Y is for...

Young Life trains A&M-Corpus Christi students to be leaders for high schoolers in need of love, support and a positive role model. Read about the program and senior Jillian Ervin’s journey with the Young Life team on PAGE 2.

Outsourced

by ERIKA GALINDO

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi administration received mixed reactions when they announced late February that they, along with 15 other A&M System schools, plan to outsource building maintenance, landscaping and custodial workers.

Outsourcing spreads throughout A&M System

As one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, we are committed to the highest standards of accountability in the pursuit of excellence. We look to do more, more wisely.

Last June, I announced an outsourcing contract with Compass Group USA to manage and operate dining services, building maintenance, landscaping services and custodial services in Brazos County that would produce $260 million in revenue and cost-savings for The Texas A&M University System entities over the 10-year term. We have now reached an agreement with SSC Service Solutions to manage building maintenance, landscaping services and custodial services at 16 A&M System campuses throughout Texas, beginning April 1, securing an additional $92.3 million in outsourcing savings through the 12-year contract.

Dr. Isabelle Araiza is an Associate Professor of Sociology and one faculty member who is unhappy with the decision to outsource the plant workers.

"We seem to find all kinds of resources for more administrative positions and technology," she said.

"We just got new copiers and telephones. I don't understand why we're investing in technology that becomes obsolete and then let go of people who have invested their whole lives into this institution."

Araiza and other community members said they are concerned about the conditions plant workers will have to agree to if they choose to apply with SSC Service Solutions.

Dr. Araiza shares her concerns and urges administration to reconsider their decision in a special LETTER to the EDITOR, page 11.

An excerpt from the February 2013 newsletter distributed by Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp announces a decision to outsource building maintenance, landscaping and custodial services at 16 A&M University campuses.

Be beautiful

Sometimes paying a few extra bucks is totally worth it. IW’s Ashley Dyckman gives you the scoop on her top 10 must-have beauty products in this week’s “Ashley On Trend.” See PAGE 5.

‘Fess up

Students share their deepest, darkest secrets (or are just plain inappropriate) on Facebook. Read what the creator of the TAMUCC Confessions page has to say on PAGES 6 & 7.

Viewpoints

Alexis De Leon talks you through beating a burnout and Erika Galindo urges TAMU-CC to make a stand for Palestine on PAGES 10 & 11.

Tim Tebow speaks

The NY Jets quarterback made a special appearance at Whataburger Field on March 20 to talk to Miracle League kids about persistence and faith. Read about it on PAGE 8.

The BIG Event

It all began about 30 years ago in College Station. Student Volunteer Connection, other campus organizations and individuals keep the tradition alive in CC. See PAGE 2.
TOWNE OAKS APARTMENTS

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ISLANDER TRIBUTE

Tuesday, April 9
6 p.m.
University Center - Legacy Hall

Viewing of engraved bricks in Lee Plaza will follow the presentation.
Growing BDS movement needs IAMCC

By ERICA GALINDO

Eureka! It all makes sense! Ha ha!

Growing BDS movement needs IAMCC

Growing BDS movement needs IAMCC

We are not a corporation, we are a public institution

Letter to the Editor

Today, as I drove onto this campus, I was outraged and appalled by the academia of our university and of our university system. Every time a faculty candidate comes onto our campus, every time I have been around a parent or a visitor who is on our campus for the first time, one of the first things they praise is the beauty of our campus. I reflect on ALL THE THOUGHTS of Island Days’ banquets and students who have walked our campus, looking around, captivated by its beauty. We didn’t create that beauty. Faculty do not create that. Administration certainly doesn’t create that. Physical plant workers create that. When people park in our well-kept parking lots and walk down our unadulterated sidewalks, they are able to do so BECAUSE of the physical plant workers—not faculty, not administration. When visitors (parents, students, community members, candidates for new jobs) walk into our clean buildings, notice our beautiful flora, walk by our big windows, sit at pristine seats, faculty don’t make that possible; administration doesn’t make that possible; physical plant workers make that possible. The beauty we enjoy, the beauty by which we are surrounded is the product of the hard work and commitment to excellence that physical plant workers bring to work EVERY DAY.

