A&S Welcomes New Department

The Department of Clinical Health Sciences was formed by the merger of the Communication Sciences and Disorders program and the Social Work program in the Fall of 2013. The department now has approximately 681 undergraduate and 50 graduate students, with offices and laboratories located in Manning Hall on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus.

TAMUK Physics Program joins the Texas Physics Consortium

During the academic year 2010-2011, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) discontinued our TAMUK physics degree program, along with all the other small physics programs in the state of Texas. Because the combined numbers of all the discontinued programs were comparable to the largest physics programs in the state, because physics is the foundation of all the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, and because all the minority universities in the state lost their physics programs, the action of the THECB was a severe blow to the state’s effort to increase the number of majors in the STEM disciplines, especially at minority institutions. As a result, eight Texas state universities (Midwestern State University, Prairie View A&M University, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas Southern University, and West Texas A&M University) joined to form the Texas Physics Consortium (TPC), which would allow them to combine their classes, their faculty, their resources, and their numbers into a single large physics program distributed throughout the state while permitting the students at each university to attend classes at and receive their degrees from their respective local university. TAMUK once again is allowed to recruit and enroll new physics majors into our recently reestablished physics degree program.
Message from Dr. Abbey Zink, Dean, Arts & Sciences

As this edition of A&S Connections illustrates, these are exciting times for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Here are a few highlights:

- In Fall 2014, we’ll be launching several new degree programs: B.A. in Criminal Justice, B.S. in Physics, M.S. in Criminology, M.M. in Music Performance, and M.A. in Cultural Studies.
- The new Department of Clinical Health Sciences—combining Social Work and Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSDO)—is thriving in its first year.
- We recently signed an MOU with LULAC Council #1 Foundation to provide content for the new Tejano Civil Rights Museum that will open in a few months in Heritage Park in Corpus Christi, TX.
- We’ll be hiring more than a dozen new tenure-track faculty members to join us in Fall 2014 as well.

As we expand and grow, however, we will keep our focus and efforts centered on students and their success. That’s why we’re here.

Miguel Padron (see photo) is one of 151 students who graduated in December 2013. A history and political science major, Miguel made the most of his college career by working hard in the classroom and getting involved in multiple campus organizations. He recently was hired as a history and ELA tutor for the Lasara ISD and plans to begin work on his master’s degree in Fall 2014.

Graduation days are the best of the academic year. They are the culmination of the outstanding work of students, faculty, staff, and advisors across the College. As we add new programs, we look forward to seeing more A&S students cross the stage and join the proud ranks of Javelina alumni.

Study Abroad Programs Offer Students New Experiences

Students across the university have benefited from participation in the numerous faculty-led and Individual Study Abroad programs offered by the Office of International Studies and Programs. Each of these trips gives students the opportunity to receive first-hand experience with other cultures and people. Recent programs have taken students to Bhutan, Berlin, Japan, Belize and Peru. Upcoming programs include travel to London, Bolivia, Barcelona, Greece and Haiti.
Social Work Program Adds Full Time Faculty Members

Joel L. Carr, Ph.D., LCSW, LPC
Dr. Carr, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Assistant Professor, specializes in Clinical Social Work Practice and Forensic Social Work Practice. He serves as the Social Work Director. Dr. Carr teaches Social Work Research and Evaluation I and II, Social Work Practice I, Standardized Assessment, Psychopharmacology, Principles of Mental Health, Principles of Forensic Social Work, and teaches clinical courses in the graduate Counseling Psychology Program. He is currently working on the development of an M.S.W. in Clinical Social Work that is proposed to start in fall 2015 at TAMUK.

Mariah A. Boone, M.S.S.W., LMSW-IPR

Emily M. Ralph, J.D., LMSW

’B.A. in Criminal Justice’ – A Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice focuses on the three primary components of the criminal justice system: police, courts and corrections.

’M.M. in Music Performance’ - A Master’s degree in Music in the area of Performance will allow graduate students to take coursework in the fall and spring semesters.

’M.S. in Criminology’ – A Master of Science in Criminology uses a social-psychological model to focus on the etiology of crime, criminal behavior, and societal reaction to crime.

According to Dr. Bhattacharya, the Generic pharmaceutical industry accounts for nearly more than sixty percent of total prescriptions dispensed in the United States and approximately $60 billion in revenues worldwide. The explosive growth in the Generic Pharmaceutical business also created environmental problems worldwide. Significant amounts of the chemistry that are practiced to produce the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) are antiquated and waste producing. Over the past few years significant amount of research in the chemical community has been directed towards the development of new technologies and methodologies for environmentally benign processes. But unfortunately, the same has not been true for the Generic drug industry. Because the drugs are off patent, the innovator companies have no interest in modifying the chemistry and the Generic companies produce the drugs largely by following the existing patents with minimal change.

