The line to the kiosks in the center of the Student Services Center wrapped around the center of the building on Aug. 29 as students and parents waited to be helped by the financial assistance specialists. While the influx this time of year is expected by workers in the student services center, the number of monies to be borrowed this school year may not be.

Student loans have been reported to increase two to three times the rate of inflation in recent years leaving students with a bill when they graduate. The latest figure has been reported to be an average of $27,000 per student in loans—either private or federal. Joseph Ruiz, the assistant director of Student Financial Assistance, said that A&M has reported that the administration in the A&M systems has managed to try to keep tuition low.

"Designated tuition did not go up at all," Ruiz said. "There are some extra fees, unfortunately, to maintain the campus and provide extra facilities, but tuition was not increased. We're trying to combat tuition increase that way." The Board of Regents did vote not to increase tuition, although servicing fees were increased.

Ruiz said that the department has tried to implement various outreach programs in order to reach out to high school students to inform them of the many ways in which they can finance their education. Although he reported that there is currently only one person on staff who is in charge of that, compared to other universities, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has been reported to be on the lower-end of the cost spectrum. According to CollegeData.com, the cost of attendance at A&M-Corpus Christi was $20,042 as of the 2011-2012 school year. In comparison, Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, costs $22,954 to attend.

According to a recent report in Rolling Stone, the Department of Education is projected to make money off Stafford loans, despite the fact that recent legislation just temporarily prevented interest from doubling with the Bi-Partisan Student Loan Certainty Act. When the bill was passed, President Obama did say that tuition rates needed to be tapered, but offered no resolution to make that happen.

According to business major Jeremy Martinez, rising costs from higher education institutions are expected because they are run like a business. "They're seeing enrollment come in, so to make people come to school and keep the numbers up they have to jack up the price to keep people coming," Martinez said in a phone interview.

Martinez transferred from South Texas College and said that he has experienced student debt with the new promotion.

Ashley Dyckman tells readers how to get their own NoteCard on PAGE 7.

THE ISLAND WAVES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI 09.05.13
PHOTOS BY JOSIAH CORONA

By ERIKA GALINDO
Managing Editor

Student debt rises

As students begin a new semester, some worry about accumulating debt.

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Islanders volleyball begins with two losses and one win

by ALEXIS DE LEON
sports editor

Volleyball season officially got underway Aug. 30 with the Islanders volleyball team playing UC Irvine. The match ended with a decisive defeat to the Islanders 3-1. There was little time to dwell on the loss however as the Pioneer Classic took place the following day.

The Islanders then geared up for the Pioneer Classic held on Aug. 31 in Hamilton Gymnasium, beginning the match against Denver (2-0).

Senior Logan Bourque recorded her first double-double of the season with 31 assists and 10 digs while freshman Shaquita Parker added nine kills but the Islanders couldn’t pull within two as Denver controlled the net with 15 block assists and one ace. The Islanders pulled ahead early with a 10-0 lead over the Falcons. Parker and Baresh added kills during the run and Maldonado added three aces. Air Force answered with a 9-0 run of their own to secure the set at 27. Both teams battled back-and-forth until the Islanders went ahead 21-19 with a kill following an Islanders attacking error. After trading points, Air Force wrapped the first set 25-21 with a kill.

The Islanders rallied back to win the next three sets. The second set resembled the first with the Islanders racing ahead 6-0 but, once again, the Falcons came back to even the score at 6-6. The Islanders persevered and moved ahead at 17-14 with kills by Brink and Parker. After trading points, senior Sarah Sanchez put away a kill and Bourque added an ace to build the Islanders lead to 22-16. Both teams traded points before after a rocky start dropping the first set against Air Force, the Islanders rallied back to win three straight sets and clinch their first victory of the season (1-1) (21-25, 25-18, 25-23, 25-22). Baresh led the Islanders with her second double-double of the classic with 12 kills and a career-high 22 digs. Brink tied match-high 13 kills while Parker recorded a season-high 12 kills. Bourque tallied 43 assists and Maldonado obtained 10 digs. The Islanders pulled ahead early with a 10-0 lead over the Falcons. Parker and Baresh added kills during the run and Maldonado added three aces. Air Force answered with a 9-0 run of their own to secure the set at 27. Both teams battled back-and-forth until the Islanders went ahead 21-19 with a kill following an Islanders attacking error. After trading points, Air Force wrapped the first set 25-21 with a kill.

