JOINERS TO HOST
STAR GALA 2010 AT
THE WOODLANDS
WATERWAY MARRIOTT

While some plans for the Star Gala 2010 are still in the preliminary stages, one detail is already set – the event will be chaired by Carl and Colene Joiner, long-time patrons of Lone Star College System and the Lone Star College Foundation.

The gala, set for April 24, is the signature fund-raising event for the LSC Foundation that raises funds for student scholarships, academic programs and faculty projects.

“Colene and I consider it an honor to be serving as chairs of the 2010 Lone Star College Foundation gala,” said Carl Joiner. “This year’s event will be ‘April in Paris.’”

“The evening is planned to include Parisian highlights from champagne to chocolates,” Joiner said. “Our goal is a ‘tres box’ evening, as the French say, for all, while raising funds for this worthy cause.”

Star Gala 2010 will be an evening of dinner and dancing. In addition, the gala will include raffles and silent and live auctions – which directly benefit LSC students and faculty.

The Joiners, of Joiner Partner, Inc., were a top sponsor for Star Gala 2009.

“Our involvement with the college district spans over 25 years,” Joiner said. “We both have served in numerous capacities over the years from serving on committees to donating our home for Foundation events.”

For sponsorship information for Star Gala 2010, contact Judy Lux at 832.813.6640 or go to the LSC Foundation Web site at LoneStarCollegeFoundation.org.

Caldwell has Big Objectives as Foundation Board Chair

Fred Caldwell

Fred Caldwell is no stranger to educational organizations. He is closely involved with the Texas A&M 12th Man Foundation and Lowry Mays College & Graduate School of Business, along with the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation, to name a few.

Mr. Caldwell has also served the Lone Star College Foundation board of directors for a number of years. For the next two, he will lead the group as its chair.

“I’m very excited about where the Foundation can go,” he said. “I have the opportunity to build upon a very stable, very successful foundation that’s already there. We have great leaders, great board members already in place.”

Caldwell, who is president and CEO of the Caldwell Companies, a real estate services and development firm in northwest Houston, wants to establish a clear vision for the Foundation.

“We will articulate the vision as we move forward by establishing a two-year strategic plan,” he said. Caldwell indicated that he plans to have two off-site board meetings to facilitate this process and will be working toward that goal through the end of the year.

As part of the process, he said he also wants to research other foundations and see how the LSC Foundation stacks up.

“We will use benchmarking as a part of that process,” he said.

Caldwell said he hopes to expand the board. “I’m excited about the board and the board members who now serve the Foundation. We have many board members that really have that passion for what they’re doing,” he said. “This Foundation is easy to get passionate about. You always ask yourself, ‘Does what I’m doing really make a difference?’

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The million-dollar endowment was made in 2008 by an anonymous donor to honor Dr. Stegall and her many years of service and passion to higher education – and to recognize student excellence at Lone Star College-Kingwood in perpetuity.

“This was a great evening for me to meet these students...to put names and faces together,” said Dr. Stegall.

This is the first year that the established endowment was awarded, by providing 19 Lone Star College-Kingwood students scholarships of $3,000 annually. To qualify for the scholarship, the students were required to have attended Lone Star College for at least a year, be enrolled full time and have demonstrated academic excellence in their first year of college.

Linda Stegall explained, “these are high-achieving students who are trying to change their lives.”

Darcy Mingoia, executive director of the LSC Foundation, explained that after learning of LSC-Kingwood’s reputation for excellence in technical certification training and college preparatory studies, only then did the anonymous donor decide to grant this generous endowment gift.

“There is a palatable change in the perception of LSC-Kingwood,” Mingoa said.

The 2009 recipients of the Dr. Linda Stegall Excellence in Education Scholarship Endowment scholarships included:

- Nathan Brown, associate degree in education, 4.0 GPA;
- Jennifer Burns, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology, 3.80 GPA;
- Rhonda Byrd, associate degree in nursing, 3.66 GPA;
- Ashley Rhea Chute, associate degree in nursing, 3.67 GPA;
- Raymond Craft, associate degree in liberal arts, 3.31 GPA;
- Misti Festervand, associate degree, 3.806 GPA;
- Jose Edwin Grijalba, associate degree in criminal justice, 3.75 GPA;
- Mark R. Hanneman, pursuing a degree in entrepreneurship, 3.88 GPA;
- Noreen Khan, pursuing a bachelor’s degree at UT Health and Science Center, 4.0 GPA;
- Lenda L. Martinez, associate degree in liberal arts, 3.79 GPA;
- Susan Medeski, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in fine arts, 4.0 GPA;
- Ana Morales, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in visual communications, 3.87 GPA;
- Anh Hai Nguyen, associate degree in dental hygiene, 4.0 GPA;
- Tuan Nguyen, associate degree in respiratory therapy, 4.0 GPA;
- Kathleen Perfetti, associate degree in nursing, 4.0 GPA;
- Alesia Sabino, associate degree in interior design, 4.0 GPA;
- Brian Snowden, associate of science degree, 4.0 GPA;
- Brittany Stubbs, associate degree in nursing, 3.74 GPA;
- Tanyanika A. Tidwell, associate degree in criminal justice, 3.63 GPA.

