Star of the Month:
Miguel Garcia—Education Led to Identity

Lone Star College-Tomball’s 2014 essay contest winner, Miguel Garcia, was a straight-A student in high school back in his native Mexico. Though his student life was bright, he writes, “I was empty and my academic life had neither compass nor direction.” Following graduation, his goal of being a professional pilot led Miguel to the United States. Suddenly surrounded by a new culture and a language barrier, however, his “dream of going to university seemed to disappear.”

Fortunately, Miguel found LSC-Tomball. “While taking my first ESL [English as a Second Language] class, I learned that education is not made up of A’s or the number of internships on one’s résumé.” He began to enroll in college-level courses, communicated actively with his professors, and opened himself completely to the college experience. By doing so, he wrote in his winning essay, “I discovered my academic passions and my social identity.”

Miguel began to reflect on his beginnings in Mexico. Though he came from a beautiful town and an encouraging family, he reflected on the “hopeless circumstances that still surround [his] community and the reasons that force people to migrate in order to search for a better life.” He resolved, “I would not have the machine-soiled hands like those of my father and my friends’ fathers.”

Though not yet certain what degree or career path he may pursue, Miguel is certain of one thing. “Though I do not know yet the best way to combine my academic interests to attain my goal of changing my country, I am absolutely confident that God is going to show me the definite direction for my life once I graduate.”
Honors Scholarship Winners

Director of the Honors College, Dr. Steven Prewitt, announced the honors scholarship winners for the fall 2013 semester. LSC-Tomball students Blake Barnett, Jorge Torres, and John Colvin will each be awarded a $500 scholarship for having distinguished themselves among honors students by their exceptional work. There are three criteria that go into selecting the honors scholarship recipients each spring and fall semester. Honors students are required to complete their honors coursework with an A. They write a paper and craft a presentation on a topic they designed in tandem with their professor. At the end of the semester, they present their work during Honors Presentation Day to an audience of their student peers, faculty and the honors council. The honors council takes into consideration their course grade, evaluates their paper and presentation, and determines the scholarship recipients.

Accolades

Bo Rollins — Shining a Light on Character

Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, Lone Star College-Tomball English professor, was awarded a fall 2014 sabbatical to complete his critical study on the dramatic works of seventeenth century English playwright John Crowne. The book, which Bo will submit to academic publishers for consideration, will attempt to re-establish the centrality of ‘character’ and interiority to the academic discussion of dramatic texts, placing a renewed emphasis on reading/interpreting, rather than on the text itself. Additionally, Bo will examine the earliest printed editions of Crowne’s extant plays (held at Rice University library) in order that his work may offer an important textual resource for other scholars. In addition to publication, Bo hopes to use his study not only to enhance his current courses, but also to create a new LSC-Tomball English course: A Survey of Renaissance and Restoration Drama.
LSC-Tomball Named a Fit-Friendly College

Lone Star College-Tomball has been recognized as a Gold Level recipient of the American Heart Association’s Fit Friendly Worksites recognition program. Designed to be a catalyst for positive change in American business, the AMA’s Fit Friendly program designates employers that champion the health of their employees and work to create a culture of physical activity in the workplace. Worksites throughout the nation can be part of the initiative by making the health and wellness of their employees a priority. Contributing to LSC-Tomball’s designation were the following regular health and fitness offerings: a monthly wellness e-newsletter, weekly exercise classes available to employees, orientation seminars for use of the cardio and weight equipment, and regular health screens, including blood pressure and body composition. LSC-Cyfair also received this designation this year.

Liliana Peña – 2014 PSSA Scholarship Recipient

Liliana Peña has been chosen as the 2013-2014 LSC-Tomball Professional Support Staff Association (PSSA) scholarship recipient. Liliana is an active TRiO Student Support Services member. She also works as a scribe for the Office of Disability Services. She has served on many community service projects such as collecting and donating items to Camp Hope, an organization dedicated to assisting veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. PSSA has been awarding this annual $500 scholarship since spring 2005. To be eligible, students must be seeking a degree or certificate from LSC-Tomball, maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher, have completed at least 12 credit hours, and be active in community service or student organizations. Liliana is in her fourth semester at LSC-Tomball and hopes to transfer to the University of Houston to study finance.

