Lone Star College-Tomball student Alan Abbott is one busy young man. A dual credit student who began taking classes at the college in fall 2012, Alan, 18, will graduate high school this May and then continue at LSCS for an additional year to gain not only further college credit, but valuable life skills. Although he hopes to transfer to Texas A&M in fall 2015 to pursue a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and then a master's degree in business, he first would like to pursue an EMT certification through the program at LSC-Montgomery while he continues to take his college transfer classes at LSC-Tomball. “I think it would be great to work my way through A&M as an EMT,” he said. “Plus, it’s just a good skill to have.”

Though Alan began walking the LSC-Tomball halls when he was rather young, he has not refrained from getting involved outside the classroom. This year, he was a member of the LSCS Model United Nations delegation representing Uruguay in the Model United Nations assembly held in New York City March 29 – April 4. He served on the first committee for disarmament and international security issues and presented a two-page position paper that he wrote on the subject with fellow LSC-Tomball student Kaylin Arnold. “This whole experience has really opened up my eyes,” he said. “I now talk about treaties and resolutions like other people would talk about the weather.”

Alan sees college as important for two reasons: “If you see yourself at an end goal, chances are college is required to reach that goal,” he mused. He continued, stating that even if one cannot visualize the future, “education is key to expanding your horizons. For example, the Model United Nations has exposed me to so many things I may not have otherwise known.”
New Members Inducted in to Phi Theta Kappa

The Lone Star College-Tomball chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, held its Spring 2014 Induction Ceremony on Thursday, March 27 in the Performing Arts Center. Fifty-five new members were inducted into the society. LSC-Tomball History professor Babu Srinivasan delivered the keynote address entitled "Crossing Frontiers and New Beginnings." Chapter officers Erin Simoni, Sarah Townley, Heba Ramadan and Daniel Simoni organized and presented the program with the able assistance of Kim Carter, professor of English, and Dr. Lisa Morales, dean, academic initiatives and partnerships. The LSC-Tomball Jazz ensemble provided musical entertainment before and during the ceremony.

LSC-Tomball Takes Top Honors at State Festival

The Lone Star College-Tomball Drama Department continued its consistent run of high-quality, award-winning theatrical productions when its “The Runner Stumbles,” under the direction of drama program coordinator and professor Sherri Ryan White, earned top honors at this year’s Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association (TCCSTA) State Play Festival (February 26–March 1) at Blinn Community College in Brenham.

The production was awarded a Superior rating. It also received the two top honors: the Greg Schneider Technical award for overall technical excellence, as well as the Bill Morton Best Acting Award, given to lead actress Shannon Grave.

This is the third year in a row that an LSC-Tomball actor has received the Bill Morton Best Acting Award. This is a recognition that does not have to be bestowed each year if the judges feel it is not merited. Additionally, it may not be awarded to the same student actor two years in a row. “I think that this award being given to an LSC-Tomball student three years in a row speaks loudly to the quality of productions that professor White and her students produce on a consistent basis,” says Jill Riethmayer, LSC-Tomball dean of arts, business, behavioral sciences, and social sciences.

Below is a complete list of the awards bestowed on the LSC-Tomball cast and crew:

Greg Schneider Technical Award—Cast and Crew
Bill Morton Best Acting Award—Shannon Grave
Superior in Acting—Shannon Grave
Superior in Acting—John Price
Excellent in Acting—Jordan Merritt
Excellent in Acting—Sarah Piercy
Excellent in Acting—Krysta Keith
Excellent in Acting—Antonio Lemons
Superior in Respondents Choice for Overall Technical
Superior in Respondents Choice for Lighting Design—Austin Kiel

