University celebrates historic achievement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi designated test site for unmanned aircraft systems

On Jan. 13, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi hosted a celebration in honor of the University becoming the newest Unmanned Aircraft Systems test site as designated by the Federal Aviation Administration. The festivities included guest speakers Dr. Flavious Killebrew, President of the Island University, and John Sharp, Chancellor of the A&M system, Nelda Martinez, Mayor and Todd Hunter, State Representative.

“This is a great moment,” said Hunter, “You add [UAS testing] to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and we are on the map, not just in Texas, but internationally.”

It was in Dec. 2013 that officials announced the University’s approval to become UAS test site. Dr. David Bridges, director of the UAS Initiative at the Island University, the UAS program has been a beneficial tool for the University.

“They have many uses,” said Bridges. “[At the University] one of the main uses is precision agriculture.”

The UAS Initiative is a faculty produced research project that was initiated several years ago. The Island University has been utilizing UAS’s for a multitude of agricultural functions including mapping of sea grass and inventorying livestock. Other uses have included monitoring oil spills, wildfires and other natural disasters.

By becoming a designated test site, the University now has the opportunity to expand the breadth of the project even more.

“I think it’s going to be big,” said President Killebrew. “It’s going to give students throughout the University the opportunity to be involved in something that is cutting-edge technology.”

According to the Island University website, it is just one of the 11 test sites that were approved in Texas via a proposal created by the University’s Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center. LSUASC is comprised of nearly 20 different

Students discuss World Cup

Students discuss World Cup

known as one of the most-viewed sporting events in history, the FIFA World Cup brought 715.1 million viewers to the screen to watch the final match in 2006. In person, 3.1 million viewers viewed one of the 64 matches held in Germany, eager to feel the energetic vibes reverberate off the soccer field.

Statistics show that the FIFA World Cup is a passionately followed event - but why? What do so many people around the world find addicting about this sporting event? Islanders shared their perspective, and throughout all opinions, one rings true: the patriotism. The FIFA World Cup isn’t just a sporting event. It is a means of bringing patriotism out in an international sense.

“I enjoy the world cup because it’s competitive soccer for a purpose,” Islanders say.

Bye Bye Baseball?

by CHRISTINA BOOTHE

Bye Bye Baseball?

Students discuss World Cup

by CHRISTINA BOOTHE

Dear Island University,

Another year came and went so quickly we hardly had time to adjust here at Island Waves, however as long as there are students at the Island University we will persevere. Writers have come and gone, stories have long since been read, re-read and put to rest and a new editor-in-chief has taken the helm. Like the University Center, we have also gone under a bit of construction hopefully for the better.

As this semester begins I hope to really capture the spirit of the University. 2014 will be the year we truly show we are a paper written by students for students. The student body has grown substantially over the last year and, as a result, Island Waves strives to reflect that growth. We are all students, together, trying to make it through the trials and tribulations of another semester. This paper is not just about reporting the news, or talking about things that are happening in Corpus Christi, it is a lifeline for the student body. A voice for the little guy, so to speak.

So if you find yourself wishing you had a public forum for speaking your mind then go ahead and holler at your student newspaper Island Waves.

Sincerely,
Alexis De Leon
Editor-in-Chief
Island Waves
Now Hiring

News Reporter
Sports Reporter
Entertainment Reporter
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applications now being accepted
career-services.tamucc.edu

contact us in the newsroom
University Center 204g
(361) 825-5862 • editor@tamucc.edu
Inside Islanders tennis
What to expect from Islanders tennis

by Christina Boothe
sports reporter

Tennis is picking back up again and the team is looking to go far this season. Beginning the season strong after the fall semester where both men’s and women’s teams placed in the NCAA Division I top 60, with the men’s team maintaining their status as Southland Conference champions, this season is anticipated to be more exciting and successful than ever.

In an interview with coach Steve Moore, he expressed his expectations of his players this season.

“I always tell them I expect them to max out,” said Moore. “I expect them to be great at three things: the way they compete, their work ethic, and the way they stick together.”

Coach Moore’s team philosophy is about maxing out the things they can control. “This is a very high character motivated group and we share very high goals for this season, but I always tell them to focus on the process and stay in the present because it’s being excellent in the present that gets us them,” said the men’s and women’s coach. “Our focus is really maxing out each day in the present, what we can control and taking on that discipline mindset of being great at the things we can control.”

