

JOBS College counters economic downturn with grant to save, create local jobs

Recession. Unemployment. Almost everyone has felt the consequences of the unsteady economy. Now, 430 people in our community will be able to keep their jobs and 25 will have new jobs thanks to a Collin College grant from the state of Texas.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) recently awarded Collin College an \$808,066 grant to train or retrain about 450 employees from seven local companies, six of which are in Collin County. In total, 430 local employees will be retrained, and another 25 new jobs will be created through the grant.

"The number of Texans working in these jobs earning good wages will be a great economic boost for this region of Texas," said TWC Commissioner Andres Alcantar.

All seven companies are small businesses ranging in services and products from the production of rear light covers for Boeing jets, sheet metal enclosures and roofing materials to small vials of formaldehyde-based solutions for pathology labs. Training includes software application, robotic skills, manufacturing skills, language, communication, resolution, sales and leadership.

The jobs in this program are considered high-end and the average wage upon completion of the training will be more than \$25 per hour.

Local company Special Products & Manufacturing will benefit the most. The grant will help upgrade 126 jobs and create 17 new positions with the training.

Special Products & Manufacturing is a

GRANT PARTNERS

Company	City	Total # of New Jobs	Total # of Upgraded Jobs
Applied Concepts	Plano	0	84
Carlisle Coatings	Wylie	2	90
Manner Plastics	McKinney	0	21
Rapid Tooling	Plano	2	16
Special Products	Rockwall	17	126
Statlab	McKinney	0	38
Amphenol Fiber Systems Int'l	Allen	4	55
TOTALS:		25	430

quality precision metal fabrication company serving the U.S. market. The company does laser cutting, welding, machining, mechanical assembly, powder coating, as well as custom engineering requests from the client.

"Retraining is very important to our company in order to increase the skill levels of our employees and keep up with technological advancements in today's economy," Doreen



TWC Commissioner Andres Alcantar signing a grant check that will affect 450 local jobs.

Collin, human resource manager at Special Products & Manufacturing, said. "This training will also assist in leaning down our manufacturing processes to offer a higher quality of product in a shorter time period to become a world-class leader in the sheet metal manufacturing industry."

Since 1999, the Collin College has won more than \$5.36 million for workforce training for North Texas as well as \$5.47 million in grant funds from the National Science Foundation for technology education. Overall, about 120 local companies and thousands of employees – a vast majority of which are in Collin County – have benefitted.

For more information contact Natalie Greenwell at 972.985.3768 or ngreenwell@collin.edu.

The Road to Graduation Students find success, savings with Collin College 'core'

While many college students and families are struggling to budget for necessities like gas and food, students who start at Collin College before transferring to a university can save automatically on travel, books and housing.

In fact, students who complete the "core curriculum" at Collin College before transferring to a university can save more than \$30,000 over a two-year period, a savings equal to the cost of a new Ford Hybrid or Audi A4. A reserve of that proportion can alleviate years of extra loan debt.

"One of the greatest benefits of attending Collin College is I know that I'm not wasting money,"

said Ricky Alvarado, a Collin College sophomore who plans to major in corporate communications at The University of Texas at Dallas.

"I didn't know out of high school what I wanted to major in and was told to go to a university for the first three years before deciding on a major. I would rather get the same quality education at Collin College, where the tuition rates are lower. I've used the money I saved by attending Collin College to keep up my car. It's a lot easier to drive myself to and from college than to rely on others."

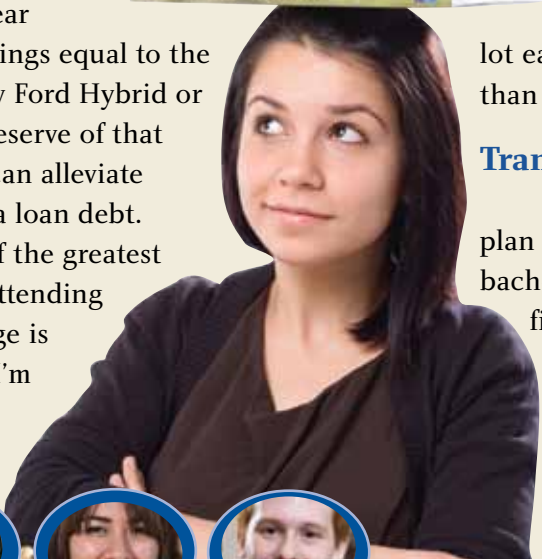
Transfer guarantee

The majority of Collin College students plan to transfer to a university to complete a bachelor's degree, so for these students, the first step is passing the "core."

