LSC-Tomball Celebrates 25 Years of Leading the Pack

On August 20, LSC-Tomball employees gathered to celebrate the beginning of the 25th anniversary of LSC-Tomball with a barbecue lunch provided by the LSC-Tomball Wolfpack Cookers. Anniversary Committee Chair Dr. Donna Willingham gave an overview of the 25th anniversary and event subcommittee chairs gave presentations on the exciting activities planned throughout the year to celebrate the anniversary. Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Hillegeist also spoke at the event. During his speech, he congratulated LSC-Tomball and thanked the college for being such an important part of the Tomball community. The employees then held a ribbon cutting, enjoyed celebratory cake and learned the new LSC-Tomball fight song written by Dr. Lisa Morales. For more information about the 25th anniversary, visit www.LoneStar.edu/TomballAnniversary.

Student Success & Engagement

Star of the Month:
Jacory Williams—Dancing with a Star

It's said that opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor. No one better personifies this saying than Lone Star College-Tomball student Jacory Williams.

Born 23 years ago to a 14-year-old mother who could not provide for him, Jacory was given up to his “god-family” to be fostered. “I ended up being raised in a home of sweet, educated parents and three other siblings…and I can honestly say I got everything that a child could want,” said Jacory.

During his formative years, Jacory’s godmother-
er recognized his innate dance skills and enrolled him in dance programs at the YMCA. Soon, he was winning nearly every competition he entered. However, by the end of high school, Jacory had ballooned to almost 300 pounds, and with the extra weight came extra emotional baggage. He tried to go to college after graduating high school, but things never seemed to work out. “There was always something impeding me from enrolling,” he mused.

Finally, Jacory realized that the only way to control his life was to stop allowing his life to control him. First, he had to reduce the stress that was damaging his body and spirit, so Jacory began running daily. “I was determined to get my weight back down, and I did just that. I went from over 300 pounds down to 196 pounds. I feel great,” he beamed.

Health and self-confidence restored, Jacory committed himself to going to college, so he decided to start by getting a job there. His brother, LSC-Tomball TRiO staff assistant Durell Forte, recommended working in the café, which enabled Jacory to enroll in the spring 2013 semester. Last March, he got a job with the financial aid department as part of the LSC-Tomball work study program, allowing him to focus on his studies and maintain his 4.0 GPA.

After he earns his Associate of Arts degree, Jacory wants to transfer to University of Houston to get a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and then attend the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

Frequently asked for guidance by fellow students, Jacory’s advice is honest. “You may have doubts sometimes…it may seem too hard…but you have to keep the faith and the determination to maintain and accomplish your goals. When you want to give up, remember why you started the journey in the first place. Failure is not an option.”

Students Get Connected at Fall Welcome

New LSC-Tomball Timberwolf students gathered in the Performing Arts Center for a day of information and engagement to get connected to college resources and other students. Fall Welcome was hosted by the LSC-Tomball Office of Student Life.
Rachel Smith—Thinking Qualitatively

It was a busy summer for Lone Star College-Tomball mathematics professor Rachel Smith. Not only did Rachel co-facilitate a workshop at the University of Alberta International Institute for Qualitative Methodology’s 13th Annual Thinking Qualitatively Workshop Series, she also co-presented a research paper at its 12th Annual Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference. The packed workshop featured a discussion on six major components of the qualitative research process (philosophy; research design; data collection; data analysis; legitimation; and meaning, making and presentation). The research paper (the result of a qualitative methods class project) is planned for submission to the “International Journal of Doctoral Studies.”

Sean Tiffee—LSC-Tomball’s Newest Ph.D.

The latest member of Lone Star College-Tomball’s growing Ph.D. club, Dr. Sean Tiffee, associate professor of speech, received his doctoral degree in communication studies from the University of Texas at Austin this summer after earning his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Texas State University at San Marcos.

Diana Broome—Credit Where Credit is Due

In addition to her current duties as Lone Star College-Tomball pharmacy technology program director and professor, Diana Broome was recently named an item writer for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board and an accreditation guest site surveyor for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. As an item writer, Diana will develop exam questions for the national certification board exam that technician candidates must pass to obtain their pharmacy technician certification. As an accreditation guest site surveyor, she will be surveying colleges that have an existing accredited pharmacy technician training program and are seeking re-accreditation. Additionally, Diana was a contributor to the upcoming fifth edition of Paradigm Publishing’s textbook “Pharmacy Calculations for Technicians.”