When asked where the team is that makes him believe this season will be successful, Coach Moore shared that the goal for the program is to win the conference and to be nationally ranked in the top 40 of all NCAA Division I.

“We have tremendous captains on both the men’s and women’s teams,” said Moore when talking about seniors Stefania Nicolae, Sandra Burges, Matt Westmoreland and Petter Nagy. “We put in extra emphasis on the team concept to make that our team goal. We really believe the culture and chemistry is the taproot of successful team.

With such a strong emphasis on character and teamwork, this season is sure to be a great one for the Islanders Tennis. Head over to the Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center for the first home match of the spring semester against the University of Maryland Baltimore County on Jan 26 and 10 AM.

2013-2014 Men’s Tennis Schedule

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<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Utah State</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Prairie View</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>UT Arlington</td>
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2013-2014 Women’s Tennis Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>San Antonio, Texas 2:00 PM</td>
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<td>Texas-Pan American</td>
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World Cup continued from PAGE 1

women’s soccer senior goalkeeper Audrey Baldwin said. “It’s a matter of pride. It’s about the best of the best competing against each other with their country depending on them. Fans cheer for their country to win. It doesn’t matter if you’re a fan of all the players, it’s your country and it is a time to show your patriotism for your country through sport.

Obviously Brazil, Spain and Portugal are all fan favorites because of the skill and individual players. However, I always love an underdog story.

“I also like to see Italy win because of my heritage, but no matter who wins get back, appointments get cancelled, and time stops when its game time,” Baldwin said.

Andrea Rodriguez, a freshman honors Biomedical Science major, shares that she would love to go to the event this summer in Brazil.

“I love watching it,” Rodriguez said. “Spain came out of nowhere and won in 2010. Usually, Brazil or Argentina takes the cup. But last time was unexpected.” She also believes the World Cup pulls out her patriotism.

The World Cup is held every four years. “It’s like the Olympics,” Rodriguez said. “It makes you really want to root for your country.”

“They enjoy it because it’s something they love and it’s being celebrated by the entire world. Usually people will wear their favorite teams jersey or something to support them,” Islanders women’s soccer player, freshman Meghan Cordemo said. “My team would be the US, because I have to support my own country of course.”

Even those who aren’t soccer fans get into this international event and express pride in their country. In a nation where patriotism is dwindling in comparison to years past, events like the World Cup bring back that national dignity that pleasure as a nation, regardless of the placement received in the end.

This year the United States of America was placed in one terrifying bracket. USA will go head-to-head against Ghana, the same team to push the States out of a chance at the world cup in 2010. Should USA beat Ghana on June 16, Portugal and Germany follow June 22 and 26 respectively.

At the end of the day, it’s not for the soccer that many watch: it’s for the national sense of pride.

The World Cup will be held from June 12 to July 13 in Brazil. Tune in to see which team will be victorious.
Tragedy has struck the sports fans of America. Throughout our generation, a complaint rings from the crowd resounding in the ears of old-fashioned people like myself: “Baseball is boring.”

Even at our university, I’ve heard these words from those who I’ve questioned about sports. “It’s just too slow,” they insist. “I can’t sit through it.” My heart breaks as I hear these words. I watch as the amount of viewers for each World Series game dwindles. In the 1980’s, 31.4 million people were watching the World Series compared to only 16.6 million today.

Forbes magazine calculates that the game of baseball is losing 775,000 viewers per year. At this rate, they argue, 2030 will be a flat year: no one will be watching what once was America’s beloved game.

So what went wrong? I’ve looked at the statistics. I’ve watched the marketing campaigns. Baseball has only gotten more vigorous, more exciting. Some contribute this to steroid use, which is a massive debate in the game today and surely a cause for many lost fans, but it’s more than strictly the juice that players are putting in their bodies to perform more outrageously.

America has become a fast-paced culture. When people can check their emails while drinking coffee and driving eighty miles per hour towards the office, they lose the appreciation of the slower things in life. Even the South, notorious for our casual stop-and-smell-the-roses mentality, has sped up as industrialization has skyrocketed. The complaint is the same: the game of baseball is too slow.