The LSC Foundation has expanded its initial investment of $20,000 into an extensive portfolio of $8.2 million. The Foundation’s primary mission is to raise money to support students, faculty and programs of the LSCS.

Established as a 501(c)(3) Type I corporation, the Foundation secures and manages unrestricted and restricted assets to support and enrich the academic and scholarship programs of LSCS.

Some of the highlights of the LSC Foundation’s activities for the year, as reported in the 2008 – 2009 annual report:

- The LSC Foundation awarded 379 scholarships at a value of $394,700 for the academic year.
- The annual Golf Tournament was held at The Woodlands Country Club/Palmer Course and the event raised $114,000.
- The StarGala 2009, honoring Elmer Beckendorf, John Wiesner, and Land Tejas Companies, was held in May at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. The event, chaired by Linda and Donnie Humphries and Lisa and Fred Koetting, raised $367,000.
- The annual Chancellor’s Breakfast in January was attended by more than 150 friends of the LSC Foundation and five essay winners, who described their experiences on Lone Star College campuses.
- The LSC Foundation continues to maintain its expense to support level at the very low rate of 8 percent with 92 cents of every dollar going directly to funding scholarships and supporting programs. The expenses remain low because of conservative fiscal management and the support of the Lone Star College System (LSCS).

An overview of the LSC Foundation’s revenues and expenses for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008, are as follows:

- Total Support & Revenues $ 2,251,657
- Scholarship & Program Support $ 341,570
- Operating Expenses $ 265,195
- General Expenses $ 25,368
- Fundraising Expenses $ 124,825
- End of Year Net Asset Balance $ 9,134,934

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Dan and Eileen Dodson

When Dan Dodson and his wife Eileen gave a gift to the Lone Star College Foundation at the end of 2008, it was not their first venture into supporting an educational cause, by any means.

Just look at the Dodsons’ resume of community service, many years in education service on the Cy-Fair Independent School District Board of Trustees; Region IV Education Service Center Board of Trustees; Texas Association of School Boards Board of Trustees; Rural Fire Prevention District 9 Board; and current president of the Harris County Emergency Services District 9.

Supporting the LSC Foundation seems a natural extension of years of ongoing public service for the Dodson family.

“We’ve been attending the StarGalA event for years – since CyFair College was in its initial stages,” Dodson said. He said he also attends other Foundation events, like the annual Chancellor’s Breakfast, where student scholarship winners tell their stories of how winning the scholarship and attending Lone Star College has affected their lives.

“When you hear the stories of those students and how they have been impacted, that really encourages you to get involved,” he said.

Dan Dodson: “LSCS is the solution for many”

Dan Dodson: “Lone Star College is the solution for many.

“The way it’s going now, the community college is the answer for a number of individuals who need further education and can’t afford or can’t get into a four-year college,” he said. “Lone Star College, to me, is one of the greatest assets in the community,” he added.

Dodson said that he encourages others to give to the Foundation in some way – because of the benefits it provides.

“When you hear the stories affected their lives. Attending Lone Star College has winning the scholarship and winners tell their stories of how Foundation events, like the StarGala event for years – “We’ve been attending the StarGalA event for years” — has created an on-going scholarship for the students and how they have been impacted, that really encourages you to get involved,” he said.

“Those funds are my dollars and my wife’s dollars—they don’t come from a company sponsorship,” he said. “If you can’t manage the $600 for a full annual scholarship, then give something.”

Dodson and his wife Eileen, a paraprofessional in Cy-Fair ISD at Longharm Creek High School, moved to the Cy-Fair area in 1981 in Copperfield and still live in the same house they bought then. He works in the oil business for the Plains All American Company.

The Dodsons plan to continue their service activities and support of the LSC Foundation.

“I believe every individual deserves a good chance at an education,” Dodson said.

