In this Update
★ Student Success …… P. 1
★ Spotlights…………… P. 2
★ Accolades ………… P. 3
★ Recent Events……… P. 4
★ New Faces ………… P. 5
★ Community Partnerships ……… P. 6

Mission
Lone Star College System provides comprehensive educational opportunities and programs to enrich lives.

Star of the Month:
Hunter Simonsen—The Way of the Warrior

Imposing but mild, intense but soft-spoken, Hunter Simonsen is at the same time novice and veteran. The 27-year-old, first-year Lone Star College-Tomball student has been applying his military experience with great success to the pursuit of his career goal.

The oldest of four siblings, Hunter's first college experience was less than successful, his immature decisions and marginal performance providing insufficient return on his family's investment in him. So, it was off to Brazil for some very hands-on volunteer work before trading in his jeans for Army khakis and doing two tours in Afghanistan, leaving the service with sergeant's stripes.

Armed with the discipline he gained in the service (and lacked earlier in life) and a career goal born of his Brazil and Afghanistan experiences, Hunter's next stop was LSC-Tomball in the summer 2012 session. “I figured it was a good starting point to get back into an academic rhythm after an extended break.”

Deciding economics was the best means to achieving a career in international relations, Hunter tapped his Army discipline, applied it to his studies and, in so doing, has achieved impressive success, including membership in Phi Theta Kappa and participation in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) program.

As for Hunter's next stop, “I haven't decided where I'm transferring to, but I want to make the most of my academic career and get off to the best start,” though Columbia University and Texas A&M University are in consideration.

Regardless of the road he takes, Hunter knows it begins with a college education. “Going to a college is an important part of our life that enables us to expand our knowledge and, then, seek the way we think best to provide for ourselves and our families. More than that, we find out how we want to impact the world.”
November 12–15 was marked by the smells of shwarma, sushi, empanadas and cookies throughout the Commons as Lone Star College-Tomball Student Life hosted the annual celebration of International Education Week — a world-wide event (initiated jointly by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education) now celebrated in more than 100 countries. On Monday, after Dr. Susan Karr led the opening flag ceremony on the South West Lawn, professor Cliff Fox gave a presentation entitled “An Introduction to Egypt: 5,000 Years in 45 Minutes” as part of the Egypt Day celebration that included music, free henna tattoos, and food (shwarma and baklava). STARS student organization sponsored both Monday events. Tuesday, Anime Club and Japanese Program worked together to present kimono dancers, Japanese poetry readings, Japanese pop music performed by Kurenai and free sushi. Wednesday, the Diversity Club hosted Columbia Day, which featured a Columbian DJ and free empanadas. Wrapping up the celebration on Thursday, the Deutsch Klub celebrated with traditional German attire and food, Christmas karaoke and cookie decorating, and an appearance by kindly Santa Claus and his devilish counterpart, Krampus (punisher of naughty children).

Critical Thinking Pays iPad

Congratulations to Lone Star College-Tomball student Lori Ball, who won an iPad for participating in a critical thinking assessment during the fall 2012 semester. The assessment provided the Lone Star College Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee data with which to benchmark student performance on general learning outcomes. In order to encourage students to do their best on the assessment, the odds of winning the iPad were weighted so that the higher a student’s score, the greater the likelihood of winning the prize.

Spotlights

Faculty: Janie Filoteo—The Associate Professor of Oz

Some call it the “Aha” moment; others call it the “Light Bulb” moment. In the
case of Janie Filoteo, associate professor of Sociology, it was the “Wizard of Oz” moment (you know, the scene when the film changes from black-and-white to color). That’s how the seven-year LSC-Tomball veteran describes discovering sociology, when her world changed from black-and-white to color.

Originally a psychology major, Janie became “hooked” on sociology. Why the change? “I am completely biased as I don’t think there’s anything better than sociology. We get to study people, and people are absolutely fascinating! Not only do I get to academically study my favorite things (like reality TV), but I get to share my discipline with my students.”

