PTK Honor Society Named a Five Star Chapter

Congratulations to LSC-Tomball’s chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society for receiving special commendation during the PTK Texas Regional Convention. The chapter fulfilled all the necessary requirements to be named a “Five Star Chapter” (only 349 of the 1,282 national chapters achieved this status) and is a Top Texas Chapter for the 10th year in a row. Additionally, the LSC-Tomball group is currently serving as President of the Texas Region, and LSC-Tomball PTK President Marilyn Comer is serving as the chapter’s representative in that office. The group also received recognition at the society’s recent international convention in Nashville as one of the top 25 (two percent) chapters in the nation, received an award for its Outstanding Honors in Action project, and named LSC-Tomball advisor Dr. John “Bo” Rollins a Most Distinguished advisor.

LSC-Tomball PTK, under the guidance of Dr. Rollins, uses the PTK Five Star Chapter Development Plan as a guide to enhance their strategies to recognize eligible students, provide significant personal and professional development opportunities for their members, and build a working relationship with the college administration by becoming active on campus and in the community.

Mission
Lone Star College System provides comprehensive educational opportunities and programs to enrich lives.

Student Success & Engagement
PTK Honor Society Named a Five Star Chapter

Fall Welcome Orientations Well Received

Nearly 700 students who registered for classes at LSC-Tomball this fall attended one of three Fall Welcome sessions offered during the month of August. Sponsored by the Offices of Advising and Counseling and Student Life, this interactive new student orientation is required for all First Time In College
(FTIC) students to assist them in having the best start possible for their college experience. In addition to the students, more than 180 parents and guests attended the event and enjoyed their own day of sessions designed specifically for them by the New Student Orientation Committee.

All attendees met LSC-Tomball employees, connected with current students and fellow new students, took campus tours, obtained student IDs, and learned different tips and strategies for becoming successful college students.

Language and Cultural Center Opens Its Doors

To enrich the learning environment for students taking foreign language courses and to enhance students’ multi-cultural experience, a Language and Cultural Center (LCC) has been established on the Tomball campus. The LCC includes a combined 24-station computer lab and classroom as well as space for international resources and individual or group study. “We want to provide a cultural resource center for students involved in our award-winning Model UN initiative as well as other existing and potentially new international-related programs, including study abroad” said David Birch, a faculty member who will be guiding the center. In addition to English as a second language, LSC-Tomball offers a variety of foreign language courses, including Spanish and German.

Student Activities Board Sponsors WelcomePalooza

The Office of Student Life and the Student Activities Board offered incoming students a week’s worth of activities in the Commons to welcome them to campus this fall. They offered breakfast each morning of the first week of class and held various lunchtime events to get students excited about the school year and engaged in campus life. On August 30, the Best Start committee greeted students and reminded them of LSC-Tomball’s commitment to helping them make the best possible start to their education. The Best Start program’s four steps – Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Get Connected, and Stay Involved – will no doubt resound through campus again this year as it did last year.

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JULY
Star of the Month

Jake Foster

LSC-Tomball’s July Star of the Month understands that making one’s dreams come true isn’t a matter of wishing on a star. Jake Foster, 20, keeps his eyes on the prize while carefully planning the steps required to achieve his goal.

The first milestone in this Spring resident’s plan for success will be to obtain an Associate of Arts degree in spring 2013. He hopes then to transfer to Sam Houston State University, where he will major in mass communication with an emphasis on film production and design. “It is important to receive a college education because the knowledge you gain makes a difference. This is a stepping stone to fulfilling my dream of working in the film industry,” Jake said. He hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and is toying with the idea of becoming a professional videographer.

While working part time as the media specialist in the Office of

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Recent Events

Welcome Week Prepares Employees for the Upcoming Year

The fall 2012 Welcome Week kicked-off on August 18 with the Adjunct Faculty Orientation and continued through the week with events and meetings designed to prepare employees for the upcoming school year. On August 20, LSC-Tomball leaders convened for the first annual Leadership Summit hosted by Vice President of Instruction Dr. Lee Ann Nutt and featuring Dr. Michael Grojean, a scholar with the Office of Executive Education of Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business.