Sports like football and basketball, games where players race across the field and an offensive-defensive turnover can occur faster than you can blink, have taken over in attractiveness. But baseball has a remarkable beauty and consistency that America seems to appreciate less and less. We need to be reminded.

If you can push someone over really well in football, or run quickly, or throw a ball at a target, you are considered a good player. Similarly in basketball if you can coax your way around other players and dunk a ball in a net, you are stellar. But in baseball, you have to have five tools to really be exceptional. Not only must you run quickly, throw hard, and pick with your glove as smoothly as Paula Deen coats butter on a bread roll, but you also have to be able to watch a ball fly at 95 miles an hour towards your midsection while hitting it regularly and powerfully.

There’s so much a player has to do, so many places a player has to watch, and so many rules a player has to remember, in order to be considered excellent. The game is an art in the finest sense, demanding the highest skill from each participant in order to keep it alive.

Have you ever been to a ballpark? Have you smelt the over-priced hot dogs intermingled with the scent of beautiful, freshly cut Bermuda grass? Have your ears ever been grazed by the sound of a fastball snapping in a catcher’s mitt, or the ding of a ball hitting the sweet spot of a pine-wood bat? Baseball romanticizes its fans in a way that no other game ever will. Heck, we’ve all seen that scene where Kevin Costner’s dad plays catch with him on his homegrown baseball field in the legendary movie “Field of Dreams.” It’s a game that makes you cry. It’s a family affair. It’s a father throwing the baseball to his son at the local little league field. It’s the proud look on that same father’s face when his son accepts a draft offer from the professional team he’s always dreamt of playing for. Baseball is beautiful, romantic, a slow-cooking pot roast filled with flavor and taste and savor that melts in your mouth. It’s quality and class in the finest sense. It’s a gentleman’s game. It’s America’s game.

The problem is that society is so bent on a certain level of romance that it refuses to see it in subtle things like a baseball field. As fast as we move, we physically can’t appreciate the slow beauties in life anymore. We’re fighting a losing battle and baseball will never be the same again because we, as a country, refuse to recognize it for the slow-moving, savory elegance that it is. In way we are in too much of a rush to even see it.
entertainment

ISLAND WAVES

01.23.2014

by ANDREW LIGUEZ
entertainment reporter

At the beginning of a new year sometimes there really are not that many choices as good movies. Most movies have been out for a long time while other ones come out mediocre, at best. That seems to be the case with the newest entry into the “Paranormal Activity” series.

“Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones” is directed by Christopher B. Landon, who is a first for the series as past movies have all been directed by Henry Joost. This actually plays a good part into the movie as it brings a refreshing feel into the overdone series.

While the movie was so-so at best, the screenplay, while different from past movies, is actually a decent story. The scares are scarce and made me gasp, in their finer moments.

The story this time around had me paying attention rather than just waiting for the scary parts to pop up. It held my interest for the entire movie and left me asking just what really happened at the end.

“The Marked Ones” starts off with the high school graduation of the main character Jesse, his last name never mentioned. After graduating, Jesse is then taken back to his graduation party where he is given a handheld camera, reminiscent of other paranormal activity movies.

Through the camera it is seen that she is applying a magic circle to the abdomen of a young woman and learns that he is truly not what he seems to be and that he is not alone. Jesse then forms a mark of his own on his palms and realizes he is not alone.

This addition to the franchise is not made to be a part of the main series, but throughout the movie they do make references to the past movies and the lives of Katie and Kristi. At a few instances in the movie we also see some of the past characters after their paranormal activities ended. The ending even made me go wow as it tied them together.

Even though I liked the story of paranormal activity, the scares and the point that it is supposed to be a horror movie kind of made me dislike it because they are milking a good storyline and way to film. If you’re going to see this movie than I recommend going for the story first, then maybe getting scared once or twice in the experience.

“Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones” comes to theaters Jan 3 and this reporter gives it a 5/10 on my movie scale.