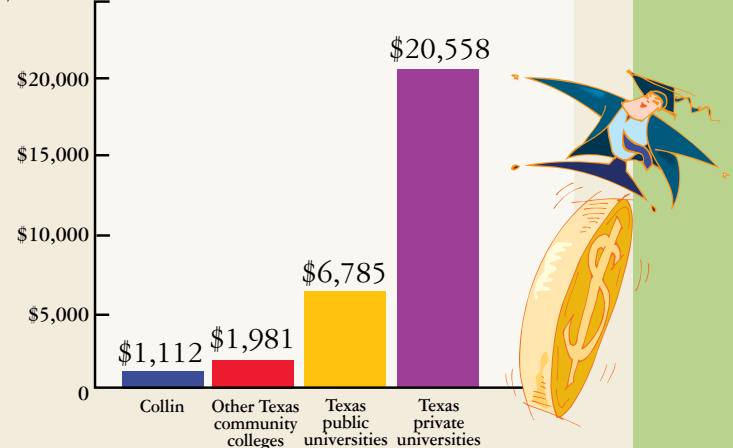
The core curriculum is set of general education courses that meet freshman- and sophomore-level requirements for bachelor's degrees in compliance with the Texas Education

What is the core?

The core curriculum is set general education courses required by the Texas Education Code at the freshman- and sophomore- levels for bachelor's degrees.



Average Cost of Tuition and Fees For Two 15-hour Semesters*



*Source: www.collegeforalltexas.com and www.collin.edu

—continues on page 4



Where are they NOW?

Alumnus works to cure cancer one molecule at a time

A heart-felt thank you note renewed Dr. Niclas Tan's resolve to work even harder to achieve a goal that many people do not believe will happen in their lifetimes. A mother wrote that a disease had degraded her quality of life so much that she was not able to tie her shoes. Today, she is able to care for her family.

The drugs Dr. Tan and his fellow coworkers develop change people's lives. Dr. Tan is a scientist at Millennium Pharmaceuticals: the Takeda Oncology Company.

"At Millennium we aspire to cure cancer, which is a pretty bold statement, but somebody has to take on the challenge. Drug development has the lowest success rate, one to three percent. That is how difficult it is. The reason we come to work every day is because it will help prolong the lives of patients," Dr. Tan said.

In developing drugs, his company screens thousands of molecules that show promise in treating cancer. More than two years ago patients with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells, and mantle cell lymphoma, a cancer of lymph nodes, who tried other treatments without success had no medication alternatives. Millennium created Velcade, and today it is recommended as a front-line treatment.

According to Dr. Tan, "We start with a human antibody sequence and genetically modify the binding region to

give it specificity for our target of interest. In analytical development, we characterize the antibodies to demonstrate to the Food and Drug Administration that we fully understand our molecule from all aspects. We oversee the molecules from development to clinical trials and perform quality checks after approval."

