Student Success & Engagement

International Education Week

To celebrate International Education Week, LSC-Tomball hosted a series of events the week of November 14-17 to recognize the cultures of foreign lands. The week began with African drummers and dancing. The following day featured a visiting Indian dance troupe and authentic Indian cuisine. The cultures of Brazil and Japan were also highlighted during the week. At the closing ceremonies, faculty, staff, and students participated in the Peace Pole Dedication.

PTK Hosts Fall Induction

The Lone Star College-Tomball chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) inducted 67 new members on November 2 in the Performing Arts Center. Phi Theta Kappa strives to recognize the academic achievements of two-year college students and promote scholarship opportunities. Students who are invited to join must have and maintain a 3.5 grade-point-average.

Before taking their oath, the inductees lit the ceremonial candles symbolizing the light of knowledge, and were given a white rose symbolizing purity. History professor Steven Prewitt, Honors Program advisor, addressed the assembly and discussed censorship in the classroom.

Honors Program/PTK Expand Into New Office Space

The Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) have expanded into a new suite on the second floor of the South Hall, complete with a conference room for Honors Student Organization and PTK meetings, a student lounge, a classroom across the hall in which all Honors classes will be held, and offices for

Continued on Page 2


Dr. Prewitt and PTK advisor Dr. Bo Rollins. The new space will give both programs a much more visible presence on campus.

“The dedicated space will help reinforce the idea that honors students are part of something larger than themselves, and to remind them that they have support from faculty and their peers. It also suggests that the college values what they do,” says Dr. Prewitt.

All LSC-Tomball students can earn Honors credit by enrolling in an Honors course (there are three offered this spring) or by signing the Honors Contract. The Honors Contract allows a student to receive Honors credit for a non-Honors course by completing a research project that requires deep knowledge and understanding of the subject and a high level of critical thinking. Each Honors candidate then presents their research in a public forum. “Honors Presentation Day is the pinnacle of the semester for students engaged in honors education,” Dr. Prewitt says. “It gives the opportunity to show what interesting and sophisticated work they have done and allows family and friends to share in their accomplishments.”

To graduate with Honors at LSC-Tomball, students must complete a minimum of nine Honors hours.

Professors Present to Enthusiastic Audience

LSC-Tomball Developmental Studies Professors Donna Willingham and Latoya Hardman recently presented at the annual College Academic Support Programs Conference in Austin. Their presentation, which was titled “10 Alternatives to the Boring Class,” provided a variety of student engagement ideas. Latoya and Donna will be presenting for LSC-Tomball faculty during spring in-service week for those interested in ideas for getting and keeping students engaged.
Two Professors Named Teachers of the Month

Dr. Terra Ruppert and Rachel Whitten were named Teachers of the Month at the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce First Friday Luncheon held November 4 in the Beckendorf Conference Center. Dr. Ruppert has been the director of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at LSC-Tomball since the program began in 1997, and has been working in occupational therapy both as a clinician and as an educator for the past 29 years. Whitten has been instrumental in the Math Department’s innovative and unique uses of technology in the classroom, including teaching videos and Skype conference calls for her online students. Dr. Susan Karr was on hand to present the honorees with their awards.

New Faces

Cornelius Johnson

Cornelius Johnson has been named the Coordinator of LSC-Tomball’s Assistive Technology Lab. Originally from Seattle, Johnson earned his associate’s degree from Seattle Central Community College, his bachelor’s in Communications from the University of Washington, and his masters in Higher Education Administration from Indiana State University. He has over 13 years of student and academic affairs experience at a number of institutions, including UT-Dallas, U of H Downtown, and the University of Houston.

Johnson believes the Tomball Assistive Technology Lab will promote the success of individuals with disabilities through the use of computer and networking technologies to increase their independence, productivity, and participation in education and careers. The lab’s strength lies in its ability to enable students with disabilities to concentrate on learning, and provide a level of accessibility to instruction and resources already available to their “enabled” peers.

Mini-Grant Award Winners

Congratulations to this year’s LSC-Tomball mini-grant winners!