EVENTS

CAMPUS EVENTS

23

-Second Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, 6:30 PM, Performing Arts Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-Islanders Men’s Basketball vs. Southern Louisiana Lions, 7:30 PM, Dugan Wellness Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-Islanders Women’s Basketball vs. Southern Louisiana Lions, 5 PM, Dugan Wellness Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-IceRays vs. Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees, 7:05 PM, American Bank Center

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-Coffee And A Paper, 11 AM, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-Treasure & Sheba Present “Blast Off With Baha!”, 3:00 PM, Ballet Nacional

-Rooftless @ Aria Sky Terrace, 10 PM, Aria Sky Terrace

25

-Islanders Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans Privateers, 6:30 PM, American Bank Center.

-Islanders Women’s Basketball vs. New Orleans Privateers vs. 4 PM, American Bank Center.

26

-Islanders Women’s Tennis vs. UNBC, Time TBA, Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-Islanders Women’s Tennis vs. Maryland Baltimore County, 10 AM, Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

-Kicking Dynamite, 8 PM, Doctor Rockets Blues Bar

27

-The day is beautiful. Go enjoy your University today.

28

-Islanders Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans Privateers, 3 PM, American Bank Center.
Spike Jonze's solo screenwriting debut film “Her” begins with a black screen and an awkward thumping noise. Heartbeat or machine, it's a bit unclear. The audience is introduced to Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix) a somewhat introverted writer whose job is to write love letters for clients who are unable to for various reasons. Theodore uses a voice activated computer to compose the letters, choose music according to his mood as well as simple every day tasks such as read emails and enter chat rooms when he is unable to sleep.

As the movie progresses the audience discovers Theodore is going through a difficult divorce with his childhood friend and sweetheart Catherine (Rooney Mara). One day Theodore comes across an advertisement for a new Operating System or OS that is hyper-intelligent with the ability of artificial intelligence. Like any future-oriented consumer Theodore buys immediately and thus begins a tale as old as the industrial revolution: man falling in love with machine.

The love is slow at first and almost unnerving to Theodore who finds himself constantly questioning whether his affections for his OS are equivalent to affections for a human woman. Samantha, as the OS, whose voice belongs to Scarlett Johansson, refers to herself, is unlike any other OS in that she is self aware and capable of analyzing what we call “complex human emotions” as well as using logic to work through these emotions, all in a matter of seconds.

Theodore and Samantha talk about life, love and generally everything without reservations of what is socially acceptable conversation. Their relationship is powered by pure intellectual stimulation without the physical wreck of first-date-jitters or social awkwardness. Phoenix is award-winningly convincing in his plight to decipher the subtle differences between man and machine and whether a machine created by man is inferior or not. From Theodore's internal struggle the audience questions their own relationships and whether they could be seen as normal or socially acceptable.

The greatest message of the movie comes from Theodore's best friend Amy (Amy Adams) who also winds up going through a divorce. Amy tells Theodore she was tired of her overbearing husband and being told how to try harder in the relationship. When Theodore discusses this with Samantha she gives perhaps the most memorable line of the movie in stating, “The past is just a story we tell ourselves.”

The film, often a roller coaster of emotions, is laced with musical montages containing an amazing score composed by: Arcade Fire, Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Owen Pallett and Aphex Twin. In traditional indie-film fashion the montages help to expand the relationship, set the scene and display the sci-fi workings of a not-so-distant future.

“Her” will have the audience questioning what constitutes a real relationship. Can machines learn to develop human emotions and are we enthralled with making connections we can control regardless of how these connections are formed? “Her” is a must see for those who find themselves looking for a way out of a vapid relationship, town or existence.
**The Secret Life of Walter Mitty**

The only thing that can save him is getting exposure 25 was not in the group of items sent to him by O’Connell and proceeds to get fired because of it. The movie then takes on the true secret of Walter Mitty, as he begins a journey that redefines his life to find the exposure. In my opinion, it was a movie who’s subtlety was one of it’s strong points that really made the most impact. The change from imagination to reality is minute, but huge as you see Mitty grow as a person. The overall message of the movie is that it is not just some movie that came out on Christmas for everyone to go see when all the turkey was eaten (exactly what we did, by the way). But, very different from that, it was thought provoking.