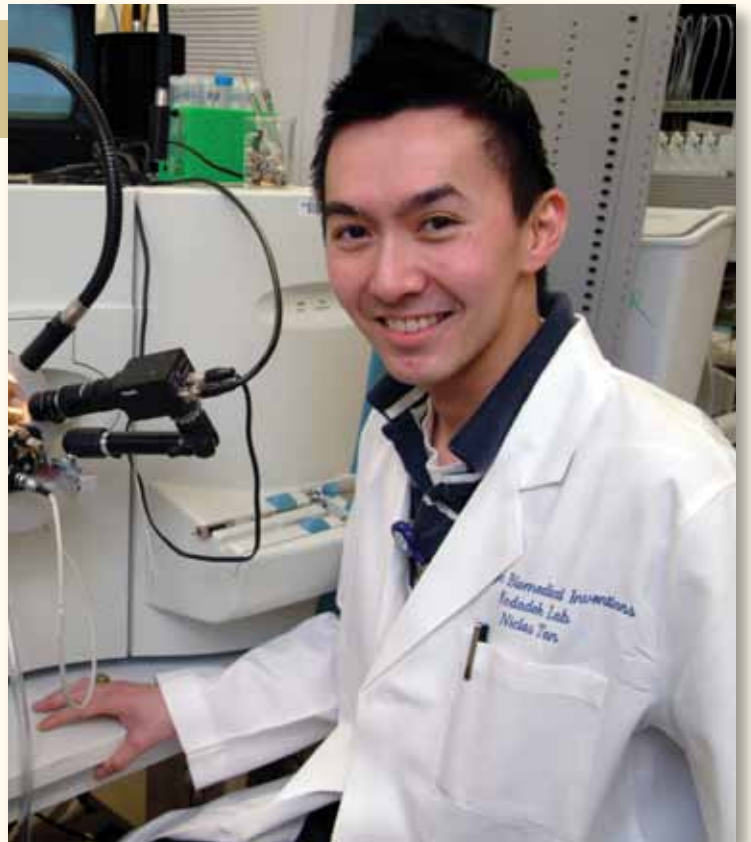
Collin College took Dr. Tan from electrical engineering into the field of biotechnology. Before attending the college, he held a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University, but he wanted to switch career fields.

"The quality of education at Collin College is really high. I chose to attend the college because of what I heard about the quality of education. They have students who move on to other opportunities, like internships, during the course of their programs. The college has top-notch biotechnology education."

Dr. Tan earned a certificate in biotechnology at Collin College in 2003, and a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) in 2008.

"I was an engineer and had no background in biology. Dr. Bridgette Kirkpatrick (Collin College director of biotechnology) helped me understand the basics of biotechnology, how technologies are applied and how to look at certain characteristics of a molecule and apply that to research. I was able to secure an internship at UTSW because of the skills I had from Collin College. I actually did two different internships. My biomedical engineering doctoral program only accepted two to three graduate students annually, and I got in. Students from Collin College were better prepared than some of the incoming graduate students because we had hands-on laboratory experience."

Recently, Dr. Tan was offered an analytical co-lead position on a new therapeutic molecule. He will have the rare



Dr. Niclas Tan

I chose to attend Collin College because of what I heard about the quality of education. They have students who move on to other opportunities, like internships, during the course of their programs. The college has top-notch biotechnology education.

opportunity to work with this molecule from the very beginning as it progresses through the different facets of drug development. Perhaps, this drug will provide a cure for a cancer and eliminate the suffering of many individuals.

"The classes I took at Collin College spurred the change from engineering to the sciences, and that is where I am today. When you are done at Collin, you will have information to excel in graduate school or undergraduate school that will put you at an advantage over other people."

For more information about Collin College's biotechnology program visit www.collin.edu/academics/programs/biotechnology.html.



Campaign Chair David McCall: Bestowing a legacy of lifetime gifts



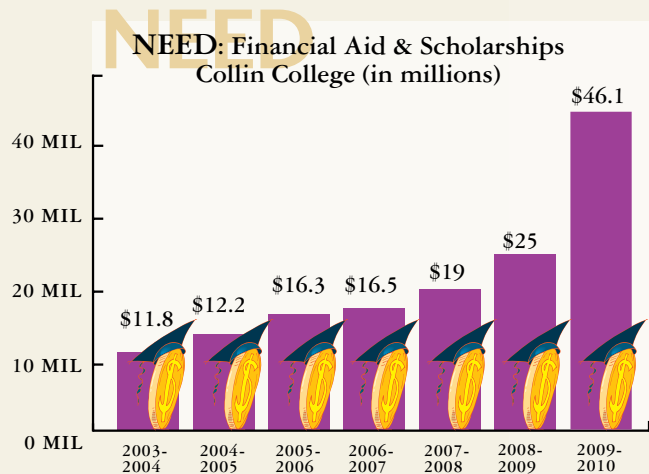
David McCall, Chair, Hallmark of Opportunities

Well-respected, local attorney and community activist David McCall of Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C. was one of the founding fathers of Collin College. Now, he is asking area residents for a new commitment to excellence in education.

