LSC-Tomball Students Receive Prestigious
Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships

Each year, 60 community college students from around the country are awarded Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. Three of those scholarships this year went to Lone Star College System students—two of them being Lone Star College-Tomball students Jared Nelson and Rama Gerig.

According to their website, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students awards up to $30,000 per year per student, making it the largest private scholarship in the country. The scholarship program “honors excellence by supporting outstanding community college students with financial need to transfer to and complete their bachelor's degrees at the nation's top four-year colleges and universities.”

The honor of being awarded the scholarships is not lost on Jared and Rama; however, equally important to the two is what it took to come as far as they have. Both had to overcome disadvantages and obstacles that blocked their paths and both learned lessons along their journeys which share a common theme.

“Life can lay such a burden on you that you may not know if an end is in sight, but you have to keep pushing on with your head held high,” said Jared.

“Everything that I have ever wanted or desired for myself has been waiting on the other side of fear—all that was required of me was to trust in God and try,” said Rama.
Five to Graduate with Honors

Graduating is an accomplishment for any student, but for Lone Star College-Tomball Honors Program students, graduating is an accomplishment wrapped in an achievement wrapped in a triumph. To be an Honors Program graduate, students must complete a more rigorous curriculum, maintain a 3.5 GPA in their honors courses and perform community service hours. Due to these demands and rigors, few students achieve Honors Program graduate status. This semester, five have done so:

- Jared Nelson—Honors Scholar with Distinction (15 hours honors credit/25 hours community service)
- Marilyn Comer—Honors Scholar Graduate (9 hours honors credit/25 hours community service)
- Larry Gerhardt—Honors Scholar Graduate (9 hours honors credit/25 hours community service)
- Tammy Birkline—Honors Scholar Graduate (9 hours honors credit/25 hours community service)
- Alexandria Loeppke—Honors Scholar Graduate (9 hours honors credit/26 hours community service)

Congratulations, one and all.

Model UN Delegation Brings Home Awards

Two delegations of Lone Star College System students and advisors attended the National Model United Nations Conference held March 17 – March 22 in New York City. The 16-member group—consisting of students from LSC-Kingwood, Montgomery, University Park and Tomball (represented by Austin Baron, Mark Kinyanjui and Hunter Simonsen)—was awarded Honorable Mention. Hunter also received an outstanding Position Paper Award.

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Phi Theta Kappa—The Honors Continue

Members of Lone Star College-Tomball’s Alpha Rho Mu chapter of the community college honor society Phi Theta Kappa are enjoying a big year, with individual members garnering several national honors. The chapter attended the 95th Annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention held in San Francisco, California, April 4 – 7 and was recognized at its Awards Gala, bringing home three awards:

• Distinguished Chapter Award
• Distinguished Theme Award, Theme 4
• Distinguished Honors in Action Award

“This has been an absolutely amazing year. This officer team has worked diligently since last summer to put this [Honors in Action] project together and clearly their hard work has paid off spectacularly. It has been a real privilege to work with them and I know that they will all continue to be successful as they move on to the university level,” said Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, LSC-Tomball Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisor.

The chapter would like to thank the faculty for their assistance with research and writing, the Office of Student Life for its help with many aspects of the Honors in Action Project, and the administration for its tremendous support for all of the chapter’s activities.

Star of the Month

Marena Fanini—The Second Time Around

It takes a special mother to walk in her child’s shoes, and that’s just what Lone Star College-Tomball information technology (IT) student Marena Fanini did. Back in 2010, when her daughter was in the 10th grade and talk about college started, Marena wanted to make sure her daughter was prepared to take the C.O.M.P.A.S.S. (Computer Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System) test, so she took it herself—only she enjoyed the test so much she decided to enroll in college.

Prior to taking the test, Marena was at a crossroads in her life. Her employer of 23 years, Continental Airlines, was relocating to Chicago, and she had two choices—relocate or retire. Choosing the latter, she did nothing for the first six months, got bored, and then started off on her quest to

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National Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations where students role-play as diplomats representing a country in a simulated committee session of the United Nations. This year, the LSCS delegation represented Columbia.

With 5,000 students from more than 40 countries participating over the course of two conference sessions, the LSCS award is extraordinary. “This is a strong showing; the majority of students are from universities and four-year colleges, and many are either graduate students or senior undergraduates,” said David Birch, the LSC-Tomball Model UN faculty advisor.

