New media production degree in works

by ERIKA GALINDO
managing editor

The School of Arts Media and Communication is set to expand this year with the development of a new proposed track for communication majors as well as new facilities currently available for students’ use.

Texas A&M-University-Corpus Christi has seen the construction of entire buildings this fall semester including a new dining hall, but they are not the only developments happening on campus.

The new addition to Bay Hall includes four new workrooms that mark the expansion of an existing program leading to a prospective future. The new addition to Bay Hall includes four new workrooms that mark the beginning of a possible addition to SAMC and what may be offered as early as fall 2014.

The proposed Media Production Track is currently in development, and was planned in collaboration with several people including Dean Kimy Quitanailla of the College of Liberal Arts and Provost Chris Markwood who both helped lead the effort to create the new proposed track according to Edward Tyndall, professor of record for media productions.

Tyndall described their efforts as a collaboration in which his and A&M-Corpus Christi alum and current communications professor Bobby Lewis’ input were used to help plan both the track as well as figure out what would be needed for the facilities.

To develop the track and new facilities, Associate Professor of Art Amanda Garcia said that she along with Tyndall, Markwood and Quitanailla traveled to Savannah, GA to look at the Savannah College of Art and Design as a starting point to figure out what they wanted offered at A&M-Corpus Christi’s program and facilities.

“We used Savannah as a benchmark or a model for what we would like to see in the next five years. From what we learned there, we came back and Edward and I put together a plan as for what we would like to see in our space.”

Currently, students are utilizing the spaces available although they currently will not count towards a Media Production track until the coordinating board approves it. Tyndall expressed hope that that approval will come soon so that the Media Production track can officially be offered in Fall 2014.

“We’re actually offering all the classes now. If the track is approved, then they’ll be able to be a communications major in the media production track,” Tyndall said. “Unlike media studies, which is much more of a critical analysis, this is much more hands on.”

Currently eight to ten graphic design classes are being taught by Garcia, Nicholas McMillan and Jessica Block and are held in the Bay Hall labs.

Garcia, Tyndall, and Irish are described the new labs and think tanks as ideal for what filmmakers and designers need in a real world setting.

“Designers and artists need creative spaces to beitty media students, which is much more of a critical analysis, this is much more hands on.”

Currently eight to ten graphic design classes are being taught by Garcia, Nicholas McMillan and Jessica Block and are held in the Bay Hall labs.

Garcia, Tyndall, and Irish are described the new labs and think tanks as ideal for what filmmakers and designer would need in a real world setting.

“Designers and artists need creative spaces to beitty media students, which is much more of a critical analysis, this is much more hands on.”

Currently eight to ten graphic design classes are being taught by Garcia, Nicholas McMillan and Jessica Block and are held in the Bay Hall labs.

An original print by James Vitore hangs on the wall of the Think Tank. The room will serve as a space for graphic design students to collaborate with other designers.

Cirque du Freaky

Audience members at Water Street Village during Cirque du Freaky.

Breaking ground

Last Friday A&M-Corpus Christi leaders broke ground on the Island University’s first dining hall.

An original print by James Vitore hangs on the wall of the Think Tank. The room will serve as a space for graphic design students to collaborate with other designers.

Cirque du Freaky

Audience members at Water Street Village during Cirque du Freaky.

Breaking ground

Last Friday A&M-Corpus Christi leaders broke ground on the Island University’s first dining hall.
i THINK
hard work and dedication is the engine to success

i CHOOSE
to live free from drugs to motivate myself and others

i GRADUATE

Evan Paret
Student Government Association
President

http://iadapt.tamucc.edu
Dining facility plans illustrate campus growth over years

Groundbreaking held for hall opening August 2014

by ERIKA GALINDO manager editor

The University broke ground on its seventh dining facility Friday during a ceremony. The dining hall, which will be located where the rec sports field used to be, will be able to seat 400 Islanders and offer unlimited dining for Island residents, a first for the University.

“The area will soon become the new hub of activity for our University’s growing student body,” said Dr. Flavius Killebrew, president and CEO of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, during the ceremony, which was attended by students, local media, University faculty and staff.

The president spoke about the Tarpon Inn, the first dining facility built on campus in 1948. Killebrew also acknowledged that the University has grown rapidly since the Tarpon Inn, which served about 400 students when it was in operation.

“We are reinventing the on-campus dining experience at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi,” Killebrew said. “It will move beyond the traditional quick meals and provide a variety of dining options for students at one price.”