Never one to waste time or mince words, McCall knows that individuals and corporations do not donate to every cause that comes their way. Rather, philanthropists give to organizations that have a great need and that are affecting great change. That is why McCall is chairing Collin College's "Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy" campaign.

"There are hundreds of good causes, but what it boils down to is this—if you give a man a fish, he can eat fish for a day, but if you teach him to fish he can eat for a lifetime. It is the same thing with a Collin College education. This is a permanent fix," said McCall.

The need for scholarships is growing exponentially, which may surprise some individuals who reside in the affluent community. According to McCall, for every student who receives a scholarship to



attend the college two or three students are turned away because of a lack of funding.

"Hopefully we can raise \$10-15 million that can go into a permanent endowment, but even if we raise that money we will still fall short, especially as the county continues to grow. Before long

we will be a state of 40 million people, and Collin County will be one of the counties that will grow the most. There has to be a way to get quality education because there is a genuine need. If you look at the local independent school districts and the number of students receiving assistance with lunches and books you can see that a sizable percentage qualify for help. That need is the same for Collin College," McCall said.

McCall feels a kinship to area residents who are striving to improve their lives but cannot afford to attend college. He knows from personal experience that education offers a transformative power. McCall worked from the time he was 12 years old in construction, at a convenience store, delivering flowers and teaching swimming lessons.

"There is nothing wrong with construction work, but I was not cut out for it. I knew if I was ever going to get out of construction work I had to get an education. Recently, I got a letter from a student who received a Collin College scholarship. His scholarship keeps him from digging post holes at \$8 an hour. It means a lot even though it doesn't sound like that much money."

McCall says the college has a great story, but most people are not aware of it. He cites the 51,000+ students who currently attend the college, the college's former students who are leaders in the community and across the country and the fact that the college provides an economic benefit to the area.

"Collin College is an institution the community should be proud of because of the successful students and the fact that this college has kept a low tax rate yet still is an economic benefactor to the community. It is phenomenal what they have done in 25 years. Even with the great growth the college has experienced, the administration and trustees have demanded program excellence, which is evident in numerous awards."

McCall says he gives to the college because it is an easy way to help people in need achieve their goals.

"I think it is typical that prophets, whether they are individuals or institutions, are not recognized in their own hometowns. The time has come for area residents to recognize the educational treasure they have in front of them. Education keeps people off the streets. The alternative is not pretty," McCall said.

For more information, or to make a gift, call Mary Frazier at 972.599.3143.

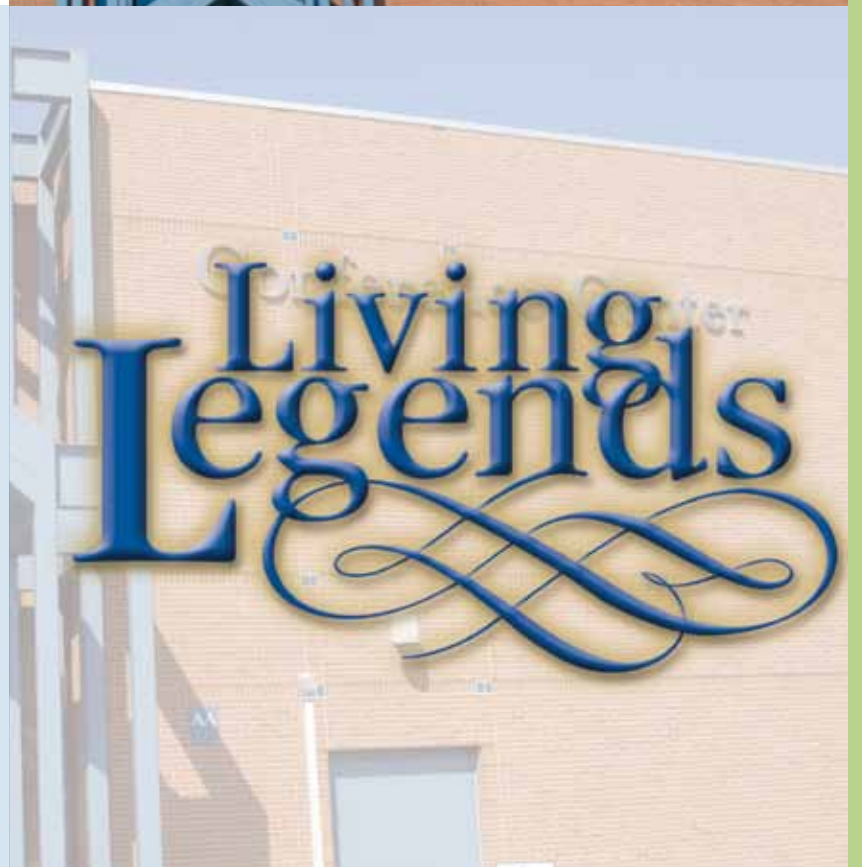
Conference center gift honors 'Living Legends'

