Star of the Month:
Homero Lopez—Out of the Darkness

Darkness is not only an absence of light; it can apply equally to a situation or a lack of enlightenment. In the case of Homero Lopez, Lone Star College-Tomball Star of the Month, both are poignantly applicable.

With nothing more than a sixth-grade education in his native Mexico, his father suffered a stroke and any visions of a future of opportunities were plunged into darkness as Homero’s focus became working to help provide for his parents, three brothers and four sisters. That experience provided him the tenacity, determination and fortitude to grow, explore and seek enlightenment in a world of possibilities.

Arriving in the U.S. when he was 17, Homero took some English as a second language (ESL) classes, went to work in the liquid petroleum gas industry, and, not long after, got married. It was his experience working in liquid petroleum gas and his wife’s urgings that motivated Homero to pursue and receive his GED (making him the first in his family to do so). Still, the decision was not an easy one. “I was totally in the state of embarrassment due to my age. Once I got over thinking I was too old, I found others that were my age and older,” Homero recalled.

His confidence bolstered by his GED, Homero enrolled in the LSC-Tomball AURORA project, where he began preparing himself to pursue a career in a field that has always intrigued him—science. Even before he earned his GED, Homero was fascinated with the subject. Today, he dreams of going to Texas A&M to pursue a science degree. “I always want to know more … In class, my ears and eyes are wide open so I can soak up all the information,” he explained.

As he continues learning, Homero is proud to be teaching—teaching his teenage son and daughter the importance of hard work, education and never letting anything get in the way of your dreams.

Homero’s advice to would-be late-bloomers: “Proceed with your education … do not let it slip by in your early age.”
New Officers Named to LSC-Tomball Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA), the student voice in the academic, cultural and social affairs of Lone Star College-Tomball, released the names of its officers for school year 2013–2014:

President: Mark Kinyanjui
Vice President: Rachel Bradshaw
Secretary: Gregory Rayne
Treasurer: Ann Nguyen
Senators: Jimmy Boutte, Patrick Caldwell, Christopher Crutch

Under the guidance of SGA advisors Patrick Gilbert, political science instructor, and Shannon MaRino, student life program manager, SGA not only conveys student recommendations and sentiments to LSC-Tomball faculty, staff and administration, it also offers a variety of ways for students to become actively involved in the LSC-Tomball community, such as serving on a committee or helping create a new program.

Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Lone Star College-Tomball's five-star Phi Theta Kappa honor society welcomed 41 students into the society during their fall induction held in the Performing Arts Center on October 24. The evening began with a performance by the LSC-Tomball jazz band, followed by opening remarks by Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisor Renato Davia and LSC-Tomball President Dr. Susan Karr. Briana Roberts, Phi Theta Kappa Texas Region District IV vice president and LSC-Kingwood student, gave the keynote address for the evening, stressing the importance of competition and perseverance. Congratulations to the new inductees and their families.

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

The Lone Star College-Tomball Student Commons was filled with great expectations the evening of October 3 as students and parents gathered to meet with college and university representatives to plan the next step on their education odyssey. For two hours, local college and high school students had the opportunity to spend time with representatives and discuss issues of interest includ-
ing admissions requirements, programs being offered, and other information to help students choose the right college or university. The annual event—presented by the LSC-Tomball Advising & Counseling Office and hosted by the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO)—attracted more than 900 parents and students from LSC-Tomball and local high schools to meet with representatives of 87 universities, colleges and programs from across the country.

Students and the Community Benefit from Service-Learning

Over academic year 2012–2013, Lone Star College-Tomball service-learning students logged more than 21,000 hours of service to the community, a value of more than $491,000 according to the Independent Sector (a national coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs). Service-learning is a teaching method that combines classroom learning with meaningful community service and emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while engendering a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility. Because this teaching method is effective for nearly any discipline, faculty from around the college practice service-learning including Debra Parish, behavioral science chair and professor of psychology; Gerry Tsoi, professor of computer information technology; Carlos Aguilar, professor of graphic arts technology; Brandon Lowery, professor of biology; Stephanie Johnston, professor of occupational therapy assistant; and Dr. Jackie Thomas, assistant professor of education. "Our faculty understands the need for practical experience as a part of the learning process. We emphasize connection and involvement here at LSC-Tomball, and the proof is our continued practice of service-learning," said Clark Friesen, LSC-Tomball professor of speech communication, and faculty service-learning coordinator.

Continued from Page 2

William Lee—Texas A&M Bound

Being accepted to Texas A&M is an accomplishment; being accepted at age 35 after four years in the U.S. Marine Corps—that’s a triumph. However, for Lone Star College-Tomball student William Lee, the road to the Galveston maritime systems engineering program was neither short (two-and-a-half years) nor easy (long days in the tutoring lab).

After his time in the USMC and a few years working in the correctional industry, William knew he had to do something that involved the ocean, so he enrolled at an underwater welding school. Since it would be several months before the next session began, William asked the counselor if there were classes he should take in the interim, and the counselor advised brushing up his math skills.

