

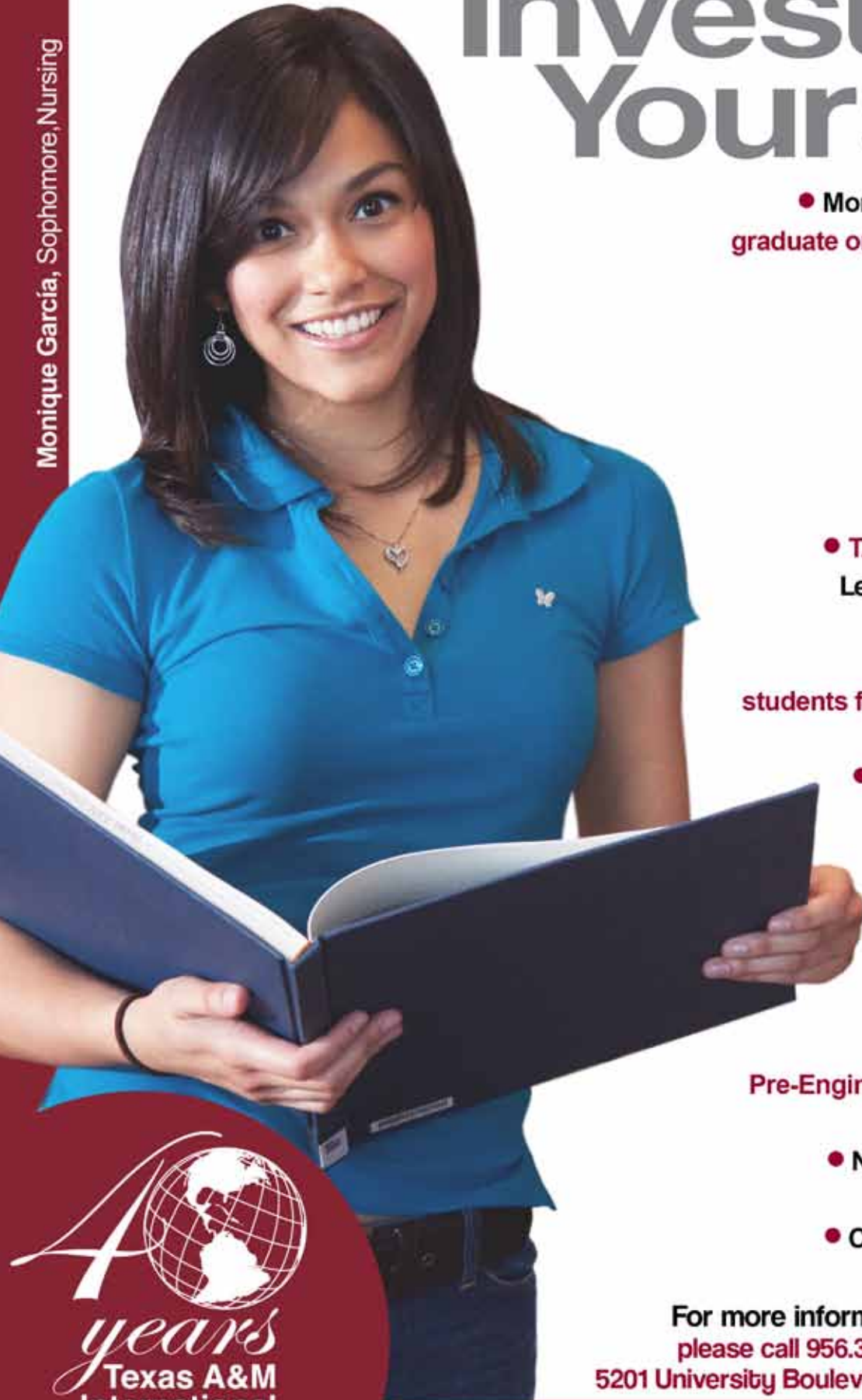
Texas A&M International University

Dustdevils

Cross Country



Monique Garcia, Sophomore, Nursing



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Coaching Staff



Benny Rodríguez **Head Coach**

Benny Rodríguez enters his fifth season as head cross country coach at Texas A&M International University. The program has steadily improved during the tenure of the former NCAA Division II distance runner and Laredo native.