It was far from the typical Ben Stiller character and really made the viewer reflect on what the “essence of life” really was. What really is important? Money, material things, the corner office - No. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” shows that the even the simplest, most defact act of just following what you want to do can make all the difference. Even if it just starts with a “wink” to your co-worker crush on eharmony or actually jumping into the raging Atlantic Ocean from a helicopter, if it is what you truly want, there is really nothing stopping you.

Find out the secret for yourself and go see “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” in theatres now.

**The Best Live Music South of Griene Hall**

**BIBLIOPHILES LIFE in Review**

**Bibliophiles Life in Review**

**by STEPHANIE WALLACE**

**copy editor**

It is the start of a new semester, and although reading may not seem like the top thing on the to-do list if it is not forced upon you via your professor, I personally turn to books to take some stress off me, or just to relax and get lost in another world - a world that an author has created.

Over the Christmas break, I discovered an author who really got me with her books. In fact, I read three of them in a month’s time, she was that awesome.

Her name is Jojo Moyes and with books like “The Last Letter from Your Lover,” “Me Before You,” and “The Girl You Left Behind,” the author who really got me with her books. In order to get me, she begins the journey of tending to Will Traynor’s needs. Only, there is a secret hidden behind the amount of time put on her employment term and in the course of six months, she goes through life experiences that change the way she views the people around her and her life.

“The Girl You Left Behind”

Beginning in pre-World War I era France, Sophie Lefevere, is left to run a hotel in a town that has fallen under German rule. When a new Kommandant comes into town and sees a portrait of Sophie her, now soldier, husband painted, he becomes smitten. This leads to trouble as small favors go very noticed in the small town where the majority of the population is starving and getting little to no rations of food. The story progresses to a huge climax before it stops and flashes to 100 years later when Liv Halston, who herself is going through huge personal changes, comes into a legal battle over the very portrait of Sophie that now hangs in her bedroom. The story of what happened to the girl in the painting leads on a journey through trials and tribulations that put her courage on the line. There is a central theme to all the novels by Moyes, and although they are all romantic, love story themes, they also are just as entertaining in their other aspects of history, law, and human experiences. They are worth picking up. You just might be surprised at how truly multi-dimensional they really are.
of raising three rabbits. 

Contrary to popular belief, Jojo does not just like carrots but he also loves bananas, apples and peach treats. Like all mischievous children, Jojo will also eat his dessert (fruit) before eating his greens, and when he’s happy he’ll run around my apartment, jump in the air and throw out his hind legs. He loves head pats and likes having his ears and jaw massaged. And if your arm gets tired of petting him, don’t think he’ll let you stop until he’s done. If you stop petting Jojo before he has given you permission to stop he will nudge your hand with his nose so that your hand is back on top of head, petting him.

My next bun bun is Rigby, a brown Holland Lop and Mini Rex mix whose ears never go down. At only five months old, he is already as long as Jojo and will eat more than his older brother. Despite him missing two toes on his hind leg, Rigby doesn’t let that stop him from jumping over boxes and baby gates.

When he’s not eating or harassing his younger brother, Rigby loves scratching and gnawing at pieces of wood and pinecones. Although he is still not quite old enough to eat fruits and vegetables like his older brother Jojo, Rigby loves eating a variety of greens including cilantro, kale and romaine.

Finally, we come to the baby of the pack, Pilot. Named after my favorite band, Pilot is an exact mini replica of Jojo, except gray. Despite having the same birthday as Rigby, Pilot is not nearly as long as his two older brothers.

In his free time, Pilot likes to escape from his cage right before bedtime and run around my apartment as I try to catch him. He also likes picking fights with Rigby and will steal his brother’s hay. Like Rigby, Pilot also enjoys chewing on pinecones and wood, and has recently taken a liking to gnawing at wicker baskets.

Unlike his oldest brother Jojo, Pilot loves his greens and is usually the first one to finish his salad in the morning. Also unlike his two brothers, Pilot is the only bunny who can’t seem to grasp the whole litter box concept.

And that is my bunny warren; Jojo, Rigby and Pilot. Basically they own my apartment, I just pay the rent.
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi receives Solar Leader
Green Mountain Energy Sun Club presents award to the Island University for it’s use of renewable energy

by CONNER TICHOTA
news reporter

On Dec. 19, shortly after the close of the fall semester, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi officials accepted the Solar Leader Award provided by the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club, which recognized the Island University for its use of renewable energy. The award was accepted by Dr. L.D. Chen, Director of the School of Engineering and Sciences.