Alpana Sarangapani — Building International Bridges

Alpana Sarangapani, Lone Star College-Tomball faculty librarian, was awarded a spring 2015 sabbatical to enhance the cultural exchange between the Lone Star College campus in Jakarta, Indonesia, and our campuses here in the Houston area. She plans to research Indonesian culture, interview LSCS employees who have visited LSC-Jakarta, and make an extended visit to the Southeast Asian campus herself. She will then create an informal cultural handbook for LSCS faculty and staff who are going to work at LSC-Jakarta. Also key to her proposal is active collaboration with teaching peers at LSC-Tomball to incorporate Jakarta/Indonesian culture into several appropriate disciplines as well as to form linkages between students of LSC-Tomball and LSC-Jakarta through social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and possibly Skype. Alpana hopes that in addition to the handbook, her research will result in public displays such as DMS slides intended to educate the local community about how LSCS is spearheading this global initiative of connecting with students in Jakarta.
Bo Rollins Named Minnie Stevens Piper Nominee

Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, Lone Star College-Tomball English professor for 12 years, was announced as this year’s nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award. Regarded as a “teacher-scholar,” Bo has published numerous articles on literature from a broad range of genres and time periods. “It is important to stay current in the literary scholarship to provide students the best education possible,” he stated in the Piper Professor nomination application. For the past 10 years, Dr. Rollins has served as faculty advisor for LSC-Tomball’s Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Rho Mu chapter. Under his leadership, the chapter has won numerous awards and recognitions. During the fall 2013 semester and part of the spring 2014 semester, Bo has served as the lead faculty member at Lone Star College–Jakarta, tackling a number of administrative functions, as well as serving as a faculty mentor and guest lecturer.

The Piper Professor program began in 1958 and has become a very prestigious award for Texas college and university faculty. Faculty who were named Excellence Award winners in the prior academic year are eligible to be nominated for the Piper Professor Award. The Instructional Council selects the nominee from a review of portfolios submitted for the Faculty Excellence Award and general knowledge of the candidates.

Recent Events

Dr. Filoteo Examines Race in Reality Television

Associate professor of sociology Dr. Janie Filoteo delivered this month’s COTE Faculty Lecture on February 18: “Beyond The Real World: Analyzing Race in Reality Television.” Janie has traced MTV’s groundbreaking reality program from its inception in 1992 through to its current incarnation. She explained in her presentation that her personal love of television prompted her to examine the dynamics of the shows she watched from an academic point of view. Her conclusions center on the idea that programs such as The Real World have evolved to focus on conflict. She notes that each season offers a simplistic, disproportionate formula of verbal abuse followed by forgiveness among the various character types as a proposed solution to society’s cultural misunderstandings.
Wrongfully Convicted Ferguson Shares His Story at LSC-Tomball

Ryan Ferguson, a young man who spent nearly 10 years in prison after being convicted for a murder he did not commit, shared his story with over 300 engaged audience members in the Beckendorf Conference Center on February 20. sentenced in 2005 to 40 years in prison, Ferguson was released in November 2013 following the recantation of key eye witness testimony and attention from the national media. He began his presentation by sharing his belief in the importance of his family’s support during his ordeal. He walked attendees through his experience from his arrest to his trial to his time in prison. Ferguson stated his perception that there are inherently unfair practices in some aspects of the justice system and provided examples in his situation of particular interrogation tactics and verifiable prosecutorial misconduct. Though uncertain about what his future holds, Ferguson is adamant in his determination to spread awareness about other possible wrongful conviction cases. “I am very fortunate,” Ferguson said regarding his release. “Most people convicted based on the false testimony of others don’t get these sorts of recantations.”

