Student Success & Engagement
Alumus a “Picture” of Success

For many, home is where you hang your hat; for Lone Star College-Tomball alumnus Matthew Evans Golden, it is also where you hang your photos. Works by the photographer were on display in a solo show at the Beckendorf Conference Center art gallery in September and through October 12.

Selections from Golden’s photographic project Sub-Topia were featured, and reflected his interest in urban sprawl. “The methods used to settle the new frontier of virgin land found on the outskirts of existing development mark and give identity to that landscape,” he said.

A graduate of LSC-Tomball eight years ago, Golden received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Texas State University at San Marcos and a Master of Fine Arts degree from University of North Texas. Over the ensuing years, his photographs have been exhibited at numerous venues, including Texas State University, University of North Texas, and Rockport Center for the Arts.

Golden is currently teaching photography in the Dallas area and working on a grant project at the prestigious Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Ft. Worth.

Accolades
Christine “Kristie” Bradford – Rock Star

In recognition of her work, the Geological Society of America (GSA) invited Lone Star College-Tomball associate professor of physical and historical geology Kristie Bradford to give an oral presentation of her abstract “The Benefits and Challenges of Including Students with Physical Disabilities in Introductory Geology Courses at Two-Year Colleges” at its 2012 Annual Meeting November 4–7 in Charlotte, North Carolina. An achievement to

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June Pinard – Pure Gold

What can you say about June Pinard – Lone Star College-Tomball Continuing Education Certified Nurse Aid (CNA) program director and Electrocardiography (EKG) course instructor – that the fact she’s celebrating her 50th anniversary in nursing doesn’t already say? Fifty years of cushioning patients’ sorrows and celebrating their joys, of teaching skills and passing on wisdom, of never stopping learning or caring, any one of these accomplishments could be considered a lifetime achievement in itself, but together they don’t begin to do justice to this nurse’s amazing career. The daughter of a nurse, the sister of a nurse, and the mother of a nurse, June began teaching at LSC-Tomball in 2007 after stops along the way as teacher, dean and head administrator at institutions and hospitals across the country. She gets her greatest fulfillment from not just creating certified nursing assistants but from bringing out the best in them, academically be sure, and a much appreciated nod from her peers, but Kristie doesn’t consider what she does as work; she sees it as a personal indulgence. For Kristie, geology is about collecting information, about learning fascinating things, about cool and practical stuff; teaching it, and she even gets to “tell stories.” She feels that if she can transcend the limitations of the classroom, make the “field” accessible to all students, and overcome students’ personal encumbrances to learning (such as physical disabilities and “math anxiety”), she can open their eyes to the world beneath their feet and their ears to the stories every rock has to tell.

Earl Staley – Professor of Fine Arts and Painter

Earl Staley has worked at Lone Star College-Tomball for 21 years. His paintings have been exhibited in numerous museums, including the Whitney Museum (New York), the Hirschhorn Museum (Washington D.C.) and the Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and San Francisco museums of fine art. He can also be seen in public collections, including Chase Manhattan Bank, New York and the Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas. The artist and teacher with more than 50 years of experience holds Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees, and is the recipient of three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as the Rome Prize in Painting from the American Academy in Rome, Italy. Locally, Earl’s works can be seen in The New Arts Gallery in Houston. Additionally, his works are currently in a show entitled “Texas Mysticism” at the St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, Scanlan Gallery in Austin, Texas. October 5 – November 11, he is showing collages at Les Yeux du Monde Gallery in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lisa Torres

Some people are daunted by their detractors; others try twice as hard to prove them wrong. Just ask Lisa Torres; the 21-year-old Lone Star College-Tomball student has harnessed the negative energy of others and used it to power her ambitions.

A Tomball local, Lisa has had her eye on the prize for some time, and she knew that the only way she would gain it was by going to college, despite the odds against her. “It’s important for me to receive a college education because neither of my parents finished high school, and I want to have it better than what I came from. It’s important to me to have a degree because of everyone who told me that I’d be nothing—I want to prove myself to them and to me.”