Thanks to the continued generosity of patrons who have collectively given donations of \$250,000, the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center has been renamed the "Living Legends Conference Center." The Living Legends recognition program, established in 2003, commemorated leaders who profoundly shaped the progress of our community.

This gift is part of a major naming opportunities campaign to raise \$5 million over the next three years. Called the "Hallmark of Opportunity," the effort is unique because all the contributions go into an endowment fund for scholarships – not for bricks and mortar for the facility they endow.

"These financial contributions are a testament to the spirit of the Living Legends and our patrons," Cary Israel, district president of Collin College, said. "Their generosity and impact on Collin College and Collin County will help chip away at the ever-increasing need for scholarships."

For more information about the Collin College Foundation and the "Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy" campaign, call Mary Frazier, executive director, at 972.599.3143 or email mfrazier@collin.edu.



Collin College student awarded research fellowship at Cornell

Stephanie Brown entered a whole new world, an alternate reality of the life she previously led. Armed with new vision, in the form of a microscope lens, and new tools, also known as scientific assays, she began to alter this new world full of life forms that outnumber the human race and literally cover individuals from head to toe. Microbes were calling Brown's name in Collin College's laboratories, and she heeded their continued beckoning at Texas Woman's University and most recently at Cornell University.

A Collin College student who is pursuing an associate's degree, Brown was accepted into the BRIDGES program and has completed a few semesters of research working on *Helicobacter pylori* at Texas Woman's University in the lab of Dr. Sarah McIntire, TWU chair of biology. This past summer, Brown was awarded the American Society for Microbiology's undergraduate research fellowship. Brown was the only student from a community college to receive the award.

"I worked with Salmonella at Cornell. I was looking at virulence genes in 100 different strains of Salmonella. One person can get Salmonella and just get sick for a few days, and another person can get it and end up in the hospital. Different strains of Salmonella can do different things to people," Brown said.

"Collin College classes are not easier than classes at universities. I ran gel electrophoresis at Collin, so that wasn't new to me at TWU. I like the versatility at Collin, being able to take classes at different campuses and on weekends. It is really

convenient. The classrooms are not overwhelmingly large. All of the professors I have had want you to learn the subject and not just memorize things. They teach the concepts. They are always available after class and have office hours where they welcome you. They show that they care. That is very important."

After attending a national biomedical conference, Brown became enamored with the idea of earning a doctorate in microbiology. At Cornell she worked in Dr. Martin Weidmann's laboratory in the Food Science Department. Brown hopes to present her findings, "Distribution and Characterization of type IV pili and spv in Salmonella representing different serotypes from clinical cases," at an upcoming national conference.

"For science, you want to be in the lab because that is where the knowledge comes to life. I love the bacteria world and how versatile they can become over the years. As soon as I left Cornell, the U.S. experienced yet another multi-state Salmonella outbreak involving eggs. What I am learning definitely affects public health."



Stephanie Brown

Brown says the honor of the fellowship was especially meaningful and motivating.

"People believed in me. That continues to build my character. It is the beginning of great things."