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The air was heavy with humidity and the resonant rumble of anxious fans Friday, Aug. 23rd, as the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi women’s soccer team kicked off their inaugural match at the Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer & Track Stadium.

The night started with the grand opening ceremony to celebrate the historic match played in the approximately $8.8 million facility. A&M–Corpus Christi President and CEO Dr. Flavius Killebrew and Dr. Jack Dugan spoke prior to the match. Also taking part in the ceremony was Athletic Director Scott Lazenby and Southland Conference Commissioner TomBurgett.

“No one originally predicted this outcome, but we are hoping to maintain this enthusiasm the fans have brought with them tonight,” Killebrew said.

Soon after the 30 minute mark, the Houston Cougars (1-0-0) were up by one and the pressure was on. Junior Alyssa Miller received a swift pass from freshman Yvette Franco and returned the ball just outside of the 18-yard box, which connected with the back left corner of the goal to score the first goal of Islanders soccer history.

“The field is just amazing and to bring something like this to Corpus Christi is an honor,” Navy Army Community Credit Union President and CEO Sarah O’Brien said. “We believe in giving back to the community and what better way than with a place for the community to come out and watch the Islanders women’s soccer team.”

That night, 1,187 fans filled the bleachers as well as the standing room to cheer on the Islanders.

“I’m so excited,” marketing senior Clarissa Benavidez said. “This is the first soccer game I’ve ever been to. It’s like basketball but with feet.”

The Islanders fell 2-1 against the Cougars but not without a fight. The women’s soccer team currently stands 0-2 overall in game play.

The Islanders will hit the road Friday September 6 to play UTSA in San Antonio.
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On September 13th, the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Art department will be hosting the Texas Photographic Society’s 26th Annual Members Only Show. This event will showcase some of the work done by members of the organization. The work ranges from candid everyday life photos to more staged artistically themed photos. For someone looking to see what is happening in the world of photography, this exhibit should not be missed.

As a student of A&M-Corpus Christi, you should look for opportunities to get involved in the community. This allows you to learn about the community around you and not be a cultural turtle trapped in a shell. With that being said, if you are an artist or photographer, or simply like expanding your artistic bubble, you should check out this exhibit.

TPS helps bring together photographers of all backgrounds and experience levels, not only from Texas but from many other states. As per the TPS website, this organization is “dedicated to supporting contemporary photography as a means for creative expression and cultural insight.” Many artists from all walks of life are able to share a common love for photography. The website features new and old artists alike. There is even a gallery set aside to cell phone photography. Surprisingly, great photographs can indeed be taken with mobile devices. In addition to giving people an opportunity to share their work, TPS also gives the opportunity for new and experienced photographers to improve their skills with their many workshops.

The main idea here is to realize that these pictures are not “Texas themed.” They are taken in a variety of locations and show a wide range of themes. I greatly enjoyed being able to look over some of the pictures. I think I could rightfully say that there is something for everyone. If you like nature, there are plenty of beautiful landscape photos to see. If you like more abstract, artistic photos, there are plenty to appreciate. City streets, rural fields, everyday people are also showcased. If you attend, you will enjoy the photos. I’m sure of it. You can tell that the people who take these photos enjoy taking pictures. The photos are well thought out and taken with quality.

This exhibit is a great way to get out and get involved in the community. It is early in the semester and, more than likely, classes have not bogged you down just yet. If you are an aspiring photographer, or just someone who likes art, you should make plans to visit this gallery.