In Lisa’s case, the “prize” is a degree in early childhood education. She started attending LSC-Tomball the fall semester of 2010 and is on track to graduate in the spring of 2013, at which time she plans to finish her Continued on Page 7

Star of the Month

Lisa Torres

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Nicole Finkbeiner – Singled Out for Community Leadership

Lone Star College-Tomball Executive Director of College Relations Nicole Finkbeiner has been accepted into the 2012-2013 class of Leadership North Houston (LNH). This year’s class began in late August with an orientation followed by a two-day retreat/program that focuses on learning about key issues facing the community, developing relationships with other influential leaders in the Houston area, making a difference in the future of his/her community, emerging as a leader rather than a follower, and developing an increased knowledge of leadership styles to better serve his/her current organizations. The retreat is then followed by a series of monthly sessions. Participants must be nominated by LNH (a partnership of several area chambers of commerce and the Lone Star College System), LHN alumni, or the LNH Alumni Association Board of Directors, a rigorous process that adds to the prestige of the process. Acknowledging the significance of her nomination, Nicole said, “I’d like to thank Ray Laughter, vice chancellor for external affairs, for nominating me for the program and Dr. Susan Karr, president of LSC-Tomball, for writing a recommendation letter for me.”

Spotlights

Faculty: Reyna Sirias – Ortiz - Professor of the Improbable

If anyone personifies the adage “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey,” it’s Reyna Sirias-Ortiz, former Nicaraguan aeronautical dispatcher/flight planner and full-time Lone Star College-Tomball Spanish professor. Her journey from Nicaragua to Tomball was as improbable as it was successful.

Prior to coming to the U.S. in 1987 (and ultimately earning her M.A. from Rice University and her Ph.D. in education from the University of Pennsylvania), Reyna earned a degree in aeronautics in Nicaragua. Times being what they were, she left aeronautics and earned a bachelor’s degree in education while teaching foreign reporters and diplomats Spanish as a second language.

A 10-year veteran of LSC-Tomball, Reyna does not see teaching Spanish as

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work. “If you love what you’re doing, it’s not work.” She takes delight in sharing her language, as well as enlightening students on the complexities of Hispanic culture. Reyna feels learning about other cultures has the beneficial side-effect of learning about yourself as a human being.

Ironically, despite all she’s achieved, Reyna says her greatest accomplishment is growing up technologically. “I never touched a computer until I came to the U.S., and now I’m holding online discussion groups with my students.”

Among her many off-campus activities, Reyna is very involved with Freedom House, an independent watchdog organization dedicated to the expansion of freedom around the world. Specifically, she is committed to rescuing teenage girls kidnapped in the U.S. and sold into sex trafficking.

**Staff: Sharon Jones – A Case of Chance or Destiny?**

Sharon is responsible for making sure LSC-Tomball offers leisure and workforce courses that are relevant to the community’s families and businesses. “We connect the community to our campus through courses that reach everyone from youth to senior citizens.”

A board member of the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer with the organization on behalf of LSC-Tomball, Sharon is also the Southeast Regional Representative on the board of the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education.

Despite her busy schedule and full workload (or the reason for them), Sharon is still passionate about what she does. “I love that the success students achieve in continuing education often leads to the pursuit of new, higher goals. Every day, continuing education helps LSC-Tomball open doors for students to a better job, a bigger career, an opportunity to pursue a degree, new and interesting hobbies, new friendships and business networks.”

She sees examples of her success throughout the community, coming across former continuing education students who are working and doing well, but it’s seeing her students working in hospitals, saving lives, that really makes it all worthwhile. “It doesn't get better than that.”
PSSA Employee of the Month:
Deena Donaho – Helpful and Dedicated

There is virtually no one in the Arts, Business, Behavioral Sciences and Social Sciences (ABBSSS) Department who hasn’t benefited from the work of Deena Donaho, the Professional and Support Staff Association Employee of the Month. “[Deena] is an encourager and motivator, and this is evident as she works hard as a co-leader of the Staff Fellows cohort,” said Amanda Driskill, Developmental Studies, English, Languages & Mathematics (DSELM) division assistant.

As the division coordinator, Deena is responsible for working with faculty and department chairs on academic schedule building; specifically, it is she who takes the myriad of classes offered each semester by the division and artfully arranges them in such a way as to work for both the faculty and the students. “The best part of my job is working with people, problem-solving; I really enjoy the challenge.” And after eight years at LSC-Tomball (six years ago she was promoted from division assistant to her current position), she has solved more than her share of problems. Deena and her husband live in Magnolia, where on her “off” hours she problem-solves for her three children.

Recent Events

Activities Mart Draws Record Participation

September 12–13 (from 11 a.m.–1:00 p.m.), the fall 2012 Activity Mart presented new and returning Lone Star College-Tomball students with a wealth of opportunities to become involved in the college community beyond their classroom activities. More than 30 student organizations — representing an eclectic variety of interests as diverse as the arts, sports, academics, technology and social action — filled the Student Commons with creative and energetic outlets for students’ academic, career, cultural and recreational interests and needs. A record number of organizations and students participated in the Office of Student Life event, which was highlighted by onsite activities, giveaways, pizza and ice cream.