We have been involved in developing processes for APIs that have little or no pollution potential or environmental risk and are both economically and technologically feasible. We believe green synthesis will always be the most cost effective synthesis, at least in the long run. This Green Principle was enunciated with examples of green syntheses that have been applied to several different APIs including Rabeprazole, Finasteride, Levetiracetam, Galanthamine, Zafarluceast and several others.

Dr. Apu Bhattacharya is an Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry.

Dr. Bhattacharya’s current research focus is: Green chemistry, Designing environmentally benign/waste-free chemistry with special emphasis towards current industrial synthesis and processes utilizing homogeneous and heterogeneous catalyst systems, Asymmetric synthesis, and Chiral Phase Transfer Catalysis.

Dr. Veronica Salinas is the Assistant Professor of Strings for the Department of Music.

Dr. Veronica Salinas is assistant professor of strings and orchestra. In addition to teaching a number of courses in her field, she is beginning a string project that will involve grade school children by teaching them the basics of violin playing. She is the conductor of the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra and is the first Hispanic female to hold that position. From Corpus Christi, she received the BM in Violin Performance from Sam Houston State University; the Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Sam Houston; and Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance from Texas Tech University.

Humanities Faculty Author Book on the Caribbean

Essays Exploring the Global Caribbean contains essays by Dr. Susan Roberson (who also edited the collection), Mr. Marco Íñiguez Alba, Dr. Michelle Johnson Vela, Dr. Pamela Wright, Dr. Patrick Faherty, Dr. Zak Watson, Mr. Raymond Garcia, Dr. Anders Greenspan, and Dr. Brenda Melendy. The essays use the metaphor of the global Caribbean to discuss the multiple movements, identities, epistemologies and politics of the West Indies. It is the culminating project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities grant secured by Roberson.
UNESCO Invites Artist to 500th Piri Reis Anniversary

Artist Chuck Wissinger represented the Western Hemisphere for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Piri Reis map. UNESCO invited Wissinger to Turkey to work with 15 other artists to create pieces for an exhibition that will tour the world in 2014. An Ottoman captain and mapmaker/cartographer in the 1500s, Reis was the first to map the Mediterranean, and to include North and South America in his world map. The project was inspired by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) who named 2013 as the year of Piri Reis. To continue the theme, the KALE Ceramic Factory in Canakkale, Turkey invited the artists to work in their factory creating the pieces that will now be displayed. One of the ceramic pieces Wissinger created features two ships from the time period, each with a man falling overboard to two sea serpents waiting below.

Looking for a way to support your favorite programs in the College of Arts & Sciences?

As a Javelina for Life, your gift to the University demonstrates your commitment and Javelina Pride. You will have the opportunity to designate your gift to your program of choice. Contact Dean Abbey Zink to find out how you can be a part of the exciting things going on in the College.

316.593.2761  abbey.zink@tamuk.edu  www.tamuk.edu/artsci

Technology Improvements Come to Fore Hall

The College of Arts & Sciences in partnership with the Department of Language and Literature and Distance Learning & Instructional Technology hosted a Ribbon Cutting on January 9, 2014, to celebrate the technology improvements to Sam Fore Jr. Hall.

The improvements were made possible by HEF Funding and the hard work and dedication of the i-Tech team who devoted countless hours to the project, including working over the Christmas holiday break. Improvements include new computers, projectors, large projection screens and audio in all classrooms, fully updated computer labs, a lecture capture classroom and new digital phone lines.

The improvements are a tremendous win for all the students, faculty and staff in the College of Arts & Sciences.
Jazz Band I is the premiere performing group within the jazz program at TAMUK. Membership in Jazz Band I is open to all TAMUK students and determined by audition. The students within the group represent the most accomplished jazz musicians within the university. Jazz Band I was selected to perform on the opening night of the 2013 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention in San Antonio. This is the third time since 2003 that Jazz Band I has been selected for this honor. Jazz Band I is directed by Dr. Paul Hageman and James Warth.

Students Represent Arts & Sciences at Conferences

LEFT:
Cassandra Wallek, Political Science major, presented her poster at the 5th Annual Javelina Research Symposium held on October 16, 2013.