Road to the core

continued from page 1

Code. Collin College's core totals 42 hours, and when students complete the entire core matched to the respective bachelor's degree, state law guarantees acceptance of those credits by any public college or university in Texas. That means Collin students can finish the basics at \$34 per credit hour, and then focus on specialized, upper-division courses after transferring.

"The most cost-effective and convenient way for Collin College students to take advantage of their community college preparation prior to transferring into a four-year university is to become 'major-ready,

SAVINGS

I didn't know out of high school what I wanted to major in and was told to go to a university for the first three years ... I would rather get the same quality education at Collin College, where the tuition rates are lower.

—Ricky Alvarado

prerequisite-ready and core-complete' at the community college," Curt Eley, vice president for enrollment management at The University of Texas at Dallas, said. "To do this, a student should coordinate his or her planned community college coursework with the degree and prerequisite requirements of the destination university."

To help with this process, Collin College transfer students have access to academic advisors and are privy to numerous resources, including the college's 10 unique pre-admission university partnerships.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The professors at Collin College really challenged and helped me to succeed. By the time I got to TWU, I constantly made the Dean's List, knew what I wanted to do and was asked to be in many student leadership roles. My time was not wasted."

—Bethany Heidenreich

"When you go to Collin College, you have all the resources available to help you in terms of finding out how to transfer or which transfer institution is the best fit for your major," Alvarado said. "Going to Collin College

—continues on page 6

BETTER PREPARED

The most cost-effective and convenient way for Collin College students to take advantage of their community college preparation prior to transferring into a four-year university is to become 'major-ready, prerequisite-ready and core-complete' at the community college... For community college transfer students, the best predictor of academic success at UT Dallas is a competitive GPA within a solid foundation of completed coursework.

—Curt Eley

UTD Vice President for Enrollment Management

Student & Alumni Highlights

Collin College music student **Jake Nelson** recently took second place in the undergraduate men's division at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Texoma operatic competition. The only community college student in his division, Nelson competed against students from universities and colleges in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Collin's **Mock Trail Team** recently competed in the Justice Louis Brandeis Mock Trial Invitational in Massachusetts. Collin student Dzana Ahmetovic won a Top Witness Award, and the team placed ahead of Boston College, Boston University, Holy Cross, Elon University and the host institution, Brandeis University.

The *Journal for Psychological Inquiry* accepted a manuscript by former



Kim Tanuvasa



Jeff Fortney

Collin College students and Psi Beta members **Kim Tanuvasa** and **Jeff Fortney** for publication. "In Your Dreams: Exploring Lucid Dreaming, Dream Recall, and General Intelligence" will be published in the spring 2011 issue of the journal.

Culinary arts student **Amy Green** will publish a cookbook titled *Simply Sugar and Gluten Free in 20 Minutes* with Ulysses Press in January 2011.



Amy Green

The City of Plano saluted two student organizations during the 2010 Environmental Community Awards. Collin College's chapter of **Phi Theta Kappa** national honor society and **Students in Free Enterprise** (SIFE) both received honorable mention for the Community Partner Award. SIFE Sponsor **Clay Randall** also received honorable mention in the individual category. Last year, more than 140 volunteers from Collin College participated in the city's first "Make a Difference Day" clean-up.

Brent Vickery, Collin College student, and **Brett McCormick**, Collin College graduate, presented "Linking the ICT Community College and University Project" at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference.

Collin College's **Obscura Photography Club** was featured in an exhibition of more than 50 photographic images at the Bath House Cultural Center. The prestigious cultural center typically features established local and national artists, so the exhibit was a coup for undergraduate artists.



Obscura Photography Club



Faculty & Staff Highlights



Jenny McCall

Trustee **Jenny McCall** was honored as the recipient of the 2010 James H. Boswell Award by Star Children's Charity. The award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies leadership and community philanthropic spirit.

Kathleen Mixson, professor of nursing, has been awarded the Outstanding Education Section Award from the American Association of Nurse Attorneys.

Pete Brierley, professor of convergence technology, served as the lead team member in a workshop titled "Turnkey Labs to Implement Green IT and Other ICT Concepts," training teachers at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference. Brierley led a team made up of the Convergence Technology Center's mentored college program of faculty from around the nation.



