

LOCAL

College notes

David Ryan of Corpus Christi received the 2013 David Knox Porter PreTheology Award from Southwestern University in Georgetown at the university's honor convocation March 2.

The following students were placed on the fall 2012 dean's list at the University of Houston:

- ALICE
- Joseph Guevara** BEEVILLE
- Jerry Batchelor** CORPUS CHRISTI
- Amanda Alger, Julia Allen, Miranda Bayne, Victoria Cantu, Monica Garcia, David Ghably, Heather Lemley, Saralinda Martinez, Thejaswi Maruvada, Andre Palmares, Cameron Rhodes, Marivel Salazar and Nicholas Warman.**

Three students from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi placed within the top three spots in their respective divisions at the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region 12 Recreation and Leisure Tournament held Feb. 23-24 at Sam Houston State University. Tournament winners were: Xiaoling Huang, first, Women's Table Tennis; Anh Le, second, Men's Table Tennis and Amber Sullins, third, Women's Billiards.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi was awarded a plaque March 4 from the Coastal Bend Blood Center for the top collection of blood donations for an educational institute for 2012.

Two Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi mechanical engineering students received awards for their research poster presentations during the Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) ninth annual symposium held Feb. 21-23 at Texas A&M University-College Station. The two-day event was a professional development opportunity, providing students with a forum to exhibit their contributions to science, technology and engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The attendees were composed of undergraduate and graduate students pursuing STEM degrees who attend the Texas A&M University System LSAMP partner institutions. The winning presenters from the local university were: First — **Edy Valdes**: "Surface

modification of Polyurethane sheets using an atmospheric pressure RF plasma jet in helium/oxygen gas mixture," **Eduardo Valdes, Abdollah Sarani, Cosmina Nicula and Magesh Thiyagarajan.** Third — **Valerie Ferdin**: "Surface Modification of Polyethylene Terephthalate by Atmospheric Pressure Non-thermal Plasma Jet," **Valerie Ferdin, Abdollah Sarani, Cosmina Nicula and Thiyagarajan.** In all, 30 students from the Island University attended the symposium.

Students from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi took home several awards during the 63rd annual ADDY Awards Show & Big Wigs Awards hosted by the American Advertising Federation, Corpus Christi chapter Feb. 21. This year's theme was "Adlympiad." ADDY winners from the university were:

- Jessica Aniol** Student Silver ADDY: Complequity Application Logo
- Student Bronze ADDY: South Texas Angel Network Logo
- Gera Lemke** Student Silver ADDY: Hydro Enviro Clean Identity
- Student Silver ADDY: BillCutterz Brochure Campaign
- Student Bronze ADDY: STI Promotional Flyer
- Student Bronze ADDY: Reload Logo for Hydro Enviro Clean
- Jessica Block** Student Silver ADDY: Accents Packaging Design
- Student Silver ADDY: Victoria Marinara Label Design
- Stephanie Castaneda** Student Gold ADDY & Rising Star Award: Oak
- Asha Malate** Student Best of Show ADDY and Gold ADDY: CONTEMPO magazine
- Student Gold ADDY: Doc's Seafood Logo
- Student Gold ADDY: Lactasoy Packaging
- Student Silver ADDY: Caribou Coffee Packaging
- Elyveth Orellana** Student Gold ADDY: Class Discrimination
- Student Silver ADDY: Khan Academy Promotional Poster
- Student Silver ADDY: Village Green Gardening Gear
- Student Bronze ADDY: Knewton Learning Platform
- Student Bronze ADDY: Earthship Biotechture Campaign