College Work-Study Job Fair a Thumbs-Up for Students and Departments

The Lone Star College-Tomball Financial Aid Department organized and hosted its very first College Work-Study Job Fair on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 from 12–1 p.m. in Room N-103. The event was a first for the department, and the fact that it was a success was a testament to the efforts of all those involved. Six

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Hidden Riches Revealed at Lecture Series Opener

The September 13 kickoff lecture of the Lone Star College-Tomball Lecture Series was a marriage of resources and opportunity with the title, “Marriage Comedies of the 1690s.” Dr. John “Bo” Rollins artfully and entertainingly demonstrated how these comedies reflect the marriage, societal and political mores and pressures of the period. And that was the purpose of the Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence (COTE)-sponsored lecture series. With so many knowledgeable and talented employees at LSC-

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Taking to heart the wisdom of Ralph Waldo Emerson ("Our best thoughts come from others."), the first in a series of Lone Star College-Tomball Student Success Roundtables convened September 10, and the response to both the series and the roundtable itself was overwhelmingly positive. Recognizing the need for a formal mechanism to drive informal communication, series organizers and the Center for Organizational and Teaching Excellence (COTE) sought to bring together employees who might not otherwise have the opportunity to communicate and in so doing foster a stronger sense of campus community. The overarching focus of the roundtables is student success and its many facets, including best practices, procedures and hopes for the future; students with disabilities and classroom interruptions were also topics of interest in the inaugural discussion.

**Student Success Roundtable a Success for LSC-Tomball Community**

Tomball, and so few ways to take advantage of the resources they represent, a vehicle to share that expertise and spotlight the campus community was sorely needed. The next lecture in the series, “Music as Emotion in Film,” will be presented by Dr. Cheryl Bates on October 11 from 1:00–2:00 p.m., in N103. Open to employees, students and the community, additional series topics and dates can be found at LoneStar.edu/cote.

**Community Partnerships**

Helping Small Businesses Grow

On September 21, in the Beckendorf Conference Center, the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce held its small business conference, “E3 (Educate, Enrich, Empower), Building Your Business Exponentially.” The conference (sponsored by Lone Star College-Tomball, Metropolitan Publishing and Tomball Economic Development Corporation) offered participants the most current business and marketing trends and tools from the membership and community. The program opened with a presentation, “Business Resource Options,” by Lone Star College System Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Ray Laughter. That was followed by the group presentation “Business 101: Keep your Business Sound,” featuring Kevin M. Jones (Law Offices of Kevin M. Jones & Associates) discussing business continuity agreements, JP Magill (Magill HR) discussing the impact of culture on business, and Chuck Ransleben (CPA) discussing three ways a small business can save on taxes.

The next presentation, “Technology Moving Forward,” featured Camille Hamilton (CMIT Solutions) discussing Microsoft tools, Tim Stone (i-tech) discussing cloud computing and disaster readiness, and Steven Galvan (Sprint) discussing smart phone apps to improve your business. “Branding...What’s in a Name?” was the final presentation, and featured Kimberly DeLape (Brand Moguls) and Omar Cabrera discussing why branding is the most crucial of all aspects when introducing a new thought, product or business to the marketplace.

**New Faces**

Kyle Solak
Faculty
English

**Star of the Month**

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Over the past two years, Lisa has not just been taking classes. “I’m actively involved in the Student Activities Board, and I just joined Students Together Achieving Radiant Success [S.T.A.R.S.] this semester. I also work in the Student Life Office as an events coordinator.” That’s not to say that Lisa doesn’t hit the books; she’s been on the Dean’s List three times.

Lisa’s time at LSC-Tomball has exceeded her expectations. “My college experience has been fantastic. I enjoy meeting new people, and if it wasn’t for Student Life, I don’t think I’d be as connected to the faculty and staff. I’ve learned how not to be afraid to ask questions, and I’ve also learned that the faculty want you to be engaged and ask questions.”
Upcoming Events

Employee Forum with LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter
Tuesday, October 16
3–4 p.m.
Beckendorf Conference Center

Student Success Discussion Series: Customer Service Affects Us All
October 23
1:30–2:20 p.m.
Teaching Theater

Michael Freyn’s Noises Off
Oct. 25–27
7:30 p.m.
LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center

Veterinary Technology Student Organization “Scarlett Scamper”
K-9 Fun Run
Saturday, October 27

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