Unfortunately, William didn’t score well enough on the math entrance exam to take the classes he needed, so he had to start over.

Continued on Page 9
LSC-Tomball Faculty Take Part in New Online Teaching Certification Program Rollout

Sixteen Lone Star College-Tomball faculty members are taking part in the October 15 rollout of Lone Star College System’s new online teaching certification program. They include:

Instructors:
Claudia Davis
Dr. Janie Filoteo

Participants:
Tomoko Baker
Richard Becker
Renato Davia
Nateli Fudge
Caroline Jamroz
Dr. Margaret Jelinek-Lewis
Jaimee Kastler

Bhaskar Kavthekar
Pat Lyon
Gregory McHaney
Ivor Mitchell
Victor Moussoki
Dr. Reyna Sirias-Ortiz
Dr. Sharon Worley

Previous online teaching certifications were self-directed; faculty worked through a module and completed a quiz at the end. The new certification process consists of a six-week online course that is facilitated by a faculty mentor (an experienced online instructor). Course participants take part in discussions and create components for their future online course with the guidance of their faculty mentors.

LSC-Tomball College Relations Department Recognized by NCMPR

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) awarded Lone Star College-Tomball three District 4 Medallion Awards at its regional conference held September 29–October 2 in Lubbock, Texas. District 4 represents community and junior college marketing and public relations professionals from a six-state region, including Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. The categories and awards were:

- Newsletter—Silver Medallion: "Transformations"
- Promotion Campaign for a Special Event—Silver Medallion: 2012 Holiday Fest Advertising Campaign
- College Annual Report, Division B—Bronze Medallion: 2012–2013 Report to the Community

Congratulations, Nicole Finkbeiner, Michael Mayfield, Sandra Moye, Jennifer Richardson, Patricia Wiggin and David Caoin.
Spotlights

John Burns—A Riddle, Wrapped in a Mystery, Inside an Enigma

The confidence, charisma and passion of John Burns, Lone Star College-Tomball professor, are perfect for someone teaching business management, principles and ethics. Who knew they were also perfect for a 29-year career with the U.S. Customs Service?

It would be easy to get lost recounting John’s law enforcement experience—money laundering and narcotics interdiction group supervisor; acting customs attaché for The Hague, Netherlands; organized crime drug enforcement group manager—but his civilian story is equally interesting.

Shortly after “retiring” in 1999, John started teaching at LSC-Tomball as an adjunct and has never looked back. “I enjoy teaching and the interaction with students…I like to hear their opinion and take on what we are discussing,” he said.

John also enjoys being involved. At work, he’s LSC-Tomball’s management/business representative to the Lone Star College System curriculum team and workforce committees, an Educational Programs Council (EPC) representative for LSC-Tomball, and a business department faculty mentor at LSC-Tomball. At home, the husband of 43 years and father of two enjoys time with his family, service to his church, and reading. At “play,” John still keeps his fingers in law enforcement, traveling all over the world as a staff instructor for the U.S. State Department.

Rita Ray—A Full Plate, a Helping Hand and a Lot of Love

There are certain people in life that can’t help but make you happy: one of those is Rita Ray. While her position as workforce program manager at Lone Star College-Tomball keeps her very busy, she is always smiling and spreading a sense of happiness around her.

Rita’s responsibilities include compiling student performance data; assisting with program reviews and annual report cards; hiring, training, supervising and evaluating part-time advisors; ensuring individual student needs are met; and helping administer

PSSA Employee of the Month

Eleas Edling

Working in the human resources department takes someone with a passion for identifying problems and finding solutions; someone who is professional, dedicated and compassionate; someone like this month’s PSSA Employee of the Month, Eleas Edling, Lone Star College-Tomball human resources specialist IV and Staff Fellow.

Even when she worked in the LSC-Tomball financial aid department as a work-study employee in 2000, Eleas was helping people. After receiving her Associate of Arts degree, she spent time in the private sector, only to find she missed the family atmosphere of LSC-Tomball. So, in 2010, Eleas came home.

“I love the people I work with. I’m always here for my coworkers to help them with any problem or situation they may have,

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 9
Continued from Page 5

Perkins grants. If that’s not enough, she’s also involved with Workforce Council, Educational Programs Council, and the Talent Acquisition Council, as well as volunteering at numerous LSC-Tomball events.

And, she couldn’t be happier. “I love working with my deans, faculty, staff and students…I love the sense of responsibility, gratitude and accomplishment I feel when students that I’ve helped get workforce degrees and certificates that lead them to a career or job,” Rita said proudly.

In her spare time, the married (40 years) mother of two adult children loves outdoor recreation, playing with her three grandchildren, and spending time with family and friends.

Recent Events

LSC-Tomball Emergency Preparedness Training

On October 8, Lone Star College-Tomball Police Captain Mark Pemberton held a training session on emergency preparedness for LSC-Tomball employees. Captain Pemberton began the session with a general discussion on personal responsibility and preparedness, and went on to talk about the main things employees may be asked to do in the case of an emergency: evacuate, shelter in place, and lockdown during different events and why these actions are important. Captain Pemberton also discussed active shooter scenarios, and closed with a discussion on evacuating people who may require special assistance.

