Our Legacy Circle

Newest Legacy Circle Members

Paula H. Whitaker and the Ryan Whitaker Memorial Foundation have created a charitable remainder trust to be used in part for the creation of the “Ryan & Paula Whitaker Nursing Scholarship Endowment”.

Ryan tragically died in 2007 and to honor his commitment to serving people and his desire to pursue his nursing degree from Lone Star College-Tomball, his mother Paula created a scholarship endowment.

Student Highlight

LSC-Montgomery student essay winner

The third in our series of the winning essays from the 2010 Chancellor’s Breakfast, is written by LSC-Montgomery student Lori Mendel.

Just like a butterfly spreading her wings, Lori realized that she wanted a life beyond her role as “master of the domestic domain”. Her aptitude for accounting was discovered and encouraged by a professor who helped her realize that a degree in accounting would be more than just a piece of paper and three other important life lessons. Please read and enjoy Lori’s tale of growth and success.

“How My Community College Experience Has Changed My Life”
It all began with a long, scrutinizing look in the mirror. My life seemed to lack direction and was devoid of any real purpose. Worse, there was a sense of sadness and longing for the lost opportunities to prove my worth outside of the home. I no longer recognized myself and wondered what had happened to the strong and independent person I used to be. Click here to read the complete essay.

“What Would Julia (Childs) Cook With?” Event a Success

Party with a Purpose prelude to LSC Foundation StarGala benefiting students
the Ryan Paul Whitaker Memorial Nursing Endowment.

Paula explained that Ryan "loved people". Twelve days before his death, he told Paula that he wanted to pursue his nursing degree. "I want to help people," he said.

"Grief turns into healing when you relinquish the pain and helplessness you feel after reeling from the loss, and shift your thoughts to what you can do to honor that person’s memory. The best remembrance of a loved one is to carry on what that person stood for," she added.

Desiring to make an even greater impact, Paula has chosen to fund additional scholarships through her Last Will and Testament.

"Our Legacy is something we leave behind that does good for humanity. It is what we leave that is evidence that we did some good in our lives and that we helped others and we made a contribution to make our world a better place," Paula explained.

She is grateful to have found a way to honor Ryan’s memory and to create a Legacy for him. "I would like to encourage others to leave a Legacy of helping someone have a wonderful education and with that training, touch other lives, and make the world a better place to live," she said.

Paula is the owner of Champions Christian Counseling and serves on numerous non-profit boards.

More than 30 women joined Tracy Stunja and Colene Joiner for wine, cheese, and fellowship at a recent “Party with a Purpose” prelude to the Lone Star College Foundation’s upcoming StarGala “April in Paris” event set for April 24.

The annual StarGala silent and live auctions are a substantial fund-raising source for student scholarships, faculty projects, and system academic programs. The recent Kingwood area “Party with a Purpose” brought in more than $2,800 in items and donations for the StarGala auction.

Attendees pictured are from left, Rebecca Riley, Vice President of Instruction at LSC-Kingwood; Susan Ouren, Professor of Interior Design at LSC-Kingwood; Colene Joiner, Joiner Partnership, Inc.; and Diane Sconzo.

Party co-hosts Colene Joiner, who is co-chairing the StarGala with her husband Carl, and Tracy Stunja, who is serving on the LSC-Kingwood Sales Team for the StarGala, asked attendees to help stock Julia’s kitchen with gourmet items. They received cookbooks, aprons, cooking utensils, placemats and napkins, cook ware and even some pearl earrings to go along with Julia’s famous strand of pearls.

Four other prelude parties are set in the LSCS’s other service areas including Cy-Fair, North Harris, Montgomery and Tomball.

Look for a Julia Child’s basket among this year’s auction items as well as an exclusive trip to London and Paris; a Congressman Kevin Brady autographed Lone Star College uniform worn at the 2009 Congressional baseball game and a trip to Washington DC for the 2010 game; a framed Yao Ming autographed size 19 Nike basketball shoe and many more auction packages at the StarGala.

In addition to the auction, StarGala will include other opportunities that help fund scholarships, dinner and dancing, as well as pays tribute to community honorees including Jim Blair and Nelda Luce Blair, the City of Conroe, the Conroe Industrial Development Corporation, and the Greater Conroe Economic Development Council.

Supporting this year’s StarGala as Tour Eiffel ($16,000) sponsors are Cypress-Fairbanks Medical Center, Houston Northwest Medical Center and Tomball Regional Medical Center.

Arc De Triomphe sponsor ($10,000) is Valence Operating Company.


Champs Elysees ($3,000) sponsors are Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union, Greenspoint District/Montgomery & Barnes, Inc., Jones Lang LaSalle, Morris Architects, PBK, and Perspectiva.

Several additional levels of sponsorship are available.

For event sponsorships, donations or information, contact Judy Lux at
Making a Difference
Local podiatrist supports LSC-Montgomery students

Dr. Robert E. Neville, a Board Certified Podiatric Physician and Surgeon, serving the medical and surgical needs of the community, as a Foot and Ankle Specialist, for over twenty-five years, is also financially helping students of Lone Star College-Montgomery.

Dr. Neville is the Founder and Medical Director of Foot HealthCare Centers and is a Surgical Instructor at the Houston Podiatric Surgical Foundation.

Annually, his “Feet in Art” scholarship contest provides scholarships for five students. The contest is held in conjunction with the college’s art department. Students are encouraged to submit art works of feet in any desired media.

The winning projects are displayed throughout the year at area functions and events, in the Foot HealthCare Centers, and at GOOD SOLES, Montgomery County Shoe and Sock Donation Center, a donation collection storefront Dr. Neville founded.

The art educates and entertains, according to Dr. Neville. He and his staff, along with his patients, enjoy the “thoughtful ideas and creative talents of the students,” he explains.

“Every year the art keeps getting better with the varied and unique interpretations of the topic,” he added.

Dr. Neville takes great joy in this project and hopes to keep the students at Lone Star College-Montgomery “On their Toes”!

Please visit our website at www.lonestarcollegefoundation.org. You can support our students, faculty and programs by making a donation now.