Student Success & Engagement

Phi Theta Kappa Receives Awards and Honors at Regional Convention

Lone Star College-Tomball’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society capped its trip to the Texas Regional Convention in Fort Worth (March 7–10) with multiple group and individual awards and honors.

- Award of Distinction for its Honors in Action project ("A Study of Voter Apathy in Community College Students")
- Award of Merit for its College Project (organizing LSC-Tomball’s participation in Community College Day at the Capitol)
- Texas Top Chapter (13th year in a row)—a designation given to only 10 chapters in the region
- Texas Region Outstanding Chapter Member—Laura Goodall

Congratulations to Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, English professor and Phi Theta Kappa faculty sponsor, and all the LSC-Tomball chapter members.

Spring 2013 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Sixty-two new members of the Lone Star College-Tomball Alpha Rho Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa were inducted in a ceremony held March 20 in the LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center (PAC). A crowd of more than 400 looked on as Dr. John “Bo” Rollins, LSC-Tomball Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisor and English professor, gave his opening remarks and Dr. Susan Karr, LSC-Tomball president, welcomed the inductees. Erin Simon, Alpha Rho Mu chapter president, explained the significance of Phi Theta Kappa; Marilyn Comer, Alpha Rho Mu member and 2012–2013 Phi Theta Kappa Texas regional president, delivered the keynote speech; and the Alpha Rho Mu officers inducted the new members.
Lone Star College-Tomball Student Shines at 2013 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Awards

Lone Star College-Tomball English major Marilyn Comer has been named a 2013 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. Comer was one of 150 community college students recognized by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for outstanding academic rigor, grade point average, academic and leadership awards, and engagement in college and community service as determined by participating community college presidents (or their designated nominators) and an independent panel of judges. She received a $1,250 scholarship and a special medal-lion commemorating her achievement.

LSC-Tomball Hosts State Play Festival and Wins Awards

Congratulations to the Lone Star College-Tomball Drama Department and the LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center. The drama department’s production of “I Never Sang for My Father” performed well by earning 14 awards at the Texas Community College Speech & Theatre Association (TCCSTA) State Play Festival (February 27–March 2). In addition, the Performing Arts Center had the honor of hosting the festival this year. “I am so very grateful to our students, our administration, the beautiful facility, to our staff and to Richard Becker and Gary Cooper. Everyone worked so hard to make it the best festival ever,” said professor Sherri White, drama program director.

Other colleges that competed in the festival included Blinn College-Brenham, Houston Community College-Northeast, Houston Community College-Southwest, Howard College, Lamar State College-Port Arthur, LSC-Kingwood, Panola College, Weatherford College and Wharton County Junior College

LSC-Tomball Drama Department awards:
Dramatic Production—Excellent
Bill Morton Challenge Acting Award—John Price
Superior in Acting—John Price
Superior in Acting—Kristen Del Bosque
Excellent in Acting—Tyler Galindo
Excellent in Scenic Design—John Price
Excellent in Property Design—Jake Foster
Superior in Director’s Choice for Property Design—Jake Foster
Superior in Director’s Choice for Assistant Direction—Krysta Keith
Superior in Director’s Choice for Stage Management—Cruz Castelan
Superior in Director’s Choice for Costume Design—Krysta Keith
Superior in Director’s Choice for Costume Design—Kelsey Finstad
Superior in Director’s Choice for Sound Design—Ali Garrett
Superior in Director’s Choice for Lighting Design—Emily McClennen

Jared Nelson Named Coca-Cola New Century Scholar

Achieving the highest All-USA Community College Academic Team application score in the state of Texas, Lone Star College-Tomball student and Phi Theta Kappa member Jared Nelson was named a 2013 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar (an honor made all the more remarkable considering the competitiveness of the field given the state’s population). The program, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the Coca-Cola Foundation (and administered by the Phi Theta Kappa honor society), awards 52 $2,000 scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa nominees in each state of the U.S., plus one

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Texas’ First Epsilon Phi Delta German Honor Society Chapter

Lone Star College-Tomball became the site of Texas’ first Epsilon Phi Delta chapter when adjunct German instructor Brenda Bauske inducted students Andrea Batchelor and Carla Kinard into the national community college German honor society. Andrea and Carla not only have the honor of being named to Epsilon Phi Delta, but also the status of being the Texas Alpha chapter’s charter members and, thus, the first members in the state of Texas. Wir gratulieren!