Rodríguez guided both teams to solid campaigns last fall, with the men and women both finishing in the top-5 of the team standings in three meets. Both teams finished in fifth place at the Heartland Conference Championships. That was an improvement of two positions for the women from the previous conference meet.

A total of four runners have earned All-Heartland Conference honors with top-10 finishes at the conference meet under Rodríguez's tutelage. Earning the honor on the men's side in 2007 were Luis Beltrán, Gedyon Keflezgi and Eddie González.

Marlene Gutiérrez earned All-Heartland Conference honors by finishing in 10th place at last year's Heartland Conference Championships. She achieved five top-10 finishes during an outstanding freshman season, taking first place in a dual against Texas A&M-Kingsville and second place at the UIW Cardinal Invitational.

In his first campaign as head coach, three runners earned All-Red River Athletic Conference honors before advancing to the NAIA National Championships. Achieving that accomplishment were Eddie González and Mark Vela on the men's side and Anetra Matthews for the women's team.

Before entering the coaching ranks Rodríguez excelled at Laredo's Nixon High School and Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Rodríguez lettered in both cross country and track and field at TAMUK. In cross country, he was a two-time All-Lone Star Conference honoree while also serving as team captain as a junior and senior. In track and field he specialized in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

He was a two-time cross country regional qualifier and one-time state qualifier during his career at Nixon. He capped his high school career by winning a cross country district championship and leading the Mustangs to a district title.

Rodríguez graduated with a bachelor's in kinesiology from TAMUK in 2000. He has taught physical education at J.C. Martin Elementary School since 2002.

Rodríguez and his wife, Melina, are the parents of an eight year-old daughter, Alexa.



TAMIU Cross Country Roster



Women

Name	Ht.	Class	Hometown (High School)
Zunny Escobar	5'5"	Fr.	Roma, Texas (Roma HS)
Marlene Gutiérrez	5'0"	So.	Laredo, Texas (Lyndon B. Johnson HS)
Jenny Méndez	5'5"	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Willowridge HS)
Genesis Ramírez	5'0"	So.	Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)
Amanda Salinas	5'5"	So.	Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

Men

Name	Ht.	Class	Hometown (High School)
Luis Beltrán	5'6"	Sr.	Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)
Oscar Beltrán	5'6"	So.	Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)
Robert Coronado	5'6"	Sr.	Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)
Raúl Gil	5'7"	Fr.	Laredo, Texas (United South HS)
Antonio González	5'11"	Jr.	Laredo, Texas (United South HS)
Cornelius Kipkorir	6'1"	Fr.	Eldoret, Kenya
Luis Peña	5'7"	Sr.	Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)
Gabriel Trejo	5'6"	Fr.	Laredo, Texas (United South HS)

Head Coach: Benny Rodríguez

Player Profiles



Robert Coronado Jr.

5-6 Sr.

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

Three-year letterwinner has competed in 18 career meets ... three top-20 finishes ... placed 23rd at Cardinal Invitational last season ... lettered in cross country and track and field at Alexander High School ... three-time cross country regional qualifier. **Personal:** Son of María and Robert Coronado ... majoring in biology ... favorite vacation spot is Hawaii ... most admired historical figure is Billy Mills.



Raúl Gil

5-7 Fr.

Laredo, Texas (United South HS)

Lettered in cross country, track and field and tennis at United South High School ... R.O.T.C. member ... clocked a 4:45 mile as a sophomore. **Personal:** Son of Raul and Yolanda Gil ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Brave New World" ... favorite athlete is Ryan Hall ... favorite vacation spot is Port Mansfield, Texas.



