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Plano ISD superintendent talks to students

Dr. Doug Otto talks present and future of education.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Spring registration starts Nov. 29

It's go time.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Get mad: Auteur Series screens 'Network'

The madness will be televised.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Renowned sculptor set for visit

Frances Bagley -- and her art -- coming to Collin College.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Campus Dates

The place to be.

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Forces makes final call for veteran's issue

Photographs, stories, poems, art, letters -- anything that details the veteran's experience is wanted for literary journal.

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College News

Kudos and events at Collin College.

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Cougar Links

Science, arts and the most fascinating story about the McRib ever.

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SMU pre-admission program enrollment

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open

Spring deadline set for Dec.1.
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Cougar News

STUDENT, FACULTY, & STAFF NEWSPAPER

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Plano ISD superintendent talks to students



Dr. Doug Otto

On his way out, Dr. Douglas Otto is advising those on their way in.

The superintendent of Plano ISD is retiring Jan. 31, 2012. Before he goes, he visited a roomful of Collin College education students Oct. 27 to talk about the future of education and the keys to success.

Dr. Otto's been in charge of Plano ISD since 1995. Previously, he's served as superintendent at four other districts in Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa and Illinois. He also was a high school principal and business education teacher.

He is reminded of his four-decade dedication to education every day drinking his morning coffee.

Dr. Otto shared a story from when he taught. One of the group of students he was charged with were students who participated in a work release program, where they would go to classes in the morning and work a job in the afternoon.

"I loved those kids. The class was responsible for the best and worst Christmas gift I have ever received," Dr. Otto said.

As it goes, one the students worked at a warehouse for Steak 'n' Shake, which was then a relatively small regional

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burger joint. That Christmas, the student gifted a case of a dozen Steak 'n' Shake coffee mugs. The teacher put two and two together.

"I wondered about this because he worked at a warehouse at Steak 'n' Shake. This kid was willing to go to jail for me," Dr. Otto said. He then talked to the student and explained why it was wrong to steal the mugs.

"I still have those coffee mugs."

"Teaching is a very grueling position. Teachers spend a lot of time thinking about ways to make things better for their kids," he said. "Good teaching is about establishing that relationship with the kids so when they come to class they respect you.

"Teaching is not rocket science. Make classes interesting. Differentiate instruction so you're not teaching each child the same way. If you do that and you get to know your students, you're going to be successful no matter where you go – urban, suburban or rural."

Dr. Otto also addressed the No. 1 question hanging above the heads of future teachers: Job security. Texas schools underwent a very public financial shortfall forcing some districts to cut administrative and teaching positions.

"We've had a severe cutback in school funding. Many districts are reducing the teaching staffs," Dr. Otto said. "The good news I want to give you is that it creates a teaching shortage. What happens is that in two or three years later, your timing will be pretty impeccable. What's happening at the large teacher preparation institutions? The numbers are down because people don't want to get into teaching. What happens in a few years? There's a shortage. The economy will get better. Districts will start to hire back."

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Spring registration starts Nov. 29

Priority online registration for Collin College's spring 2012 semester begins Tuesday, Nov. 29 while online registration for all students begins on Friday, Dec 2.

Priority online registration for students with 50+ hours begins Tuesday, Nov 19; 30+ hours, Wednesday, Nov. 30; and 1+ hours, Thursday, Dec. 1.

Registration at Collin College is done through CougarWeb and payment must be made at the time of registration.

Students can find a log-in button to CougarWeb at the college's website or go directly to <http://cougarweb.collin.edu>. Then go to the "Registration Tools" channel on the home tab. For help logging into the portal, call the Student Help Desk at 972.377.1777. A username and password are required in order to register online.

Through CougarWeb, online registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week unless otherwise noted. Students can also view the latest version of the e-schedule outside of the portal at www.collin.edu/academics/class_schedule.html. However, they will not be able to register until they log into CougarWeb.