Accolades

LSC-Tomball Recognizes Scholarship Donors & Recipients

LSC-Tomball held its annual Scholarship Donor and Recipient Reception on March 26 in the Beckendorf Conference Center. Scholarship donors were recognized and given the opportunity to meet the more than 90 student scholarship recipients who directly benefit from their generous contributions.

LSC-Tomball gratefully thanks each of our wonderful donors.

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Dr. Nockie Zizelmann
Elmer L. and Dorothy M. Beckendorf
LSC-Tomball 25th Year Anniversary Scholarship in honor of Elmer L. and Dorothy M. Beckendorf

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Star of the Month

Carla Kinard—Raving Fan

“It’s never too late to be what you might have been” is a favorite quote of 55-year-old Carla Kinard, who in 2008 took the COMPASS test so she could take the Fitness for Life class while she waited for her youngest son (15 at the time and homeschooled) to finish his Lone Star College-Tomball dual credit class.

Over the next five years, Carla completed 69 credit hours while also becoming German Club past president and current vice president, and Phi Theta Kappa honor society vice president of service. Additionally, she wrapped up a string of honors that include Outstanding Student Excellence Award in Government, Outstanding Student Excellence Award in German, Outstanding Leadership Award, and induction into both the na-
Clifton Fox–A Tale of Two Empires

In a fascinating discussion on two of history's great empires, Lone Star College-Tomball history professor Clifton Fox gave a presentation at the World History Association of Texas on March 2, 2013 at St. Edward’s University (Austin, Texas) entitled “North and South, West and East: The Comparative Fate of Empire in Early Medieval China and the Late Roman Mediterranean.” Some of the topics explored included the roles of environment (geography, climate and disease), culture (language diversity and religion) and politics (political institutions, ideology and leadership) in the shaping of empires.

Donna Willingham to Appear in Upcoming Textbook

The upcoming second edition of “Teaching Developmental Reading: Historical, Theoretical and Practical Background Readings” (Bedford/St. Martin's) is scheduled to include an article written by Dr. Donna Willingham—Lone Star College-Tomball chair of developmental studies, English, human development, education, foreign language and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), and professor of developmental studies/English. Her article, "Theory to Practice: Vocabulary Instruction in Community College Developmental Education Reading Classes: What the Research Tells Us," will be part of a volume designed for individuals new to the developmental studies field.

Jess Nevins Pens a New Comic Book Encyclopedia

Renowned comic book historian, author and Lone Star College-Tomball Reference Librarian and associate professor Jess Nevins will have a new book on the shelves October 29, 2013. “Fables Encyclopedia” is a scholarly examination of the mythologies and back-stories of the characters that populate the wildly popular, 11-year-old comic book series “Fables” created by Bill Willingham. “USA Today” had nothing but raves for Jess' newest work. “All the rich history that you’ve forgotten about your favorite [‘Fables’] fairytale characters is eloquently retold by noted scholar Jess Nevins…”
Spotlights

Margot de la Paz—Night Owl

Very few people at Lone Star College-Tomball get the pleasure of meeting custodial supervisor Margot de la Paz. Yet, everyone sees the results of her work. When the sun sets and sky darkens, Margot and her team begin to shine.

Margot has been keeping LSC-Tomball clean for nearly half her life. She started out as a contract employee and over the years proved her worth time and time again, working her way up the ladder. It might not be the most glamorous job, but Margot loves it—especially the people she works with, her fellow night owls.

Over those years, Margot has seen LSC-Tomball grow. “This place has changed so much over the years. It was a lot smaller when I first started.”

Now it’s Margot’s time to grow. Ten years ago, she was enrolled in the LSC-Tomball nursing program, but between the demands of working at night and taking classes during the day, it just became too hard to maintain the pace. Then, with the recent passing of her sister, Margot’s outlook changed. Part tribute to her sister (who was about to return to college to become an x-ray technician), part realization that we need to do the most with the time we are given, she decided to go back to nursing school and pursue her dream of being an emergency room nurse. “I might be 60 years old and still taking classes, but I’m going to be a nurse before I die,” she laughed.

To keep her batteries charged, Margot likes to spend time at home doing beading and enjoying life with her husband of more than 25 years, her step-daughter and three grandchildren, and their dog.