Grainger Makes $15,000 Gift to LSC-North Harris HVAC Program

The local climate in Houston has created an ongoing demand for skilled heating, air conditioning, ventilation and refrigeration professionals. According to industry experts this demand is not currently being met by the numbers of available trained HVAC technicians.

For more than 30 years, Lone Star College-North Harris has offered professional HVAC training in the north Houston area. Since 2000, the program has trained an average of 515 students a year and still the industry’s demand for these skilled tradesmen continues to stay ahead of supply.

To help meet this workforce need, W. W. Grainger, a local facilities maintenance supplier, has stepped up to provide support. Based upon recommendation from Keith Sobolik, a local branch manager for Grainger, the Grainger Foundation donated $15,000 in scholarships for HVAC students at LSC-North Harris.

“Students represent skilled labor’s best and brightest for the future,” said Sobolik.

“Scholarship funds will be used to help students complete their educational goals.”

Together, we can help ensure the communities of Texas have trained professionals ready to meet the demand for skilled HVAC workers.”

The scholarship program will assist individuals working to complete either of the two HVAC certification programs or HVAC associate’s degree program offered at LSC-North Harris.

The two certification programs, one in residential servicing and one in commercial servicing, each require one year to complete. Scholarship funds will be used to help students complete their educational goals by offsetting the costs of tuition, associated fees and instructional materials, such as books and tools of the trade. The associate’s degree program in HVAC requires an additional year of study.

Darcy Mingoia, executive director of the Lone Star College Foundation, said Grainger’s contribution will help HVAC students who are in need of financial assistance achieve the education they need in this demanding field.

END OF YEAR GIVING IS EASIER THAN EVER

Many individuals are looking for meaningful ways to make a charitable or non-profit contribution before the end of the year. The Lone Star College Foundation offers many opportunities for giving.

To learn more about opportunities for giving to the Foundation, visit our Web site at LoneStarCollegeFoundation.org. Click on “Giving to LSCS,” then “Ways of Giving,” for an explanation of the various ways you might contribute that will be personally satisfying and financially beneficial to you, such as endowments, annual scholarships, special one-time scholarships, planned giving and in-kind donations.

To streamline our gift giving process, LSC Foundation now has online giving. Look for the “Donate Now” green button which appears on all of our Web pages. Simply click on the “Donate Now” button to make a donation using your credit card. Donors have the ability to establish a recurring contribution through their credit card as well.

If you have questions, please call the Foundation at 832.813.6637.
Scholarship recipient eyes a career in the fine arts

Genevieve Simmons

LSC-CyFair student Genevieve Simmons credits much of her drive and interests to her parents.

“I’ve grown up in an artistic family of singers, actors, dancers and photographers,” she said. “I’ve always been encouraged to follow my passions, and was told I can be anything I want if I work hard enough.

“Because of their support, I have gone on to win various awards in music, theater and academics. Hopefully, I will accomplish a lot more in the future,” Simmons said.

“By pushing me to follow my passions and explore, I found that the only difference between me and the people in my dream jobs is training and education,” she said.

Simmons is the recipient of a LSC Foundation CyFair Endowment scholarship and spoke at the recent endowment awards event.

At LSC-CyFair, she is now focusing her studies on music and entrepreneurship but is also taking classes in “subjects I’ve always been interested in.”

After she completes her associate’s degree, Simmons plans to go on to the University of Houston and double major in entrepreneurship and either vocal performance, theater or film.

“All three of those I’ve already done work in and just want more training,” she said.

Simmons indicated that she was relieved and grateful when she learned that she was the recipient of the endowment scholarship. “I have two siblings also in college, one who just graduated, and a younger sister in high school,” she said.

She credited the instructors at LSC-CyFair for encouraging her and specifically commended Ron Jones, the theater director, “who believes in me enough to cast me in his shows,” and her two voice instructors, Robert Collet and Sandra Peterson.

“They have taught me music for years and encourage me to do things I never thought I could do,” she said. “I can’t even begin to explain how much they’ve done for me and how much they’ve influenced me. To these three teachers, I am truly grateful.”

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Excellence in Education Endowment Recognizes 19 Outstanding Scholars

Dan Dodson: “LSCS is the Solution for Many”

New board chair has big goals for 2010

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This Foundation does make a difference,” he said.

“I’m a big believer in the community college as being the catalyst for many, many people,” Caldwell said. “The community college fills a very critical need in our society.”

Caldwell said one other important benefit about the Lone Star College Foundation is its tremendous efficiency.

“Literally every 92 cents on the dollar goes to benefit the students – that’s an incredible value for our donors,” he said.

When Caldwell talks about the Foundation, the passion is evident.

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