

September 15, 2011:
Number 614

College Links

- www.collin.edu
- [CougarWeb](#)
- [View Credit Class Schedule](#)
- [View Continuing Education Schedule](#)
- [Admission & Registration](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



In This Issue...

- Top 10 Tips For College Success
- Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success
- Campus Dates
- Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival
- Quick Facts
- Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'
- College News
- Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled
- Cougar Links
- Each campus to host Constitution Day events

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Top 10 Tips For College Success

We ask Collin College faculty and staff and they speak.

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



Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success

"We want to see veterans come to Collin College because it is a proven leader in academic excellence, and we want to see them graduate."

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

Campus Dates

The morning air is crisp and your calendar is full. It must be fall.

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



Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival

Get your creative mojo going. Submit your genius for community festival.

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Quick Facts

Students at Collin College and licensure exams.

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



Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'

Latest gallery show features portraits by Lupita Murillo-Tinnen and starts Thursday, Sept. 22.

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



College News

A lot of accolades for our favorite college.

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Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled

Don't miss an opportunity to plan

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About *Cougar News*

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: Oct. 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 or sent on disk. Submit copy that is proofed, edited and saved in Word format. *Cougar News* staff: *Lisa Vasquez, director; Mark Robinson, editor; Marcy Cadena-Smith, contributor; Justin Jones, contributor; Heather Darrow, contributor; Nick Young, photography and layout.*

your collegiate future.
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Cougar Links

Some awesomely funny and fascinating stuff from the Internet.



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Each campus to host Constitution Day events

A tri-campus celebration of this country's most celebrated document.

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Published by Collin County Community College District Collin College

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Top 10 Tips For College Success



Cougar News recently talked to a number of faculty and staff members and asked them for tips on how to succeed in college.

Here were the top 10 answers:

1. Go to New Student Orientation

This is the fastest way to get great information on all the wonderful resources that Collin College has available.

2. Time Management

Understand that taking 15 credit hours is equivalent to a full time job. For every hour you are in class, be prepared to study 2-3 hours outside of class. Take this seriously. Many students work and go to school at the same time. It is better to start out slow and do well, than to take too many hours and hurt your GPA.

3. Take Initiative

Ask questions, seek help and GO TO CLASS! It is important that you advocate for yourself and pursue the information you need. Don't wait for it to come to you! Meet with an academic advisor every semester to make sure you are on track with your degree plan.

4. Self Reflection & Assessments

Throughout college reflect on what you enjoy doing and what brings you the most energy. Make sure you select a major that leads you into a career that you love. Career Services has great assessments that can help you determine a career path. Take advantage of every tool that enables you to discover who you are!

5. Utilize Study Groups & Tutoring

Good students use all available resources. Seek out a study group and apply for free tutoring groups early in the semester.

6. Sign up for the Writing Center

As soon as you are assigned your first essay, make an appointment with the Writing Center. They can help you understand what is expected for college level writing.

7. Go to the Library & Computer Labs

Familiarize yourself with the library lay out, meet the librarians and learn how to print your assignments. The Reference Librarian is a key resource for pulling together research materials for your projects.

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8. Get Connected

Join something on campus. This might be a student organization, a wellness class or a study group. The more connected you are to the school, the stronger your support system will be. Create relationships with professors and staff members by saying hello and thank you. When challenges arise, you can seek help from someone you know well.

9. Take a Class You Really Like

Make sure you take at least one class which really interests you. This will keep you motivated as you encounter some challenges during your first semester.

10. Take Care of Yourself/Have Fun

Take classes that fit into your schedule and match up with your biological clock. A rested mind will serve you well, so take classes when you are at your best during the day.

There is more flexibility in college, so use that to your advantage. Enjoy the process! College is a journey of self discovery – have fun along the way.

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Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success

"We want to see veterans come to Collin College because it is a proven leader in academic excellence, and we want to see them graduate."

