Star of the Month:
Rama Hardy Gering—The Sweet Taste of Success

We’ve all heard the cliché, “When fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade.” For Lone Star College-Tomball student Rama Hardy Gering, this is no mere platitude; it’s the story of her life.

Born and raised in government-subsidized housing to a mother with a fifth grade education and a father in prison, the 48-year-old mother and grandmother left school at 16 to work full time. By her twenties, she became a mother, and for the next 18 years, parenting filled her life.

Inspired by her daughter’s college experience, Rama decided to go back to school to get her GED. That goal achieved, she decided to take a few college classes at LSC-Tomball “to see if I liked it.” Today, the full-time student is inspiring others. In spite of being stricken with multiple sclerosis, she has received two Student Excellence Awards for Leadership, graduated from the LSC Leadership Program, achieved three consecutive Presidential List for Academic Achievements honors, maintains a 4.0 GPA, and is currently vice president of leadership with Phi Theta Kappa.

Her goals are no less lofty than her achievements. Rama plans to receive her bachelor’s degree in communication from either University of Houston or Sam Houston State University, after which she plans on receiving a master’s degree in social work. “My long-term goal is to help hurting people heal, particularly to assist children of incarcerated parents.”

Nobility aside, Rama knows first-hand the pitfalls that confront such children and wants to show them they don’t have to be victims of their circumstances. “I want my family and peers to see that no matter how far down the scale they’ve gone or started from in life, it is never too late to recreate their life by overcoming the adversities through positive proactive steps.”

College Night—An Evening of “One-Stop Shopping”

On Tuesday, October 11, the Lone Star College-Tomball Student Center Commons was filled with great expectations as students and parents gathered to Continued on Page 2
Hats Off to “Noises Off!”

Acknowledged by theatre critics and fans as one of the funniest farces to ever come to the stage, the Lone Star College-Tomball Theatre Program’s staging of Michael Frayn’s “Noises Off!” kept the tradition alive and uproariously well. Drama professor Sherri White had high hopes for the October 25-27 production and she wasn’t disappointed, “The cast was excellent. It was a great time for everyone.” Indeed, the nine-member ensemble cast kept the Performing Arts Center audience laughing the entire evening, their timing and cohesiveness raising the mass confusion on stage to a riotous high.

November Election—Students Participating in the Process

The three recent U.S. Presidential debates offered Lone Star College-Tomball students the opportunity to learn more about the two main candidates and what their stances and records are on a variety of topics. To encourage student engagement in the political process, LSC-Tomball political science faculty sponsored a watch party for each of the three debates at the main campus. The three parties drew a total estimated crowd of 75 students.

OTA Halloween Carnival—A Festival for the Senses

On October 26, at the Lone Star College-Tomball Health Science Building, students of the LSC-Tomball Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program hosted the 2nd Annual Halloween Carnival for children with special needs. The goal of the carnival (an academic assignment for OTA students) was to provide an innovative learning opportunity where children with special needs and their families could come together and share a community experience. They participated in activities that were specifically designed to address gross motor skills, sensory issues, and perceptual challenges. The free event featured therapeutic dogs, a “sensory” maze, a witches room, a unique version of the Angry Birds game, and a life-sized Operation game. While the assignment is intensive, it is a labor of love, agreed OTA students Cristina Salazar and Melissa Lopez.

Fall Fest Fun Frolic

The students and employees at Lone Star College-Tomball got into the Halloween spirit at the 2012 Fall Fest on October 31. The free festival offered a
variety of food, entertainment and activities, including a rock wall, gyro chair, bubble rollers and Professional and Support Staff Association (PSSA) employee costume contest, won by Danielle Thornton of the Arts, Business, Behavioral Science and Social Science (ABBSSS) division wearing a fanciful unicorn costume. Sponsored by Student Life, the annual event allows students to have some holiday fun and, at the same time, learn more about the different clubs and departments on campus.

Accolades

Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library—Three (quiet) Cheers!

The American Library Association’s online version of its bimonthly magazine, American Libraries, spotlighted Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library as an example of a successful joint library venture. In an October 3, 2012 posting titled “Joint Libraries: Models That Work,” the authors described how two separate staffs from two distinct cultures merged and became a role model for other joint libraries. Speaking for LSC-Tomball Library Co-Director Pam Shafer and herself, Harris County Library Co-Director Deborah Sica attributed the library’s success to shared experience and vision. “What really works for us is that Pam has worked in public libraries in her past and I have worked in academic libraries in my past. We have a great complementary relationship which enables us to respect the mission and understand the specialized areas of requirement for our vast patron population… Our particular model creates a space for small children to see college students participating in higher education and college students to see adults participating in lifelong learning.”

Spotlights

Faculty: Bruce Zarosky—Body and Mind

Few men exemplify the principle of “a sound mind in a sound body” better than Bruce Zarosky, 23-year Lone Star College System veteran and Lone Star College-Tomball Professor/Chair of Kinesiology. His intense speech, keen thoughts and penetrating insights are every bit as honed as his sharp gaze and athletic build.