Recent Events

Honors Student Organization Hosts Fun Run to Help Disadvantaged Children

Brief winds, cloudy skies and cool temperatures didn’t chill the enthusiasm of participants as they ran, jogged and walked around the Lone Star College-Tomball campus loop in the March 23 Undies Run. The family-friendly event was a success; not only did it raise awareness of the program, it also collected 1,200 pairs of underwear and socks plus cash donations for disadvantaged children in the Tomball Independent School District (ISD) for the coming school year. In fact, it was so successful, plans are already underway for next year’s event.

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Path to Success Passes through Hawaii

On Wednesday, March 20, the path to success passed through Hawaii as Best Start and the Student Activities Board sponsored the Humuhumunukunukuapua’a Bash, held in the courtyard from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Hawaiian music filled the air as students enjoyed free pizza, beverages and Hawaiian ices; tried their hands at Hawaiian bowling, the limbo and hula dancing; and learned how the four parts of Best Start (set a goal, make a plan, get connected and stay involved) can enhance their college experience from the advisors, counselors, faculty and staff members who were there to answer their questions.

Facilitating a Culture of Inquiry

Many things drive student success: targeted curricula, campus environment and student engagement. On March 28 in the Beckendorf Conference Center, Dr. Rob Johnstone, senior research fellow with the RP Group, made a two-hour presentation to LSC-Tomball employees about how they can have a positive influence on student success outcomes by adopting a “culture of inquiry.” Dr. Johnstone discussed how the process of inquiry—a practitioner-driven process that focuses on engaging with and exploring key research questions through conversation from a variety of perspectives in the exploratory mix—is the key that unlocks the door to the next level of student success.
LSC-Tomball Lecture Series Explores Student Persistence at the College Level

In the sixth installment of the COTE (Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence)-sponsored Lone Star College-Tomball lecture series, “Student Persistence: Rationale and Recommendations,” Dr. Jackie Thomas Jr., LSC-Tomball assistant professor of education, discussed the impact factors such as race, gender, family background, campus involvement, GPA, financial need, and motivation have on students’ decisions to stay/leave college, and what faculty and staff can do to help lessen the effect of those factors. The series continues April 17 (2 p.m.) with "An Example of Persistence: Freedmen Education in Houston and Galveston" by LSC-Tomball professor of history Dr. Barbara Hayward. Additional series topics and dates can be found at LoneStar.edu/cote.

Upcoming Bond Referendum

With so much riding on the upcoming Board of Trustees election and bond referendum, Lone Star College System officials are crisscrossing the community in an effort to provide voters with enough information to help them make an informed decision on May 11. One of those stops was at Lone Star College-Tomball on March 28 in the Beckendorf Conference Center, where Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Ray Laughter discussed what’s at stake for both LSCS and the community. Laughter discussed the pressures on LSCS that have grown out of its success (78,000 students enrolled in credit classes and 90,000 students enrolled in non-credit and continuing education classes), the contributions LSCS makes to the community (60 percent of nurses and 84 percent of first responders are trained at a community college), and the return on investment LSCS provides to taxpayers ($2.30 ROI for every dollar invested in LSCS and $1.1 billion added annually to the Houston economy in the form of increased student earnings and employer workforce productivity).

June Becker Retirement

June Becker (left, retiring administrative assistant I, and Dr. Lee Ann Nutt (right), Lone Star College-Tomball vice president of instruction, share fond memories at the March 22 retirement reception celebrating June’s 25 years of dedicated service. “June has been a devoted contributor to the Lone Star College System for many years and in many ways. We will miss her, and we wish her the best in this new chapter,” said Dr. Nutt.

Active Shooter Training

On March 19, approximately 120 LSC-Tomball employees gathered in the Beckendorf Conference Center for a presentation on what to do in the event of an active shooter on campus. Officers Gladden (LSC-North Harris) and Gomez (Montgomery) showed an instructional video that thoroughly explains how to respond in the event of an active shooter. Following the video, they engaged with the audience in a lively and productive discussion. The presentation was part of an ongoing initiative at Lone Star College to ensure the safety and security of the college’s students, employees and visiting community members.
Student Success and the Meaning of Student Life (on Campus)

On March 19, Lone Star College-Tomball faculty and staff gathered in Room N-103 to discuss how, for students, a successful college experience is more than just learning. Part of the Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence (C.O.T.E.)-sponsored 2012 – 2013 Student Success Discussion Series, “The Meaning of (Student) Life: Connectedness and Impact” explored the importance of the six major areas of student life—student organizations, leadership, student activities board, sports clubs and intramurals, programming and events, and student employment—and how they increase the success rate of students involved in them.

