Next Stop: Melissa
College expansion eased by land donations

As a record number of freshmen prepare for their first step onto a college campus this fall, the footprint of Collin College is growing to welcome them as well as students of the future. Several campuses are expanding and new sites are underway.

According to Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Goodell, major land donations facilitated some of this expansion. “The new structures you see today are the result of years of planning. The recent land donations are historic and very strategically located. Gracious gifts of this proportion will shape our future.”

Melissa: regional first-responder center
In March, Collin College received a gracious land donation from the city of Melissa. Located at State Hwy. 121 and Country Road 420, the donated site totals 25 acres and is the future home of the college’s law enforcement, fire science and emergency medical services training facility.

These popular programs currently are squeezed into space at the Central Park Campus in McKinney, which has become one of the fastest-growing sites in the district. The Melissa site will be a significant upgrade. The new facility will become a regional training center for not only educating future firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel, but also for current first responders. Projected amenities will include a driving course, a scenario village that replicates the real-life challenges faced by fire, paramedics and police as well as a state-of-the-art firing range that allows multiple scenarios/simulations to be staged for various firearms training applications.

“The college’s presence in Melissa has both tangible and intangible benefits to Melissa,” said Reed Greer, mayor of the city of Melissa.

Hallmark of Opportunities
Creating a Legacy

Collin College’s 25th anniversary marks the perfect opportunity to join the “Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy” campaign. This Collin College Foundation major gift program benefits students who need funding to achieve their educational goals. The uniqueness of this fundraising program is that even though donors benefit with naming recognition on buildings, all contributions are designated for scholarships not the cost of the bricks and mortar.

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“The superb quality of leadership, faculty and multitude of educational options available to students attending Collin College is amazing,” David McCull, campaign chair, said. “I believe so strongly about the economic and positive impact of the college that I want to invite others to join me in raising scholarship funding. Together, we are making a difference in our community – today and in the future.”

Campaign contribution levels range from $25,000 to $3 million and can be paid with multi-year commitments. The campaign offers options to support donors’ interest in specific academic programs, scholarship criteria or transferring to one of Collin’s 10 affiliated universities.

Included on the list of marquee buildings are the board room at Collin Higher Education Center, the library and clock tower at the Central Park Campus, Culinary Arts Institute at the Preston Ridge Campus and Black Box Theatre at the Spring Creek Campus.

Aside from these, donors also have the opportunity to forever etch their names on main buildings, conference centers, classrooms, student development centers and labs.

The first phase of the Foundation’s goal is to raise $5 million by 2015. “College graduates are the key to a competitive and dynamic workforce,” said Cary Israel, president of Collin College. “As a donor through this campaign, you will not only have an opportunity to touch the lives of many Collin College students, but your gift will ensure a future for the next generation of law enforcement officers, nurses who care for our loved ones, educators who teach our children and professionals who help keep Collin County economically vibrant, making it a better place to live, work and conduct business.”

To participate through naming rights or volunteering, contact Mary Frazier, executive director, at 972.599.3345 or e-mail mfraizer@collin.edu.
A young child sees bright, candy-colored pills in jars and somehow manages to open the containers. Within minutes a variety of powerful medication is coursing through her system. One pill reacts with another, and the dosages are far too much for such a little body. Aghast, her parents find her surrounded by open vials and rush her to the hospital. Though they bring containers and loose pills with them, the pediatric pharmacist is not able to identify some of the drugs. Doctors need to know what this little girl ingested to give her the best treatment. In this critical timeframe, medical professionals look to Edwards for the answers they need.

Edwards is a clinical pharmacist in the drug information department of Scott and White, a major healthcare organization with more than 50 clinics and a 700-bed hospital that serves as the teaching hospital for Texas A&M medical school students. While many pharmacists fill prescriptions or work on hospital floors assisting with drug therapy decisions, Edwards’ job is different. She fields medication questions, such as off-label drug uses and drug dosing, from doctors, nurses, pharmacists and patients.

Edwards came to Collin College with degrees in anthropology and history from The University of Texas at Austin (UT). She decided to take her pharmacy prerequisite courses at Collin College because of the college’s reputation and the small classes taught by Ph.D.s. She returned to UT and earned a pharmacy degree.

“Going to Collin is one of best things you can do. I experienced a lot of camaraderie in my classes. Most of the people were going on to nursing, pharmacy or medical school. Everyone was serious, and we wanted to help each other. The environment was very conducive to learning. UT is ranked number two in the nation for pharmacy. It is really hard to get in. Ninety-five percent of my science courses came from community college, and obviously that wasn’t a problem for UT. I am here to prove that you do not have to take all of your sciences at a major university,” Edwards said.

One experience at Collin College helped set Edwards apart in her pharmacy school interview. She completed a Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) undergraduate research project on the effects of soy on thyroid function.

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Around this time last year, Collin College Tennis Coach Marty Berryman promised his men’s team that if it won the NJCAA Division I championship he would shave his head. True to his word, Berryman cut his hair after guiding the men in the spring to Collin College’s first national championship since 1995.

The top-ranked cougar men’s tennis team tied Laredo Community College and Tyler Junior College after an on-court drama in May that stretched into the night. Collin College sophomore Damian Hume, the number-one ranked junior college player in the country, lived up to his billing by winning Flight One singles and becoming the 2010 NJCAA Men’s National Singles Champion. Adding to the list of top honors, freshman Rodolfo Bustamante became Collin’s third NJCAA men’s First Team All-American by winning the Flight Four singles title. As a result of the championship along with leadership throughout the last season, Coach Berryman received the highly-coveted NJCAA Division I Coach of the Year award – hairless and all.