Dr. Flavius Killebrew A&M-CC President & CEO

The dining hall would become part of an interactive learning environment, he said. The dining hall will serve meals prepared by Chartwells, the new food services provider contracted by the University after services with Sodexo were halted in the summer.

The facility also will offer the first all-you-can-eat dining option, which was an option students had expressed having an interest in, particularly by those living on campus who did not have many dining options on the weekends.

The plan will be available to students, who can swipe their SandDollar$ and eat as much as they would like for as long as they want, Killebrew said during the ceremony.

Paret said the dining hall will positively affect students by providing them with a new hangout spot as well as another place to study.

The dining hall, which will be building the dining hall, and Kirksey Architect, which designed the facility, also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

The hall will be 18,700 square feet and feature indoor and outdoor seating. Details of its interior can be found in the commons area of the University Center by the cash registers. Students can take a look at the available details planned for the dining hall, which is expected to be complete June 2014 and open to students in August.

“Every detail that goes into creating spaces on campus like this for students is important,” Killebrew said. “Attention to detail like this is a commitment from the Island University to make certain that we are providing every possible advantage for students.”

Fast facts about the new dining hall:

- 18,700 square feet
- Located adjacent to new residence halls
- Single-story
- Indoor/outdoor seating for up to 400
- Expected completion date: June 2014
- First all-you-can-eat student meal plan
- Late-night food, snacks
- Vegetarian options
- Study/meeting places

Ask an Islander

The IW staff asked some students what they think of the dining hall plans.

Here’s what they had to say...

“I think the all-you-can-eat option is great for students as long as it comes with a variety. Many students spend all day here and the food choices get a little boring. I’m excited to be able to enjoy the new dining hall. It would have been nice to have it finished for this fall, but they can’t build everything at once.”

-Roxanne Lapointe, graduate student

“Well, it seems like poor planning when all of this construction begins when the University is at its highest enrollment. Since May, campus has been so quiet due to such low enrollment in the summer. This would have been the perfect time to close off so much parking and begin the changes.

Now, students must pay $66 to park in the parking lots this semester, yet the University doesn’t have enough parking for all of the students because of so many closures. The only options they give are to park in the garage, which changes by the hour, or to just ride the bus.

We all understand that during construction things can get hectic, however, when you see entire parking lots closed with absolutely no construction being done, it causes frustration. They also have blocked off entire walkways to get to certain parking lots making students zig-zag around the construction fences to find a way through.

There aren’t even signs up in these areas to help guide you through. I saw several students trying different routes and running into dead ends.

University expansion is a wonderful idea, however, the plans should have taken into account the affect on current students before fully implementing construction.”

-Christina Rizzo, nursing major

“Provided that this year the University saw its largest freshman class, I think they could have planned to alleviate student crowding in other areas on campus, like the library or other study spots.”

-Joe Martinez, communication major
do creative things,” Garcia said. “We wanted to create spaces that were fun and functional.”

The facilities include two spaces for students to use as thinking spaces for their projects as well as rooms to see a playback of their work.

The facilities also have a printing station and a room to conduct and film interviews with state of the art lighting.

Two glass cases are available in the hallway, one of which is currently used to showcase past graphic design students’ various projects created at A&M-Corpus Christi. The other empty glass case will be used to showcase the best of students’ work within their classes.

“It’s a natural evolution of the growth of the communications and media program. Over the past four years, we’ve been slowly trying to advocate for this,” Tyndall said. “With the support and the help of the Dean Quintana and Provost, we’ve been able to take the next step with it which is great because it’s what the students really want.”

Master plan reveals 39 new buildings for Island

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi plans to make room for 39 new buildings and four parking garages in its Master Plan. The Plan, which was unveiled on Sept. 4, is set to be completed in ten years. Its main goals include maximizing space for increasing enrollment, particularly in the College of English and the College of Science and Engineering and prioritizing academic research.

The Master Plan for the Momentum Campus projects the erection of 16 new buildings including student housing and three parking garages. The plan is being led by John Casey, Director of Facilities Services with the help of an advisory committee composed of various members of the A&M-Corpus Christi community members.

Convocation welcomes record number of freshmen

The First-Year Islanders Convocation was held on Tuesday Sept. 3 in the Performing Arts Center to a record breaking number of incoming freshmen. Over 2,000 freshmen were welcomed to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi by each University’s college and administration.

Current students including sophomore Armando Guerrero also welcomed the freshmen. This is the fourth year in which the convocation welcomed a record-breaking number of incoming Islanders.

