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## Mass Communicatin'

A recent promotion means the former director of communications will be playing to an even larger audience.



TOMORROW | Sports

## Answering the Call

A look at what impact Corey Rodgers' impending departure will have on the Frogs' goals for the next season.

# TCU DAILY SKIFF

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## Mother recalls Davis' path to football

### Conroe police say no motive evident in player's death

By LACEY KRAUSE  
Design Editor

Kasey Davis' favorite football teams were Oklahoma University, TCU and the Conroe High School Tigers.

"He loved football ever since he grew up in Oklahoma," said Davis' mother, Jenny Cantrell.

Davis, a redshirt freshman kicker for the TCU football team, was shot in the chest early in the morning Jan. 3 in an apartment complex parking lot in Conroe. Police found his body in the Chevy Tahoe he borrowed from his mother. He was 20.

While in seventh grade, Davis was a center striker for a junior league soccer team when a chance encounter began his football career. His mother ran into the football coach outside a junior high locker room.

"I bet Kasey could kick that football through those uprights," she told the coach. Davis played in the next game.

Davis returned to soccer his eighth-grade year, telling his mother that he didn't like getting roughed up during football games, Cantrell said. During the fall of Davis' ninth-grade year, Cantrell received a call at work.

"Hey mom, I'm going to play football," Cantrell recalled Davis saying.

His mother reeled. Davis was a

soccer player. He hadn't been lifting weights or hustling through two-a-day practices with the other guys.

"But Kasey, you're not on the football team," she remembered telling Davis.

"They recruited me. The first game's tomorrow. I'm gonna play," Cantrell recalled Davis saying.

Davis turned down scholarships from other universities to attend TCU, Cantrell said. He liked TCU's small size and per-

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COURTESY OF KATY WEISCHWILL

Sophomore premajor Kasey Davis was shot and killed in the parking lot of an apartment complex on Jan. 3 in Conroe.

## New equipment will allow faster DNA research

By LESLIE HONEY  
Staff Reporter

With new equipment allowing improved DNA sequencing research on the TCU campus, students in the College of Science and Engineering will have increased opportunity in the job market upon graduation, said Phil Hartman, professor of biology.

The DNA research that used to take weeks, will now take days with the 4300 DNA Analyzer, Hartman said.

"DNA sequencing is an important technique because it was only talked about theoretically," Hartman said. "Now graduate students will have hands-on experience. This makes our graduates more marketable."

The equipment allows students to conduct automated research that had been done manually at TCU, or sent to another site.

The instrument will also help to attract new faculty this year, Hartman said. The equipment makes TCU more attractive to quality researchers, he said.

LI-COR, a company that manufactures environmental and biotechnology equipment, awarded \$50,000 through its Genomics Education Matching Fund Program. Michael McCracken, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, contributed the other \$50,000 from the college's funds, Hartman said.

"LI-COR is a supporter of training students with hands-on experiences through inquiry based learning," said Amy Soden, GEMF program coordinator.

She said the company was proud to add TCU to the list of awardees.

LI-COR is interested in students being trained in genome analysis, McCracken said. They are taking steps to encourage people to understand the techniques involved with using this kind of equipment, he said.

Hartman wrote the grant proposal to LI-COR last semester. The new equipment will assist 1,165 science majors. Genetics, molecu-

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TY HALASZ / PHOTO EDITOR

Professor of biology Phil Hartman and the biology department have received a \$100,000 grant for new genetic sequencing equipment.

## AWARD WINNER



TY HALASZ / PHOTO EDITOR

Library staff member Susan Swain is the recipient of the Library Staff Award for her efforts in managing the special collection displays. The award was given by the Friends of the TCU Library.

### Library employee rewarded for providing years of creative support

By TALIA SAMPSON  
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has been in the Mary Coats Burnett Library has seen Susan Swain's work, but few have seen Susan Swain.

Swain is a library specialist who works in the library's special collections creating the various exhibits on display in the library's entrance, in addition to providing creative support for faculty and occasionally the chancellor's office.

On Jan. 10, Swain became the ninth recipient of the annual Library Staff Recognition Award sponsored by the Friends of the TCU Library.

"I was very surprised" Swain said. "I didn't expect that."

In nearly ten years with TCU this is her first award, she said.

Swain said she attributes much of her success to her colleagues.

"I have really great co-workers," Swain said. "They make my job easy."

Barbara Standlee, an administrative assistant who works in the library and was on the selection committee for the award, said Swain was a unique candidate because her efforts often go unnoticed.

"She works so much behind the scenes that not everyone knows what she does" Standlee said. "She does the exhibits in the library, and she helps me with graphics."

Standlee said it was Swain's

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#### AWARD CRITERIA

- Must have been a library employee for at least two years
- Cannot be a member of the nominating committee
- Excels in tasks for which he or she is responsible
- Is dedicated to the mission of the library and goes beyond what is required in his or her job
- Is adaptable and flexible in anything required of him or her
- Displays an enthusiasm and initiative for any assignment
- Is cooperative and congenial in relationships with colleagues

## Boschini: Grants to aid future campus transformations

### Awards based on applicants' achievements

By LIZ CRAWFORD  
Staff Reporter

Several grants totalling \$1.8 million have been awarded to faculty members and academic departments through Vision In Action's Strategic Initiative Fund, said Leo Munson, associate provost for academic support.

About \$1.6 million of the fund has already been allotted, Munson said. Chancellor Victor Boschini said the majority of the

grants will be used for projects that will improve the student-faculty relationship.

Boschini appointed Munson to chair the Strategic Initiative Fund Evaluation Committee that awarded the grants. The evaluation committee comprised eight faculty members from various departments.

Munson said two types of grants were awarded: Transformational and Pathways for Transformation. According to the VIA Web

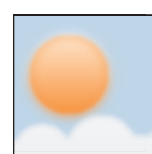
site, Transformational grants are designed for multiyear projects intended to transform the nature of the institution, while Pathways for Transformation grants go to fund smaller projects with a shorter duration.

Michael Butler, a professor in the AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, received one of the grants. The money will be used to make professional advising available for all freshman students in AddRan. This will ensure that each AddRan student, including premajors, has an adviser at

least until the end of his or her freshman year, Butler said. Three professional advisers will be hired to work with approximately 500 first-year students in AddRan.

Tony Burgess, a professor in the environmental science department, also received one of the grants. A new course on biodiversity will be created with the money. The course will be similar to Columbia University's Biosphere 2 program. It will be a field-intensive course based on organism classification research

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#### WEATHER

**TODAY:** Mostly sunny, 56/35  
**WEDNESDAY:** Sunny, 67/46  
**THURSDAY:** Sunny/wind, 72/51

#### NATIONAL POLL

**66** percent of blacks said they think there has been significant progress on achieving Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, according to an MSNBC poll.

#### TODAY'S HEADLINES

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**OPINION:** A new year means a new view, page 3  
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#### CONTACT US

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