The college accepts VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit cards online. Personal checks are accepted in person or over the web using the college's secure Webcheck program.

For more information about registration and admissions, visit www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/.

For more general information, visit the college website at www.collin.edu or call 1.877.COLLIN1.

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Get mad: Auteur Series screens 'Network'

The Auteur Film Series will screen the Sidney Lumet classic, *Network*.



The film supports the series' 2011-12 theme of "Films From the Wasteland: TV and the Recline(r) of Civilization."

Network chronicles the meltdown of Howard Beale, the news anchor, who finds out he is about to be fired due to low ratings. The network exploits Beale's downward spiral by giving him his own show, where he becomes the "mad prophet of the airwaves."

Network will be shown at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Living Legends Conference Center on the Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The screening is free and open to the public.

The film runs 121 minutes. Some material may not be suitable for all audiences.

Visit www.collin.edu/academics/csce/auteurfilmseries.html for more information.

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Renowned sculptor set for visit



One of Frances Bagley's works. The noted sculptor will host two artists talks Thursday, Nov. 17.

Collin College's THE ARTS gallery will exhibit to some of the most renowned sculptures from one of the foremost female artists in the nation.

The gallery is welcoming the work of Frances Bagley and her exhibition titled "Parallels" Thursday, Nov. 17-Saturday, Dec. 10.

Admission to the gallery is free and open to the public.

Bagley will host talks at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the gallery, Thursday, Nov. 17 during the exhibition's free reception.

Bagley is one of the distinctive artists in Dallas-Fort Worth and one of the leading female artists in the United States.

The Dallas resident's works have been exhibited all around the country and world, including her piece

"Absence/Presence" winning an award at the 10th Kajima Sculpture Exhibition in Tokyo. The piece was exhibited at the KI Building in Tokyo throughout 2009.

Bagley's noted career has spanned five decades after earning a bachelor of fine arts and master of arts from Arizona State University and a master of fine arts from the University of North Texas. She has served as a professor of art at Southern Methodist University, Mercer College in Macon, Ga., The University of Texas at Dallas, Oklahoma State University and area community colleges.

Bagley's work – some of it collaborations with husband

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Tom Orr – has been exhibited at the Dallas Museum of Art, the Textile Arts Centre in Chicago, The Contemporary Art Center of Forth Worth, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, the Bath House Culture Center in Dallas, the Marty Walker Gallery in Dallas, the A.I.R. Gallery II in New York City, the Hughes-Trigg Gallery at Southern Methodist University and others.

Bagley's sculptures have been commissioned for the Texas Sculpture Garden at Hall Office Park in Frisco, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, the Hampton/Illinois Public Library in Dallas, the Dallas Opera House and White Rock Lake.

"My philosophy as it is expressed in my sculpture is about the timeless rhythms of life. The conveyance of feeling through form is my primary goal," Bagley said. Her sculptures often reflect a human or animal form and incorporate the use of fabric, foam, ceramic, wood, wire, rocks, pulleys, electronics, paper, steel, bronze, human hair and other materials.

THE ARTS gallery is located at the Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano. Gallery hours are: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit www.francesbagley.com for more information about Bagley's work.

Call 972.881.5873 or visit www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery for information about future shows.

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Campus Dates

Student Leadership Academy II – LEAD 2301

8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Fridays during spring semester
Preston Ridge Campus

Applications are now available for Student Leadership Academy II, a unique course that incorporates experiential learning, service-learning and research. The course is a three-credit course and transfers as an elective. Application packets and forms must be submitted to the Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement at F102, Spring Creek Campus. Applications are available online at www.collin.edu/academics/sla/.

Contact: csce@collin.edu, 972.881.5927

Network

7 p.m. - Thursday, Nov. 15

Living Legends Conference Center - Spring Creek Campus

Next installment of the Auteur Film Series' focus on television in film. Rated R, this Sidney Lumet film spotlights news anchor Howard Beale, who suffers a mental breakdown after he learns he's going to be fired for low ratings. The network exploits Beale's breakdown by giving him his own show. Free and open to the public.