Provost office celebrates newly tenured faculty

Five faculty members have received academic tenure at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The five faculty members include Dr. Carmen Tejeda-Delgado and Dr. Guang Zeng of the College of Education, Dr. Brian Elzweig of the College of Business, Dr. Ricardo Mozachio of the College of Science and Engineering and Dr. Kevin Concannon of the College of Liberal Arts.

The newly tenured faculty was recognized along with a handful of other promoted professors at an annual celebration hosted by the Provost’s Office on Aug. 30 in the Harte Research Institute.
Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Men’s Basketball team takes a 10-day tour of Italy

by ALEXIS DELEON
sports editor

The Islanders men’s basketball team recently returned from a 10-day tour of Italy where they took part in the first of 10 games as a new team. The trip began Tuesday, Aug. 20. The Islanders played four games against professional Italian teams during the trip.

In order for players to take part in the foreign tour, they need to be eligible to compete for the upcoming fall semester. Incoming freshmen need to have taken at least six credits during the summer session to join the team.

The NCAA allows men’s basketball teams to take one foreign tour every four years to play professional teams overseas. In order to prepare for this, the program is allowed 10 additional practices before the start of the tour. Normally, before the start of the official practice season, coaches are limited to two hours of skill instruction per week with their teams.

Islander Athletics allowed students to keep up with the basketball team with daily installments of Postcards from Italy - a series of photos from the historical areas. The postcards consisted of photos from the historical areas the men toured. The Islanders were struck down in their third game by Latina Basket with a final score of 103-96. Latina went 16-for-30 overall from the arc, using a 7-for-8 mark in the fourth to pull out the victory. Senior Zane Knowles had an impressive game with 30 points and 14 rebounds.

Day four, the final day in Varese, was described by junior John Jordan and his thoughts on the game against Glieggio Basket.

“The European players play the game a little different than I am used to,” Jordan said. “Their body movements and footwork are more fluid, versus being mechanical like American players. They are very good shooters which allows them to spread the defense out. Their guards are also very good passers and decision makers.”

Day five was spent in Florence with junior Hamed Ali describing the culture and the artwork of the local museums and churches toured all on the California native’s birthday. Day six saw the last of Florence as the men traveled to Rome the same day. Sophomore Cole Martinez described his thoughts on seeing the Vatican as well as the Colosseum.

“I think this trip has been great overall for our team,” Martinez said. “We are really coming together and you can see it on the court.”

Day seven, sophomore Brandon Pye recounted the team’s arrival in Rome and the aspects he found most amazing about the city, country and people as a whole.

Day eight of the tour, the postcards consisted of photos from the historical areas the men toured. The Islanders were struck down in their third game by Latina Basket with a final score of 103-96. Latina went 16-for-30 overall from beyond the arc, using a 7-for-8 mark in the fourth to pull out the victory. Senior Zane Knowles had an impressive game with 30 points and 14 rebounds.

The first game of the tour followed with the Islanders dominating the Nelson Soma ASD All-Stars 108-45. Cole Martinez led six scorers in double figures with 10 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

Day two was spent in Varese with the insight of junior James King describing the scenery and the atmosphere of the crowded stadium during their match against the All-Stars.

Day three was spent again in Varese. The Islanders spent time exploring the market square while the coaches visited Sacro Monte di Varese, a set of cathedrals constructed in 1604 telling the story of Jesus Christ.

“So far I have really enjoyed the time we’ve spent in Italy,” Currie said. “The scenery is great, and I have never seen any place like it. I would definitely like to come back someday.”

The Islanders defeated Glieggio Basket 93-53 in the second game of the tour putting them 2-0 in tour games. Freshman Rashawn Thomas had a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds to lead four players in double figures that night.

The game went really well and there were a lot of positive things to take from the game as well as things we could all work on.”

Knowles gave a retrospective on the final day of the trip.

“Overall I think the trip was an awesome experience for the whole team,” Knowles said. “We had to face adversity with many things, like the fatigue from travel all day on tours, to the non-air conditioned gyms, to getting our minds back focused on basketball again, which was the main reason for going there. It was a challenge for us, that I think we did well against, and only made us more bonded as a team.”

Returning home the Islanders will resume regular practice leading up to the season opener. The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi men’s basketball team will play 17 home games as part of its 2013-14 schedule, including the regular Holiday Inn Downtown Marina Islanders Classic. The Islanders will play four games against NCAA Tournament teams as part of their 31-game schedule.