"South Texas is blessed with very rich natural resources," said Chen. "In terms of energy, solar, wind and geothermal resources are the most available.

In Aug., the University un-veiled its first solar array, that was installed atop the Engineering Building. The solar array was a joint project between the Island University and the Sun Club. According to Chen, the solar array was just one of several projects promoting renewable energy on campus. Other examples of the commitment to becoming a "green campus" include the various wind turbines located around campus.

According to the Sun Club’s official website, the Solar Leader Award is designated to recipients based on several criteria including their needs, mission, and ability to educate the community about renewable energy. The solar array utilized by the Island University has provided students a chance to become involved through various research opportunities.

"It gives the students a challenge," said Chen. "Can we develop mathematical models to forecast the solar performance? Can [we] increase efficiency by looking at different ways to harness solar power? That would be a research project to look into."

Founded in 2002, the Sun Club is a nationwide organization focused on funding, building and promoting the use of solar energy. It provides funding and service to organizations looking to reduce their environmental footprint and better serve the community. This includes a number of universities and other non-profit institutions including Habitat for Humanity and even museums. Currently, the Sun Club is responsible for 53 successful installations of solar arrays nationwide. In Corpus Christi alone, the Sun Club has provided solar energy not only for Ward Island, but also for the Texas State Aquarium and the Art Museum of South Texas.

A total of $75,000 was funded by the Sun Club to install the solar array on the engineering building. The entire array consists of 100 photovoltaic panels of which, when exposed to light, can convert the light into usable energy. The array helps to not only reduce the University’s environmental footprint, but also reduce the overall cost for electricity.

According to Chen, there aren't any current projects in place to continue expanding upon the University’s renewable energy programs. However, there is research being conducted exploring new means of renewable energy.

"There is research looking into geothermal energy, and ways to harvest that energy," said Chen.

For more information regarding the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club and their current solar power projects, please visit the website at greenmountainenergysunclub.org.

by STEPHANIE WALLACE
copy editor

In the last month, deaths related to persons contracting the flu and H1N1 have risen. Three weeks ago, as reported by Kii, over 600 cases were reported by the Nueces County Health Department. This sparked a wave of locals to health clinics and doctor offices for treatment that may be needed. They also offer flu vaccines. Call 361-825-2601 or you can call the Ask-a-Nurse hotline at 361-825-5735.

The Health Department has reported a decrease in cases reported as of press time, now to below 400. This is good news as it shows increased campaigns for vaccines and an awareness to the threat may have worked to help decrease cases. Flu season runs from October to May but is at its height in January and February.

The University Health Center recommends that if you are feeling flu like symptoms coming on to contact them for a visit. Visits are free, excluding medicines or other matters of treatment that may be needed. They also offer flu vaccines. Call 361-825-2901 or you can call the Ask-a-Nurse hotline at 361-825-5735.

The vaccine is one way to help protect yourself. Dr. David Foster reports that although some people who received the vaccine have sought treatment for the flu, cases are a lot more mild and recovery is quicker. It is better to be safe than sorry as three people have died because of the flu this year.

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New reporter

Campus

Corpus Christi

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According to the Sun Club’s official website, the Solar Leader Award is designated to recipients based on several criteria including their needs, mission, and ability to educate the community about renewable energy. The solar array utilized by the Island University has provided students a chance to become involved through various research opportunities.

"It gives the students a challenge," said Chen. "Can we develop mathematical models to forecast the solar performance? Can [we] increase efficiency by looking at different ways to harness solar power? That would be a research project to look into."

Founded in 2002, the Sun Club is a nationwide organization focused on funding, building and promoting the use of solar energy. It provides funding and service to organizations looking to reduce their environmental footprint and better serve the community. This includes a number of universities and other non-profit institutions including Habitat for Humanity and even museums. Currently, the Sun Club is responsible for 53 successful installations of solar arrays nationwide. In Corpus Christi alone, the Sun Club has provided solar energy not only for Ward Island, but also for the Texas State Aquarium and the Art Museum of South Texas.