BELOW:
A&S Students Jennifer Eiland and Lori Garcia, co-authored and presented a paper on "Controversy Along the Bay: Historical Memory of Texas's Second Largest Native Burial Ground." The paper was presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Meeting in New Orleans on Friday, September 13, 2013.
Mathematics Challenges Area High School Students

Thirty-eight ninth and tenth graders from five area schools competed in the Javelina Cup Mathematics Competition held on October 19, 2013. Kevin Davila, sophomore from Banquete High School earned the first place award, a $1500 TAMUK scholarship. Bethany Vasquez, freshman from Santa Gertrudis Academy High School, was awarded the second place scholarship of $1000, and Johnny Reyes, a sophomore from Banquete, earned the third place award of a $500 scholarship.

John E. Conner Museum Names New Director & Educator

Jonathan Plant was appointed Museum Director in April 2013. Jonathan previously served as Museum Curator since 2007, and then as Curator/Interim Director from September 2012-April 2013. As Director, Jonathan is responsible for preserving and interpreting the Museum’s collections of cultural and natural history artifacts, and overseeing the Museum’s permanent collections, temporary exhibits, and public programs.

As an enthusiast of Texas History, particularly the period of the Texas Republic through the American Civil War, he enjoys working with the actual material objects associated with those times and sharing his enthusiasm with others. One of Jonathan’s personal goals is to compile the largest Alamo reference library, second only to the DRT Library in San Antonio.

Sandy Heras Allen was named Museum Educator in December 2013. As Educator, she is responsible for developing and implementing educational programs and materials for primary and secondary students, special groups, and the general public; facilitating collaborative educational opportunities between the Museum and university; and for coordinating the Coastal Bend Regional History Fair and Camp Conner, the Museum’s summer day camp program.

Born of One Man’s Passion for History...located on the campus of Texas A&M – Kingsville, the John E. Conner Museum has a history as old as the university itself. The school’s first History professor, John Edwin Conner (1883-1989), began his collection in 1925 when the university was founded; the John E. Conner Museum was organized four years later in 1929. Since 1976, the Museum has been located in Loftin Hall.
The Journal of South Texas Revived

The Journal of South Texas is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles about the social, political, military, economic, and cultural history of South Texas. It also includes articles about the geography or literature of South Texas as well as biographical studies. The following Arts & Sciences faculty serve as Editors for the Journal: Dr. Alberto Rodriguez (managing editor); Drs. Roger Tuller, Larry Knight, and Shannon Baker (co-editors); and Dr. Manuel Flores (layout/design editor). The Journal of South Texas is a biannual publication.

Biology Develops New Methods for Plastinating Specimens

Shawnda Kumro, Ashton Crocker, and Dr. Randy Powell have been developing less expensive methods for plastinating specimens. Plastination is a process in which fluids in tissues are replaced by curable polymers. The results are preserved specimens that are non-toxic and life-like. Plastinated specimens are being adopted by teaching and research labs at medical and veterinary universities worldwide but have been cost prohibitive for smaller institutions. Their research and results were recently published in the Journal of Plastination (2013) with one of their specimens featured on the cover.

Arts & Sciences, LULAC Team Up for Tejano Museum

The City of Corpus Christi approved a lease agreement with LULAC Council #1 Foundation to open the Tejano Civil Rights Museum. The content will be provided by the College of Arts & Sciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville through art exhibits, historical displays and lectures.

“We’re honored that LULAC Council #1 asked us to partner with them,” said Dr. Abbey Zink, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We look forward to sharing Tejano and Mexican-American culture and heritage with as broad an audience as possible.”

The museum will stand in downtown Corpus Christi, in the Grande Grossman House located on North Chaparral Street.
### Upcoming Events

**Women’s History Month**  
March 1 – 31, 2014  
For more information on events:  
Dr. Abigail Mann, Director,  
Women & Gender Studies Program  
Abigail.mann@tamuk.edu • 361.593.3503

**Arts & Sciences Dean’s Colloquium 2014**  
Dr. Krystyna Mazur  
“The Politics of Women’s Experimental Filmmaking in Poland and the United States”  
March 28, 2014 • 11:30am • The Blue Room  
For more information:  
361.593.3506 or 361.593.2514

**Spring 2014 Commencement Exercises**  
May 9, 2014  
10:00am • 1:00pm • 4:00pm • 7:00pm  
Steinke Physical Education Center

**Summer Session 2014**  
First Session: June 2 – July 2, 2014  
Second Session: July 7 – August 6, 2014