What did you do to try to prevent this happening?

We are not a corporation! We are a public institution! Workers have committed themselves to making this institution the best it can be. And, for that, they get their jobs out-sourced? We are better than that. They deserve better! They are workers! They are grandparents, they are mothers; they are daughters; they are fathers, they are sons. They are caregivers. They are members of this community. They are NOT just some cops in a wheel of this institutional machine! They do not deserve to be treated as such!

We are not a corporation, we are a public institution

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Growing BDS movement needs IAMCC

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Erika Galindo is a copy editor for IW and can be reached at erikag0612@gmail.com.

Phoebe courtesy MUGURUZ.COM

The Palestinian people are emboldened in a conflict with Israel over what is considered a denial of their human rights by the UN.

Growing BDS movement needs IAMCC

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A s of right now, there are no openly-gay players in the National Football League. With that being said, that doesn’t limit heterosexual allies advocating for same-sex marriage in the world’s largest football league.

Minnesota Vikings kicker, Chris Kluwe, and Baltimore Ravens linemen, Brendon Ayanbadejo, filed an amicus brief, otherwise known as a “friend of the court” brief, with the intent to reject Proposition 8. After the referendum was passed on Nov. 5, 2008, same-sex couples living in California could no longer get married, but the state would recognize existing marriages under the grandfather clause.

After Brendon Ayanbadejo expressed his support for gay and lesbian rights, Maryland lawmaker Emmett Burns Jr. wrote to the Baltimore Ravens owner, saying: “I am requesting that you take the necessary action…to inhibit such expressions from your employees.”

The idea that a member of the House would urge a team owner to suppress his player’s opinion seems mind-boggling because that would blatantly violate the right to free speech.

Kluwe disagreed which was unfortunate for Burns if he fails to respond with an articulate, ill-mannered, open letter to the Maryland policy maker.

At one point in the letter, Kluwe states: “You know what having these rights will make gays? Full-fledged American citizens just like everyone else, with the freedom to pursue happiness and all that entails.”

Ayanbadejo, a biracial athlete, pointed out that even his parents at one point in time would have been denied access to marriage because of their skin color. Denying a particular person the access certain amenities would be violating the equal protection clause in the Constitution.

Since the passing of Proposition 8, several lawsuits have compiled resulting in Hollingsworth vs. Perry, a case currently being considered in the United States Supreme Court.

This could potentially be a landmark case for the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender community.

This hasn’t been the only instance of football players dealing with homosexual misconduct.

During the NFL combine, a process in which players are selected to go to the NFL, some players were asked in the formal interview process if they had girlfriends, if they were married or what their sexual orientation was.

This has led to a warning from New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman about possible cases of employment discrimination coming from the NFL. Since the headquarters of the NFL are based out of New York, they fall under the appropriate jurisdiction.

Schneiderman also says that “everyone deserves equal protection under the law and the right to a fair work place.”
Female kicker fails to prove herself at NFL Combine

by JUSTIN DEBOUVIER

Laura Silberman, former college soccer player at the University of Wisconsin and ex-graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, hoped to be the first female player to enter the National Football League. Her performance at the recent NFL Women’s Combine in Florham Park, N.J., was far from perfect, being one of the shortest tryouts in combine history.

The combination of strong, agile athletes who were trying to get selected for a future spot on an NFL roster. Over 300 participants gathered for the event with aspirations of impressing the evaluators and coaches in attendance, many of whom were former players and retired NFL evaluators were among those in attendance to witness Silberman’s tryout, which many considered to be an afterthought.

At about 1 p.m., Silberman attempted a kick from the 35-yard line with warning signs showing. Her first attempt went for 19 yards and her second was a mere 13 yards. Her goal was to kick a 60-yard field goal.

“After her attempts, Silberman was seen to the training area where she was medically evaluated.”

“...just couldn’t do it today,” Silberman said to reporters afterward.

She said her right quadriceps was aggravated and attributed her underperformance to the injury.