Antonio González

5-11 Jr.

Laredo, Texas (United South HS)

Participated in four races last fall ... finished 24th at the Heartland Conference Championships ... lettered in cross country, soccer and track and field at United South High School ... qualified for cross country regionals as a senior. **Personal:** Son of Antonio and María González ... majoring in fitness and sports with a minor in biology ... favorite athlete is Lance Armstrong ... most admired historical figure is César Chávez Jr.



Cornelius Kipkorir

6-1 Fr.

Eldoret, Kenya

Lettered in track and field and handball at Kapsabet High School in his native Kenya ... high school reknown for its athletic and academic excellence. **Personal:** Son of Irine Chumo Micheal ... majoring in business administration with a minor in public administration ... favorite athlete is Paul Tergat ... most admired historical figure is Nelson Mandela ... favorite vacation spot is the coastal regions of Kenya.

Player Profiles



Zunny Escobar

Roma, Texas (Roma HS)

5-5 Fr.

Lettered in track and field, soccer and softball at Roma High School ... competed on district champion teams in the 400, 800 and 1,600 meter relay. **Personal:** Daughter of María and Fernando Escobar ... majoring in communications disorders ... favorite athlete is Koby Bryant ... aspires to a career in speech pathology.



Marlene Gutiérrez

Laredo, Texas (Lyndon B. Johnson HS)

5-0 So.

Emerged as one of the top runners in the Heartland Conference last year as a freshman ... competed in seven races with four top-10 finishes ... earned All-Heartland Conference honors with 10th place finish ... placed second at UIW Cardinal Invitational with a 23:12 5K ... lettered in cross country, track and field, tennis, basketball, softball and volleyball at Laredo's LBJ High School ... two-time 1,600 meter champion ... district cross country champion as a senior ... two-time cross country state qualifier ... two-time defensive player of the year in basketball. **Personal:** Daughter of José and Carmen Gutiérrez ... majoring in fitness and sports ... favorite book is "Tuesday's With Morrie" ... favorite athlete is Tim Duncan ... most admired historical figure is Steve Prefontaine.



Jenny Méndez

Houston, Texas (Willowridge HS)

5-5 Sr.

Three-year letterwinner has participated in 18 career races ... five career top-30 finishes ... finished 26th at Heartland Conference Championships as a sophomore ... lettered in cross country, volleyball, basketball and track and field at Willowridge High School ... Academic All-Conference. **Personal:** Daughter of Julio Méndez and Ana Rubio ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Forged By Fire" ... favorite athlete is Michael Phelps ... aspires to be a zoologist and someday own a zoo.



Genesis Ramírez

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

5-0 So.

Competed in six races as a freshman in 2008 ... placed 48th at the UTSA Classic with a 24:48 5K ... lettered in cross country, track and field, basketball and softball at Laredo's Alexander High School ... helped lead Bulldogs to back-to-back district cross country titles ... regional qualifier in 800 meters, mile relay and cross country. **Personal:** Daughter of Martha and José Ramírez ... majoring in communications disorders ... favorite book is "Lovely Bones" ... favorite athlete is Steve Prefontaine ... most admired historical figure is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Player Profiles



Amanda Salinas

5-5 So.

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

Competed in six races as a freshman last year ... finished 16th at the UIW Cardinal Invitational with a 26:21 5K ... lettered in cross country, track and field and softball at Alexander High School ... helped lead Bulldogs to back-to-back district cross country titles ... 800 meter district champion as a sophomore. **Personal:** Daughter of Rosalinda and Lauro Salinas Jr. ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Deception Point" ... favorite athletes are Alan Webb and Pedro Martínez ... most admired historical figures are Charles Darwin and Gregor Mendel.



Luis Beltrán

5-6 Sr.

Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)

Three-year letterwinner has participated in 18 career races ... eight career top-25 and one top-10 finish ... finished 14th at Cardinal Invitational last season and 17th at Heartland Conference Championships ... earned All-Conference honors as sophomore with a seventh place finish at 2007 conference meet ... lettered in cross country and track and field at C.C. Winn High School ... cross country bi-district champion as a senior ... track and field two-mile district champion as a senior. **Personal:** Son of Victor Alvarado and Vicenta Beltrán ... majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology ... favorite book is "A Man's Search For Meaning" ... favorite athlete is Steve Prefontaine ... aspires to a career as a D.E.A. agent.



Oscar Beltrán

5-6 So.

Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)

2003 graduate of Winn High School ... lettered in football, cross country, track and field and soccer ... played on playoff football team ... graduated with honors. **Personal:** Son of Victor Alvarado and Vicenta Beltrán ... majored in fitness and sports with a minor in math ... most admired historical figure is Pancho Villa ... favorite vacation spot is Virginia Beach.



Luis Peña

5-7 Sr.

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

Participated in five races in his first season as a Dustdevil last year ... top 8K time turned in at Texas Lutheran Invitational ... 2000 graduate of Alexander High School lettered in track and field and cross country. **Personal:** Son of Luis and Irma Peña ... majoring in biology ... favorite athlete is Jim Thorpe ... most admired historical figure is Charles Darwin ... aspires to a career as a biologist.

Player Profiles



Gabriel Trejo

Laredo, Texas (United South HS)

Lettered in cross country at United South High School ... regional qualifier.

Personal: Son of María Trejo ... favorite book is "Brave New World" ... favorite athlete is Steve Prefontaine ... most admired historical figure is Alexander the Great.

5-6

Fr.



Dustdevils

Directory and Facts

2008 Men's Team Results

Meet	Site	Date	Distance	Place
Incarnate Word Relays	San Antonio	8/30	5K	5th
Ricardo Romo/UTSA Classic	San Antonio	9/19	5K	7th
UIW Cardinal Invitational	San Antonio	9/27	8K	4th
Texas Lutheran Invitational	Seguin	9/4	8K	7th
Heartland Conference Championships	Dallas	10/18	8K	5th
NCAA South Central Regional	San Antonio	11/8	8K	21st

2008 Women's Team Results

Meet	Site	Date	Distance	Place
Incarnate Word Relays	San Antonio	8/30	5K	n/a
Ricardo Romo/UTSA Classic	San Antonio	9/19	5K	7th
UIW Cardinal Invitational	San Antonio	9/27	5K	4th
Texas Lutheran Invitational	Seguin	10/4	6K	4th
Heartland Conference Championships	Dallas	10/18	6K	5th
NCAA South Central Regional	San Antonio	11/8	6K	18th

Staff Directory

Area Code: 956

Fax: 326-2889

Interim Athletics Director

Claudio Arias 326-2890
carias@tamiu.edu

Faculty Athletics Representative

Dr. Randal Brown 326-2679
brown@tamiu.edu

Sports Information Director

Dan Lathey 326-2892
dlathey@tamiu.edu

Athletics Trainer

Ernst Feisner 326-2905
efeisner@tamiu.edu

Staff Accountant

Brenda González 326-2891
brenda.gonzalez@tamiu.edu

Office Coordinator

Petra Vela 326-3000
pvela@tamiu.edu

Team Orthopedist

Dr. Miguel Solís

Team Physician

Dr. John V. Puig II

Team Chiropractor and Nutritionist

Dr. Roland Hicks

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History

All-Time Records - Men

•All-Heartland Conference

Luis Beltrán	2007
Eddie González	2007
Gedyon Kiflezgi	2007

•All-Red River Athletic Conference

Michael Equigua	2004
Eddie González	2005
Mark Vela	2003, 04, 05

•2003 NAIA National Championships

143. Mark Vela	27:17.6
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•2005 NAIA National Championships

135. Eddie González	26:37.15
160. Mark Vela	26:49.00

All-Time Records - Women

•All-Heartland Conference

Marlene Gutiérrez	2008
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•All-Red River Athletic Conference