LSC-Tomball “Disability Day” Program Celebrates Different Abilities

On October 23, Lone Star College-Tomball hosted its 9th Annual Disability Awareness Day, a day of exploration, education and celebration of those differences with students, employees and community members. For the first half of the program, high school students received a tour of the campus and were introduced to the many ways LSC-Tomball supports its students with disabilities while college and high school personnel and community members learned how higher education is striving to help ensure the future success of individuals with special needs. For the second half of the program, all attendees were invited to participate in a free interactive presentation with nationally recognized advocate Susan Moreno. Moreno spoke on dealing with autism.

Continued on Page 7
treated to a talent show — “Trevor’s Howling Showcase” — featuring the art, music and comedy of LSC-Tomball students with disabilities, traditional students, and employees. Following the show, instructors and community members met with vendors serving the special-needs community before reconvening for an additional presentation and breakout sessions.

**Door Decorating Contest a Huge Success**

As part of Lone Star College-Tomball’s 25th anniversary celebration, departments throughout the campus held a door-decorating contest promoting LSC-Tomball spirit. Congratulations to the Health Science Building display (created by Surgical Technology, Pharmacy Technology, and Occupational Therapy) for taking top honors; and, thanks to the judges—Jen Rocky-Burns, owner of Frosted Bakery; Rosalie Dillon, City of Tomball marketing department; and Mitzie Faulkner, Higginbotham Staffing career counselor—for their efforts.

**Oktoberfest Comes to LSC-Tomball**

Room N-103 was transformed into a patch of Germany as the Lone Star College-Tomball Office of Student Life and the LSC-Tomball German Club hosted an Oktoberfest celebration on October 14. Attendees were treated to some authentic German food (bratwurst, strudel and pretzels), popcorn and cotton candy, polka dancing, games and a root beer drinking contest. There were even lederhosen- and dirndl-clad students kicking-up their heels to the crowd’s delight.
Community Partnerships

LSC-Tomball “Days of Service” a Success

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, over 150 students and employees volunteered to go out into the community for two invigorating Days of Service on October 2 and 3. This first-time event was held at various locations around the area and demonstrated LSC-Tomball’s commitment to being an integral part of the community. Students and employees worked together to paint cottages at Boys and Girls Country in Hockley, build and clean houses with Habitat for Humanity, and refurbish animal cages and kennels at Tomball’s Abandoned Animal Rescue. On campus, students assisted with Story Time in the LSC-Tomball Community Library and helped Eco Club with their twice-yearly Nature Trail clean up. Volunteers also partnered with Harris County by weeding flower beds and picking up trash in Burroughs and Spring Creek county parks.

Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce First Friday Luncheon

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce held its monthly First Friday Networking Luncheon in Lone Star College-Tomball’s Beckendorf Conference Center on October 4. In lieu of their usual keynote address, the chamber encouraged attendees to network with one another by finding out who had lived in Tomball the greatest number of years and which business had been in business the longest.

Business Success Seminar Series: Fulfillment by Amazon

Lone Star College’s Small Business Development Center (in conjunction with Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library; Greater Tomball Area, Greater Magnolia, Magnolia Parkway and Houston Northwest chambers of commerce; and the Tomball Economic Development Corporation) held the second of its three-part Business Success Seminar series October 4 in the Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library. “Fulfillment by Amazon,” presented by

Continued on Page 9
Continued from Page 8

Daniel Kainer, director of the LSC Biotechnology Institute at Lone Star College-Montgomery and small-business owner, covered the variety of fulfillment services offered by Amazon, the strengths and weaknesses of those fulfillment services compared to those offered by eBay, and the joys and perils of retail e-commerce.

Transformations

Continued from Page 3

William Lee

After being told by his veteran’s advisor that taking 12 credits would qualify him for G.I. Bill education benefits, William decided to take all the classes available to get him to the math classes he wanted. Easier decided than done, William spent countless hours in the tutoring lab to get him where he is today. “The tutoring lab was my second home … [it] helped a lot, it really did,” he shared.

William also credits TRiO and the “top notch” instructors at LSC-Tomball for helping him achieve his success. “You can tell that they care; you can tell that they care what they’re doing,” he said.

PSSA Employee of the Month

Continued from Page 5

and in return they give me smiles for helping them. It's like a family around here,” she said with a smile.

And her peers love working with her. “I have found Eleas to be an invaluable source of advice. She is professional but understanding…an excellent listener, and quick to help whenever possible,” said Gail Jolley, assistive technology coordinator I.

Away from work, Eleas enjoys spending time with her husband of seven years and her five-year-old son, crafting, traveling and socializing with friends and family.
Upcoming Events

Art Faculty Exhibition
Through December 3, Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Art Gallery

Transfer Fair
November 19, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Commons

LSC-Tomball 25th Anniversary Founder’s Day Event
November 19, 2:00 p.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center

Thanksgiving—CLOSED
November 28–30

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