The exhibit will run until October 13th and can be found in the Island Art Gallery in the Hamlin Shopping Center from 6-8 p.m. For more information visit cla.tamucc.edu/art/gallery/islander.html.
If you are a lover of the arts or are filling your core fine arts requirement this semester with Music Appreciation, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra has a deal for you. This season they are launching a new program that aims to make CCSO concerts more affordable for students.

High school and full-time college students are now eligible to buy a NoteCard for $25 which gives the holder tickets to all six regular subscription season concerts. Considering that student tickets typically cost $15 for each individual concert, the NoteCard is a great way to train your musical ear and save yourself some money this year.

"We feel as a person is getting their education, and developing as a person, that the arts and music in particular is a great way to help them develop," said Robert Reed, the Executive Director of the CCSO.

Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra concerts are a great way to refine your music taste and do something out of the ordinary on a Saturday night. You won’t even have to drive a long distance to see them because symphony orchestra concerts are held at our very own Performing Arts Center.

NoteCards are limited to high school and full-time students. Interested participants must fill out an application in order to enroll in the program.

"In the world that we live in now, students are people who could be 18 or 75," Reed said. "Since there are so many different people who take classes, we wanted to restrict the sale because the whole purpose is to drive a younger audience to the symphony."

NoteCards are valid beginning with the first season concert on Oct. 12 and ending after the last concert on April 12. Tickets reservations are subject to availability and seating is at the discretion of the box office. Holders must reserve their tickets by 3 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the concert by calling or visiting the CCSO office.

"Everyone needs to have a well rounded education," Reed said. "Whether they love symphonic music or not it is a great way of developing one’s character, developing one’s self and getting an appreciation of the arts."

The organization just started accepting applications for the NoteCard as of yesterday, so go fill yours out today before the cards are all gone. Applications and instructions on how to apply can be found at CCSymphony.org/tickets/students.

**CONCERT SCHEDULE**

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RIDING THE WAVE FORWARD
1. **Camden Construction**—The Anchor and and Tarpon wings of the new Camden Mirimar dormitories are now open and filled with students. Construction continues on the remaining Compass and Dolphin wings of the dorms.

2. **UC Construction**—Construction on the University Center expansion project is about to begin. Don’t think about parking in the Jellyfish lot because it is already fenced off in preparation.

3. **Island Bash**—University students get a chance to have some fun before the official start of the fall semester at Waves of Welcome’s Island Bash this Monday.

4. **Move In Day**—New Islanders and their families got a first look at their new campus homes for the upcoming months during Move In Day last Thursday.

5. **Solar Power**—TAMU-CC and Green Mountain Energy™ Sun Club™ flipped the switch on the new solar panels on the room of the Engineering Building last Friday.

6. **New “Think Tank” in Bay Hall**—Last week the new graphics lab, video editing lab and “Think Tank” in Bay Hall were still under construction but almost ready for students.

7. **New Media Production**—Island Waves got a sneak peek look at new equipment for the prospective Media Production track of Communication thanks to professor Edward Tyndall.
FIRST ADVICE

For first-year students, college can be an exciting and nerve-wracking place. Luckily for the class of 2017, several Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi undergraduate share their first-year experience and offer advice to help make freshmen feel successful one.

I would tell incoming freshmen to make friends fast, join a club/sport, have a group of people to study with and to keep up with your studies.

- Evan Anthony, criminal justice/pyschology major

My advice to incoming freshmen would be to learn where all your classes are before the semester starts, and to get involved in student organizations on campus. There are so many opportunities out there for everyone, you just have to find what fits your interests.

- Alex Draper, marine biology major

I wish I would have treated every year, especially as if it were my senior year because they are all equally important. I would tell freshmen students to get to know their professors, and to have a good introduction with them because you will most likely have that professor again and it will make the class that much more enjoyable.