Community Partnerships

Spring 2013 Career Fair a Success

Representatives from more than 40 greater Houston area businesses met with Lone Star College-Tomball students and members of the community to match up their personnel opportunities with job-seekers' qualifications during the Spring 2013 Career Fair. The free event, held March 7 in the LSC-Tomball Beckendorf Conference Center, attracted close to 200 attendees and covered the full range of professional opportunities, including internships, externships, volunteerism, and part- and full-time employment opportunities.

Learning has played an important role throughout Carla’s life. She loved homeschooling her children, but she always looked forward to the day that she could continue her education. In addition to the sheer love of learning, her continuing education also benefits her other love, her ministry efforts in Honduras and Malawi.

After finishing her college algebra and biology classes at Lone Star College-Tomball in the fall, Carla hopes to transfer to Rice University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in political science and then ultimately gain her Master and Ph.D. degrees in history.

Carla’s advice to college-bound students? “Open your eyes and see the incredible opportunities offered to you by LSC-Tomball.”

Her son’s dual credit class was not the only thing that brought Carla to LSC-Tomball, however. Her daughter was also a homeschooled, dual credit student (one of LSC-Tomball’s first), as was another of her three sons. Both daughter and son eventually transferred from LSC-Tomball to Texas A&M. The experiences left her very impressed by the opportunities the college offered. “[I] knew when my ‘mom’ career ended, this was where I’d be. I am a raving fan of LSC-Tomball.”

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LSC-Tomball Choir Serenades the Community

Combining voices with the Tomball United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir, Lakewood United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and the Cypress Orchestra, the Lone Star College-Tomball Concert Choir performed Antonio Vivaldi’s “Gloria” at Lakewood United Methodist Church’s Asbury Hall March 24. In addition to “Gloria,” each group performed works individually, with the LSC-Tomball Choir performing Mark Patterson’s “Kyrie,” Gioachino Rossini’s “O Salutaris Hostia,” and H. Hopson’s arrangement of Johann Pachelbel’s “Canon” (“Canon of Praise”).

GTACC First Friday Luncheon

The March Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) First Friday Luncheon covered a lot of ground in 90 minutes. After the Teacher of the Month award was presented to Mary Scott from ComQuest Academy charter high school and the Public Safety Officer of the Month was awarded to Tomball Police Department Detective James Harrel, talk turned to the upcoming 35th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament, the Networking breakfast, and a reminder about the next First Friday Luncheon featuring guest speakers Lone Star College System Vice Chancellor Ray Laughter and Lone Star College-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr discussing the future of LSCS and the upcoming bond election. The rest of the luncheon was spent playing Mingle Bingo, a team-building exercise designed to create closer bonds between GTACC members by getting participates to know each other better. Based on the participants’ enthusiasm, the exercise was a success.

Jared Nelson
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scholarship for the top scoring Phi Theta Kappa nominee from Canada and one scholarship for the top scoring nominee from the other seven sovereign nations were Phi Theta Kappa chapters exist). Additionally, Jared and his fellow winners received a special plaque commemorating their achievement, and will be honored at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention April 20 – 23 in San Francisco, California (which will also be attended by several LSCS presidents and representatives).

Barbara Curtiss
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Social Science (ABBSSS) division staff assistant.

Even in her spare time, the mother of one is always helping. In addition to crocheting, needlepointing and reading, Barbara is a supporter of the Cypress Creek Volunteer Fire Department.
Upcoming Events

Fall 2013 Semester Registration Begins
April 10

Trevor’s Choice Awards
April 11 at 6 p.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center

Year-End Liaison Counselor Breakfast & Luncheon
April 12 at 8:30 a.m.
Room N-103

Math Bowl
April 13 at 8 a.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center & Room N-103

A Night of Plays
April 18–20 at 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre

Inkling Magazine Release
April 24

Student Recital – Stage Soundings
April 25 at 2 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

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