Contact:

www.collin.edu/academics/csce/auteurfilmseries.html

"Parallels"

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 17-Saturday, Dec. 10

THE ARTS gallery – Spring Creek Campus

See sculpture from one of the foremost female artists in the nation, Frances Bagley. Admission is free. The exhibition is open to the public.

Contact: www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery, 972.881.5873

Frances Bagley

4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, Nov. 17

THE ARTS gallery – Spring Creek Campus

Renowned artist Frances Bagley will present talks about her work and inspiration. Free and open to the public.

Contact: www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery, 972.881.5873

Chili Cook-Off

11 a.m. - Friday, Nov. 18

Central Park Campus Conference Center

Free to chili cook-off participants. \$5 general admission.

Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, Nov. 23-Sunday, Nov. 27

No classes on all campuses.

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Spring Registration

Begins Tuesday, Nov. 29

Register for spring classes online.

Contact: Returning students go to <http://cougarweb.collin.edu>. New students go to collin.edu

Forces – Call For Entries

Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 1

Forces, Collin College's literary journal, is seeking poetry, stories, photography, art, letters or any other piece of work that involves veterans and the veteran experience from students, staff, faculty or any member of the public. Submissions must be postmarked by Dec. 1. Must provide contact information, send only copies of works, no email or handwritten submissions.

Contact: Send submissions to: %Forces: R. Scott Yarbrough, Forces Editor, Room BB109, Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX, 75074

Student Artist Pottery Sale

9 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1

Spring Creek Campus atrium, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano

The sale will feature hand-thrown or hand-built pottery, ranging from bowls, plates, bottles, vases, pitchers, teapots, mugs and sculptures. The Student Artist Pottery Sale is open to the public with free admission. Pieces, which are utilitarian, functional, decorative and unique, are made of stoneware, porcelain and earthenware. A portion of the Student Artist Pottery Sale's proceeds benefit Collin College's ceramics department.

Atlas Of Mud

Thursday, Dec. 1-Sunday, Dec. 11

Black Box Theatre - Spring Creek Campus

Presented by the Collin Theatre Center, this is the regional premiere of Jennifer Fawcett's play, *Atlas of Mud*. Ten years after the world flooded and people fled to the boats, the desperation to find land has become lethal but the satellites still see nothing but water. Guarded by the military, one boat holds special cargo: Seeds to plant when land is found, birds to find the land and a child called Mud. \$10 general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens.

Contact: www.collintheatrecenter.com, 972.881.5809

Humanities Exhibition

10 a.m.-4 p.m. – Friday, Dec. 2

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

The exhibit will feature the creative projects from fall 2011 Humanities 1301 students - and will include music, photography, poetry, performance, and various forms of visual art. Humanities 1301 students explore what it means to be human by examining humankind's creativity throughout the ages. Visual and performing arts, literature, architecture, philosophy, technology, religion, and mythology, are all part of the Humanities compendium. Refreshments will be served between 2-3:30 p.m.



Surgical Technology Information Session

7-9 p.m. – Tuesday, Dec. 6

Spring Creek Campus Conference Center

Learn about admissions, career options, salary, course sequence, prerequisites and more.

Contact: 214.491.6215

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Forces makes final call for veteran's issue

Collin College's literary journal, *Forces*, is seeking submissions from the college community or public.

This year's issue will feature poetry, short stories, photography, art, letters and any other contribution that involves or focuses on veterans.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 and the ongoing sacrifice of servicemen and women, *Forces* will consider for publication any piece of art, writing or photograph that focuses on the trials and highlights of those serving the country stateside or abroad regardless of when or how they served.

Submissions can be from anyone no matter their affiliation with a veteran.

Deadline for submissions must be postmarked by Thursday, Dec. 1.