Pete Brierley

Dr. Alan Sauter, professor of mathematics, received his doctorate in applied mathematics from The University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Sauter attended UT Dallas under a partnership program that provides scholarships to Collin College faculty for doctorate study.

Professor of theatre **Robin Armstrong's** production of "Bach at Leipzig" at the Circle Theatre in Fort Worth won three DFW Theater Critics Forum Awards for the 2009-10 season. Armstrong won for Direction and Creative Contributions for fight choreography and costume design. The production also received an award for Ensemble Performance.



Robin Armstrong



Tony Howard

Tony Howard, professor of philosophy, published the book, *A Month of Sundays: Occasional Sermons by a Liberal Catholic Priest* through St. Albans Press.

Gaye Cooksey, dean of fine arts, was named the Plano Community Forum's Educator of the Year at its annual meeting.



Gaye Cooksey



Joanne Fletcher

Joanne Fletcher, associate professor of dental hygiene, received the 2010 Johnson & Johnson/ADHA Excellence in Dental Hygiene Award. The award was presented at the President's Luncheon sponsored by the American Dental Hygienists' Association and Johnson & Johnson. Announcement of this national award was published in the *Texas Dental Hygienists' Association* newsletter.



Chris Doumen

Chris Doumen, biology professor, recently collaborated with the New Orleans LSU Health Science Center on an article titled "Effects of the HIV-1 Protein Tat on Myocardial Function and Response to Endotoxin," which appeared in *CardioVascular Toxicology*.

Amy Lenhart, counselor, was elected to the Board of the American College Counseling Association.

Did You Know?

Collin College Pop Quiz

- What is the percentage of courses taught by graduate students at Collin College?
 - 20%
 - 7%
 - 33%
 - 0%
- Approximately, how many students attend classes online at Collin College through eCollin?
 - 500
 - 4,600
 - 1,700
 - 2,300
- Since when has the Collin College Board of Trustees kept tuition frozen for Collin County residents?
 - 2010
 - 2009
 - 2007
 - 2005
- For how many years has the Collin College Board of Trustees lowered the tax rate for Collin County residents?
 - 10
 - 3
 - 5
 - 1
- How many credit students enrolled at Collin College in fall 2010?
 - 27,069
 - 18,603
 - 21,395
 - 15,445
- How many students applied for financial aid at Collin College for fall 2010?
 - 500
 - 3,000
 - 18,000+
 - 11,000

Answers:

1 D 2 B 3 D. Tuition for in-county residents went up \$2 per credit hour five years ago. 4 A. The tax rate is now 8.6 cents per \$100 valuation, nearly the same as when the college was founded 25 years ago. 5 A. This is an increase of about 2,200 students compared to the previous year. 6 C. More than 18,000 Collin College students applied for financial aid for fall 2010.



Road to the core

—continued from page 4

has really helped me plan my goals and decide on what I want to do with the rest of my life.”

Better prepared

Upon completion of the core curriculum, Collin College students who transfer to universities are also prepared academically for the transition.

According to Eley, Collin College students who complete the core curriculum before transferring tend to have competitive grade point averages (GPA) with their university counterparts.

“For community college transfer students, the best predictor of academic success at UT Dallas is a competitive GPA within a solid foundation of completed coursework,” Eley said.

Bethany Heidenreich would agree. Because of her core curriculum completion at Collin College, she earned a bachelor’s degree in child development from Texas Woman’s University in less than two years after she transferred. “The professors at Collin College

really challenged and helped me to succeed. By the time I got to TWU, I constantly made the Dean’s List, knew what I wanted to do and was asked to be in many student leadership roles. My time was not wasted.”

According to the state of Texas, almost 60 percent of Collin College students who completed the core before transferring graduated from a university with at least a 3.0 GPA.

“Collin College provides its students with multiple conveniences such as a wide variety of locations, teaching formats and schedules,” Eley said. “Few four-year universities can rival Collin College’s combination of cost-effectiveness, convenient options and flexible learning formats.”

To learn more about the benefits of completing the core curriculum at Collin College, visit <http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/TexasCore.html> or call 972.985.3734.

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