Janie has genuine empathy for her students. A student herself not so long ago, she vividly remembers having a full plate, not to mention the responsibility to succeed. “I’m the first person in my family to go to college, and for me education helped give me a life that I never envisioned for myself as a child.”

Professionally, Janie derives her greatest satisfaction from creating Wizard of Oz moments for her students. “I can only hope that the students walk away learning a little more about our world and that I can get them thinking a little differently than when they came in.”

Indeed, her hopes were realized and her efforts recognized by students and peers this year with Faculty Excellence and National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) awards.

Personally, Janie’s greatest love (friends, family and loved ones aside) is animals. She and her husband have two adopted pets (a “hyper” puppy and a “chubby” kitty), and in her spare time she volunteers at the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

**Staff: Duy Nguyen—Building Roads to Success**

An old Vietnamese proverb says, “A day of travelling will bring a basket of learning.” For Lone Star College-Tomball Developmental Studies, English, Languages and Mathematics (DSELM) Division Operations Manager Duy Nguyen, the learning gained from a lifetime of travel has resulted in the knowledge she shares with students and coworkers daily.

Duy’s travels began in 1980 with her departure from Vietnam during a challenging time in the country’s history. Her first stop was Canada, where she started...
PSSA Employee of the Month

Janet Moore: Geek Goddess

On the Greek goddess scale, this month’s PSSA Employee of the Month, Janet Moore, falls somewhere between Athena (goddess of wisdom, heroic endeavor and reason) and Hestia (goddess of the hearth, home and cooking), for it’s her software wisdom that helps keep Lone Star College-Tomball a happy and functional home for faculty (and staff). In her capacity as C.O.T.E. professional development department trainer and faculty support, Janet evaluates all new software that is being considered for LSC-Tomball and provides one-on-one assistance in software and hardware use.

For the nine-year LSC-Tomball veteran (six years full time, three years part time), her job is a geek’s dream come true. “I was 31 years old and decided to go [to building a new life. By 2000, Duy was in Texas at the Lone Star College System office, where she served as the Lone Star College Foundation accountant. Two years later, she transferred to LSC-Tomball, where she has served as a division operations manager ever since.

Though much has changed in her life over the years, one thing has remained constant—her commitment to education. As a child in Vietnam, Duy’s father told her, “Things can be taken away…not education.” Today, she manifests that philosophy in her commitment to the students she serves. Every morning on her drive to work, Duy asks herself, “What can I do to help my students?”; similarly, on the drive home she asks, “What did I do to help my students?”

Last year, Duy’s travels took an ironic turn. Lone Star College System assigned her to go to Vietnam to help establish the crucial first phase of a partnership between LSCS and Ho Chi Minh City Vocational College (HCMCVC); specifically, she assisted HCMCVC’s efforts to create high-quality local programs (including Associate of Applied Science degrees) based on the needs of the multinational corporate employers in Vietnam.

In her spare time, the self-avowed “Number 1” Texans fan volunteers in the Cy Creek Band Booster Club (Duy’s daughter is a band member) and enjoys Cy Creek high school football.

Recent Events

Giving Back to the Community—Holiday Fest 2012

The Lone Star College-Tomball Beckendorf Conference Center and parking lot transformed into a fun, festive holiday scene on Friday, November 30, as approximately 3,500 community members joined LSC-Tomball in celebrating Holiday Fest 2012. As loving family and friends watched, children laughed and played their way through a variety of activities includ-
Veterans Day—A Day of Thanks and Remembering

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” Those words by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy were reflected in actions on the Lone Star College-Tomball campus November 8 in honor of Veterans Day. Throughout the day, the DMS screens across campus scrolled the names of LSC-Tomball veteran students as well as those belonging to loved ones of LSC-Tomball employees who served in the armed forces. And, in the Commons from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Patricia Seibert, student support specialist, served veterans pizza, lemonade and cookies on behalf of the LSC-Tomball Advising & Counseling department.