Silberman was able to participate in the combine because she paid the $275 application fee, met the appropriate application deadline and was otherwise eligible for the draft. There was no assessment in the process that would eliminate her from participating, although the rule may change in the future.

Three of the six scouts who pumped her up for the event, Tom Gugliotta of the Washington Post, Dana slot of the NFL Network, and John McClain of the Houston Chronicle, have since decided not to pursue her. Undiscouraged, Silberman said she would keep working on her kicking skills.

Silberman in a video posted online that she was able to make several small field goals, but none of her destination consigned the goal, with a slight chance to knock it into the goal post.

Despite the criticism Silberman received, she was interviewed several times by major newspapers and media outlets nationwide and the NFL publicly promoted her.

While she did not meet her goal or make the cut, Silberman is considered a breakout star of being the first female athlete to participate in a league-sponsored tryout.

Athletes who were selected to move on will participate in the next phase of the NFL Regional Combine April 7-8 at Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas.

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Lucky No. 7
Track & Field at Victor Lopez Classic

by ALEXIS DE LEON

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi men’s and women’s track and field teams pulled out several personal and season-best times Saturday March 23 against stiff competition at the 31st annual Victor Lopez Classic, hosted by Rice University. The Islanders stepped it up on day two of competition at Hollo Way Field/Ley Track.

The women’s team placed 12th with all seven Islanders clocking season-best times in the 800m. Sophomore Jasmine Roate led the pack with a season-best time of 2:18.16. Freshmen Ashley Mills and Alexandra Fernandez excelled for the Islanders as Mills finished in 14th place with a time of 2:18.69 while Fernandez clocked a time of 2:19.37 to place 17th.

Junior Stanice Prendergast recorded a personal-best time in the women’s 400m with a time of 58.56 while junior Sidney Sisquet clocked a season-best time of 59.27.

Freshman Isabella Baptiste and Shayla Green stepped up Baptiste clocked a time of 16.08 in the women’s 100m hurdles and recorded a personal-best throw in the shot put with a mark of 10.86. Green also tallied a personal-best throw in the event with a distance of 10.30m.

Junior Micah Nolan placed sixth in the high jump in her second meet of the season. She cleared a mark of 1.50m.

Sophomore Jonatas Dany! finished in 13th place in the triple jump with a distance of 10.80m.

The women’s team of Seyla Pena and Prendergast clocked a time of 4:04.53 in the 4x400 meter relay.

The men’s team finished in 13th place in the 800m. Sophomores Valentinas Rudys and Brandon Lacy made season-best times while sophomores Carduus Edmondson, Wesley McGee and freshman Bryce Johnston all clocked personal-best times. Rudys led the pack in sixth place with a time of 1:52.66 while Lacy finished in 10th place and Edmondson placed 11th, both finishing with a time of 1:53.95. Johnston crossed the line with a time of 1:54.77 and McGee clocked a time of 1:55.56.

Sophomore Phillip Baar finished the day in the men’s 1500m and clocked a personal-best time of 3:49.67 to finish in sixth place and move into third place in the Islanders record books.

Junior William Scott competed in the 400m hurdles for the first time this season and clocked a season-best time of 54.26 to place fifth. Sophomore David Carrillo crossed the line in 11th place in the men’s 1500m with a season-best time of 4:58.84.

Senior Roger De La Cruz tied for first in the high jump with a clearance of 2.08m (6’9”). This is the second straight victory for De La Cruz in the high jump, dating back to the indoor season. He has won the title four out of the five meets he has participated in. Senior Quincy Obeng finished in fourth place with a clearance of 1.98m (6’6”).

“I was pleased with how the team came out and competed,” Head Coach Shawn Dergardst said. “All and all, it’s a win, they’re happy with their results and they’re moving forward to the next meet.”

Men’s 800m winner Edmondson was一抹 of enthusiasm, taking pride in his performance.

“I was happy to get one,” Edmondson said. “It was my second time to do it. I got one last year, so it’s a good position.”

Men’s 800m runner-up Lacy was pleased to have a career-best time in the event.

“I was happy to get second,” Lacy said. “It’s a huge improvement from last year.”