Left to right: Laura Goodall, Jared Nelson, Dr. Rollins (Advisor), Larry Gerhardt, Lexis Temofonte, Marilyn Comer, Rama Gerig, Erin Simoni (Chapter President), Ana Abshire (Advisor) and Carla Kinard

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The next best thing to driving a motorcycle down a long, empty stretch of highway is to write about it. That's exactly what Lone Star College-Tomball Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) creative writing student Jan Daub did. No stranger to motorcycle travel writing (he's penned several books on the subject), Jan chose a different road this time and submitted a poem, “Ride the Horizon,” to BMW ON magazine. It ran in the April 2013 issue.

Leadership Lone Star Completion Ceremony

On April 19, Leadership Lone Star College recognized Lone Star College-Tomball students Asia Anderson, Jacob Foster, Lauren Jeter, Lyn Mangold and Lisa Torres for completing the program. Leadership Lone Star College provides an opportunity to educate and mentor emerging student leaders for diverse roles of leadership linking the Lone Star College System and the community. The goal of the program is to develop and enhance the leadership skills of its student participants, while encouraging an appreciation for giving back to the community.

Intensive monthly sessions in the six-month program allow students to explore...
Earl Staley Displays Artwork in Three Shows

Described by one pundit as “Houston's indefatigable living art legend,” Earl Staley, Lone Star College-Tomball art professor, has three art shows in progress around the Houston area. On April 6, Earl’s collection “The Speed of Light” opened at Thom Anidriola’s New Gallery. The show features works that reference Color Field, Cubism and Bauhaus philosophy. On April 27 (through June 9), his work will also be displayed (along with the work of Mary Margaret Hansen) in a show entitled “Encounters” at Houston’s Raven Grill. July 13 – September 1, a collection of Earl’s work will be at Beaumont’s Museum of Southeast Texas.

LSC-Tomball OTA Role in Collaborative Learning Approach Cited in Medical Journal

The American Occupational Therapy Association’s “Education—Special Interest Quarterly” recently published an article written by Dr. Terra Ruppert (Lone Star College-Tomball director of occupational therapy and professor), Stephanie Johnston (LSC-Tomball occupational therapy assistant program fieldwork coordinator), and Suzanne Peloquin (professor of occupational therapy at the School of Health Professions, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston) about the effectiveness of collaborative learning between occupational therapy (OT) and occupational therapy assistant (OTA) students. The article chronicles the collaborative learning program launched in 2005 in which occupational therapy faculty in the School of Health Professions (SHP) at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston collaborated with the faculty from the oc-

2013 Employee Excellence Awards—Honoring the Heart of LSC-Tomball

The heart of Lone Star College-Tomball was honored on April 5 as employees were acknowledged at the 2013 Employee Excellence Awards. The following individuals consistently went above and beyond job duties, exemplified professional excellence and embodied the commitment of an LSCS employee.

Faculty Excellence Awardees:
• Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, professor of English
• Mindy Coleman, professor of math
• Catherine Olson, professor of English
• Dr. Margaret Jelinek Lewis, professor of psychology

Adjunct Faculty Excellence Awardees:
• Melissa Brega, developmental studies, English
• Lisa Lundstedt, English
• Martha Newsome, biology
• Shirlene Peel, biology

Staff Excellence Awardees:
• Lynda Bancroft, division operations manager, HKNST
• Gail Jolley, coordinator, assistive technology lab
• Shannon Marino, program manager, student life
• Jeanne Walker, staff assistant, occupational therapy

Accolades

Left to right: Lauren Jeter; Lyn Mangold; Nicole Finkbeiner; college relations executive director; Lisa Torres; Jacob Foster; Asia Anderson; Shannon Marino, student life program manager; and Dr. Lisa Morales, academic initiatives and partnerships dean.

and examine the local economy, government, arts, culture and more. Participants also receive applicable skills training based on the StrengthsQuest program (a national leadership training course). The program, which starts in October and concludes in April, also provides students the opportunity to work in a team environment during the community service project.
Terra Ruppert Recognized as UTMB Distinguished Alumnus

The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston presented Dr. Terra Ruppert, Lone Star College-Tomball director of occupational therapy and professor, its prestigious School of Health Professions (SHP) Distinguished Alumni Award. To be eligible for the award, a recipient must be distinguished in her/his field, a person of integrity, and an ongoing supporter who reflects SHP and demonstrates pride in the alma mater. Terra was pleasantly surprised by the recognition. “I certainly never expected to receive such an honor as this.”