“We’re really excited to be playing so many games here in Corpus Christi to give our fans a look at the squad we have been working on since the last game. We’re really excited to be playing so many games here in Corpus Christi to give our fans a look at the squad we have been working on since the last game.”
Getting out on the Island

New Recreational Sports Coordinator Josh Bowman describes his ideas for better outdoor experiences.

by ALEXIS DE LEON
sports editor

Taking classes on an island can mean much more than just beautiful views and an interesting animal population. Life on the island also presents several opportunities for outdoor adventures.

Coordinator of Aquatics, Outdoor and Family Fun Day Josh Bowman has come to the Island University with plans to catch a really big fish—so to speak.

Bowman finished his Masters at the University of Alabama where he ran the outdoor program before making the move to Corpus Christi.

“One of the great things about Alabama was the Trip series we run for over twenty years,” Bowman said. “Something I want to get started at A&M-Corpus Christi as the outdoor program grows is to lead students on outdoor trips almost every weekend. That would include anything from rock climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing, caving, surfing and possibly overnight trips.”

To get the ball rolling on the outdoor program, Bowman organized a series of clinics for the fall semester. The program began with an introduction to the various outdoor equipment and items available for rent to students through the Duncan Wellness Center.

“I don’t think most students know that we rent surfboards, boogie boards, kayaks, canoes and a ton of other items,” said Bowman. “Hopefully these clinics will help spread the word not only about all the available outdoor items but also on how to use them.”

In order to insure students get the most out of their outdoor experiences, Bowman has contracted several experts to help during individual clinics. Texas Parks and Wildlife agreed to provide assistance during the Birding and Fishing clinics. One of Bowman’s goals is student development. He hopes to train interested students in outdoor recreation in order to help lead the excursions as well as open doors for students who wish to pursue career paths in outdoor recreation.

“I want to help people have a greater understanding and knowledge about the outdoor recreation program and the opportunities available to them—whether that’s through the gear rentals or the clinics,” said Bowman. “Basically so folks can have a healthy lifestyle and use outdoor recreation as one of their outlets for that.”

Bowman feels the high levels of obesity and poor health that currently plague our nation are due to the inexperience people have when it comes to enjoying physical activity, much of which he believes begins at a young age.

“If you can get excited about back-packing, fishing or surfing, that is a life long activity that not only will help you maintain a healthy lifestyle but is also a lot of fun,” said Bowman.

“I want to help people have a greater understanding and knowledge about the outdoor recreation program and the opportunities available to them—whether that’s through the gear rentals or the clinics,”

Josh Bowman
Recreational Sports Coordinator

Monday marked the 37th time tennis pros Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal played each other in a championship. In the 45 years since tennis went professional, no two players have faced each other this many times, though John McEnroe and Ivan Lendle came close many times before while letting the furthest, skate the hardest or defeat the most villains on Contra.

To this day I still get anxiety around Easter time because the Easter egg hunt always consisted of my brothers watching me collect the eggs. I would then receive the worst of atomic wedges until I surrendered my basket.

Growing up the youngest and only girl amongst two older brothers meant a constant battle to prove I could be one of the boys. Every week it was some new challenge of who could bike the furthest, skate the hardest or defeat the most villains on Contra.

The U.S. Open had me thinking about several things, mostly our weaknesses and how people would respond to them. I gave up long ago playing the number game. I’m sure you’re familiar. The person sitting next to you will ask how the exam went for you while explaining what a hard time they had in order to illicit a response about your grade so that they can then proceed to boast about how their grade was higher— that game.

We are, for the most part, what we claim to be. Those who practice positive self-talk tend to perform better, work harder and achieve more than those who criticize themselves on mistakes.

Maintaining relaxed focus is something Gallwey explains beautifully in his book. Think of it like riding a bike—something you never forget. While riding a bike the cyclist simply lets their body carry out the task it has done so many times before while letting their mind wander.

Next time the competition gets stiff and the rivalry has your anxiety level at record highs, keep calm and ride your meta-phorical bike. It will be alright.
Islander Cultural Alliance invites you to attend the

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH KICKOFF CELEBRATION

Monday, Sept. 16th at 11:30am

UC East Lawn
FREE food & prizes!