Anetra Matthews	2003, a04, 05
Cristina Saenz	2004

•2004 NAIA National Championships

61. Anetra Matthews	19:12.30
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•2005 NAIA National Championships

50. Anetra Matthews	18:50.45
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All-Time Top Times

8K

1. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:06	2006 Disney Classic
2. Mark Vela	26:14	2005 NAIA Region VI
3. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:26	2006 Texas Lutheran Invitational
4. Mark Vela	26:32	2003 NAIA Region VI
5. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:34.4	2007 Incarnate Word Invitational
6. Eddie González	26:37	2005 NAIA National Championships
7. Eddie González	26:44	2006 Disney Classic
Eddie González	26:44	2005 NAIA Region VI
9. Mark Vela	26:49	2005 NAIA National Championships
10. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:51	2007 Texas A&M Invitational

All-Time Top Times

5K

1. Anetra Matthews	18:34	2005 NAIA Region VI
2. Anetra Matthews	18:50	2005 NAIA National Championships
3. Anetra Matthews	18:56	2004 NAIA Region VI
4. Anetra Matthews	19:00	2005 Texas A&M Invitational
5. Anetra Matthews	19:12	2004 NAIA National Championships
6. Anetra Matthews	19:14	2004 Red River Athletic Conference
7. Marlene Gutiérrez	19:25	2008 Texas A&M-Kingsville Dual
8. Anetra Matthews	19:31	2005 Red River Athletic Conference
9. Anetra Matthews	19:51	2003 Red River Athletic Conference
10. Anetra Matthews	19:55	2004 Texas A&M Invitational



TAMIU

Athletics Maroon Club

The Maroon Club is a reasonably priced marketing package that offers local business partners a chance to affiliate with Texas A&M International University Athletics.

Maroon Club partners play an integral role in supporting TAMIU Athletics. Together, we are building a program that will compete at the highest level of NCAA Division II and the Heartland Conference. Everyone involved will be proud of the quality student-athletes representing Laredo and the University.

The standard \$2,500 Maroon Club marketing package includes the following benefits:

- Company recognition on Maroon Club page and in all media brochures produced by TAMIU Athletics
- Company recognition on TAMIU Athletics Web site - www.GoDustdevils.com
- Banners hung at all on-campus athletics facilities
- Company recognition on Stretch internet webcasts of selected events
- Company night at one fall (soccer or volleyball), winter (basketball) and spring (baseball or softball) event for the 2009-10 academic year. Sponsors will receive 100 tickets for each selected contest.

Latest Headlines

- Men's Soccer achieves breakthrough 2008 season, finishing with a 12-5-1 overall record.
- Women's basketball and softball qualify for Heartland Conference Tournament in 2008-09.
- 17 Student-Athletes earn All-Heartland Conference honors in 2008-09.



For more information, contact:

Dan Lathey at 326.2892 or dlathey@tamiu.edu

Trey Austin at 326.3007 or taustin@tamiu.edu

visit: godustdevils.com



TAMIU ATHLETICS MAROON CLUB

The Maroon Club is a reasonably priced marketing package that offers local business partners a chance to affiliate with Texas A&M International University Athletics, a program that will compete at the highest level of NCAA Division II and the Heartland Conference.

For more information contact Associate Athletics Director Dan Lathey at 956.326.2892.



Texas A&M International University 2009 Cross Country Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Sept. 5	Texas A&M International Invitational	Laredo
Sept. 12	Texas A&M Invitational	Bryan
Sept. 18	UTSA Ricardo Romo Invitational	San Antonio
Oct. 3	Texas Lutheran Invitational	Seguin
Oct. 10	Walt Disney World Cross Country Classic	Orlando, Fla.
Oct. 24	Heartland Conference Championships	Dallas
Nov. 7	NCAA South-Central Championships	Abilene

