Important Dates

**StarGala 2014**

Saturday, April 26, 2014
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott

Reservations required for all Foundation events. Please contact Judy Lux at 832.813.6640 or email judy.lux@lonestar.edu for more information.

Student Spotlight

**Tales of Discovery Shared at the Chancellor’s Breakfast**

The 200+ attendees at the 21st Annual Chancellor’s Breakfast discovered the lasting impact of a Lone Star College education in the stories shared by the 2014 essay winners and a returning 2004 LSC-Montgomery graduate.

Tung Nguyen, LSC-CyFair winner, moved to the United States in November 2011 and began ESL classes in the Spring. He now thinks and speaks in English “as much as his native tongue”. He added that “is important because it helps prepare for the future.” He described the impact of Lone Star College by stating, “This school has not only shown me the door to my future, it has also provided me with the key to open that door.” Tung will receive his Associates Degree in Science in May and transfer to Texas A&M’s College of Architecture.

James Oakes, LSC-Kingwood winner, reminded the audience that the perception in high school that community college was for those not intelligent enough to get into a university or those who “had a mid-life epiphany” was quickly shattered when he enrolled at LSC-Kingwood because his family could not afford tuition at a university. He discovered “dedicated professors, small classrooms and the learning environment”. He plans to apply for a position in the Associates Degree of Nursing program and ultimately complete a doctoral program combining nursing and microbiology and pursue a research career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Sarah Gauteson, LSC-Montgomery winner, enrolled in classes on the campus at the age of 15. Sarah was homeschooled and the ability to enroll in dual credit classes allowed her to finish high school and her first year of college early. On the campus she discovered that being younger and home schooled was not a liability but in fact a point of pride. She also discovered her fondness for “playing with numbers” which led her to major in accounting. “Perhaps it was the fresh content or maybe it was the method with which Lone Star instructors taught,” she explained.

Juan Ciarella, LSC-North Harris winner, is the first in his family to attend college. After obtaining his Associate of Science Degree, he plans to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M. Citing country music artist Rodney Atkins lyrics “discount knowledge at the junior college”, Juan is grateful that his tuition and fees at Lone Star are one-fifth the cost of four-year state universities. After battling cancer in high school, obtaining his GED on campus, he enrolled in classes and gained the “fresh start to life” he desperately needed. Lone Star Colleges changed his life and transformed him into a critical thinker, a person that cherishes diversity, and a true believer of his own exceptionalism, he explained.

Miguel Garcia, LSC-Tomball winner, came to Lone Star two years after graduating from high school in Mexico. He does not want to forget his past especially “the machined-soiled hands of his father and those of his friends fathers' but he is determined to move forward with his passion for aerospace engineering. He is committed to completing his arduous curriculum because he needs that education to transform “his circumstances for good”. He is an “optimist” and believes the technology he will learn in pursuing his education will indeed “make the world a better place”.

Kara Vigants, LSC-University Park winner, didn’t complete her college degree after a “devastating car accident and subsequent illness” disrupted her plans 20 years ago. Although she and her husband and their daughter have had an “interesting and oftentimes exciting life” she regretted not reaching her goal. Last year she decided it was time to return to school and earn that “elusive” degree. She chose Lone Star because it was “convenient, inexpensive and, most importantly, used to dealing with older students”. She has discovered that her love of learning has been rekindled that even with age her brain “works just fine”. She intends to complete her associate degree and pursue a career in the medical industry.

Returning 2004 graduate, Athena Moseley, described how her circumstances – being a young wife and mother with only a high school education and two minimum wage jobs – did not bode well for a successful career and life. Circumstances placed her in The Woodlands and she decided to try for a college degree. Lone Star billboards announcing “of course you can” gave her the confidence to enroll. She graduated Magna Cum Laude as an “Honor Scholar with Distinction” and obtained the “fresh start to life” she desperately needed. Lone Star Colleges changed her life and transformed him into a critical thinker, a person that cherishes diversity, and a true believer of his own exceptionalism, he explained.