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Superior in Respondents Choice for Sound Design—Eric Sheffield
Superior in Respondents Choice for Sound Design—Patrick Hayslip
Superior in Respondents Choice for Costume Design—Krysta Keith
Superior in Respondents Choice for Stain Glass Window—Gabby Bazan
Superior in Director’s Choice for Stain Glass Window—Gabby Bazan
Superior in Director’s Choice for Program Design—Gabby Bazan
Superior in Director’s Choice for Property Design—Patricia Jara
Superior in Director’s Choice for Costume Design—Krysta Keith
Superior in Director’s Choice for Lighting Design—Austin Kiel
Superior in Director’s Choice for Stage Management—Anna Morgan
Superior in Director’s Choice for Stage Management—Alyssa Nickel
Superior in Director’s Choice for Property Design—Jeff Rodriguez
Superior in Director’s Choice for Sound Design—Eric Sheffield
Superior in Director’s Choice for Property Design—Bri Short
Superior in Director’s Choice for Stage Management—Bri Short

Phi Theta Kappa Recognized at Regional Convention

The Alpha Rho Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa attended the Texas Regional Convention in Houston this past February 27–March 1. Chapter President Chelsea Vincent was named Outstanding Chapter President in the Texas Region, the chapter was given the Award of Merit for our Honors in Action Project and it was once again recognized as a 5-star chapter. Advisor Dr. Bo Rollins, who is currently serving as the vice-chairperson of the advisory board for the Texas region, was given an award for Outstanding Service to Texas Phi Theta Kappa. Alpha Rho Mu will attend the International Convention in Orlando at the end of April.

Accolades

Tomball Professor Awarded Chancellor’s Faculty Technology Innovation Grant

For the second year in a row Antonius Bom, LSC-Tomball professor of engineering technology, has garnered a Chancellor's Faculty Technology Innovation Grant (CFTIG) in partnership with Dr. Daniel Kainer, LSC-Montgomery professor of biology, as well as John Magner, David Quarles, and Julie Harless, also from LSC-Montgomery. This year's proposal sought funding for technology, hardware, software and mechanical components to build the remaining infrastructure at LSC-Montgomery needed to “close the loop” in the creation of biofuels and other valuable products derived from algae and other microorganisms. A diesel genera-
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Texas A&M Singing Cadets

Known as the “Voice of Aggieland,” the Texas A&M Singing Cadets performed in the Lone Star College-Tomball Performing Arts Center on March 23 for the second year in a row. The internationally acclaimed, 60-member, all-male chorus delighted the audience with its performances of religious, patriotic, Broadway, popular and novelty songs. The group is in its 108th season. The event was preceded by a luncheon at which ticket holders were invited to mingle and eat with the members of the choral group. The PAC will welcome the Singing Cadets back again next year on April 12, 2015. Advanced tickets will be available online in the fall.

Professional Development 101 Series:
Celebrating LSC-Tomball

The Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence hosted an event “Celebrating LSC-Tomball” as part of its Professional Development 101 series on March 27 in Room N-103. A panel comprised of founding facul-

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Transformations

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Music blaring from the radio of a brand new Ford F-150 set the mood for participants as they ran, jogged and walked around the Lone Star College-Tomball campus loop in the March 22 Second Annual Undies Run. Hosted by the Center for Organization and Teaching Excellence (COTE) and LSC-Tomball Honors Student Organization in conjunction with Undies for Everyone (undiesforeveryone.org), the family-friendly event raised awareness of the program and collected 665 pieces of underwear and $508 toward purchasing more underwear for disadvantaged children in the Tomball, Magnolia and Waller school districts for the coming school year.

The fun run originated as a service-learning project for students to learn how they can easily serve their local communities in simple, straightforward ways. Again this year, student-volunteers earned service-learning credit when their professors connected the run with topics or goals in their courses. Student organizations whose members volunteered their time to organize the event also earned service hours for their participation. Tomball Walmart sponsored refreshments for the runners. Our “Distinguished Professor”-level sponsor this year was Tomball Ford, who provided an F-150 pick-up truck to use for the event.