- Brianna Andrade, communication major

Students need to be wise when deciding between enjoying themselves and choosing academics. It's college and everyone wants to have fun, but you don't balance between school and fun you will have severe consequences. Too much fun and you won't have the time to study, but if you don't have any fun then you will get tired and depressed. Balance is key to surviving college.

- David Barrera, mechanical engineering major

Using the proper resources

Programs on campus point students toward success

**an opinion by STEPHANIE WALLACE**

For most freshmen, coming into the first year of college can be an exciting experience; fresh with the prospects of a clean slate and new beginnings. Coming into Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as a life sciences major (Chemistry, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Dental) can be downright intimidating at times, but adrenaline pumping at other.

It’s easy to get side tracked and feel hopeless when those degree plans are printed out at the advising and engineering advisors offices.

Biology major Joey Gdovin was passionate about the sciences, which is what kept him going in the program.

“Well the idea was very intimidating, however I have always had a passion for the sciences so it was also a feeling of excitement, said Gdovin. "Over the years of being in the science field, I have slowly learned things I wish I would have known from the start, but that takes experience.

One thing to keep in mind that I wish I knew about when I was enrolled in 2008 is a biomedical science major, is that there are resources to help you succeed. One of the major ones to remember is SOAR (Student Organizations, Access and Retention)

SOAR is, according to the official mission statement, dedicated to “closing the educational gap in science, engineering, technology, and math for students geared toward academic and professional success in the global community.”

Former biomedical science major Farah Raisi wishes these programs were more widely acknowledged when she was a freshman.

“I loved science, but realized through it that I had a passion for psychology,” says Raisi. “Back then, my freshman year, I wish I had known what other help was out there, I may have stayed in the science field.”

SOAR offers a wide range of help for incoming freshmen including peer success programs, more one on one with professors and library instructional time, and the ever popular supplemental instruction. Usually, previous students will come into a class they excelled in and hold study and answer sessions during the summer to help students succeed in tests and labs.

In my four years as a science major, these sessions proved vital. There is also a wide variety of help available through CASA.

Although professors try to talk about the ways that are available for students to succeed in the science programs, many of these programs get overlooked and underused. Take it from me, use them. They help in more ways than you can even imagine.

“My advice for those entering as a science major is that this field is very competitive and there is no time to waste if you want to stay on track,” says Gdovin. “Try to get and use as many resources to help you as often as possible. Whether they are study groups, talking to professors, or regular tutoring, it sounds obvious, but every little bit will help to go the distance.”

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Students move into their dorms, including the newly constructed Anchor and Tarpon.

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**MOVE IN DAY**

Newly constructed dorms open up for Fall 2013

by KATHLEEN RAMIREZ features editor

Caden Miramar recently awakened from its summer slumber Thursday, August 29th as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students moved into their new homes for the year during the Islander Move-In.

The newly constructed private residence halls, Anchor and Tarpon, also opened bringing the total number of beds to 1640.

“We’re obviously getting a housing demand here, and we need as many buildings as possible to accommodate our incoming students,” Richard Whatcott, director of Camden Miramar said. “Private halls are really the demand now from our students coming in.”

With the opening of Anchor and Tarpon, an additional 150 beds were made available. Each room comes fully furnished with a single twin bed, desk area, closet, dresser, mini fridge and microwave. Each floor is also equipped with a lobby, vending machine, kitchen and a community laundry room.

Additionally, residents of these new residence halls each have their own private bathroom, something that isn’t offered throughout the entirety of any of the other halls. Unlike Anchor and Tarpon, other residence halls only offer a limited number of private bathrooms.

For English major and Anchor resident Lauren Marbach, this is her second year living on campus. Prior to moving into Anchor, Marbach resided in Pelican residence hall.

“[Anchor] is smaller than what I was used to, but the bathroom setup is good for it,” Marbach said. “It’s my own bathroom and I have my own shower and everything so I love it.

Although Anchor and Tarpon are similar in appearance to Pelican and Coral, there are a few new features that can be found. Standup showers have taken the place of bathtubs and the sliding closet doors have been replaced with swinging doors.