For more information or if you need disability related accommodations, please contact ICA at ica@tamucc.edu or 361.825.2539

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, September 16th
11:30am-1:30pm 2013 ICA Kickoff
University Center East Lawn

Friday, September 20th
5:00-6:30pm Dr. Héctor P García
State Holiday Celebration
Center for Instruction 138

Monday, September 23rd
7:00pm Hispanic Film Series
Center for Instruction 127

Tuesday, September 24th
9:00am-Noon Hispanic Health Fair
Island Hall Corridor
7:30pm ¡Viva la guitarra!
Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, September 25th
12:30-2:00 pm Read-A-Thon
O'Connor Bldg. 135

Saturday, September 28th
9:00am-Noon Hispanics in Higher Education: Inside Edition
University Center Ballrooms

Tuesday, October 1st
2:00-3:00pm Dr. Hector P. Garcia and the Reconstruction of the Mexican American Identity
O'Connor Bldg. 135

Tuesday, October 1st
7:00pm Hispanic Film Series
Center for Instruction 127

Wednesday, October 2nd
7:30pm ¡Vivan los ninos!
Performing Arts Center

Thursday, October 3rd
5:30-7:30pm Hispanic Farm Laborer Communities in South Texas History
University Center Lonestar Ballroom A

Monday, October 7th -11th
8:00am-5:00pm First Year Writing Exhibit
University Center Legacy Hall

Tuesday, October 8th
11:30am-1:30pm Loteria
University Center Commons

Wednesday, October 9th
12:30-2:00 pm Read-A-Thon
O'Connor Bldg. 135
4:30pm Hispanic Film Series
Bay Hall 126

Saturday, October 12th
7:00am-10:00am Walk-A-Mole 5k Fun Walk/Run
Hike and Bike Trail

If you need disability related accommodations, please contact the event sponsor. FMI: 361.825.2707
Bailando returns to the Island
Festival offers free dance workshops to University students
by SAMMY ALCORTA reporter

On a cool autumn night in 2000, Nancy Sulik looked into a crowd gathered at the Cole Park Amphitheater and welcomed them to an evening of dancing featuring local dancers and choreographers sharing the stage and their talents for the first time.

“The reason for the Bailando Dance Festival was to bring dance visibly to Corpus Christi, and to edify many talented children in the community by exposing them to dance styles they had never seen before,” said exigent event producer and artistic director of the Corpus Christi Concert Ballet Nancy Sulik.

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi School of Arts, Media & Communication took on a major portion of the festival last year as they partnered with the Corpus Christi Concert Ballet and is the host facility of this now University related event.

“The festival has grown into a three-day event with master dance workshops, a choreographer’s project and celebration gala,” Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance and event producer Jillas Cotton said.

The event gives the A&M-Corpus Christi students an opportunity to take all master dance workshops for free, and attend the concerts at a reduced rate of $5 per ticket. The majority of the workshops being offered are open level classes to serve all dance skills as well as intermediate and advance classes.

“It is such a great thing that the students of A&M-Corpus Christi have the opportunity to take master workshops at no charge,” Artistic Director of Image Dance Company in San Antonio Michelle Angulo-Pacheco said.

This is Angulo-Pacheco’s fifth year coming to Corpus Christi. As the festival producer and second year attending as an invited master workshop instructor. She will be conducting a Flamenco dance workshop on Friday, Sept. 27.

“This is a good chance for college students who use to dance back into what they love, even if it is just for a weekend,” Angulo-Pacheco said. “Also if you have never danced before, this is a good way to sample many different styles and see what you might like.”

The support from the University adds a credibility of excellence to the event and promotes the campus to participants Sulik said.

“We all want the best, so we seek out the best to come serve as our adjudicators and master dance workshop instructors, as well as bring in fresh talent,”

This year, the festival will feature the participation of Blatyrna Uksuskinova, Auditorium Director and Soloist for the Moscow City Ballet. Uksuskinova will be instructing two ballet classes over the weekend and performing two solos from The Nutcracker and Swan Lake on Friday night.

“It is not often that someone from South Texas can say ‘I took ballet class with a prima ballerina from Russia,’” Sulik said. “This is a great opportunity for students.”

The Ad Deum Dance Company from Houston, under the direction of Randall Flinn, has also been invited, and will perform during the festival adjudication concerts on Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28. Flinn will also conduct a modern and contemporary workshop.

“Dance companies, schools and universities, come from all over to participate in this statewide event,” Cotton said. “It has grown to an opportunity to have choreographers show their work and have it adjudicated and allows for the University and Coastal Bend communities to come see three nights of dance that are across the board diverse in their style.”

The Bailando Dance Festival will take place from September 26-28 at the Performing Arts Center. For more information on tickets and schedule of master dance workshops, go to www.CCBailando.com.

Underground talents brought to spotlight
Cirque du Freaky entertains audiences with tricks to talk about
by TINA LENTZ reporter

It’s the tucked away courtyard of the Tango Tea Room a unique show took place in Corpus Christi. An impressive variety of acts lined up for the night of Aug. 23 including acrobatics, fire dancers, burlesque, belly dancers, live music and even street dancers.