- Professors Alanna Tynes, left, and Doug Boyd
  Community Garden

- Professor Cheryl Bates
  Orchestrated Technology

- Robbie Richard Rogers
  S.W.A.T.S. (Strong Women Achieving Success)

- Professor Brandon Lowery
  Wetland Pier Project
Two New Officers Join Campus Police

LSC-Tomball welcomes two new officers to our campus police force, Sgt. Robert Newberry and Officer Jarod Tunstall.

Community Partnerships

Veterans Day

On November 12, the LSC-Tomball Academy of Lifelong Learning hosted a Veterans Day Celebration in the Performing Arts Center. The Call to Colors was presented by the Tomball High School Naval Junior ROTC. Texas State Senator Dan Patrick served as the Master of Ceremony and introduced the featured speakers which included veterans from World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and Iraq. Each shared recollections of their time in the service. The celebration closed with the singing of “God Bless America” and the playing of “Taps.” Veterans in the audience were invited to sign up afterward with the Daughters of the American Revolution to schedule a time during which they could have their recollections of military service recorded and preserved on video.

State Senator Dan Patrick speaking at the Veterans Day Celebration.

Martin Gutierrez

Some say that, in life, it’s all about attitude. Lone Star College-Tomball’s new Star of the Month Martin Gutierrez could not agree more. Currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree, Gutierrez cannot stress enough how important it is to be upbeat. It is one of the things he has enjoyed most about his experience at LSC-Tomball. “It has been flexible and positive,” he said.

Gutierrez, who hopes to transfer to the University of Houston, earn a bachelor’s degree, and eventually work as a translator in the medical field, has persevered through challenges that may have waylaid another individual. As a member of the TRiO Student Services Program, Gutierrez works with his personal advisor, not only to stay on track with his studies, but to remain active and engaged in all TRiO activities.

Continued on Page 5
OTA Hosts Open House

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program recently hosted an open house to showcase its new facilities in the Health Science Building. Representatives from area medical facilities, school districts and other institutions where OTA students complete their clinicals came to see the improved amenities and talk with recent graduates of the program. The new OTA lab reflects the holistic nature of the profession in that the facilities are constructed much like a home dwelling, allowing students to practice in a realistic setting.

249 Coalition

Business and community leaders from Harris, Montgomery, Grimes and Brazos Counties met at LSC-Tomball on November 3 to consider forming a coalition to deal with issues arising from growth in the SH249 corridor, including transportation and economic development. John Fishero, Vice President for Administrative Services at LSC-Tomball and chairman of the Mobility and Transportation Committee for the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce, encouraged leaders to start seeing corridor development between Houston and College Station as a probability, not a possibility. “This is much bigger than just a road, and this is much bigger than just a community,” Fishero said. “This is not a Tomball thing, and it’s not a Magnolia thing. It’s the whole corridor.”

The focus of the coalition is on regional planning and cooperation for development of the corridor from Houston to Bryan-College Station. The first organizational meeting for the 249 Corridor Coalition is expected to take place in January 2012.

Recent Events

Star of the Month

A first generation college student, Gutierrez has encouraged his mother to enroll in English for Speakers of other Languages classes to further her attempts to gain U.S. citizenship. Government and judicial policies interest him and he would very much like to serve on a jury someday to learn more about the constitutional process.

Having overcome financial, health, and academic issues, Gutierrez’s outlook and enthusiasm have rarely waivered. In addition to his studies, he also works part time at a local HVAC company. Committed first and foremost to completing his education, he serves as a working model for all those who have faced challenges in pursuit of a goal. His advice to college-bound students? “Never give up and be positive.”

Faculty Spotlight

thinking and to ultimately create positive change in the world. With this comes the responsibility and challenge to always strive towards becoming the best teacher I can be and to never stop being a student.
Transformations

Upcoming Events

• Holiday Fest
  Performing Arts Center, December 2
  6 p.m.

• Final Exam Week
  December 12-17

• Winter Holiday
  (Offices Closed)
  December 22 - January 4

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