“The [residence halls] are pretty good so far,” said them,” Jonathan Turner, resident advisor for Anchor said. “I’m pretty sure the residents are going to like them. At least a quarter of the residents are freshmen, but there are sophomores, juniors and seniors also.

While residents enjoy the newness of the buildings, the private bathrooms appear to be the real crowd pleaser.

“It’s really clean, and it’s just pretty really, but other than that it’s a good building, I can see myself living in it,” Marbach said. “I like that there’s a bigger kitchen area, but the bathroom is the biggest area for me. It’s the room that made me interested in living here next year.”

In keeping with the idea of expanding, Camden Miramar has other construction plans in the works. During the school year, Camden Miramar plans to add additional halls.

The prospective buildings will be named Company C and Docks, and will have the same layout and design as Anchor and Tarpon, as well as include private bathrooms in each room.

“We’re excited, but this is just the first phase,” Whatcott said. “We’re learning what the students want and making the best decisions from it. I’m just excited about having more Islanders here in housing and the opportunity to get to know them.”

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photo courtesy of TAMUCC.EDU
US involvement in Syria is not necessary

Congress is slated to vote whether or not the United States should intervene in Syria as soon as they return from their summer break.

The vote is being seen by President Barack Obama and Senator John Kerry as necessary to make after a recent chemical attack that killed 1,429 civilians, four hundred of which were children.

While intervention from the US seems like an easy case to make, as members of a generation in which we have seen nothing but foreign entanglement, we need to tread carefully.

Given the US’s recent foreign policy track, it’s easy to see our country’s tendency to intervene for humanitarian purposes. But after we realize there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but there was quite a bit of oil, nefarious purposes are now expected from each of our “noble” causes when we go into the Middle East.

Currently, the US is citing the prevention of more chemical attacks, but Syria is mighty close to Israel, the US’ ally in the middle east. Protecting their key in a region already hostile to our empire and allies.

Humanitarian intervention seems to be our only reason to ever get involved in conflict, but it’s quite telling which cases the US sees as detrimen
tal for intervention and which we do not blink an eye to.

Earlier this year, Israel attacked the Palestinian area of Gaza. While Gaza is already financially crippled from being held hostage by Israel, we see fit to ignore when they are attacked by Israel.

Africa was also terrorized for years by warlord Joseph Kony and other civil wars. It was not until we saw resources that AFRICOM was developed by the military.

The US has proven time and again that their only motivation is the bottom line. So instead of investing millions in their own country, we decide to throw away more money everyday into defense.

The US has proven time and again that their country. Journalists are being persecuted, activists are hunted down, whistleblowers are publicly thrown to the fire and yet we are gearing up for another war.

We should definitely ask our leaders to be wary of their constituent’s desires, but when has that ever been a deciding factor for lawmakers? Instead, we should ask them what kind of legacy the US is building and what kind of world they are destroying in their imperial goals.

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Send letters to Editor@tamucc.edu

*Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or the press of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for grievances.*
CAMPUS BRIEFS

DANCE FESTIVAL: The 14th annual Bailando Dance Festival will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, through Saturday, Sept. 28 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Adjudication Concerts will be on Thursday, Sept. 26 and Friday Sept. 27 in the Performing Arts Center, where choreographers will be critiqued. Master classes will be offered on Friday, Sept. 27 through Saturday Sept. 28 in the Dugan Wellness Center in various types and styles of dance. The festival will also offer the Gala Celebration Concert on Saturday, featuring selected performers from the Adjudication Concerts. Special guests include Ekaterina Uksukina of the Moscow Ballet and Ad Deum Dance Company. For more information, visit cbailando.com.

NEW RESIDENCE HALLS: Islander Move-In took place on Aug. 9. Volunteers from around the campus including student-athletes helped new and returning Islanders move into various residence halls and apartment buildings. Residence halls included the newly constructed Anchor and Tarpon Hall, which were built just in time for freshmen. The residence halls featured 150 private suites for students. Now, 1,640 new beds are available at Camden Miramar.

