Student Highlight

**LSC-Kingwood student essay winner**

Our featured essay winner this month, Jason Clayden, traveled from South Africa to pursue his education and discovered that LSC-Kingwood offered him much more than top-notch instructors and curriculum.

"How My Community College Experience Has Changed My Life"

Ever since I was a young boy, I always heard people saying "Education opens doors". The phrase stood out for me as I was born and grew up in a country where many saw education as a luxury, rather than a right. South Africa taught me to appreciate and take advantage of the opportunities given to me as I had encountered scores of informal communities and impoverished areas that lacked the facilities necessary for a healthy and well balanced lifestyle. [Click here to read the complete essay.](#)

Midnight in Morocco an Outstanding Success

**Almost $370,000 raised for student scholarships and program support**

*StarGala 2011* was an "outstanding success" LSC Foundation Executive Director Darcy Mingoia reported today. Almost
More than $9,000 was raised for student scholarships through the *StarGala 2011* iPad Raffle. The iPad and accessories were donated by MCA Communications and RPH Consulting Group. The winner was LSC-CyFair Adjunct Professor Cindy Mann, pictured on the left above, and the raffle ticket was sold by Laura Carion of the LSC-CyFair President's Office, pictured on the right above.

## Making a Gift

### Give the gift of hope

Looking for "the perfect gift"? Many of our donors have looked to the mission of the LSC Foundation for guidance - give a gift that will change lives. When a donation is made "In Honor" or "In Memory" of someone or is given to commemorate a special event such as an anniversary or retirement, a personalized card will be sent to the honored person named in the donation.

To streamline the donation process, LSC Foundation has introduced Online Giving.

Look for the green "Donate Now" 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.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Alise Bailey at Alise.Bailey@lonestar.edu or 832.813.6637

$370,000 was raised from underwriters, sponsors, table sales, general admission tickets, raffle sales, "Support a Student" scholarships, and the silent, bid board, and live auctions.

"We were so pleased with the generous support received and for the phenomenal leadership of our Co-Chairs Saul and Lisa Valentin who worked relentlessly to make this event a success," Mingoia said.

"Without their encouragement and hard work we would not have experienced such a wonderful evening," she added.

Pictured are Saul and Lisa Valentin and Dana and Richard Carpenter

"Midnight in Morocco" was attended by more than 650 people. In addition to dinner and dancing to the music of Grady Gaines and the Texas Upsetters, the *StarGala* paid tribute to community honorees Stan St. Pierre, W. W. Thorne, and Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.

St. Pierre was recognized for his outstanding volunteer service to the Aldine Scholarship Foundation and the Lone Star College Foundation and his financial commitment to both which includes a total of eight endowments. Thorne is the founder and first President of North Harris County College, the original college that became the Lone Star College System. The Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center is both an endowment partner, with eight fully-funded endowments, and a clinical partner to the health care programs at LSC-CyFair. Terry Wheeler, CEO of the hospital, accepted the honor on behalf of his organization and staff.

In addition to these presentations, LSC-Tomball student Jonas Rodriguez described how the LSCS education he received has given him hope that he will be prepared for a career that will allow financial security for his family. A high school dropout, he is almost finished with his Associates Degree and has plans to transfer to University of Houston to earn his Bachelor’s degree. Rodriguez spoke to the StarGala audience following a video clip which featured former student Scott Brady. Brady took his basics at LSCS and then went on to earn his architecture degree and currently, as a principal with Joiner Partnership, Inc., he has designed the new Student Activity Center at LSC-North Harris which will open this summer.

Top sponsors at the "Rabat" ($16,000) level for *StarGala 2011* were the Cypress-Fairbanks Medical Center; Emirates; and The Feldman Family.
The Lone Star College Foundation’s mission is to change lives through student scholarships and quality educational programs achieved by excellence in relationship building, fundraising, and investment management.

Houston Northwest Medical Center; Tomball Regional Hospital; and Valence Operating Company were sponsors at the “Fez” ($10,000) level.

“Marrakesh” sponsors ($5,000) are Caldwell Companies; Custom Food Group, LP; Entergy; JACOBS; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Joiner Partnership, Inc.; MATTCO Manufacturing; Bob and Darcy Mingoia; Perspectiva; Schulte Building Systems, LP; and The Woodlands Development Company.

Kasbah ($3,000) sponsors are Bridgeland; Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union; EMC; Fiesta Mart Inc.; Infrastructure Associates; Jones Lang LaSalle; LINBECK; Morris Architects; PBK; PCJ Consultants; University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering; and Vinson & Elkins, LLP.

Coming Together to "Pay it Forward"

Residents of The Heritage at Towne Lake support student scholarships

Residents of The Heritage at Towne Lake, an active adult community that is located adjacent to Lone Star College-CyFair, have banded together to fund two $2,000 scholarships that will be distributed to students beginning in the fall 2011. The donation by the residents was matched by the developer of the community, Caldwell Companies. Heritage at Towne Lake is the first community to sponsor a LSC Foundation scholarship by soliciting personal donations from the residents of the community.

The residents hold monthly social activities and are involved in raising funds for their own activities. During an organization meeting for a fund raising event, committee members discussed other uses for a portion of the raised funds. Several of the committee members were aware of the scholarships given by the Lone Star College Foundation and were very impressed that a relatively small amount of money could change a student’s life by providing the financial resources necessary for a student to receive a certificate or associates degree. As a result of that meeting, a new committee was formed to fund scholarships in the community’s name.

One of the residents, explained, “As a long-time resident of the CyFair area, I have witnessed the overwhelming response to having Lone Star College-CyFair in our community and I have personally benefited from its programs and events. So when the opportunity to join in a fund raising effort to provide a scholarship which could assist a student in obtaining an education and in opening doors for better employment was presented, I eagerly participated.”

A second, added, “I felt drawn to be a part of this scholarship project as a ‘pay forward’ experience. The residents of this community know the value of an education and the determination and dedication it takes to get an education. We have been fortunate enough to enjoy the fruits of our education. Thus, having the opportunity to make a difference in a student's future was a goal in which we could be proud.”
Please visit our website at www.lonestarcollegefoundation.org. You can support our students, faculty and programs by making a donation now.