Kaisen Michels, the coordinator of the event and one of the featured performers of Cirque du Freaky said the purpose of the show was to expose South Texas to performance art.

As soon as the sun set, the show began. There were a few lapses, but the performers pulled through, making light of it and interacting with the crowd to keep energy high. Clown sticks were tossed and an impromptu fire dancing performance was staged complete with improvised drums and clapping, making the audience feel like they were part of the show. As the show progressed from scene to scene, the audience was treated to a different take on “Alice in Wonderland” and the “Wizard of Oz.”

There was a mix of experience and talent present, and it was easy to see that everyone was serious about performing. As one fire dancer, Ray Mateo, said, “there’s a lot of fun that goes into it. The more time you put into it, the more you’re going to get out of it.”

The purpose of the show, said Michels, was to prove that you don’t have to travel to Houston or Austin to receive good quality entertainment.

The problem, according to Michels, is not the lack of talented people but that no one knows they’re here. Audience member Ray Burton confessed that he was unaware that there were such artsy people here (in Corpus Christi).

Many would-be performers and dancers from Corpus Christi, not realizing that they can get the training they need right here, said Michels. “Our most intelligent, our most creative minds are growing up in the city and immediately leaving,” said Michels. “So this is to show people that there is talent, that there are creative minds here. There are performance arts, cirque arts and vaudeville arts that you can learn from trained professionals in South Texas.”

If you want to see what Michels is talking about, another chance to experience performance art is coming up. Expect another show around Halloween or during the Dia de los Muertos festival. As Michels put it, “At Cirque du Freaky we don’t like to stick to norms too much, so we’re gonna twist it.”
A New Leader in Communication and Media

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi welcomes Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford as the new department chair

by ASHLEY DYCXM
editor-in-chief

The Communication department has found a permanent leader of its own in Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford. Sanford will be taking over for Dr. Ethan Thompson, who held the position as Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Founding Director of Women’s & Gender Studies and Communication Department Chair at Northeastern State University.

According to Sanford, she is very familiar with the restaurant and that he is very familiar with the restaurant and that he

“Dr. Thompson put things in good order for me and made the job a lot easier than it could have been,” said Dr. Sanford. “Dr. Sanford received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Education and a Master of Education in Communication and a PhD in Communication Studies. Sanford left her position as Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Founding Director of Women’s & Gender Studies and Communication Department Chair at Northeastern State University to come to A&M-Corpus Christi.”

“I was very happy where I was, but I had gotten to a point in that job where I had just been at the University for a long time. I had been there nine years as a faculty member and six years as a student, so I really felt like I had stopped growing, and I needed a new challenge,” said Dr. Sanford. Aug. 20 was her official start date and Sanford says she already loves the faculty, staff and students at the University.

In addition to her role as the Communication and Media Chair, she will also be getting up close and personal with her students by teaching the Persuasion class.

Sanford already has many goals and projects in the works for the department, including increasing the number of graduate students, a communication event and a journalism program.

“I spoke with Ruth Apperloqchi last week and I am removing her from Public Speaking in the spring so that she can teach Sports Writing. So there will be an extra course available for journalism students,” said Dr. Sanford.

In addition to her other projects, Dr. Sanford will continue to work very closely with the University faculty and members of Island Waves in order to get a journalism major implemented as soon as possible.
Two years ago, Chris Ramirez, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi environmental science major, came up with an idea to have fun. Together with his best friend, Ramirez would create fake profiles on various dating apps.

"Most people on there wanted to hook up, so it was something that I didn’t take seriously," said Ramirez. "We were on there just for the fun of it to see who was going to talk to us." Inspired by American documentary and MTV series ‘Catfish,’ the term catfish is used to describe a person who creates a fake online persona in an attempt to woo and seduce someone.

"We came up with the fun idea to put fake pictures on our profiles in order to see the outrageous things people would initially say or send to us," Ramirez said. Like many of the catfishes featured on the MTV show, over time, the relationship between Ramirez and his virtual love interest grew and developed into something more.

"It was all fun and games until I went home one weekend, when this person messaged me and we began talking," Ramirez said. "Then four hours later, we established that we had tons of things in common. Our conversations lasted forever, talking about the most random things, and I actually started getting excited about talking to this person." Soon after they started talking, Ramirez notice that the two of them had a lot of things in common, such as graduating from the same high school, growing up in the same part of town and they even had similar family situations.