Scholarship Donor Reception

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LSC-Tomball Mathematics Department
LSC-Tomball Mathematics Faculty
LSC-Tomball OTS Family and Friends Scholarship Endowment
LSCS Office of Workforce Development
LSC-Tomball Performing Fine Arts Department
Marion D. Hanson
Paula Whitaker and Ken Hancock
Ram and Alpana Sarangapani
Ryan Paul Whitaker Memorial Foundation
TechKnowledge Consulting
The David and Jean Wiley Foundation
The R.E. Brooks Estate Trust
Tomball Regional Arts Council
Tomball Regional Medical Center
Tomball Rotary Club
Wells Fargo
Carol Wheeler

Despite her duties, things are not all business for Carol Wheeler, LSC-Tomball director, business and auxiliary services. Carol began her journey with LSCS in 2003 when she was hired as a division operations manager at LSC-Kingwood, then Kingwood College. She transferred to LSC-Tomball in May 2007 and now manages various campus offices including Office Services, Business Services, the Bursar’s Office, and Food Services. She also serves as the liaison with the LSC-Tomball Bookstore, which is managed by Follett Higher Education Group. Carol and her staff support faculty and staff in the areas of mailing services, copiers, budget, purchasing, travel, P-cards, accounts payable, and contracts for goods and services. However, the joy Carol

Patrick Gilbert

Patrick Gilbert, Lone Star College-Tomball government professor, believes in the power of positive change. His classes in American and Texas government instill in students the political mechanisms whereby change is brought about in society. Patrick has taught at LSC-Tomball for three years and in that short time has also been quite involved outside the classroom, as well. He serves as faculty advisor to the Student Government Association, is an active member of the Faculty Senate, served on the LSC-Tomball 25th Anniversary Committee, and is a member of the NEH Summer Institute planning committee. If that weren’t enough to keep him busy, Patrick is currently working on earning his doctoral degree in education from William Howard Taft University. When discussing his teaching philosophy, he doesn’t beat around the bush: “I am passionate about teaching because I believe that education can provoke positive change.”

Marilyn Silva

Marilyn Silva, the PSSA Employee of the Month, loves working at LSC-Tomball. “The people here are very friendly and it’s like your family away from home,” she said. Marilyn has worked at the college since 2001, beginning as a staff assistant in Continuing Education and then working various CE positions before becoming Division Operations Specialist. “I really enjoy working in CE,” she said. “I think what I find most rewarding is that you feel like you have made someone happy.” In Marilyn’s nomination, co-worker LaWanda Wheeler wrote that Marilyn will “go far and beyond to get the answer if she is in doubt.”
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gets from her current position is not from the business side of things; she says it’s the people that she works with at LSC-Tomball that make the difference. When not at work, Carol enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and traveling.

Community Partnerships

First Friday Luncheon Highlights Local Economic Growth

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce held its First Friday Luncheon in Lone Star College-Tomball’s Beckendorf Conference Center on March 7. Dr. Robert Gilmer, director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the University of Houston’s C.T. Bauer College of Business, spoke to chamber members on how economic growth in the Houston area is outpacing the rest of the nation. Fueled by booming oil production, Gilmer said the local economy is poised to return to pre-recession growth levels.

Career Fair Provides Access to Opportunities for Job Seekers

Representatives from 48 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 2014 Career Fair. The event, free to job seekers, was held March 27 in the LSC-Tomball Beckendorf Conference Center, attracted around 100 attendees and covered the full range of professional opportunities, including internships, externships, volunteerism, and part- and full-time employment opportunities. Comment cards left by attendees praised the event as “very well organized” and expressed appreciation for the various volunteers stationed around the event charged with providing directions and assistance. “The volunteers were excellent,” one attendee wrote.
Upcoming Events

Fall Registration
begins April 9

Spring Holiday
April 18-20

Inkling Release Party
April 22, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Room N-103

Student Music Recital
April 24, 2:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

A Night of Short Plays
April 24-26, 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Student Excellence Awards
April 30, 6:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

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