Kinesiology was not Bruce’s original career path. His were dreams of Friday night lights, of coaching high school football at his alma mater. During his

Continued on Page 4
journey to that dream, Bruce came to a crossroad. A scholarship offer at Baylor University in the field of banking forced him to make a choice: upon which field his future would play out. His love for sports and coaching now a passion, Bruce declined the scholarship and chose that passion, an approach to life coaching incorporating body and mind, the cornerstone of his Fitness for Life classes.

That passion was increased by the alarming condition of today’s youth. “As we hear news outlets informing us that the current generation will not live as long as their parents, that one in four young people are so obese that they could not qualify to serve in our armed forces, and that over a third of all Americans are obese, I am very concerned…”

Coupled with this physical softness, Bruce also sees a spiritual softness, a lack of persistence, which affects both physical and mental wellness. “In many cases, [students] ‘sell themselves short’ of their true potential… I enjoy helping them to develop those habits that will assist them to be successful and responsible contributors to their families, their community and society while developing personality qualities of accountability… If we can do this, we have truly succeeded in our responsibility as teachers.”

Indeed, Bruce’s commitment to teaching has been recognized, receiving the Faculty Excellence Award three times, once during his 13 years at LSC-North Harris and twice during his 10 years at LSC-Tomball.

### Staff: Monique Lee—Financial Aid Fairy Godmother

It’s said that all who have achieved great things have been great dreamers. Yet, without the people who help those dreams come true, they remain imaginings and flights of fancy. Monique Lee knows. In her capacity as Specialist IV in the Financial Aid division, she not only realized her own dream but regularly helps make the dreams of others a reality.

Monique came to Lone Star College-Tomball in the spring of 2009 to pursue a career in surgical technology. Her goal was to get a degree that would help her obtain a dream job that she would not only love but allow her to earn enough to support her two teenage daughters. While completing courses towards her degree, Monique got a job at Lone Star College as a part-time worker in Admissions. Six months later, she was asked to join the Financial Aid division and found that she loved helping students find the means to achieve their dreams of getting a college degree, just like she was doing.

The dream job came when she landed her current position in February of 2012. In that capacity, Monique advises students regarding financial aid processes which help them with grants and scholarships, and is currently in charge of processing Hazlewood waivers for Texas veterans and their dependents. In fact, Monique worked with OTS employee Jeremiah Allison to create a template for reporting Hazlewood hours that was accepted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and recommended for use by not only Lone Star College System, but other educational institutions throughout the state.
Dr. Richard Carpenter—Chancellor’s Forum

It was a rainy October 16 afternoon, but enthusiasm for Lone Star College System Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter’s employee forum was anything but dampened. After a brief introduction by Lone Star College-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr, Dr. Carpenter took the podium in the Beckendorf Conference Center and spent the next 60-plus minutes bringing the audience up to speed on events at LSCS since the last forum and fielding questions. Dr. Carpenter commended the audience on their ability to “do more with less” over the last two years and acknowledged the hardships that were involved in doing so. He said the coming legislative session would present new challenges for LSCS, but a shift from formula funding to “student success” funding could mitigate some of the effects of past and upcoming austerity measures. In the Q&A portion of the forum, the questions were far ranging:

• The proposed Creekside center
• Assessment of higher level administrators
• Alignment of services throughout the system
• Shared governance
• HR system uniformity
• LSCS international partnerships

Dr. Carpenter thanked the audience for their interest and openness, and promised that future forums would be more frequent.

Scarlett Scamper K-9 Fun Run

The field was as diverse as it was intimidating—spooky Salukis and terrifying Terriers, massive Mastiffs and petite Peekapoos, speedy Spaniels and laborious Labradors—and the competition was fierce at the 25th Annual “Scarlett Scamper” K-9 Fun Run. Sponsored by VCA Tomball Veterinary Hospital and Lone

Continued on Page 6
Star College-Tomball Veterinary Technology Student Organization (VTSO), the October 27 canine costume contest and one-mile run was broken down into four weight groups: 1–20 pounds, 21–40 pounds, 41–60 pounds, and 61+ pounds. Twenty-three runners participated, with trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each weight category as well as one overall Grand Champion, won by Luna (and her owner, Angeline Brewer) with a winning time of 7 minutes 18 seconds. The “Best Costumed” dog in each group also won a trophy. In 2008, the VTSO decided to add “Scarlett Scamper” to the event’s name in honor of the late, six-time canine winner, Scarlett Younger.

Emergency Response Training—Preparing for the Unexpected

On October 22, over 100 Lone Star College-Tomball employees from a wide variety of departments and disciplines gathered in the Beckendorf Conference Center to complete emergency response training provided by the Lone Star College System’s (LSCS) Office of Emergency Management. LSCS’s chief emergency management officer Dr. Denise Walker and Lone Star College-Kingwood police captain Daniel Hatfield lead the group through a series of topics, videos, and table-top exercises. Attendees commented during the debriefing that they learned a lot of key skills in order to ensure the safety and security of LSC-Tomball students, visitors and employees during the exercise.

The October 22 exercise and other similar training sessions are part of the college’s continuing efforts to maintain a safe campus environment for everyone.