Community Partnerships

LSC-Tomball Partnership Focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Education

On February 6, Lone Star College-Tomball participated, for the second year in a row, in Math and Science Night at Tomball Elementary School (TES). The LSC-Tomball Psychology Club and Honors students, along with Psychology Club advisor and professor Dr. David Beaulieu, explained the scientific method to over 60 young students and their parents using an Oreo taste test experiment. Kindergarten through fourth grade students were able to ask a research question, hypothesize, test, and chart the results. Additionally,
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LSC-Tomball science lab coordinator Sue Freed brought college microscopes and slides in order to introduce students to scientific observation. Throughout the evening, college students encouraged Tomball Elementary students to ask questions and explore. This event, organized by LSC-Tomball's Office of Academic Initiatives and Partnerships, was a P-16 activity designed to engage young students with “college knowledge” and STEM education.

Tomball Education Partnership Council

The Tomball Education Partnership Council (TEPC) met on the afternoon of February 11 to discuss the impact of House Bill 5 as well as ways to open college readiness pathways in math and English. Representatives from Tomball, Magnolia, and Waller ISDs, as well as private school partners and community leaders, met with college personnel to analyze common workforce course offerings and better understand issues surrounding curricular alignment. During the fall and spring semesters, TEPC has achieved many goals involving college readiness standards and seeks to strengthen dual credit partnerships, while contributing to foundational P-16 work.

GTACC Chairman’s Ball

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) held its annual Chairman's Ball February 1. Attending on behalf of LSC-Tomball were, from left to right, Doug and Joyce Brod (director of veterinary technology), Lanie and Tom Lescarbeau (director of surgical technology), Dr. Cindy Casparis (Dean, HKNST division) and Lamar Casparis, Jim and Dr. Lee Ann Nutt (vice president of instruction), Ben Leung (director, technology services), Dr. Susan Karr (president, LSC-Tomball), Dr. Lisa Morales (Dean, academic initiatives & partnerships) and Patrick Morales.
First Friday luncheon highlights “State of the City”

At the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce First Friday Luncheon, held in Lone Star College-Tomball’s Beckendorf Conference Center, Tomball Mayor Gretchen Fagan presented her annual “State of the City” address. She highlighted the many accomplishments of the city in 2013 such as the redevelopment of the “four corners,” the opening of the Veterans Affairs clinic, and the many improvements to the city including restrooms and sidewalks. The mayor also gave an overview of 2014 projects including the groundbreaking of the Tomball Business and Technology Park, the Baker Hughes Western Hemisphere Education Center, the rapid construction of Highway 249, the Grand Parkway, and Medical Complex Drive; and more festivals and fun.

Williams, wearing a period buffalo soldier uniform, provided a history of African-American participation in the U.S. military from 1866 until the armed forces were integrated in the mid-1950s. LSC-University Park history professor Daria Willis delivered a lecture on February 20 titled “Black History is American History” which was followed by a viewing of the documentary titled “The Strange Demise of Jim Crow” about the Houston civil rights movement. These events were co-hosted by the Humanities and Liberal Arts Council and the Center for Teaching and Organizational Excellence and were made possible through generous contributions by LSC-Tomball Student Life and the Harris County Library.

PSSA Employee of the Month

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dent from being uncertain about what they wanted to do to someone who has blossomed into a self-assured, purposeful individual,” she said.

When the LSC-Tomball Health Science Building opened in 2010, Tommie relocated to that facility. “It is a lovely building and it is nice to have our nursing lab under the same roof as our classrooms which has been a first since nursing began at Tomball.” When not at work, Tommie enjoys RVing with her husband and spending time with her daughters and grandchildren.
Upcoming Events

Registration for May Mini-Mester, Summer I & II
begins March 5

Mid-Semester Break
March 10-16

Spring Guest Artist: Texas A&M Singing Cadets
March 23, 3:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

PTK Induction Ceremony
March 27, 7:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

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