Star of the Month: Melinda Jensen — Maturity Has Its Benefits

Whatever the reason, going back to school can be as rewarding as it is challenging for a mature student. Just ask Lone Star College-Tomball Star of the Month Melinda Jensen.

“The learning experience for someone like me, who's been out of school for close to 40 years, has been extremely challenging. However, the opportunity to learn and be taught by dedicated faculty is truly a privilege,” said Melinda.

The Navasota resident started classes at LSC-Tomball in spring 2011 with the goal of becoming a registered dietician (RD).

“I'm hoping to transfer to Texas A&M University, get a B.S. degree in food and nutrition sciences, and then get an RD certification,” said Melinda.

Melinda's husband, Dr. David Jensen, taught human anatomy and physiology at LSC-Tomball for over 20 years, and passed away unexpectedly in September 2010 due to hypoglycemia — a constant danger with juvenile (type 1) diabetes (JD). Already fairly knowledgeable about nutrition and diabetes management, she wants to expand her knowledge beyond personal experience so she can better connect with young people facing a new JD diagnosis or someone learning to manage an existing JD condition.

What advice does the mother of three (all LSC-Tomball alumni) and grandmother of two have for college-bound students? “For those who have no family obligations, make your studies your highest priority; it will never be easier to apply yourself to your education. For those who are married and/or have children, don’t be discouraged; it’s never too late … maturity has its benefits.”
On December 5, the Lone Star College-Tomball vocational nursing class of 2013 held its pinning ceremony in the Performing Arts Center. The 14-member class listened to the words of fellow classmates Ana Forsetieri, Claire Jackson and Amber Burroughs before being presented with ceremonial pins and student awards from Nursing Programs Director Catherine Gray, associate professor John Vancamp, assistant professor Cynthia Reese and adjunct professor Alana Gale. Top academic honors went to Tracee Mireles, and Spirit of Nursing honors went to Tiffany Walker, who also led the class in the recitation of the Nightingale Pledge during the candlelight ceremony.
Cisco Networking Academy Graduate Secures Lucrative Midstream Energy Company Position

It was a long and arduous journey, but Lone Star College-Tomball Cisco Networking Academy graduate Richard Horn finally found the job of his dreams. It all began in 2008 when Richard enrolled in LSC-Tomball’s Cisco Career Certification program and ended in November 2013 when he secured a lucrative position as a cyber security network engineer with Enterprise Products, a provider of midstream energy services. Supporting cyber security at plants and facilities throughout Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico, Richard’s new job is a perfect fit for his work experience and new skills. “The position is very hands-on and requires traveling to the remote plant sites to resolve issues. I enjoy getting out of the office and into the field where I can ‘get my hands dirty,’” he said. Richard is quick to add that his success was in no small part due to his Cisco Networking Academy education and his professor, Willie May. “He was very interactive; he made you feel like part of the team.” Richard is currently working towards his Cisco Certified Network Professional Security certification and hopes to sit for the firewall exam portion in February.

Accolades

Farewell to Three Dedicated Employees

Lone Star College-Tomball bid farewell to three of its faculty — Dave Bary, Dr. Cheryl Bates and Dr. Mary Pat Trenkle — at a reception held December 4 in N-103. Dave, professor of geology, began teaching at Lone Star College System in 1994 and joined LSC-Tomball in 2001; from 2008 - 2011, he served as natural sciences department chair and from 2011 served as chemistry, physics, geology and environment lead faculty. Cheryl, music program coordinator and professor, joined LSC-Tomball in 2000; over her 13-year career she taught music theory, sight-singing/ear-training, music appreciation and fundamentals, piano and choir, and directed the annual high school choral festival. Mary Pat began her Tomball experience in 1996 as associate dean of humanities before becoming professor of French and Spanish in 2002; additionally, she served as Le French Club faculty advisor.

Four LSC-Tomball Employees among 2013 LSCS Academy Graduating Class

Continuing a tradition of excellence and involvement, Dr. Janie Filoteo, sociology professor; Shannon Marino, student life program manager; Robbie Richard Rogers, extended learning center academic support services program coordina-

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tor; and Tracie Wood, nursing professor, represented Lone Star College-Tomball at the December 6, 2013, Lone Star College System Academy graduation ceremony. Held at the LSC-System Office Star of Texas Ballroom, the event recognized the 30-member class of 2013 and featured words by LSCS Senior Vice Chancellor, Chief Operating Officer Rand Key, college presidents, and other dignitaries.

Margaret Jelinek Lewis – Sabbatical Focuses on Service-Learning

Margaret Jelinek Lewis, psychology professor at Lone Star College-Tomball, spent her fall 2013 sabbatical conducting research on classroom technology and adult learning theory in order to redesign her courses and infuse them with real-world connections. Her goal was to develop materials that help students feel connected to the community and to be “connected” via technology to current events and new information. She created goal-setting and service learning projects as well as course-portfolio projects which emphasize real-world applications. She made community connections with the University of Texas Prevention Research Center, the Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and a clinical psychologist with whom her students can do service projects. She also continues to work with and hopes to grow the Undies for Everyone project. Margaret is already incorporating what she learned. She has completely redesigned her spring 2014 courses and developed a new distance learning course.