The overriding goal of Collin College's chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA-Collin College) at Collin College is important to chapter president Paul Simeon. Everything that he, vice president Ed Pestana and the members of SVA-Collin College do is done with the idea of veterans getting a degree.

"If a veteran doesn't finish, we've failed," Pestana said.

There are more than 1,300 veterans at Collin College. All of them have different experiences during their call of duty, and all return to civilian life with different barriers when completing their degrees.

One example is the tsunami of paperwork that veterans encounter when they apply for their well-earned college and housing benefits from Veterans Affairs (VA). SVA-Collin College has made it a priority to work directly with Student Development at Collin College to streamline the process and minimize the wait time for a check from VA for tuition, books or Basic Allowance for Housing.

According to Simeon, a four-year veteran of the U.S. Marines, most are older and many have families. Waiting to receive education benefits creates tense days for families because many veterans rely on the money to support their families while attending school, Simeon said.

To address this issue, Student Veterans of America, Collin College helped create a procedure to prevent Collin College veteran students from being dropped from their classes for non-payment while waiting for a VA check.

SVA-Collin College was also instrumental in helping educate the student veteran population concerning their rights under [Texas Senate Bill 297](#), passed in 2009, that ensured that students pay in-state tuition once they qualify for federal education benefits.

Most recently, in August 2011, SVA-Collin College helped establish a new veterans-only student orientation focused on the distribution of pertinent information regarding the transition from service member to student and scholar.

Now they are asking student veterans and all of Collin College to join them as they begin plans for the new

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semester. For example, Veterans Week in November – coinciding with Veterans Day – will include a series of events for the entire college. Events for this week include collection of items for deployed military personnel, a letter writing campaign, collection for returning soldiers, a plethora of other events honoring veterans and veteran students.

During the academic year 2011-12, SVA-Collin College plans to undertake a number of fundraising initiatives, which include Wounded Warrior Project, Operation Once in a Lifetime and collecting donations for Blue Star Mothers of America.

Furthermore, SVA-Collin College will continue to work with Collin College administration to find new and better ways to handle benefits, obtain books, provide tutoring and more. Whatever gets a veteran from the classroom to a degree, SVA-Collin College seeks to make an impact as a group.

“It’s a lot easier to figure out a program if you unify everyone and bring a solution to the college,” Pestana a seven-and-a-half year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

“When you get out of the military, no one tells you how to get your benefits at the institutional level. We had to lay the groundwork so we knew how to get the benefits. Having someone around in SVA-Collin College who’s already solved a problem takes a load off your back. It lets you know that you’re not alone. Any problem that anyone’s come across, we can find someone who’s trying solve it or has solved it themselves,” Pestana said.

For a complete explanation of benefits, visit <http://gibill.va.gov/>.

To contact the Collin College SVA, email sva@collin.edu. Visit www.facebook.com/svacollincollege for more information about SVA.

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College News

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Cougar Links

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Campus Dates

"THE ARTS faculty"

Through Thursday, Sept. 15

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

THE ARTS gallery, Spring Creek Campus

2D and 3D design, ceramics, commercial art, digital art, drawing, figure drawing, jewelry and art metals, painting, photography and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery or 972.881.5873

Rock The Vote!

11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Thursday, Sept. 15

Central Park Campus Atrium

Register to vote and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/academics/csce/Vote.html

Constitution Day Trivia Game Show

1-2:30 p.m. - Friday, Sept. 16

Central Park Campus Conference Center

Collin County elected officials face off in this entertaining Constitutional Day Trivia Game Show.

Contact: www.collin.edu/csce

Constitution Day Faculty Debate: "Conceal and Carry"

Noon-1:30 p.m. - Friday, Sept. 16

Preston Ridge Campus, Room F148

Faculty members take on faculty members in a friendly debate on the issue of "conceal and carry."

Contact: www.collin.edu/csce

Reading of the U.S. Constitution

Game Show: Constitution Style

Student Organizations Constitution Day Poster Session

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Friday, Sept. 16

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Theatre students read aloud the Constitution. Student organizations present posters.