Sharon Jones Named to TACE Board

At the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education for Community/Junior Colleges (TACE/CJC) 2013 conference held April 16 in Austin, Sharon Jones, Lone Star College-Tomball director of continuing education, was introduced as the organization’s new board secretary. Sharon has served as TACE/CJC Southeast Region representative since 2011 and is looking forward to the new challenge. “Participation in TACE provides Lone Star College System a great opportunity to share best practices in continuing education with colleagues from all over the state. I enjoy being a part of that exchange,” said Sharon.

Employee Excellence Awards
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Length of Service Honorees—5 Years
Lynda Bancroft
Dr. Irene Briggs
Taffy Daussin
Leslie Grunden
Miguel Hernandez
Denise Metz
Kimberly Rumsey
Bobby Stephens
Danielle Thornton

Length of Service Honorees—10 Years
Sharon Alewine
Rebeca Castro
Dr. Mohan Chari
Carolyn DeFlanders
Patricia Falbo
Teresa Hill
Mary Hood
Sean Miller
Melissa Murphy
Weyman Peveto
Gwyn Reynolds
Felicity Short
Bobbye Silva
Rachel Smith
Dr. Sethurama Srinivasan
Carol Wheeler
Dr. Donna Willingham

Length of Service Honorees—15 Years
Dr. Annie Benifield
Gilda Foster
Catherine Olson
Vaheeribhai Patel

Length of Service Honorees—20 Years
Margot de la Paz
Maria Mendoza
Gloria Samatar

Spotlights

Caroline Jamroz—Unlocking the World of Reading One Student at a Time

Ask Caroline Jamroz about her job as Lone Star College-Tomball assistant professor of developmental studies English, and her eyes reveal a passion that’s been a lifetime in the making.
Working in the education field since 2002, Caroline began her career at LSC-Tomball in fall 2009 as an adjunct and became full-time faculty in January 2012. But her interest in education goes back to her childhood when her mother, a middle school math teacher, inspired her to go into teaching.

When she realized she could combine her two passions (reading and helping others see the opportunities provided by reading) into a career, Caroline's course was set. “When I discovered the field of reading education, I knew I had found my niche.”

Caroline loves teaching at LSC-Tomball, loves working with her peers and loves the supportive atmosphere of her fellow faculty members, but what she loves most is unlocking a world of possibilities for her students. “My favorite parts of teaching are watching students have those moments of understanding when they finally have the light bulb moment and ‘get it.’”

Charles “Gary” Cooper—The Chance of a Lifetime

If you had to choose one word to describe the life of Gary Cooper, Lone Star College-Tomball Performing Arts Center (PAC) manager and technical director, the word “chance” comes to mind.

A chance meeting in high school with a drama teacher changed Gary's path from veterinarian to actor. A chance meeting in college with the woman who became his wife changed his path from actor to theater teacher. A chance meeting with a fellow high school theater teacher about a job opening at LSC-Tomball changed his path from teacher to theater manager.

Today, Gary has a position that allows him a chance to balance work and family. He enjoys managing the PAC (staging productions, working with the community, and interacting with students), and takes pride in how far it and his staff have come. “What’s been awesome is that I’ve trained a great group of technicians this first semester; I don't have to worry about anything while I’m out.”

Away from work, when not chauffeuring their 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter to and from swim practices, Gary and his wife enjoy relaxing and watching movies with the family.
In what proved to be an afternoon of discourse and insight for approximately 90 Lone Star College-Tomball students, employees and guests, LSC-Tomball Community Library and the Masjid Al Salam Mosque (Spring, Texas) presented a talk in the LSC-Tomball teaching theater April 4 on Islam—its history, tenets, beliefs and culture. After brief introductions by Deborah Sica, LSC-Tomball Community Library co-director, and Behjat Syed, Masjid Al Salam Mosque community outreach coordinator, the talk was organized into three parts: the religion of Islam, presented by John Graff; the culture of Islam, presented by Roger Yelton; and a question-and-answer session fielded by Syed, Graff and Yelton. Special thanks go to Barbara Mitchell, LSC-Tomball Community Library reference librarian, whose seven-month planning effort was appreciated by all in attendance.

### Recent Events

**Open House Draws More Than 600 Students and Guests**

On April 4, Lone Star College-Tomball opened the doors of the Student Center/Commons to 200 students and more than 400 guests for its Open House. Visitors explored the tables of 35 LSC-Tomball departments, divisions, programs, services and clubs while enjoying snacks and beverages, and collecting information, literature and giveaways. The festivities were enlivened by activities including Wii bowling, a surgical camera setup for participants to try their hand at surgery, and a remote radio broadcast from Hot 95.7 FM.