Tim Tebow speaks at event
YMCA, Corpus Christi Miracle League host Celebrations of Collaborations

by CHRISTINA MARTINEZ

What will you do without freedom? Will you fight? Fight and you may die. Run and you will live, at least awhile. And dying in your beds, many years from now, you would be willing to trade all the days? For one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they will never take our freedom.”

The character William Wallace spoke these words in the movie “Braveheart.” Tim Tebow referenced the significance of holding this kind of passion in his message during the YMCA and Miracle League of Corpus Christi’s Celebration of Collaborations, March 20 at Whataburger Field.

About 90 seats were reserved for the YMCA and Miracle League participants and family and more than 2,000 general admission stadium seats were filled.

Tebow, backup quarterback for the New York Jets and a devout Christian, centered his message on three questions for the audience: are you passionate, are you willing to be different and are you willing to persevere?

Tebow delivered his message with anecdotes of personal experiences. During one specific story, the football player focused on his college career at the University of Florida. The quarterback displayed the words “Philippians 4:13,” referring to the bible verse on his cheek throughout their winning season and up until the qualifying game against Tennessee.

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The YMCA is a nonprofit Christian organization committed to improving the nation’s health and wellbeing, one community at a time, according to Scoville. The YMCA website states “The YMCA is partnered with The Miracle League to provide mentally and physically challenged children the opportunity to play baseball. Each child signed up gets the chance to hit the ball and score a run on a field that is wheelchair accessible.”

Above Tim Tebow arrived at the Celebrations of Collaborations event hosted by the YMCA and Corpus Christi Miracle League at Whataburger Field on March 20.

LEFT: The third-grade class of Gloria Hicks’ Elementary attended Celebrations of Collaborations as a reward for making a an honor roll.

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ISLAND WAVES

6special

Best of TAMUCC Confessions

To the girl who wore a cheetah print long sleeve and black tights that walked into the library around 4:30 yesterday...I just wanna say your boobs are amazing!!! I mean no disrespect, I just think you have an amazing body and would love to meet you!!! Hope you like or comment on this lol.

Any one else see the naked guy running around the parking lot by surf jetty Monday night?

If there are any professors/administrators/staff at this school that reads this page, I want you to know that your organization SUCKS. This is my first semester here as a transfer student and I couldn’t be more disappointed in the way you have handled everything from day 1. This school isn’t the damn big. Thanks for making me want to drop out.

Sometimes, I like to go to my neighbor’s backyard and pretend to be a carrot.

I wish this school had some kind of on-campus hangout/joint where you could go to hangout and meet students. Honestly, all I do here is workout at the gym and study for hours on end. Hell I just want to meet a cute girl.

I was at the University of Texas at San Antonio Confessions page and after reading the crazy confessions, I thought I would come up with a great idea. I thought it would be a great idea to start a page of confessions here, which then will lead to a survey where students can reveal as many secrets as they want. I monitor the confessions and only post the ones that are not illegal or showing direct hate to a person or organization. TAMUCC Confessions creator said. “The page could also be used to mentally attack others, but I feel a page like this is needed where anyone can confess their secrets anonymously and not get attacked by statements made on the page.”

The page has not been all sunshine and rainbows, however. “I’m starting to feel like I am running a dating service,” said the creator. “I am sure students will confess.”

Although some may view the page as a negative thing, the TAMUCC Confessions creator hopes that the page will become more popular and that more students will contribute. “I want people to be able to make the school more in a bad light, but I also feel that this page is needed where anyone can confess their secrets anonymously.”

To submit a confession, students can click on the Survey Monkey link provided in the TAMUCC Confessions description box, which will then lead to a survey where students can reveal as many secrets as they want. I monitor the confessions and only post the ones that are not illegal or showing direct hate to a person or organization. TAMUCC Confessions creator said. “The page could be used as a great resource for students to bond, release secrets and find friendships,” said the creator.

The TAMUCC Confessions creator said their favorite confession was a senior in high school asking if there was ever any doubt as to whether or not students cheated on their significant others, fantasies over the guy at Starbucks, secretly hated group tours or avoided the breezeway because of people from the Net, the answer is now clear. “One confession was a senior in high school asking if there was ever any doubt as to whether or not students cheated on their significant others. I am sure students will confess.”