Inkling Creative Writing Club Hosts 2012 Texas Poet Laureate

With folksy charm, wry wit and a pronounced Lone Star sensibility, 2012 Texas Poet Laureate Jan Seale read a sampling of her poetry, prose and essays to a group of more than 50 Lone Star College-Tomball students and fans Thursday, October 25, 2012 in N-103. For 90 minutes, Seale (a seven-time PEN-Literary-Award-winner and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship) delighted her audience with poems about simplicity, tolerance and gentility (using delightful metaphors such as waffles, opossums and mosquitoes). Lessons on writing poetry, and life in general, were woven throughout the program, which ended in a Q&A session with the appreciative crowd. This was not the first time the Inkling Creative Writing Club brought a Texas Poet Laureate onto the LSC-Tomball campus. Last year, they hosted 2011 honoree Dave Parsons.

Disability Awareness Day
LSC-Tomball is Accessible to All

“Individuals with disabilities often have dreams that appear elusive or impossible to achieve, but those dreams are the first essential ingredient to success. It is our goal here today to increase awareness of the issues and challenges that face those with disabilities and to encourage communication, support and understanding so that those individuals are empowered to embrace their dreams,” read the opening program paragraph by Lone Star College-Tomball’s Carolyn DeFlanders, ADA coordinator for students with disabilities. The Annual Disability Awareness Day, held October 17, was an opportunity for local high school and college students and employees, as well as the community, to learn more about individuals with disabilities and what programs LSC-Tomball offers to ensure that students with disabilities can succeed in college.

The day, sponsored by LSC-
Transformations

LSC-Tomball Lecture Series Reels with Emotion

The second installment of the COTE (Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence)-sponsored Lone Star College-Tomball Lecture series, “The Use of Music as Emotion in Film,” hit a responsive note with attendees. Dr. Cheryl Bates, professor of music and music program director, presented a fascinating overview of the role of music in film, its history and functions. She discussed how music is composed or selected to elicit a specific emotion response; how the music accompanying a scene can affect its meaning, significance and perceived emotion; and how music helps provide a sense of reality to the story.

Community Partnerships

First Friday Networking Luncheon—A Feast of Honors

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) held its First Friday Networking Luncheon at Lone Star College-Tomball on Friday, October 5 in the Beckendorf Conference Center. During the event, area representatives recognized people and businesses that are currently making a difference in our area. The Tomball Police Department honored Officer Ted Keen as Public Safety Officer of the Month, and Rosehill Elementary School honored Amanda Epperson as Teacher of the Month. The GTACC recognized State Representative Allen Fletcher for pursuing transportation funding for the Greater Tomball area, and the Tomball High School Cheer Team also recognized Representative Fletcher for his support of their Cougar Classic Golf Tournament fundraiser. GTACC President Bruce Hillegeist then gave a presentation recognizing Tomball’s top 10 newsmakers.

Lone Star College-Tomball Education Partnership Council (EPC)

On October 31, the LSC-Tomball EPC met in the college’s Executive Conference Room to discuss its efforts to date as well as its plans for the 2012-2013 academic year, including participation in Region 6 Educational Service Center’s Academic Vertical Alignment Training and Renewal (AVATAR) project, the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) local business owner survey, and Tomball Elementary School “college knowledge” activities. Attending were Darlene Blair (assistant superintendent, Tomball ISD), Carol Hadley (CEO, Computer Explorers), Anita Hebert (assistant superintendent, Magnolia ISD), Bruce Hillegeist (president, Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce), Carol Houston (principal, Tomball Memorial High School), Jamie Posey (Educational Partnerships and P16 Initiatives, Lone Star College System), Marshall Priest (dean of academic affairs, Rosehill Christian School) and LSC-Tomball’s Ann Johnson, Susan Karr, Lisa Morales and Lee Ann Nutt.

Jeanne Walker

Continued from Page 4

with the things she is asked to do; although, she generally does things before being asked. She is conscientious and dependable. She always has a positive attitude and is willing to help in any way possible. Beyond that, she is respectful and compassionate to students, faculty and staff. She has innovative ideas that help promote our program as well as our division. It is truly a pleasure to get to work with such an outstanding member of LSC-Tomball!”

In her free time, Jeanne enjoys riding horses. She’s been actively competing in Dressage for the past five years. “On TV, when you see people riding horses in top hats and jackets with tails, that is what I do. I dance on horses,” she explained. Jeanne owns one horse, an American Warmblood, named Comet. Jeanne and her husband, David, live in Pinehurst, Texas. They have one daughter.

Disability Awareness

Continued from Page 6

Tomball’s Counseling Services, the Assistive Technology Lab, and the Recruitment, Outreach and Diversity Initiative, had two different programs depending on if the attendee was a student or if the attendee was a school employee or interested community member. But both groups came together at lunch to watch The Dancing Wheels Company wheelchair ballet. Through their beautiful performance, the group demonstrated that dance is an expression of the human spirit and that spirit is best expressed by people of all abilities.
Upcoming Events

International Education Week
November 12–15
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Room N103

Thanksgiving Holidays
November 22–25

Holiday Fest
November 30
5:00–9:00 p.m.
Multiple locations on the LSC-Tomball campus

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