Bruce Zarosky—Leadership North Houston

Bruce Zarosky, Lone Star College-Tomball kinesiology chair and professor, has been selected as one of 30 participants in the upcoming Leadership North Houston program, which covers topics such as education, cultural arts, economic development, health and human services, and also includes a leadership skills enhancement component designed to strengthen a participant's foundation as a leader to achieve personal goals and professional success. A 10-year veteran of LSC-Tomball, Bruce is excited about the opportunity. “This experience will provide valuable insight, interaction with others who lead and inspire, and practice to develop new perspectives and techniques while reinforcing those aspects of my leadership style and practice that are effective.”
Tom Lescarbeau—NBSTSA Exam Review Committee Appointment

To be a certified surgical technologist (CST) or certified surgical first assistant (CSFA) in the state of Texas (and many other states), graduates must first pass the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) certification exams. Beginning in 2014, Tom Lescarbeau, Lone Star College-Tomball director of surgical technology and associate professor, begins a three-year term on the NBSTSA certified surgical technologist exam review committee. As part of his responsibilities, Tom will be involved in determining eligibility to take the exams as well as writing and administering the exams themselves.

Spotlights

Alpana Sarangapani—Librarian, Teacher and Treasure Hunter

In the age when almost infinite information is available at the click of a mouse, the need to bring order to the overabundance is greater than ever. That’s what makes reference librarians like Alpana Sarangapani valuable to the students, faculty and community she serves at the Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library—to teach not only how to retrieve information, but also to teach information literacy (how to find, evaluate, select, utilize and cite information).

“My favorite part of being a librarian is having first-hand connection and interaction with the students and other researchers. This helps me to keep myself at the cutting edge of related technology, and keeps me aware of past and current events in a number of different fields,” said Alpana.

In addition to her reference responsibilities, Alpana also conducts library instructional classes, and acts as the liaison to the arts, business, behavioral science and social science (ABBSSS) division for the library. But her contributions to LSC-Tomball don’t stop there; she and her husband, Ram, have set up two endowment scholarships geared toward students who are/were in the military, law enforcement, firefighting, or ambulatory services, honoring their son, Nitin, who was a proud U.S. Marine.

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Durell Forte—Living the Dream

TRiO Staff Assistant—and September 2013 Professional Support Staff Association (PSSA) Employee of the Month—Durell Forte has been with Lone Star College-Tomball since 2003, when he started in advising and counseling as a part-time employee while a LSC-Tomball student. In 2007, he received his A.A. degree, and then in 2012 served as staff assistant to President Dr. Susan Karr before moving to TRiO, where he now assists Jane Buckner, Tiwana Robinson and Morgan Tuck.

Asked what he likes best about his job, Durell didn’t hesitate. “The fact that I can always be connected to students as well as the community. The fact that I can empower students to always pursue their dreams and be victorious, because

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Hue “Troy” Billings—Keeping the Peace

There’s something special about the night shift, the hustle and bustle of the day giving way to a calming peacefulness, and Lone Star College-Tomball police sergeant Hue “Troy” Billings intends to keep it that way.

Sergeant Billings, a 28-year law enforcement veteran, came to LSC-Tomball in April 2013 by way of the Harris County Constable Office Precinct One, where he retired as a lieutenant in December 2012. Though only at LSC-Tomball for five months, Billings likes many things about his new job, citing the work environment in particular. “The students are here to learn and improve their lifestyle, and the employees are here to teach and help others,” he said.

He also enjoys working with his fellow officers. “The officers I work with are veterans with years of experience with LSC-Tomball and other police agencies,” Billings added.

A married father of two and grandfather of three, Billings keeps his spirit, mind and body fit volunteering at church, spending time with his family, working out in the gym and pursuing a variety of outdoor interests.

Recent Events

Welcome Week Connects Employees

The week of August 19 was full of meetings and events to bring together and connect LSC-Tomball employees to prepare for the August 26 start to the fall semester.

The week kicked-off with the second annual Taste and Tour of LSC-Tomball on Monday. The event, designed to showcase the various areas that are LSC-Tomball, was a walking and food tour through the college. Employees visited each of the hosting areas to sample food items and learn more about each area.

