexico. I doubt that I would have been able to see these places and learn about them had it not been for these field trips.

#### What do you think makes this university unique?

I think that the size and location of the university, as well as the nationally acclaimed programs, make the university unique. Because it is a smaller university, you can get around easily and get to know the university and its students and professors. At a larger university, there may be parts of the campus that you never have the time or opportunity to see, and you may not have the same students in your classes from year to year. At A&M-Kingsville, you are able to walk from class to class and there is housing available within walking distance. Yet, there are top notch professors and internationally acclaimed programs at Texas A&M-Kingsville. The Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, National Natural Toxins Research Center, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management and other centers of research at A&M-Kingsville are conducting cutting-edge research that is producing results that are critical to understanding our natural environment, managing natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. and benefitting human health and safety.

#### What do you enjoy the most about your occupation?

I love many things about my job. I love working to try to help restore a critically endangered species so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. I love working to try to make a difference in this world, and helping to preserve the resources of this beautiful National Park Service system. I am proud to have dedicated my career to providing service to our country as an employee of the U.S. government. I love working with the many people that aid with the project at Padre Island National Seashore, including bright, inquisitive, hard-working people who are working in my division, volunteers that are donating their time to aid with this work, and staff working with other park divisions. I also enjoy working with other partners in the state and in Mexico who are also devoted to helping save the critically endangered Kemp's ridley turtle. Lastly, I cannot forget mentioning how much I love seeing the public at hatchling releases and hearing their stories about traveling long distances to come see hatchling releases, how much they have wanted to see a release, and how much they enjoyed seeing a release and learning about the plight of the species.

## Any words of wisdom you want to share with future conservationists?

Keep studying hard and do not give up. Conservation and restoration of imperiled species can take many years of effort. Getting a job in this field can take a lot of effort, too, but it can be a very rewarding career path.



Photo: Donna Shaver and Colin Campbell releashing hatchlings at Padre Island National Seashore.

# POST-HOLIDAY SUSTAINABLE TIPS

From Kelli-Mae Goddard-Sobers,
Director of the Office of Campus Sustainability

end of the year is full of magic and surprises, from happy homecomings, to gathering with friends and spending time with loved ones. However, in the midst of all our excitement we can sometimes put our planet on the backburner. Bundles of wrapping paper, bows and boxes are often dumped outside and sent straight for the nearest landfill. While festive wrapping and colorful tissue paper may be a staple around this time of the year, there are still several ways we can make sure that our environmental imprint is a little bit smaller, and leave our positive impact a little bit larger.



## How can people make their gift wrapping more environmentally friendly?

Using newspaper that is decorated by yourself or kids, or any other type of paper that you can reuse, is great! You can also use magazines, maps and pamphlets. I once used a pamphlet from Big Bend National Park to wrap a heartfelt gift celebrating the time I spent there. It made a much bigger impact than any store-bought wrapping paper.



## Are there any specific paper(s) that people can use that will be less wasteful?

There are specific wrapping papers that are made out of recycled materials, and that information will be found on the labels. Gift bags and tissue paper can easily be reused for other occasions as well!



# What should people do with all the bows, ribbons and wrapping paper they are left with after the holidays?

The first step is reducing-and that means using a little less of the shiny stuff that goes on your gifts. After all, the gift is the important part! People will still appreciate a simply wrapped gift from the heart. The second step is reusing. Bows and ribbons are great because they are easy to reuse.



# Is there anything else we should know about making the holiday season as sustainable as we possibly can?

Try to remember the "reason for the season" as far as your own personal meaning goes. Ask yourself this: do you need to buy things that are going to end up in the garbage by December 31? This time of year is about love and family. You don't need to break the bank to celebrate those things!

# JAVELINA SPORTS

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

This fall, the Texas A&M University-Kingsville volleyball team went 21-12, marking consecutive seasons with 20 or more wins for the first time since 1997-98. Krystal Faison, Lexi Wick, and Madison Brabham were selected All-LSC first team, Casey Klobedans was All-LSC second team, and true freshman Shelby Sheets was tabbed honorable mention. Klobedans was also honored to the conference All-Academic team and she, along with Lexi Wick, were selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

#### **FOOTBALL**

In football, Jordan Thomas capped off an amazing career in the Blue and Gold after scoring four touchdowns in a single game, including the game-winning score on Senior Night against William Jewell. He was honored as the LSC Receiver of the Year after leading the league with 1,073 receiving yards and 13 touchdown catches. Other postseason accolades he received were All-LSC first-team and Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-Super Region IV second-team. Stehly Reeden was also named to the All-LSC first team and Stuart Sanchez made the conference's second team, in addition to ten more student-athletes who were named honorable mention.

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

For Cross Country, Jose Ventura IV and Daniel Guerrero were tabbed All-LSC performers for the men. The men and women both competed at the NCAA South Central Region Cross Country Championships in Canyon, Texas with eight runners scoring in the final meet.



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# Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!



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