"It was actually scary how many things we had in common," Ramirez said. "I will never have thought I could meet such an amazing person with who I could have such a good connection with. Of course, I forgot that this person thought I looked like a completely different individual." Like Ramirez, many other catfishers are actually people they met in the social network, but the girl never responded.

In Ramirez’s situation, he was the one to enact a confrontation. "One of my good friends was browsing through her Instagram when she noticed a girl that had her picture as her own default," Villanueva said. "She tried to confront the girl who stole her identity through the social network, but the girl never responded." For Ramirez, the hardest part of his catfishing experience was the outcome. Ramirez said he didn’t like the idea of being thought of as deceitful.

"It stung because I wasn’t a liar or untrustworthy, I wasn’t any of those things," Ramirez said. "This was just a result from something stupid I got myself in. I deeply regretted getting myself into that situation, even though it started off as something comical between me and a friend.”

Despite the outcome of his catfishing situation, Ramirez said he did learn something from it.

"I think that people need to be comfortable with themselves and who they are before going online and trying to meet people," Ramirez said. "It’s bad for someone to deliberately go online to try to have their way with people, and it’s not fair to the other person. I felt bad because I put the person I met into a false situation, and it was something I grew aware of quickly. I deeply regret it.”

Too Good to be True: The Art of Catfishing
by KATHLEEN RAMIREZ
features editor

School is now in session for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students, and many students may find themselves craving some sort of companionship during those all-night study sessions.

For several Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students, owning a pet is a great way to keep them company during their college life.

Jordan Smith, A&M-Corpus Christi alumni, is the self-proclaimed proud owner of her canine friend Benji.

"It’s adorable, very hyper and active, and he loves to swim," Smith said. "I don’t know why I’m so attached to him, especially when he opens my door and jumps on me at seven in the morning, but really, I just love dogs." Despite the early morning wakeup call, Smith says owning a dog is the best thing anyone can do.

"Dogs are loyal, love attention and will cuddle with you," Smith said. Marketing major Bruce Sims says there are many reasons he likes animals. "They’re really interesting to observe and sometimes do crazy stuff that makes you think, ‘What the hell?’"

"A lot of people tell me that I spoil him because of how much I love him," Smith said. "People also tell me that I spoil him because of the different brands of leafs I get him and how I only give him bottled water to drink." Originally planning to get another type of animal as a pet, Guerrero says he knew Flash was the one when he saw him.

"I was leaving the store when I heard a thumping sound, and it was Flash," Guerrero said. "He basically chose me." While Guerrero says there are many things he likes about Flash, there is one thing his reptile friend does that he doesn’t much care for.

"He wakes up super early, and when he’s hungry he makes a lot of noise by hitting and knocking things over in my room," Guerrero said. Smith, Sims and Guerrero all agree that owning a pet is added responsibility, but if a student is able to handle it, then it’s definitely worth it.

"It’s not hard to care for pets, once you have one it becomes second nature," Sims said. "The best part about having a pet is the unconditional love you receive."
University’s new master plan revealed

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi presented a master plan on Wednesday, Sep. 4 that writes the script for development of both the Island and Momentum Campuses. The plan will maximize available space to accommodate growing enrollment and evolving academic and research plans.

“This blueprint for the next ten years is essential as we begin to forge a new direction for programs at the University,” A&M-Corpus Christi President Dr. Flavius Killebrew said.

The master plan allows for 39 new buildings and four new parking garages to be constructed on the Island Campus and 16 new buildings, including a convocation center, additional student housing, athletic facilities, and three parking garages at Momentum Campus. The plan also makes note of two new projects kicking off this year, construction of a new dining hall and the 35,000-square-foot expansion of the University Center.

1) KEEP RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC BUILDINGS TOGETHER ON THE ISLAND CAMPUS
2) USE THE MOMENTUM CAMPUS FOR STUDENT AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS AND HOUSING
3) ENHANCE “GREEN SPACE” WITH STRATEGICALLY-LOCATED “SPINE” WALKWAYS

Islander Community Expo
11am-1pm
Dugan Wellness Center

Mind Game
5:30pm-9pm
Camden Rec Room

Intramural Battleships
4pm
Outdoor Pool

Movie Night
9pm-11pm
Camden Surf/Jetty

Islander Shores
8pm-11pm
Camden Rec Room

UCSA Leads: Islander Leader Conference
8am-2pm
UC Ballrooms

Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff
11:30am
UC East Lawn
Islanders irate at growing population

While University expands, current students left in dust

EDITORIAL

We understand that growth is necessary for the evolution of an institution. What we don't understand is why all that growth needed to happen at once, leading to a congestion of traffic and people relatively unseen on the Island University.