Spotlights

Kimberly Carter — Pursuing Her Passion

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” Obviously, Kimberly Carter, Lone Star College-Tomball professor and English/humanities chair, took this adage to heart when she pursued a career in teaching.
As a child, Kimberly liked English and liked helping people learn, so her father predicted she was going to be a teacher. “The first time I formally taught, I was a graduate assistant and I just loved it. I thought it was the most wonderful thing,” she said.

After teaching in Louisiana for several years, Kimberly began teaching at LSC-Tomball as an adjunct in 2004 and transitioned to full time in 2006. Her love for teaching stems from knowing that she’s positively impacting people’s lives. “It’s about teaching people not ‘what’ to think but ‘how’ to think,” she said passionately.

Kimberly likes being involved. In addition to her teaching and departmental responsibilities, she’s finishing her term as LSC-Tomball Faculty Senate vice president, as well as having served on the instructional council and curriculum team, and chaired the LSC-Tomball 25th Anniversary door decorating committee.

Off campus, Kimberly is heavily involved in the Leonberger dog rescue group LeoPALS, as well as being an avid sport climbing enthusiast along with her family (husband, three sons and daughter), and is the USA Climbing Texas/Louisiana scorekeeper as well as a doctoral student at Texas A&M in Higher Education Administration.

**Deborah Houston — Fixing Things and Counting Heads**

If you want something done, ask this month’s Staff Spotlight, Deborah Houston, Lone Star College-Tomball records and transcripts department supervisor.

To say that Deborah is busy is an understatement. She authenticates student status for state reporting, corrects student records, verifies residency, manages student documentation, supervises the graduation process, and works one on one with LSC-Tomball division operations managers and instructors as needed to correct classes, move students or enter grades.

The native Houstonian (fifth generation) has worked at LSC-Tomball since January 2000, and takes pride in what she and her staff have accomplished. “I love that we have a reputation that you will be greeted, assisted and leave the office..."
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with an answer or someone walking you to where the answer is located. We also have a reputation that if you’re hungry, come to records and transcripts. I believe in thanking my staff and peers for what they do, so I cook and bake,” Deborah said with pride.

When not attending an LSC-Tomball function, the grandmother to six and great-grandmother to two can be found reading, fishing, socializing or volunteering in the community.

Recent Events

National Council on Black American Affairs-Annual Meeting

The National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA) held their annual meeting at Lone Star College-Tomball January 24-26. The council, one of the oldest affiliate members of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), is a collaborative voice designed to promote the academic success of African American students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Ann Johnson, vice president of student success at LSC-Tomball, is a board member and vice president of membership for the organization and Dr. Susan Karr, president of LSC-Tomball, is a member of the organization. Dr. Karr also gave the welcome to the group on January 24.

C-TAC Grants—Better Learning through Technology

One of the responsibilities of the Campus Technology Advisory Council (C-TAC)—a partnership between LSC-Tomball and the Office of Technology Services (OTS)—is to identify innovative ideas that OTS can fund to benefit the college. This academic year, C-TAC identified two proposals for funding:

Computer Information Technology and Center for Organizational Teaching and Excellence, Lindell Chapman and Janet Moore — Enhance student understanding of PC operating system Windows 8 and HTML by incorporating touch screens and Windows 8 into Introduction to Computers classes for hands-on student learning experiences.

Developmental Studies, English, Languages and Mathematics Division, Kim

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Carter and Melinda Coleman — Increase academic resources for students by purchasing iPads, stylus' and education applications that allow instructors to record their exercises and lessons using the iPad (for video, writing, etc.) so that students can review them to further their understanding of the material covered in class.

Spring 2014 Students Welcomed with LSC-Tomball 25th Anniversary Celebration

On January 13, the Student Life department hosted an LSC-Tomball 25th Anniversary Celebration for the students. The event, held in the Commons and N-103, featured food, goodie bags, games, prizes and the opportunity to have a picture taken with Trevor, Lone Star College-Tomball's Timberwolf.

Community Partnerships

Another Successful Holiday Fest

Chilly cold weather could not dampen the spirit at Lone Star College-Tomball during the college’s annual Holiday Fest celebration. The event, held inside this year on December 6, featured decorations, children's games, movies, crafts, performances, special guests, food, and free photos with everyone's favorite guest, Santa Claus.

Two LSC-Tomball Employees on Local Chamber Boards

Congratulations to two Lone Star College-Tomball employees for serving on local chamber of commerce boards of trustees on behalf of the college. Sharon Jones, continuing education director, is serving another term on the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) board. She was installed at the January GTACC First Friday networking luncheon held in LSC-Tomball’s Beckendorf Conference Center. Lynda Bancroft, division operations manager for Health, Kinesiology, Natural Sciences and Technology, became a member of the Greater Magnolia Chamber of Commerce board.

Tomball Regional Arts Council Finalizes Endowment Scholarship

The Tomball Regional Arts Council (TRAC) presented Dr. Susan Karr, LSC-Tomball president, with the final check to complete their $15,000 endowment scholarship through the Lone Star College Foundation. The scholarship provides assistance for a student who is attending LSC-Tomball and studying arts. TRAC’s chairwoman, Paula Whitaker, delivered the final installment. “We are leaving a legacy for art and education,” said Whitaker “Education changes lives.” For the past 26 years, TRAC has been supporting arts within the Tomball area including LSC-Tomball's fine, visual and performing arts and the building of the LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center.
Upcoming Events

COTE Lecture Series: Janie Filoteo
February 18
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Room E-100

“The Runner Stumbles” play
February 20 – 22
7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

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

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