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Students are able to confess whatever anonymously and not have to feel excluded.

Facebook confessions page brings students views to light

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Burt’s Bees Lemon & Vitamin E Bath & Body Oil - This product will give your skin the perfect summer glow and leave your entire body feeling hydrated. I use this product on my arms, legs, and hands everyday as well as soak in a warm bath with about a tablespoon of the oil in the water twice a week. Unlike baby oil, it doesn’t clog.

Burt’s Bees Herbal Blemish Stick - The Herbal Blemish stick is blend of tea tree oil, juniper oil and eucalyptus oil in a rollerball applicator which makes it the most perfect acne spot treatment for those on the go. Your skin will look and smell great afterwards. Plus it is the perfect size to keep in your purse.

Fekkai Glossing Cream - I am officially addicted to Fekkai hair products, but the glossing cream is my absolute favorite one. If your hair is feeling extra crispy or you need to tame your annoying fly-aways, Fekkai Glossing Cream might be your savior. It adds the perfect amount of moisture and a beautiful shine to any hair type without leaving it greasy.

Redken Rough Paste - I use this product to control my short locks and battle my endless cowlicks. If you need a lot of texture and a strong hold with low shine, Redken rough paste is for you.

Rembrandt Deeply White Mouthwash - You can’t be so fresh and so clean without a shiny white smile. This mouthwash may seem a little pricey, but you don’t need to use very much of it to see a difference in the color of your teeth after one use. Once you try it, you won’t want to use any other mouthwash ever again, I guarantee it.

Watt’s Up! Highlighter by Benefit - Another Benefit product I use everyday is the Watt’s Up! Highlighter. I apply it on my cheeks to give my face a pearlescent glow that is perfect for any occasion.

Baby Lips by Maybelline - This tinted lip balm moisturizes your lips and gives them the perfect amount of color without smudging and tinting your entire mouth. I keep a tube of Pink Punch in my purse at all times.

Urban Decay Cream to Powder Foundation - This foundation is a miracle worker. Brush a thin layer of cream on your face with the provided applicator and it magically turns into matte powder foundation within seconds!

Too Faced Full Bloom Lip & Cheek Crème Color - First of all, it’s a two-in-one! The perfect pink blush and lip color can be found in the Too Faced Lip & Cheek Crème Color compact. It comes in three gorgeous shades, my favorite of which is Prim & Poppy.

I am one of those people many of you may call a brand loyalist. Apple, Levi’s, Starbucks, yes I also just might have a shopping addiction. Judge me if you will. I always like to try new and different products, but when I find something that works, I stick with it.
Faith-based organization Young Life Corpus Christi is made up of local college students who aim at reaching out and ministering to un-churched high school students within the surrounding area.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi senior Jillian Ervin has participated in the program for more than three years.

“I first became involved with Young Life my freshman year of college,” Ervin said. “I worked with a Young Life leader in the University Center. She talked about Young Life a lot and that got me interested.”

A&M-Corpus Christi student volunteers must complete a training process before becoming a Young Life leader. After completing the training, students are placed on teams at various local high schools. The Young Life leaders then pursue relationships with the high school students, in hopes of introducing them to God.

“Our volunteers care about high school kids and many of the leaders in Corpus Christi come from A&M-Corpus Christi,” said Kari Kurz, a former Young Life Corpus Christi staff member.

“Because leaders are pursuing un-churched and disinterested kids, we often see huge life-changes happen in the lives of kids because a caring adult has entered their world, is living life with them and sharing the Gospel with them.”

Kurz formerly was training coordinator for Young Life Corpus Christi, but now is working for Young Life within the San Antonio Northwest area. Kurz met Ervin during Ervin’s leadership training and said she has seen firsthand the impact Ervin has on students.

“THERE was one high school girl in particular that was really difficult and I saw Jillian love this girl despite how unlovable she was,” Kurz said. “I’m not sure if there was anyone else in this girl’s life who was loving her, so watching Jillian do that was amazing.