Students from Miller High School and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi were awarded for their creativity during the President's Mardi Gras Ball

held Feb. 2 at the Art Museum of South Texas. During the soiree, the Miller High School Mask decorating contest was held, in which ball guests voted for their favorite masks. The masks were made of paper maché, and the students added items such as paper, lace, feathers, paper clips, and paint to decorate them, according to a university news release. Top three winners were: First, **Soledad Castro**, \$300; second, **Christopher Pena, Tamarah Vasquez and Crystal Romero**, \$200; third, **Michael Hill, Xavier Almaguer, Lorissa Valdez and Cristina Olvera**, \$100. Students receiving the top scholarships were **Alexandra Simons**, \$1,000 and **Bianca Hooi**, \$500. Other students who received \$100 scholarships were **Aaron Cammack, Leah Cordova, Jamie Goodman, Jonathan Mattick, Tanya Monroy Jimenez and Ian Williams.**



Sergio Reid, a senior Geographic Information Science (GIS) major working with the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, has received the 2013 GeoEye Foundation Award for the Application of High-Resolution Digital Satellite Imagery. Reid will receive a grant of satellite imagery data up to 500 square kilometers (potential value of up to \$20,000) and a certificate. He will also be provided with access to GeoEye's images which will be used to expand and continue his research at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Reid submitted the winning proposal for his research on coastal modeling and the development of a method to help verify flood predictions along tidal flat habitats. His research is focused on a tidal flats area near Packery Channel, according to a university news release.

Don Deis, Joslin Endowed Chair and professor in the department of accounting, finance & business law at Texas A&M

Deis

University-Corpus Christi, was one of three professors who conducted a study that helped form the scope of standard-setting activities conducted by the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) for the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Deis and other contributors from the Financial Accounting Foundation completed their yearlong study "The Scope of The GASB Accounting and Accountability-Topics and Processes" in July 2012. The purpose of the independent study was to explore the purposes of financial accounting and reporting by the state and local governments, and what organizations, including the GASB, are currently or potentially best-suited to set standards and guidelines by which those purposes are achieved, according to a university news release.

Six Natural Sciences majors at Del Mar College were among the thousands of students, teachers, scientists and policymakers from 60 countries who attended the 2013 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in Boston last month.

Robert Hatherill, associate professor of biology and **Daiyuan "Daisy" Zhang**, assistant professor of biotechnology, traveled with the students and oversaw their preparations for the student research poster competition during the AAAS meeting. Biotechnology majors **Aaron Beach, Desirey Flores, Joseph Marin, Molly Robertson, Damien Seay and Clayton Speed** presented oversized research posters based on their internships this past summer. Students also gave oral presentations to judges and meeting attendees. Geology instructor **Beth Dushman** also attended the AAAS annual meeting. Dushman presented a science education poster titled "Concept Mapping as an Instructional Tool in Community College Introductory Geology Classes" during the general poster session.

Edwin Jefferson Bomer IV of Corpus Christi was named to the 2012 fall semester dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Compiled by Tina Vasquez

School notes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robstown High School seniors in Edward Roeder's Social Studies' class received a visit from three representatives of the Corpus Christi Hooks baseball team. On March 7, Adam Nuse, (from left) vice president of sales; Amanda Pruett, community outreach coordinator; and Gil Perez, social media coordinator for the Hooks, shared their insights on success in life and career. Principal Richard Waterhouse and assistant principal John Temple also added their perspective on the values of having a strong work ethic, a mentor and an enjoyable career.

Hal Roberts, superintendent of London ISD, received an invitation to attend the Texas Early Learning Innovation Summit on April 5. The summit will include superintendents, legislators and experts from across the state who will discuss innovative strategies to make prekindergarten available for all children and help them read proficiently by third grade.

Incarnate Word Academy held a blessing and ribbon-cutting of its newly completed **Strength and Conditioning Center in the Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium on March 18.** The remodeling process for the center, which replaces IWA's previous weight room, began Feb. 21. All improvements to the center have been paid for through the efforts of the IWA High School Level Booster Club, according to a news release.

More than 20 area school districts from a 10-county

region participated in the Valero and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Regional Science Fair on March 8-9 at American Bank Center. A complete list of Science Fair winners can be found at www.tamucc.edu/news/2013/03/ScienceFair.html.