A total of $75,000 was funded by the Sun Club to install the solar array on the engineering building. The entire array consists of 100 photovoltaic panels of which, when exposed to light, can convert the light into usable energy. The array helps to not only reduce the University’s environmental footprint, but also reduce the overall cost for electricity.

According to Chen, there aren't any current projects in place to continue expanding upon the University’s renewable energy programs. However, there is research being conducted exploring new means of renewable energy.

"There is research looking into geothermal energy, and ways to harvest that energy," said Chen.

For more information regarding the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club and their current solar power projects, please visit the website at greenmountainenergysunclub.org.

by STEPHANIE WALLACE
copy editor

I n the last month, deaths related to persons contracting the flu and H1N1 have risen. Three weeks ago, as reported by Kii, over 600 cases were reported by the Nueces County Health Department. This sparked a wave of locals to health clinics and doctor offices for treatment that may be needed. They also offer flu vaccines. Call 361-825-2601 or you can call the Ask-a-Nurse hotline at 361-825-5735.

The Health Department has reported a decrease in cases reported as of press time, now to below 400. This is good news as it shows increased campaigns for vaccines and an awareness to the threat may have worked to help decrease cases. Flu season runs from October to May but is at its height in January and February.

The University Health Center recommends that if you are feeling flu like symptoms coming on to contact them for a visit. Visits are free, excluding medicines or other matters of treatment that may be needed. They also offer flu vaccines. Call 361-825-2901 or you can call the Ask-a-Nurse hotline at 361-825-5735.
One of the newest members is freshman Mechanical Engineering student, Martin Hass. Hass admits that it was his fascination with airplanes, and search for an internship that led him to the program. “The fact that I would be working with [UASs] fascinated me,” said Hass. “When I heard about the opportunity, I had to take it.”

Hass currently works as part of the ground crew maintenance for the UAS Initiative, and was quite enthusiastic to hear of the program’s expansion. “I think it’s going to be big,” said President Killebrew. “It’s going to give students throughout the University the opportunity to be involved in something that is cutting-edge technology.”

According to the Island University website, it is just one of the 11 test sites that were approved in Texas via a proposal created by the University’s Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center. LSUASC is comprised of nearly 20 different organizations. The University is just one of several academic partners including Texas A&M’s Engineering Experiment Station, the University of Texas Arlington Research Institute and Southwest Research Institute.

Other contributing organizations include the Texas Department of Transportation’s Aviation division and Camber Corporation, a leading company in engineering, technology and aerospace defense. According to LSUASC’s official website, the primary purpose of these various test sites is to promote research regarding the UASs. One of researchers’ primary goals includes readying the UASs to be incorporated into national airspace. In order to do so, researchers are working to create effective “sense-and-avoid” technology, preventing collisions with other aircrafts occupying the airspace.

The test sites are located throughout rural areas of Texas. Several sites are located around Fort Hood, Duval County, and the Gulf, Laguna and Padre Island areas of Nueces County. According to Bridges, LSUASC will be managing the test sites. The base of operations for these test sites will be in A&M-Corpus Christi’s Coastal Bend Innovation Centre, located in the Flower Bluff area. The test sites will be operational within the next six months.

“This is going to be, as Dr. Killebrew said, ‘a Kitty Hawk moment,’” said Sharp. “It is going to begin and end with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.”

For more information regarding UAS testing or information on LSUASC, visit the official website at www.lsuasc.tamucc.edu.

Celebration speakers were Killebrew, Nelda Martinez Jim Schwertrner, John Sharp, Todd Hunter. The evening included a reception, program, display of the University’s UASs, and video of the flights. The first 500 attendees received a balsa wood plane.
Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, the Affordable Healthcare Act will affect you. If you are a student worker, you cannot go over 30 work hours a week. If you are not covered under your parent’s health insurance policy, or over the age of 25, you will have to get your own insurance by March or face a $95 dollar penalty, to only increase by 2016.

In my opinion, there is nothing affordable about it.

According to the online marketplace “Healthcare.gov,” you can sign up for insurance through the exchange and pick between a bronze, silver, gold, and platinum plan. Or, you can stay on your old insurance, if the insurance company has not cancelled your policy.