On Tuesday, LSC-Tomball held their Welcome Back Breakfast in the Beckendorf Conference Center. Employees received updates from LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSC-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Lee Ann Nutt, Vice President of Student Success Ann Johnson, Interim Dean of Student Development Cornelius Johnson, PSSA President Jacqueline Shepherd, TCCTA Past President and Campus Representative Dr. Annie Benifield, and Faculty Senate President David Birch.
Target Hunger Food Drive on Target

Lone Star College-Tomball Leadership Academy and Staff Fellows efforts on behalf of the Lone Star College System (LSCS) Leadership Academy’s Target Hunger Food Drive paid off in a big way last June. Of the 5,008 pounds of canned food collected throughout LSCS, more than 914 pounds were donated by LSC-Tomball employees—an amazing 567 percent increase over last year’s 137 pounds. The cans were donated to Target Hunger, one of Houston's largest organizations providing food to hungry elders, children and families living in inner-city neighborhoods.

ID Badges Come to LSC-Tomball

Lone Star College-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr and Chair of English and Humanities Kim Carter pose together for their new One Card ID badge prior to having their actual badge photos taken. LSC-Tomball is the first campus to receive the new One Card badges.

ALL Open House

Lone Star College-Tomball's Academy for Lifelong Learning program held their open house in the LSC-Tomball Beckendorf Conference Center on Saturday, August 24. Attendees browsed displays for a variety of classes including technology, health and wellness, financial planning, community service projects, literary discussion groups, genealogy, arts and crafts, an insider's view of Texas history, and more. The Academy for Lifelong Learning is a membership community that offers free and low-cost classes, events and activities for adults age 50 and older.

“The Music Man” Performed at LSC-Tomball

The Lone Star College-Tomball drama program presented one of American theater’s most beloved musicals, Meredith Wilson’s “The Music Man,” in the LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center July 11–14. The audiences laughed and sang along as fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize, only to be foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian. “We were thrilled to bring this classic musical to Tomball. It was an ambitious undertaking, and the drama department worked very hard and was very proud to put on the production,” said Sherri Ryan White, director, LSC-Tomball drama program coordinator and professor.
LSC-Tomball Participates in Tomball Night

Lone Star College System’s (LSCS) Mobile Go provided some much needed shade and a great presence at the Lone Star College-Tomball booth during Tomball Night 2013, August 2. Nearly a dozen LSC-Tomball and LSCS volunteers manned the booth throughout the event, including (left to right) Richard Lewis, Mobile Go program coordinator; Nicole Finkbeiner, LSC-Tomball college relations executive director; and David Caoin, LSC-Tomball college relations writer.

LSC-Tomball Presents at Tomball Regional Medical Center Education Fair

Lone Star College-Tomball participated in the Tomball Regional Medical Center (TRMC) Education Fair August 22, 2013. On hand to give out information and answer questions on college credit and non-credit programs to hospital personnel were Dr. Irene Briggs, ROaDI recruitment & outreach coordinator; John Vancamp, nursing program professor; and Rita Ray, program manager, workforce. Pictured above are LSC-Tomball nursing students from TRMC.

Community Partnerships

Transformations

everyone has their own definition of success.”

In her nominating letter, Recruitment, Outreach and Diversity Initiatives (ROaDI) Specialist III Sharon Alewine concurred. “Durell has always been a motivator and encourager of other students, parents, faculty and other co-workers, and does so with a positive attitude.”

Additionally, Durell is actively involved in PSSA, as well as the club sports program and the Creative Writing Club. Off campus, Durell is an avid sports fan who also enjoys writing (he’s the author of two books of poetry).

New Faces

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Nish Parekh
Specialist, Financial Aid

Dr. Cynthia Galvan
Faculty, Biology
Upcoming Events

Chamber First Friday Luncheon
September 6, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center

Small-Business Success Seminar – Google Tools for Business
September 6, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
LSC-Tomball Community Library, Room L-129

Involvement Fair
September 11–12, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Commons

Constitution Day Celebration
September 17, 11 a.m. – noon
Room N-103

iLead Student Leadership Conference
September 24, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center and Rooms S-160, E-100, N-103, C-120

COTE Lecture: “Morality and Film- the Ethics of Neurocinematics”
Lecture by Dr. Sean Tiffee, Associate Professor, Speech Communications
September 26, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Room N-103

To see the most current events, visit LoneStar.edu/Calendars