SERCO of Texas Community Youth Development program participants were busy March 14 at Heritage Park learning about the national initiative, Lemonade Day!, which promotes entrepreneurship. Seventy-five students were involved in various activities throughout the day including learning how to market and build their lemonade stands, how to prepare a budget to operate a stand and practiced making lemonade from scratch. Students from Baker, Browne, South Park Middle Schools and Carroll and Moody High School youth took part in the daylong event.

Compiled by Tina Vasquez

Reunions

Ray and King high schools Class of 1967 will celebrate a 45th reunion April 5-6 at Holiday Inn Marina and at Executive Surf Club. Information: www.ray-king67reunion.com. **Wynn Seale Jr. High School** is planning a 2013 reunion in the spring for all classes. Information: Linda, 361-549-6206; Al, 361-549-8531; Joanne, 361-215-7560. **Ella Barnes Jr. High** Class of 1956-1976. Original committee will hold the second reunion July 19 (social) and July 20 (formal dinner) at Holiday Inn Airport. Information: Rosalva Ortiz, 361-563-8693; John Richard G. Ortiz, 361-563-1378; Rosalinda Garcia, 904-2385. **Miller High School** Class of

1963 will hold its 50th reunion Aug. 30-31 at Omni Hotel. The event is open to all Miller graduates. Information: Tony Torres, 331-4369; Minnie Sanchez, 945-0242; Kathy Freyer Kern, 832-723-4226; Joe Barrientes, 443-3266; or Josie Gomez, 563-4189. **Calallen High School** graduating classes of 1943-1975 will hold a four-decade reunion Sept. 20-22 at Holiday Inn Emerald Beach. The event features a football game Sept. 20; dinner and dance, Sept. 21; and farewell breakfast, Sept. 22. Information: Brenda Roe Bonaventura, 832-326-0053, or email grandparents34@yahoo.com.

Compiled by Tina Vasquez

Play focuses on end-of-life issues

By Alex Branch
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH—Alan Shorter's mother was dying, her mind and body slowly stolen by Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Aware of her fate, his mother made decisions about how she envisioned her end and shared those wishes with some, but not all, of her five children. Nevertheless, the final days before her death dissolved into dysfunction and disagreement among

the children as old family tensions arose. "We all had different points of view, and everything basically hit the fan," said Shorter, an associate professor in the TCU theater department. "We were all going through the process of her dying, and it really was not pretty." That experience led Shorter into his home office in 2008, where he spent a week penning a short play about his mother's death. Titled "The Best of Intentions,"

the play was designed to "take the gloves off" the discussion about the dying process. Shorter's play, performed by him and several TCU students, was featured Saturday at TCU as part of a workshop to help North Texans understand their end-of-life choices. The free workshop, Speak for Yourself, was organized by the Tarrant County Academy of Medicine Ethics Consortium and the Coalition for Quality

End-Of-Life Care. The workshop included a round-table discussion and, after the play, Texas Wesleyan University law students helped attendees put their wishes into writing. "It's an issue that is very difficult for people to talk about," said Dr. Stuart Pickell, one of the event's planners. "The point is to help start a conversation about this now and not to wait until it's too late to make these kind of decisions."

Virus vial missing from Galveston lab

By The Associated Press

GALVESTON—Officials say a vial containing a virus that can cause hemorrhagic fever has gone missing from a research facility in Galveston, but say there's no reason to believe there's a threat to the public. The University of Texas Medical Branch said Saturday that there was no breach in the security at its Galveston National Laboratory and no indication of wrongdoing. Officials suspect the missing vial containing the Guararito virus was destroyed during the lab's cleaning process but the investigation continues. The medical branch says the virus, native to

Venezuela, is transmitted only through contact with Venezuelan rats. It is not believed to be able to

survive in U.S. rodents or to be transmitted person-to-person. The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention was immediately notified after the vial was discovered missing Wednesday.

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