“Jillian is a fun and loving person who doesn’t give up on anybody.”

Ervin is a leader for King High School and said she loves it there.

“What are the kids like? Like high school kids,” Ervin said. “They’re popular, confused, out-casted, loud, quiet, energetic, lost and hilarious. They crack me up and I love them.”

An early childhood education major, Ervin said she hopes to earn her high school certification so she can teach high school students and continue being a Young Life leader after graduation.

“Ryoung Life isn’t just another Christian group,” she said. “It’s about building relationships with high school kids, getting to know them and living day-to-day life with them because you genuinely care about their joys, triumphs, heartaches and setbacks.”

Ervin said Young Life leaders meet high school students where they are and make an effort to invest quality time getting to know the students to help them grow as individuals in preparation to potentially embrace Christianity.

“We don’t do Young Life with kids, we do life with kids,” she said.

Ervin recommends anyone interested in working with Young Life to volunteer and promises it will not disappoint.

“There are so many rewarding moments with Young Life,” she said. “The best one is when a kid I’ve been hanging out with shares their desire with me to know Jesus.

“RYoung Life will do more work in you than through you, I can promise you that. Getting involved was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made because it has strengthened my own relationship with Jesus Christ.”
Dr. Robert Ballard

The oceanographer and deep sea explorer who discovered the R.M.S. Titanic in the North Atlantic on Sept. 1, 1985, was featured as a guest lecturer Tuesday at the Performing Arts Center.

The event was part of the Distinguished Lecture Series presented by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

For full coverage and an exclusive interview with Ballard conducted by IW’s Alexis De Leon, pick up next week’s edition of Island Waves.

Disney College

Deadline for registration for the Disney College Program fall 2013 semester is March 29.

Participants in the program gain-on-the-job experience at a Disney park or resort and further their education in the classroom with internationally diverse students. An information session will be held April 4 in the University Center, Tejas B, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information, email Ben Blanco at ben.blanco@tamucc.edu

Summer/fall registration

Registration opens for summer sessions and the fall semester on April 1. Don’t forget to get an appointment set up with your advisor and get signed up for everything you need.

Remember the Holocaust

The Islander Human Rights organization will host a Holocaust Day of Remembrance on the UC East Lawn April 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mayor Nelda Martinez and council members will be among special guests at the memorial event.

2013 Kirkland Award

The A&M-Corpus Christi College of Business honors Edward A. Martin this week as the 2013 recipient of the G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award.

Martin is the president and chief executive officer of Berry Contracting, Inc., a construction, fabrication and maintenance company based in Corpus Christi. His company, which employs more than 3,500 men and women internationally, operates in refining, chemical and petrochemical manufacturing.

He is scheduled to address the A&M-Corpus Christi community in an acceptance speech on April 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Martin is the 14th recipient of the annual award.

Teachers of the Year

Two A&M-University-Corpus Christi alumni received Corpus Christi Independent School District Teacher of the Year awards on March 19.

Erika Vazquez, who was named Elementary Teacher of the Year, is a fourth grade teacher at Los Encinos Special Emphasis School.

Vazquez graduated from A&M-Corpus Christi with a bachelor’s degree in 2004 and a master’s degree in 2012.

Ibet Vargas Cam is a science teacher at King High School and was recognized as Secondary Teacher of the Year.

She graduated with a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the Island University in 2012.

Author’s Day

Linda Hogan, writer-in-residence for “The Chickasaw Nation,” gave a special presentation and signed copies of her work at an Authors’ Day event in the University Center last week.

Hogan is an internationally-recognized public speaker and writes poetry, fiction and essays.

The event was presented by the Department of English.

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Workers voice concerns about new contract

continued from page one

These agreements include a five percent increase in wages, but the workers also must have 80 hours worked with A&M-Corpus Christi to keep their benefits, Phillips said. The offer to continue their education and get an education and make yourself better in life is, that’s not going to happen. It’s harder for me. I can’t afford to put those into play. Workers who decide to apply and get hired on by the new company will be working with SSC Service Solutions, a company based in Knoxville, Tenn., that absorbed the custodial positions at A&M-Corpus Christi in 2013.