The start of the problems arose from Obama’s promise that policies will not be canceled when, in fact, over four million policies were canceled. Then, with the prices of policies varying from state to state, and policies were canceled when, in fact, over four million.

The deductible is the amount of out of pocket money that must be paid before the insurance will start kicking in money. Some people report deductibles in the thousands, even tens of thousands, and with monthly premiums on the high side as well, Americans are calling foul to Obamacare.

Sure there are subsidies available, but that just results in a never ending loop of money. The Obama administration has also relied heavily on young people, those in our age group, to sign up for policies to fund the system for those who are sick and on the older side.

My problem arises from the fact that we are assumed to be able to afford this. But, because of the economy at hand, long gone are the days when a college graduate can become a professional making high amounts of money right from the gate. I have a five year old at home, work two jobs, and am about to graduate with degrees in Biology and Psychology, but that does not guarantee me a job. In this economy, I will be really lucky to find something that will pay me past the rising cost of living.

Add that to my rent, electric bill, food bill, car insurance payment, and future student loan payment and I am expected to pay $250 plus dollars a month in premiums for insurance with a $12,500 deductible that will not even pay anything until I have shelled out that amount.

Then, if I do not pay, I will be hit with a $95 penalty in 2015, and $600 plus dollar penalty in 2016.

This is where my problem lies, the mandate making all of us have insurance or face a fine, when some people just cannot afford it, subsidies or not. Let alone the issue of America’s being angry at those who live off the system with Medicaid and Food Stamps, and all the subsidies being paid out to insure people who still cannot afford to go to the doctor.

Citizens in our neck of the woods, in the Coastal Bend, are vastly underinsured. Hospital Emergency Room rates are ridiculously long, mainly because people who cannot afford insurance and preventative medical treatment go to the ER for matters a family practitioner could treat, because they cannot be turned away.

Proponents of the ACA say that it will help with this problem as 10 mandatory mandates are required for insurers to cover like Maternity coverage, which was usually an add on to policies past, and birth control. On the flip side of this inclusive deal is that the rate of premiums increased. So a basic policy, although it covers those preventative measures, still costs a lot of money per month in addition to a deductible that could equal almost 30% of what some people make in a year. That is a lot of money.

A quick “Yahoo” search of “Obamacare” yields articles with titles like “Obamacare Middle-Income Trap,” and “Wanted: Young adults enrolling in Obamacare.”

In addition to these not so promising titles, CNNmoney.com reports that there are, in fact, not enough young adults enrolling in the healthcare program. The Obama Administration seems hopeful that the 18-30 year olds needed will, eventually, sign up by the deadline, but the problem is that insurance experts believe the actual 40% needed to fuel the ACA will fall short. And, this could mean even higher rates in 2015.

This affects us Islander’s whether we want to see it or not. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas has even spearheaded a “BeCovered in Texas” campaign geared at targeting Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets to encourage sign up in the ACA.

To add to the matter, subsidies only come into affect if someone makes less than $46,000 a year, which, for some young people with jobs like Arie Lipinski, an attorney in Carmel, Indiana, makes them disqualified. So, the bronze plan, which is just, in a sense, catastrophic insurance, is not justified since it doesn’t actually cover anything and is almost $200 a month in money that could be used for bills, or food, instead of, in my opinion, being thrown away to keep a plastic card in my wallet that is completely useless with the $12, 500 dollars I still would have to pay in order for the insurance to do anything for me.

This is geared at young adults mainly because we make up a large number of the uninsured and, for some, this plan could truly benefit. But, for me, working more than 40 hours a week at a job that my degree starts at, roughly $15 plus an hour, I would not qualify for government help. This is just the income I would take home, not including taxes to be taken out. So, in reality, it would be less than that $15 an hour implies and, after bills, even more so a desperate situation with the cost of rent these days. This bill only helps those who are really poor or really rich and can afford it, and it only hurts those who are just making enough to get by- the Middle Class.

My opinion of Obamacare is that it will not really help as many people as it claims to be made for. I, for one, cannot afford it, and in reading a lot of articles on the Associated Press’s website, and comments from average American citizens, it seems a lot of fellow countrymen feel the same way. If it really helps or hurts our nation as a whole is yet to be seen, but I can guarantee this is an issue that will not be going away anytime soon.