In the All College Meeting on August 21, full-time employees enjoyed breakfast in the Beckendorf Conference Center and listened to updates from various departmental representatives. LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter spoke via video to the group. He gave updates on system-wide initiatives, a 2013 legislative preview, and an update on the recently-approved 2013 Lone Star College System budget. He also praised LSC-Tomball for our close connections to the community including, but not limited to, our service-learning initiatives. Dr. Karr recounted the many accomplishments of each of the college’s departments and services over the course of the last academic year, while Dr. Nutt unveiled the recently instituted LSC-Tomball Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence (COTE). Emphasizing the theme of “connectedness,” Dr. Nutt expressed the desire that, over the course of the coming school year, COTE would serve to connect people to each other, connect various functions across campus, and connect college initiatives to ensure meaning and sustainability.

The first annual Tour and Taste of LSC-Tomball, held during welcome week, allowed employees the opportunity to visit different locations around campus such as the Assistive Technology Lab, the new Student Leadership Council meeting room, and new Student Success areas. The Faculty Senate also sponsored its quarterly All Employee Luncheon on August 23, and instructional division meetings, system-wide curriculum team meetings and faculty gatherings filled out the remainder of the week.

Accolades

Dr. Lisa Morales Delivers Paper at London Conference

Dr. Lisa Morales, assistant dean of instruction, presented a paper entitled “‘Such a War…is Wholly Out of the Question’: Planning, Funding and Decision Making in 1812” at the University of London on July 13, 2012. As an economic and political historian focused on the time period of the early American republic, Dr. Morales was invited to share her research related to the financial debacle of the War of 1812 and the near bankruptcy of the United States it caused. Leading scholars from the United States, Europe and Canada converged in Chancellor’s Hall on the University of London campus two weeks before the Olympics to present and discuss their work at the international conference War of 1812: Myth and Memory. The conference marked the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and was sponsored by the UK’s Institute for the Study of the Americas.

AUGUST Star of the Month

Mark Sonfield

Mark Sonfield wants to be very clear: age and education are not related. The 29-year-old veteran and Houston resident does not believe anyone is too old to pursue an education. “Everyone still has time to attend college,” he said.

A participant in the TRiO program and a peer tutor in the Extended Learning Center’s math lab, Mark applied to LSC-Tomball while still stationed in Germany. Mark served in the U.S. Army for six years, working as an Infantry Medic on a NATO mission to Bosnia and for two tours in Iraq. He began classes at LSC-Tomball in fall 2011 and currently holds a 3.5 GPA. He hopes to eventually become an engineer. “My experience up to this point has been an adventure. With all the complications of my GI Bill, this path has been rocky. I would have struggled if it were not for the help of LSC-Tomball staff, financial aid and TRiO.”

This husband and father hopes to

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Mobility and Transportation Committee Hear about Panama Canal Expansion

On August 14, Captain Bill Diehl (USCG Ret.), president of the Greater Houston Port Bureau and former senior U.S. diplomat at the Panama Canal, addressed the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce Mobility and Transportation Committee. Capt. Diehl discussed the Panama Canal expansion project and how it will impact traffic through the Port of Houston. The expansion, slated to be completed in 2014, will allow for the passage of bigger ships through the canal, which could positively benefit the economy of the Greater Houston area. Capt. Diehl indicated that, in order for Houston to compete with other American ports such as Norfolk, Virginia, certain coordinated infrastructure improvements to the Port of Houston would be necessary. One such improvement would be the deepening of the container terminal channels (Barbours Cut & Bayport) from their current depths of 40 feet to 45 feet. Additionally, Capt. Diehl suggested that more exports leaving the Port of Houston would make it more attractive to these larger ships coming from the Panama Canal as it would allow them to fill their empty payloads once they had offloaded their imports in the United States. The Mobility and Transportation Committee, chaired by LSC-Tomball Vice President of Administrative Services John Fishero, works to improve and maintain the quality of transportation for the greater Tomball area.