LSC-Tomball Lecture Series Instructs and Entertains

The third installment of the COTE (Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence)-sponsored Lone Star College-Tomball lecture series, “Alligator Hunters and Project Management Processes—Do the ‘Swamp People’ effectively use the domains of project management,” took a bite out of the misconceptions surrounding project management. Don R. James, adjunct professor of business, demonstrated how businesses from Wall Street to the Atchafalaya River Basin need sound project management to get their jobs done. His in-depth analysis of the project management process (from the initiating process, to the planning process, to the executing process, to the monitoring and controlling process, to the closing process) was as comprehensive as it was humorous, much to the delight of the audience. Additional series topics and dates can be found at LoneStar.edu/cote.

Students and Faculty Fill November with Music

The music flowed freely and plentifully in the Lone Star College-Tomball Performing Arts Center during the month of November. Under the direction of
Dr. Cheryl Bates, professor of music, three programs were performed free of charge for students, employees and the community. “Ethereal and Transcendent: The Beauty of Music” (November 8) featured LSC-Tomball faculty performing 350 years of music history, including compositions by Debussy, Salzedo, van Campen Kopprasch, Hahn, Gabrielli, Vieuxtemps and Poulenc; though mostly undiscovered by the general public, many of the compositions have been featured in dozens of films and television productions, including most recently Twilight, Head in the Clouds, and the BBC production of Vanity Fair. “Magnificent Music Montage” (November 14) showcased a variety of musical genres from traditional to contemporary and included works by Giovanni Palestrina, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Duke Ellington. “Stage Soundings–Students in Recital” (November 20) spotlighted some of LSC-Tomball’s most talented student musicians performing challenging works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Barber and Schmidt.

LSC-Tomball music student Aaliya Colen-Marshall is one of many students who performed at “Stage Soundings–Students in Recital.”

Community Partnerships

Candy Canes & Carols—47th Annual Tomball Holiday Parade

On Saturday, November 17, Lone Star College-Tomball Student Life and Phi Theta Kappa represented the college at the 47th Annual Tomball Holiday Parade. The theme for the parade this year was candy canes and Christmas carols. The LSC-Tomball Student Life students dressed as elves and danced down Main Street with their float titled after a quote from the movie Elf, “The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loudly for all to hear” while LSC-Tomball Phi Theta Kappans volunteered along the parade route. The students also gave out stickers promoting the college’s upcoming Holiday Fest to excited children lining the parade route.
First Friday Networking Luncheon

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce held its monthly First Friday Networking lunch in Lone Star College-Tomball’s Beckendorf Conference Center on Friday, November 2. The featured speaker this month was Harris County Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. Commissioner Cagle provided the audience with an update on the expansion of State Highway 249, the construction of State Highway 99 also known as the Grand Parkway, the expansion of Bordeaux Road, and his efforts to close sexually-oriented businesses on Farm to Market 1960.

Scenes from Holiday Fest 2012

Janet Moore
Continued from Page 4

Tomball] in 2000; I just loved technology, moved through here as a student, and decided that it was here that I wanted to work. I was very lucky. I love working with emerging technology. I love working with people; I love seeing when the light bulb clicks and they understand something,” said Janet.

And, her work is greatly appreciated. “[Janet] goes above and beyond the call of duty and does so with a smile. I find that she is willing to assist you no matter how many times she might have taught you the procedure that you are inquiring about,” said supporter and LSC-Tomball English instructor Ginger Fray.

The Ohio expat and mother of two spends her off hours enjoying her children and orbiting around the center of her universe, her one-year-old grandson.

Small Business of the Year
Continued from Page 6

on November 15. “Each of these business owners makes special contributions to the community, and we’re proud to be able to give these owners a moment in the spotlight through the annual awards recognition. They deserve it,” said Sal Mira, executive director of the LSCS SBDC.
Upcoming Events

Spring Classes Begin
January 14

Welcompalooza
January 14–17 in Room N-103

Emerging Artists Competition
January 26, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

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