The construction on the UC didn't start until the fall semester did when the numbers of incoming freshmen was the highest it has ever been for the University. This decision to start construction so late in the game has not done anything to improve traffic or parking on campus. Instead, we saw that finding a place to park our cars and get to class on time is nearly impossible.

Suggestions have been made to simply take the bus to the University, but the buses have also been caught in the same traffic that everyone else is stuck in. It's not productive to tell someone to simply take a bus when the bus itself is packed to the max. The university is just a numbing mess you were in your car. In this case, you can't even listen to your own radio.

Reports have also been made of classes being over booked or classrooms double booked. When the influx of people on the Island is getting in the way of our learning, that's when we have to question if growth at this rate is actually good for anyone.

Because we are on an Island, the need to try to grow at a rate that's sustainable that will not drive away students because they simply can't get to class and that won't make everyone become crazy fiends looking for parking in the few few that are still made available to us.

It's an exciting time for Islanders, but when we can't move around comfortably because we keep getting in each other's way, it is a problem.

Because studying has not yet actually started within the first week of school, we have yet to see the effect of growing. Islanders will have on the University. What this might do to students trying to use resources on campus like the library or Campus Copies may yet be to see, but the impending future trouble that this may cause is worrisome.

Some students will taper off eventually, but the fact is that we don't want our numbers of students to shrink. We would simply like a smarter way of growing besides "let's try to fit as many people as we can on the Island at once." It is not conducive to a working learning environment and gives everyone involved a headache.

We need to either double resources on campus or simply rethink recruitment rates. While we understand that we're in a transition period, we can't let that get in the way of learning in the mean time. The class of 2017 is in for a rocky start but with a smooth learning experience we hope it remains this size and that the efforts made by the University are not in vain.

ON RAPE CULTURE

Waco decal company proves that sexism is alive and ugly

an opinion of

ERIKA GALINDO

Waco contributed something else besides Southern charm and Bible belt culture. Earlier this week, a decal company named Hornet Signs located in the northern Texan town fell into the spotlight when one of its decals featured a very realistic decal of a woman, bound and gagged in the back of a flatbed.

According to the owners of the company, the decal was made to prove just how realistic their products were. So realistic, they'll make you want to call the police in a panic.

This is exactly what some people did when they saw it. Others thought the decal was a clever marketing scheme, but frankly, this decal proves to be another aspect of rape culture and the dehumanization of women and their bodies.

When a company decides that a way to make money and gain attention is to depict a woman in distress, there's something to be said about the climate that this company is operating in.

According to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes, but for some reason that statistic has stopped shocking people.

Type in the words “women kidnapped US” in any search engine and you'll find dozens of examples of this happening often, most recently with the case of three women in Ohio who were found alive ten years after they were abducted. Their captor, Ariel Castro, admitted suicide after he was convicted for kidnapping and rape. Unfortunately cases like these have become less of a learning experience and more of a media spectacle for those involved.

A decal of a woman hogtied and kidnapped in the flatbed of a truck (pictured) earned Hornet Signs, the maker of the decal criticism. Defenders of the company claim that it’s not meant to be sexist but to prove that the company makes realistic looking decals.

Either way, many people are claiming that what the company did wasn’t worth it, and that those who say otherwise are being insensitive feminists who can’t see the brilliance of such a clever marketing stunt. The fact that several other decal companies making similar stickers hasn’t changed the popularity and appeal of depicting women as victims to these critics is beyond me.

And when these critics of these stickers even try to bring up the words rape culture, they are laughed out of seriousness. There's something about rape culture that makes people want to deny that it even exists. It's exhausting. Imagine it being like there is a dog that keeps biting and barking at you and when you try to speak to the owner of the dogs about it, they deny they have one. So you go about your business, trying to simply live, while this dog keep barking and barking at you. Then you complain again and the owners accuse you of being sensitive, crazy and wimpy. They still don't acknowledge the dog even if you show them scars and tell them about your latest injuries. The injuries to these owners are your fault or completely fabricated. Maybe, they suggest, you should have ran away faster from the imaginary dog. Either way, it is their responsibility, it is your responsibility to get away unscathed.

It is not women’s responsibility to prove how unfair and irresponsible it is to be depicted as fodder for promotional material. Our bodies are not objects for people to make money off of, especially when our bodies are being depicted as something to take apart.

It's about time that feminists are stop being made to feel crazy for wanting this very simple request fulfilled. If it's not, then we shouldn't be so shocked when cases like Ohio or Stuepenville happen again and again.