Small Business Development Center Offering Fall Seminars

Lone Star College’s Small Business Development Center is hosting five free business success seminars at Lone Star College-Tomball. The seminars are designed to provide local small businesses with the opportunity to learn new aspects of their business as well as network and learn from other small business owners. “We want to help businesses become established, grow, survive and succeed in our local area,” said Karen Cavallaro, senior consultant for the small business development center. “Free seminars such as our Small Business Success seminars, as well as other professional consulting and training, can give local small businesses the tools they need to thrive.” The seminars are from 8-9 a.m. on campus in Room E-163.

- September 27, “Driving Revenue with LinkedIn” by Eric Standlee of American Prudential Capital.
- October 4, “Selling on eBay” by Chris M. O’Rourke of Outback Western Wear, Lone Star College’s 2011 Small Business of the Year.
- October 11, “Broken Windows Marketing” by Nicole Finkbeiner of Lone Star College-Tomball.
- October 18, “Avoid that Computer Disaster and Sleep Soundly” by Madelyn Feinberg of Avatar Computer Solutions.
- October 25, “QuickBooks – What You Need to Know” by Deborah Hroch, a Certified QuickBooks Pro and UH SBDC QuickBooks Instructor.
Spotlights
Faculty: Latoya Hardman

Latoya Hardman serves as the lead faculty member for developmental English. As lead faculty, she not only teaches her own classes, but also coordinates the common final given to all developmental studies (DS) writing II students, mentors several adjunct writing instructors, and maintains a community group (A-TIP) in Angel for all developmental English, human development (HUMD) and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) full-time and adjunct faculty.

An adjunct since fall 2008, Latoya became full-time faculty in 2011. She is considered a “writing specialist” in her department and, therefore, teaches primarily writing classes. She teaches both levels of developmental writing, including DS writing II online. She also facilitates the additional writing instruction program (AWIP), begun by the DS English department in spring 2011. She also represents LSC-Tomball on system-wide committees including the English curriculum team.

Latoya can tell you exactly why she is passionate about teaching. “I was always a ‘good student,’ but it wasn’t until my junior year of college that I began to really love learning. This desire to learn was deeply rooted in how I was taught. Now that I am a professor, I try to mimic my college professors. I don’t teach what they teach, but I teach how they taught me. I see what effective, meaningful instruction can do for the life of a student. We open eyes to new and different realities, create never-thought-of opportunities, and make our students better people.”

Staff: Charlie Pineda

There are few on campus who are not familiar with the polite smile and out-stretched hand of Charlie Pineda. A financial aid specialist since February 2012, Charlie assists students as they apply for and pursue loans, work-study opportunities and scholarships. He enjoys working here a great deal. “The people at Lone Star College-Tomball are a great community,” he said. “Staff, faculty and students are very friendly, and the connection here is similar to a family bond.” In his spare time, Charlie competes in Brazilian jiu-jitsu on an international level. He is currently training for the summer 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Good luck, Charlie!

PSSA Employee of the Month: Jeremiah Allison

Congratulations to Jeremiah Allison, PC technician and this month’s PSSA Employee of the Month. In her nomination of him, Eleas Edling wrote, “Jeremiah is a positive employee who always has something nice to say. When you see him, you’re always greeted with a warm smile. He always goes above and beyond when helping the employees. He is an employee that deserves to be recognized for all of his hard work and positive attitude.”
Upcoming Events

• LSC-Tomball Lecture Series: Session 1
  October 11

• College Night
  October 11

• Michael Frayn’s *Noises Off!*
  Performing Arts Center
  October 25-27

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