Star of the Month Bianca Rodriguez

Although Bianca Rodriguez came to LSC-Tomball undecided about her major, she was crystal clear about why she decided to enroll. A single mother and first generation college student, Rodriguez, 23, understood that earning a college degree was a way to not only make her family proud, but also to lay the ground work for a fruitful future for herself and her child. “I want to gain knowledge and education that I can pass on to my daughter,” she says. “I want to be able to keep up with the economy and the cost of living and to achieve the American Dream.”

Rodriguez, a Tomball resident, began by taking basic courses. “As I succeeded in each class, it gave me the confidence to continue. I decided to create a goal toward obtaining an associate degree.” When asked why she chose LSC-Tomball, she is quick to point out, “It’s in my community.” She adds, “A lot of my high school classmates were going to LSC-Tomball and it helped to have friends as a support team.”

Although she may have begun her studies as a practical endeavor, Rodriguez has discovered a new passion. “Education is fun and addicting and motivating! I look forward each morning to going to class and learning something different each day.” In addition to her coursework, she is also a member of the Salsa Club and is employed as a work-study student in the LSC-Tomball Wellness Center. Upon receiving her associate degree, she plans to transfer to Sam Houston State University and pursue a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

A supportive network is key to success in school, Rodriguez believes. “Establish a good group of friends that have the same goals and who will provide support, who are dependable and reliable study partners.” She goes on to suggest, “Seek the advice of advisors and think positive. It will make things easier on you.” That is practical advice from a student building a solid foundation from which to pursue her dream.
Grant Enables Free College Prep for GED Graduates

LSC-Tomball’s Office of Continuing Education is currently offering the Aurora Project, a free intensive college readiness program for recent GED graduates and adults over the age of eighteen re-embarking upon their education. Made available through a grant funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, there is no cost to Aurora Project participants. In addition, financial incentives applicable toward college tuition may be available upon completion of the program. The Aurora Project instruction concentrates on the areas of Reading/Writing, Math, and Student Success Strategies in order to prepare participants for the rigorous demands of college life. Cohorts run for eight-week sessions. The remaining cohort session dates are as follows:

- March 30 - May 25, 2012
- May 5 - June 29, 2012

In order to be accepted into the program one must complete a registration form and take pre-THEA and LASSI tests. Participants must also attend daily classes and mentoring workshops.

Timberwolves Basketball Teams Win Big

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams recently scored big wins against key rivals.

On Feb. 10, the Lady Timberwolves beat Houston Community College North West with a final score of 45 to 36. The leading scorer was Dana Fullerton with 12 points, with D-Rae Tutt and Liz Fitzpatrick following close behind, 10 points and eight points, respectively.

That same night, the men’s team won their game against Lee College with a score of 74 to 55. Leading the Timberwolves with the most points scored was Justin Campbell with 12 points, followed by Anthony Willis with 10 points and Stephen Bryant with nine points.

Continued on Page 3
**Sabbatical Winners**

Congratulations to the three LSC-Tomball faculty members awarded sabbaticals for the 2012-2013 academic year: Doug Boyd, English; Frank Willingham, Biology; and Steven Prewitt, History. Sabbatical applications were reviewed by members of a system-wide sabbatical leave committee, who then made recommendations to the Chancellor as to which applicants should be approved. The chosen recipients were formally recognized by the LSCS Board of Trustees at their Feb. 2 meeting.

Douglas Boyd, professor English: to improve LSC-Tomball’s natural environment and educate students, employees, and visitors about it.

Frank Willingham, associate professor Biology: to critically compare the teaching effectiveness of traditional laboratory microscopy with a method that involves electronic images that can be distributed to students and viewed on an iPad or laptop computer.

Steven Prewitt, professor History: to research an aspect of public school desegregation that has been largely overlooked by the historical literature on the subject. The focus will be especially on the aspects of desegregation that impacted Hispanic communities.
Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Gain Recognition

Each academic year, the Excellence Awards are given to outstanding full-time faculty, adjunct faculty and staff. At each campus, employees nominate individuals who consistently go above and beyond their job duties, exemplifying the professional excellence of an LSCS employee. The following adjunct faculty, along with outstanding full-time faculty and staff that were announced in January, will receive their awards at the LSC-Tomball Excellence Awards to be held in the Performing Arts Center on April 13:

**Adjunct Faculty Excellence Awards**

Christine Barr  
Denise Hammond  
Hugh Hemingway  
Debra Pallini

Art Exhibition Features LSC-Tomball Professor’s Work

The work of longtime Lone Star College-Tomball art faculty member Earl Staley is currently on display at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. The selection of works, titled Dreamscapes, features imagined landscapes with rocky, dimensional outcrops sometimes covered in lush, colorful foliage and sometimes nearly barren. Staley joined the faculty at Lone Star College-Tomball (then Tomball College) in 1992. He has received awards and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Houston. Staley is the fourth artist to be featured in the Lone Star College System Faculty Exhibition Series at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts.

Recent Events

Performing Arts Center Open House

Over 75 community members turned out for a “sneak peek” of the new Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Feb. 15. During the open house, visitors were
Chamber First Friday Lunch

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) held its First Friday Lunch in the Beckendorf Conference Center on Feb. 3. Tomball Police officer Corporal Jimmy Harral was recognized as Safety Officer of the Month for his proactive efforts to apprehend individuals in a stolen vehicle. Ashley Griffin, a Spanish teacher at Tomball High School, was honored as Teacher of the Month.

Community Partnerships

Dual Credit Partnership Breakfast

On Feb. 21, superintendents and academic personnel from school districts across Lone Star College-Tomball’s service area met over breakfast to discuss the status of dual credit partnerships. LSC-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr, Vice President of Student Success Ann Johnson, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Lee Ann Nutt, and Assistant Dean of Instruction Dr. Lisa Morales emphasized plans for expansion of services and the potential for future growth. In order to build upon past accomplishments, the group also discussed ways to enhance the high school-college collaboration with the goal of creating outstanding academic experiences. Data provided at the meeting revealed an aggregate success rate of 96% for students who enter and complete dual credit courses, a percentage well above the national average. One of the highlights was the announcement of new full-tuition scholarships for a graduate from each high school in LSC-Tomball’s service area.

Workshop Promotes LSCS Branding Guidelines

On Feb. 9, Associate Vice Chancellor of Marketing and Communications Laura Morris, along with members of the LSCS marketing team, held a branding workshop for LSC-Tomball faculty and staff. The workshop reminded attendees about the importance of a cohesive, positive system-wide message, explored the intricacies of a brand identity and discussed the dos and don'ts according to the LSCS branding, digital, and editorial style guides. General brand enhancement, such as website and electronic signage, and earned media opportunities through regional news outlets were also discussed.

New Faces, continued from Page 3

Les Stone
Maintenance Tech III, HVAC

Sean Tiffee
Faculty, Speech
Upcoming Events

• Spring Break
  March 12-18

• Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Choral Festival
  Performing Arts Center
  March 23, 7:00 p.m.

• Open House
  March 29, 5-8 p.m.

• LSC-Tomball Choral Festival for High Schools
  Performing Arts Center
  March 31, 9 a.m.

• Emerging Artists Scholarship Competition
  Performing Arts Center
  March 31, 2 p.m.

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