**Lecture Series Examines Freedmen Education in Reconstruction Houston/Galveston**

In the final installment of the 2012–2013 COTE (Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence)-sponsored Lone Star College-Tomball lecture series, “An Example of Persistence: Freedmen Education in Houston and Galveston,” LSC-Tomball professor of history Dr. Barbara Hayward explored the paths taken by “freedpeople” (emancipated slaves of the Reconstruction era) in the Houston/Galveston area as they pursued educational opportunities. The role of the Freedmen's Bureau, resistance to educating freedmen by the old order, and chronic underfunding of freedmen schools were some of the topics discussed. The 2012–2013 COTE Lecture Series was an eloquent example of the wealth of talent and resources available to LSC-Tomball employees, and plans are underway for the 2013–2014 academic year. If the success of the first seven presentations is an indication of what's to come, the next series will, again, be as informative as it is entertaining.
New Faces
Troy Billings
Sergeant
LSC-Tomball Campus Police

Community Partnerships

LSCS Bond Referendum Focus of GTACC First Friday Luncheon

Lone Star College System (LSCS) Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Ray Laughter, and LSC-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr, were the keynote speakers at the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) First Friday luncheon. The focus of their presentation was to provide information on LSCS’s Bond Referendum and the LSCS Board of Trustees election. Both are on the local ballot for the May 11 election.

Some key points from their presentation included:

• Taxpayers see a $2.30 return on investment (ROI) for every dollar invested in LSCS.
• LSCS has added 30,000 students in the past five years and now has 78,000 students enrolled in credit classes, and a total of 90,000 students including non-credit and continuing education.
• LSCS is the fastest-growing community college system in the nation.
• LSCS is the largest institution of higher education in Houston.
• LSCS adds $1.1 billion annually to the Houston economy with increased student earnings and employer workforce productivity.
• 78 percent of B.A. degree completers in Texas attended a two-year institution like LSC.
• LSCS is a primary provider of nurses and first responders in the Greater Houston Area; 60 percent of nurses and 84 percent of first responders are trained at a community college like LSCS.
• LSCS is celebrating 40 years of student success and credential completion in 2013.

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TCCTA Capitol Day

This year, the Texas Community College Teachers Association’s (TCCTA) Capitol Day took place on April 2, a biennial opportunity for community college educators to visit lawmakers and discuss policy matters of concern to their schools and profession. General appropriations, outcomes-based funding, guns on campus, health insurance, and retirement benefits were just some of the issues covered. “I really enjoyed meeting with legislators and legislative assistants to discuss these very real and pressing concerns that affect Lone Star College-Tomball and the entire Lone Star College System,” said Dr. Annie Benifield, LSC-Tomball social sciences chair and professor.

Math Department Hosted Annual Math Bowl

On April 13, the Lone Star College-Tomball Beckendorf Conference Center and Commons were filled with students from six local high schools for LSC-Tomball’s annual Math Bowl. Six teams comprised of algebra one, algebra two, geometry, pre-calculus, and calculus students competed with one another to solve math equations. In the end, Klein Oak High
School earned the grand champion title. LSC-Tomball and LSC-University Park Mathematics Departments organized the event. “The event gives students a fun way to practice their math skills and interact with one another and Lone Star College,” said Mark Hammerbacher, math professor at LSC-Tomball. He and math professor Amber Mestayer coordinated the event.

The Math Bowl began over 15 years ago as a way for the LSC-Tomball Mathematics Department to foster connections with local area high schools. The LSC-Tomball math faculty that participated in the event are Mark Hammerbacher, Amber Mestayer, V.C. Patel, Ajai Cribbs, Claudia Davis, Brandi Cline, Mindy Coleman, Rachel Smith, Patty Zachary, Roger Jay and Dr. Eric Wildman. LSC-University Park math professors Devika Lalsinghani, Scott Travis and Rick Smalley also participated.

LSC-Tomball Employee Helps With Memorial for Victims in West, Texas

Volunteer fireman and LSC-Tomball human resources specialist Wendy Ray (pictured second from left) was recently selected as one of the representatives of Klein Volunteer Fire Department Station 5 to attend the memorial service for the victims in West, Texas. The Klein Volunteers have been fighting fires for 60 years, with the 200 volunteers protecting 56 square miles of north Harris County.

Left to right: Damian Power, Wendy Ray, Judy Sewell, Phil Miller and Jay Lucas.
Upcoming Events

Associate Degree Nurse Pinning Ceremony
May 9 at 7 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Commencement Ceremony
May 11 at 10 a.m.
The Fellowship of the Woodlands

Mini-Mester Begins
May 13

GED Graduation Ceremony
May 23 at 6 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Memorial Day Holiday
May 25 – 27

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