Administration feels the decision to outsource custodians was a successful one, but workers are much more hesitant to view it as such. “They promised custodians a wage increase, but the opposite happened,” said one worker who wished to remain anonymous. Other workers also expressed disappointment in the new contract terms. “They’re forcing you to take this job,” said Jason Phillips, a grounds worker at A&M-Corpus Christi. “They’re offering this job, but if you don’t take it, you can’t collect unemployment because they offered you a job. It’s either you take this or you get nothing unless you find something else,” Phillips said the change also could negatively affect the appearance of the campus. “The first thing that’s on everyone’s mind is how the grounds look, that’s the first thing people see. Phillips offered: ‘They’re forcing us to do this or leave everyone is going to leave. It’s a little bit more than you look like it does. Contract workers aren’t going to do the same kind of work we did. It’s going to have a negative affect on everything.”

Sharp and Killebrew both have attributed looking to outside entities to save money in increasing state budget. Rumors of increases to administration salaries are floating around, according to some workers. “Because of these specifications,” Phillips said he feels that administration should have made a different decision. “Why aren’t they taking a cut to try and save every body’s job?” Phillips asked. “We’re expendable to them, I guess. We don’t matter.”

While some members of the community are concerned, Vice President for Finance and Administration Kathryn Funk-Baxter assures that the experience students have grown accustomed to at the University will remain unchanged. “As a University representative, it is my job to make sure that they do the same level or better than what they’re currently doing,” Funk-Baxter said.

“I think the same for us, but I think we’re committed to doing a good job with this new contract and seeing there is no impact on our students. That’s what I’m committed to doing,” Phillips said the change also diminishes the appearance of the campus. “The jobs include various groups and organizations, according to some workers. “I am not from Corpus Christi and the Big Event is an interesting way for me to get more familiarized with the area while giving back,” said freshman Jordan Lang. “It is always fun to work with my friends while helping out in any way possible.”

Students took part in service projects that promote community awareness and Islander tradition. Each year, students spend the day in four-hour shifts reciprocating the appreciation that residents continue to show the University. The jobs include various tasks from park and landscaping to washing windows and picking up trash. The hours gained from this experience can go toward service times needed for various groups and organizations. This is my second time participating with the Big Event and I realized that it really feels good to give back to the community every way I can,” said junior Rene Zamora.

“I’ve got excited working with different groups to help Corpus Christi in a memorable way.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Student volunteers participate in annual Big Event

by CATRINA ESPINOSA

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students gathered together, both as individuals and as organizations, Saturday to participate in a day of giving back to the community.

The original Big Event took place about 30 years ago at Texas A&M University-College Station as a handful of students working on a few community service projects in their local community. It has since turned into a tradition that thrives at College Station and on other campuses within the A&M University System.

“It’s about building that bridge between the University and Corpus Christi to let them know that we exist and are thankful of all the support,” said Student Activities Coordinator Ticiia Rodriguez.

“We want it to be a tradition on campus, considering it’s a great way to make connections, have fun while gaining community service hours and show the pride we have in our University.”

Student Volunteer Connection has taken on the role of organizing the event and promoting the quality it brings to the internal community.

SVC, a student organization, strives to create access to programs around campus that get students involved and committed to the community through various means of service. The group also gathers opportunities to connect students with each other.

“SVC is an organization open to students from all backgrounds that want to help out the community,” vice president Emily Williams said.

“SVC is a great opportunity to give back to the community while having fun,” senior Raelene Forrest said.

Students and organizations partnered to create different projects to serve students, faculty, staff and the community in general.

arga team members.

These collaborative efforts included the Center for Instruction windows.

ABOVE: Gerry Maidnado sues up to clean island waves.

A student publication of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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The Island Waves accepts letters no longer than 250 words. Letters are subject to editing. Send letters to the editor via email at: editor@islandwaves @tamucc.edu

about island waves

The Island Waves is a student-produced publication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The newspaper is printed weekly except during summer sessions.

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Any student or University employee may submit material for publication consideration. To become a contributor, email or call the Island Waves editor.