SOLAR PANELS: A dedication ceremony was held on Aug. 30 for the newly installed solar panels. The panels were donated by the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club, which had representatives present at the dedication. The solar panels are located on top of the Engineering Building and will be made available for students as an instruction tool and for research. The 100 photovoltaic panels will also help reduce utility bills and make the University “greener.”

APP FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS: A new app has been developed by students to help other students stay organized with their various STEM courses. Students can now keep up with which courses are being offered, the leaders of each course and where the course will be located with the SOAR Si app. Computer science students developed the app in the University’s iCORE (Innovation in Computing Research) Labs. The app is available on both Android and Apple products.

A WEEK IN SCIENCE:

SAHARAN DUST CLOUD: According to Kii-TV, the Saharan dust cloud has officially reached Texas. What this means for the Island University is that allergy sufferers may have a harder than normal time. Although the dry air sucks for allergies, it is also helpful in keeping tropical storms away from the coastal bend. What should you do if you are sensitive to the dust in the air? “Stay in an air-conditioned environment, keep your home dust free and change your filters more often after this dust storm is gone,” said Dr. Pra- mila Dalfy, of the Allergy and Asthma Care Center of Waco.

SHARKS: Shark week, on the Discovery channel, is a cult classic among teenage boys and college students (myself included). Our very own Harte Research Institute is out to “tag and track sharks to better understand their distribution, feeding habitats and movement patterns in the Gulf of Mexico...and Padre Island National Seashore,” according to “Island University Researchers Play Tag During Shark Week” on our University webpage. What has been learned about sharks in out waters? “Sharks caught in Coastal Bend waters are generally migrating south,” said Dr. Matt Ajemian of HRI.

STINGRAY POPULATION: Dr. Ajemian is also part of a study associated with the HRI to encourage sustainable use of rays in response to “uncontrolled” killings of rays in Chesapeake Bay, an estuary off the Atlantic Ocean. Ajemian stated the focus is to “develop conservation measures.” Conservation measures are needed because these rays, called “hard-eating” stingrays, are a food source for sharks and the killings could lead to a decline in food source and a loss of benefits to other marine life according to the article “Texas A&M-Corpus Christi develops plan to conserve stingrays, prevent growing threats worldwide,” also on tamucc.edu.

AREA 51: Yes, you read that right. Area 51 is real. CNN wrote on August 16 that the CIA is finally acknowledging the site. Is it really a secret government facility that houses suspected “aliens?” Area 51, about 125 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is now visible from “Google Maps” and is, unfortunately, not housing crazy things that movies like “Independence Day” would like us to believe. It was a testing site for the U-2 spy plane, according to the Washington Post. I am sure more information will come out, but for now, myths can be put aside as Area 51 is not declassified.

STUDENT DEBT: continued from page 1

borrowed $40,000 so far, which makes him uncomfortable but he views it as a necessary evil. Despite his reservations, Martinez states he is ready to go to school. He has applied for financial aid and hopes he will be able to attend after he receives his VA in business.

Ann Marie Alaniz is a senior majoring in history, and says that she probably would not have gone to Texas State University, which she transferred to after she finished at Del Mar College. She realized how much she would have to borrow.

“T need to get that degree, and now seeing how much I have accumulated, just seeing that amount I’m like I’m going to be a poor college student forever,” said Alaniz. “I’m never going to get out of the poor college thing.” The US government is projected to make a recovery of 104 and 105 percent through fees although, when it comes to student borrowers, it is unclear how their loans can be collected if a student can’t pay off their debt. If the lenders are the government, however, everything from their income to their tax returns can be collected. Ruiz says that the best way to prevent being saddled with loans is to go for scholarships.

“There’s a stereotype that scholarships are all income-based, but actually, a majority of them are rewarded on merit,” Ruiz said. “You can actually get scholarships from restaurants that you eat at. You just have to look.”