Submission criteria:

- Contributor must provide contact information
- Send only copies of works (no originals)
- No email submission will be accepted
- No hand-written submissions

Send submissions to: %Forces: R. Scott Yarbrough, Forces Editor, Room BB109, Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX, 75074.

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College News

The **Collin College Mock Trial** squad competed at the Bearcat Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at Northwest Missouri State Oct. 28-29. Competing against teams from University of Iowa, Drake University, Creighton University and others, Collin College won two top attorney awards, two top witness awards and the Spirit Award. An Nguyen won a top attorney award both as a prosecutor and on defense, and Camille Dickerson and Michelle Davis won top witness awards. The Spirit Award was voted upon by all 24 competing colleges and universities as to which team in their opinion was the most collegial, friendly and helpful.

Joan Reese, professor of English, had her nonfiction story "The Lost Boy" selected as one of 30 stories in a new e-book anthology, *The Lost Children*. All proceeds from sales of the book benefit PROTECT: The National Association to Protect Children and Children 1st Scotland.

String Ensemble Performs



The Collin College String Ensemble performed Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 8 during the Sounds of Freedom Celebration at Fairview Town Hall. Participating students included Darin Schlemmer, Brooke Dyer, Greg Weger and Megan Truitt.

Early Childhood Class Raises Funds

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Students in Sharon Hirschy's Child Abuse and Neglect class raised \$232 for the Collin College Foundation and Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County at Rockin' the Ridge. The students spearheaded several projects including informative bookmarks and ribbons to raise the awareness of child abuse.

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If you'd like to share, send any links to mrobinson@collin.edu.

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The most fascinating story about the McRib ever.

[What if ...](#)

Speculations in 1942 of a Nazi invasion of the United States.

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The evolving technology.

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It's probably not honey, honey.

[Cat Collages](#)

I just swallowed my tongue.

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SMU pre-admission program enrollment open

College students can "spring" ahead in their pursuit of a degree by participating in the Southern Methodist University (SMU) pre-admission program.

The deadline is fast approaching to apply for the spring semester. Applications are available.

The deadline is Thursday, Dec. 1

The pre-admission program is for Collin College students interested in eventually transferring to SMU. It is open to current Collin College students or high school students coming to Collin College with intentions of transferring to SMU.

Criteria include:

- Maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.95 with fewer than 30 transferable hours or a grade point average of 2.7 with more than 30 transferable hours
- Complete two essay questions available on application
- Acquire recommendation letters from faculty members

Pre-admission students will receive the following student benefits at SMU:

- Special lecture events tickets
- Student prices for events
- Access to the SMU library
- SMU newsletter
- Discounted DART pass
- SMU computer store discount
- Access to SMU advisors

Also, SMU will provide scholarship opportunities to pre-admission students, as it does for students from other community colleges, who meet the SMU transfer scholarship criteria. Information regarding these opportunities will be provided to pre-admission students.

The application is available [here](#) and more information about SMU's pre-admission program is at <http://transferu.collin.edu/smu.html> .

Collin College has pre-admission partnerships with Austin College, Baylor University, Dallas Baptist University, SMU, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University - Commerce, Texas Tech University, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Dallas and the

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A newsletter for the students, faculty and staff of the Collin College. Published semi-monthly. For information or submissions, call 972.599.3142. *Cougar News* welcomes student and faculty submissions. Next deadline: Dec. 1. All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the due date. Photos cannot be returned. Text should be e-mailed to mrobinson@collin.edu. Submit copy that is proofed, edited and saved in Word format. *Cougar News* staff: *Lisa Vasquez*, associate vice president; *Mark Robinson*, editor; *Marcy Cadena-Smith*, director; *Justin Jones*, contributor; *Heather Darrow*, contributor; *Nick Young*, photography and layout.

University of North Texas.

Visit <http://transferu.collin.edu/ub.html> for more information.

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