In addition, Dr. Carpenter highlighted the newest fully-funded endowment benefitting each college and the system. Those endowments are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Endowment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSC-CyFair</td>
<td>Empower U Endowment funded by numerous campus personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSC-Kingwood</td>
<td>Fred Dornak Memorial Endowment funded by friends and family of the well-loved facilities employee</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSC-Montgomery</td>
<td>Hayden Taylor PTA Scholarship Endowment funded by a former student</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSC-North Harris</td>
<td>Dr. Joe McMillian Endowment funded by numerous campus personnel</td>
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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.

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<tr>
<th>LSC-Tomball</th>
<th>Tomball Regional Arts Council Endowment funded by a community group committed to fine arts</th>
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<tr>
<td>LSC-University Park</td>
<td>Corpro Corrosion Protection Scholarship Endowment funded by a local business hiring Lone Star graduates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star College System</td>
<td>Office of Technology Services Women in Technology Endowment funded by numerous OTS employees and their vendors</td>
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**StarGala 2014 Gatsby Glamour to honor Retiring Chancellor**

Foundation Chair Steve Sanders announced that this year’s gala honoree is retiring Chancellor, Dr. Richard Carpenter.

Dr. Carpenter has spent 40 years in the education profession, including 32 as either a college president or system CEO. He began his successful tenure with Lone Star College System in August 2007. Since that time, credit enrollment has grown by 30,000 students and the system built more than 2 million square feet of academic space. Lone Star College System is the largest Houston-area institution of higher education and number 10 in the nation in producing associate degrees.

“We are proud to honor Dr. Carpenter as he retires,” Mr. Sanders said. “The Foundation board appreciates his commitment to our mission of providing financial resources for students,” he explained.

Mr. Sanders detailed a long list of additional accomplishments of Dr. Carpenter including:

1. successfully rebranded Lone Star College System
2. created Corporate College to respond to the needs of business and industry
3. opened the newest and sixth college, LSC-University Park, currently with 7,000 students enrolled
4. created a second University Center
5. built the most advanced IT system in the state
6. created alternative revenue streams that generate millions each year, including a growth in Foundation assets from $8,000,000 to $21,523,000
7. reduced administrative overhead to among the lowest in the state
8. secured continuous unblemished annual external financial audits
9. built and maintained an astonishing AAA bond rating
10. forged a positive relationship with the legislature and state leadership

The gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, beginning at 6:30 pm, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. This year’s gala, Gatsby Glamour, will feature the romance and mystique of the Roaring 20s. Many guests are expected to don vintage clothing of the era. Three-piece suits, dinner jackets, flapper dresses, long-strands of pearls and lots of feathers are expected to be in fashion.

The annual event includes a lovely dinner, dancing to the acclaimed beat of local favorites Toast and Jam, and an opportunity to learn more about the Lone Star College System and, more importantly, the students enrolled in credit and workforce classes.

Co-Chairs David and Cynthia Rowe anticipate a large crowd and record-setting revenue. Because of the generosity of David’s firm, Durotech, StarGala 2014, for the second year in a row will include a $50,000 table.

Sponsors to date are: **Flapper** Sponsor ($50,000) is DUROTECH/PBK. **Speakeasy** Sponsor ($25,000) is The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center. **Ragtime** Sponsors ($16,000) are Caldwell Companies, Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center, Bob and Darcy Mingoia and Strike, LLC. **Charleston** Sponsors ($10,000) are Canteen, Joiner Partnership, Inc.-Architects,

More information on available tables and sponsorships is available from Judy Lux at 832.813.6640 or by email at Judy.Lux@LoneStar.edu.

If you would like to be a part of the planning of this event, the next meeting is on Wednesday, March 19, at 4 pm, at Kirby’s in The Woodlands. All are welcome to attend!