“Cutting my hair was a fun experience for the entire team,” Berryman, who started Collin College’s tennis program in 1989, said laughing. “This was a special year...but the team deserves the credit for my award. They played and fought hard all season. Our success would also not be possible if not for Collin College, which is a great academic institution that has great community support.”

Collin College men’s tennis team wins NJCAA Division I championship

Collin student Jesus Valdivia has been named National Young Adult Man of the Year by the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Students Hugh Faison and Janna (Jeong Ab) Kwon will publish ‘The Effect of Television and Video Games on Adolescent Aggressive Behavior’ along with Professor Michael Rose in the spring 2011 edition of the Journal of Psychological Inquiry.

Brent Croom, a Collin College nursing student, was nominated for the Spirit of Nursing Award by the U.S. Army Nursing Corps. The award is bestowed upon an undergraduate nursing student who demonstrates excellence in the classroom as well as in the clinical site and shows active involvement in extracurricular activities.

The dental hygiene class of 2010 had a 100 percent pass rate for the 2010 National Dental Hygiene Board Exam.

Collin College graduate Vincent Nguyen, who is currently attending Columbia University’s general studies program, was recently selected to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Program.

Vincent Nguyen – Collin College culinary students came out big winners at the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association’s Scholarship Awards Dinner. Wil Wilbur was awarded a $5,000 scholarship to attend Texas Woman’s University in the fall. Meeting and event planning student Pamela Kerns was awarded a scholarship to cover expenses to the Meetings Professional International Conference in British Columbia this summer, and Karen Bolanos received a $1,000 scholarship from the Research Chefs Association. Collin College is the second-most selected school after the Culinary Institute of America for incoming college students.

Three Collin students—Shirin Tavakoli, Michael Lundie and Paul Boynton—have been awarded full scholarships to Southern Methodist University (SMU). Tavakoli and Lundie participated in Collin College’s pre-admission program with SMU.

Lisa Smith, former student, was the grand prize winner in the Texas Monthly “Bucket List” cover photo contest. View her winning photograph and all other entries at www.texasmonthly.com/covercontest/gallery.

Michael Uriel, former student, won a 2010 TheatreWorld Award for his work on the Off-Broadway show, “The Temperamentals.” Uriel also was nominated for a Lortel Award as Outstanding Lead Actor in “The Temperamentals.”

Dr. Chris Doumen, professor of anatomy and physiology, recently published an article in the June 2010 issue of the international journal Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology – Part B: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. His article presents data on the DNA sequences of the California black worm and the slug worm.


Michele Brown, professor of culinary arts, was named Pastry Chef of the Year by Texas Chef’s Association.

Dr. Amina Tassa, former student, was awarded a $5,000 scholarship to attend Texas Woman’s University (SMU). Tassa also won the Kate Broocks Bates Award for Plains Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1914 and was named National Young Adult Council Advisor of the Year by LULAC.

Faculty & Staff Highlights

Sam Roach, member of the Collin College Board of Trustees, was named Frisco Style’s 2010 Person of the Year. Trustee Roach was featured in a cover story in the June edition.

Professors of History Dr. David Cullen and Dr. Kyle Wilkinson were awarded the 2010 Robert A. Calvert Book Prize for the textbook they edited, The Texas Left: The Radical Roots of Lone Star Liberalism. Dr. Wilkinson’s book Yemen, Sharecroppers and Socialists: Plain Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1934 also won the Kate Brooks Bates Award for Historical Research from the Texas State Historical Association.

Photography Professor Lupita Tinnen, who serves as advisor for the Collin College chapter of the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), was named the National Young Adult Council Advisor of the Year by LULAC.

Collin College received the vaunted AAA Bond rating from Standard and Poor’s. This is a direct reflection of quality leadership and fiscal management.

Dr. Collin Thomas, biology professor, is co-principal investigator on a NASA grant application with noted award-winning Professor Lynn Rothschild of Stanford.

Society Professor Larry Stern published an article in the American Psychology Association’s APA Monitor on the memory-transfer episode regarding feeding trained worms to their cannibalistic brothers.

Dr. Donna Tassa, associate professor and co-principal investigator on a 2008 grant application on the treatment of cardiovascular disease, has published a research paper co-authored by Biology Professor Dr. Amina Tassa, Associate Professor Dr. Mounir Errami and others.

Dr. Mounir Errami also was named one of the top 12 InnoCentive solvers for 2009. This is an international recognition shared by 12 solvers in five countries.
Collin College is led by a nine-member Board of Trustees elected at large. Trustees serve six-year terms, and elections are staggered so three seats are up for re-election every other year. For more information, visit www.collin.edu/administration/board_of_trustees.html.

Economic Development Corporation. “These institutions are now more important than ever. Retraining and reshaping the local workforce is the most important economic development tool there is. In fact, history has proven they are the only true local safeguard against national and international downturns in the economy.”

In January 2010, the Collin Higher Education Center opened, offering junior- and senior-level college classes from local universities in addition to master’s and doctoral programs. Participating universities include Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Woman’s University, The University of Texas at Dallas and the University of North Texas.

The center also serves as a multi-purpose facility for administrative departments and also provides space for meetings and training for the growing district as well as area non-profits and community groups.

Frisco: new classroom/conference facility

Construction begins in the fall at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco on a new two-story classroom building totaling 70,000 square feet. The new facility, located on the northwest corner of the campus, will help with the growing number of students attending classes at the Preston Ridge Campus. Enrollment at the Preston Ridge Campus has jumped from 5,468 in spring 2008 to 7,954 in spring 2010.

The college is also building a new 18,000-square-foot conference center, located on the northwest corner of the campus, will help with the growing number of students attending classes at the Preston Ridge Campus. Enrollment at the Preston Ridge Campus has jumped from 5,468 in spring 2008 to 7,954 in spring 2010.

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