Contact: www.collin.edu/csce

Plano Balloon Festival

Starting at 3 p.m. - Friday, Sept. 16

Spring Creek Campus is closed.

Plano Balloon Festival

Saturday, Sept. 17

Spring Creek Campus is closed.

Plano Balloon Festival

Sunday, Sept. 18

Spring Creek Campus is closed.

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Transfer Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Tuesday, Sept. 20

Central Park Campus Atrium

Ask questions about transfer, upper-level coursework, financial aid, scholarships, pre-admission programs and more. Bring a copy of their transcript for advising.

Contact: <http://transferu.collin.edu>

Respiratory Care Information Session

Noon-1:30 p.m. – Tuesday, Sept. 20

Central Park Campus Pike Hall

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

“American DREAM”

Thursday, Sept. 22-Oct. 13

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m./Friday, 9 a.m.-4

p.m./Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

THE ARTS gallery, Spring Creek Campus

Professor Lupita Murillo-Tinnen’s portraits of undocumented college students. Free, open to the public.

Contact: www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery

Dr. Mike Bogle

7 p.m. – Monday, Sept. 26

Spring Creek Campus, Room B180

This Grammy-winning producer will speak about the music business. Free, open to the public.

Contact: Jimmy Wallace at 972.377.1742,

www.collin.edu/music

Community Partners Fair

10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Tuesday, Sept. 27

Central Park Campus Atrium

Those interested in volunteering in the community can learn more about local opportunities.

Contact: 972.881.5927, csce@collin.edu

Community Partners Fair

10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Wednesday, Sept. 28

Preston Ridge Campus Cougar Den

Those interested in volunteering in the community can learn more about local opportunities.

Contact: 972.881.5927, csce@collin.edu

Community Partners Fair

10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Thursday, Sept. 29

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Those interested in volunteering in the community can learn more about local opportunities.

Contact: 972.881.5927, csce@collin.edu

Distinguished Speaker Series - Dr. Gregory Markus

7-9 p.m. - Thursday, Sept. 29

Living Legends Conference Center

Dr. Markus will present on "Creativity in Community Empowerment. He is a professor of political science

at the University of Michigan and a research professor at the Institute for Social Research.

Contact: www.collin.edu/csce

Respiratory Care Information Session

6:30-8 p.m. – Thursday, Sept. 29

Spring Creek Campus, Room BB106

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

Auteur Film Series - Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

2:30 p.m. - Monday, Oct. 3

Living Legends Conference Center

The film will be followed by a panel discussion led by Collin College faculty and staff. Seating is limited. Some material may not be suitable for all audiences.

Contact:

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

Rockin' The Ridge

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - Wednesday, Oct. 5

Preston Ridge Campus Quad

Food, music, giveaways and more.

Transfer Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Wednesday, Oct. 5

Preston Ridge Campus Founders Hall

Ask questions about transfer, upper-level coursework, financial aid, scholarships, pre-admission programs and more. Bring a copy of their transcript for advising.

Contact: <http://transferu.collin.edu>

Personal Disaster Preparedness Training Workshop

6-10 p.m. - Thursday, Oct. 6

Central Park Campus Conference Center

Offered by the Collin County Department of Homeland Security. Free and open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required.

Contact: csce@collin.edu or

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

Collin Theatre Center - The Pillowman

Oct. 6-16

John Anthony Theatre

The Pillowman, by Martin McDonagh, is the viciously funny and seriously disturbing tale of a writer in an unnamed totalitarian state who is interrogated about the gruesome content of his short stories and their similarities to a number of child-murders occurring in his town. The Pillowman was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and six Tony Awards. Directed by Brad Baker.

Contact: www.collintheatrecenter.com

Surgical Technology Information Session

7-9 p.m. – Tuesday, Oct. 11

Central Park Campus Conference Center

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

Contact: 214.491.6215

Respiratory Care Information Session

Noon-2:30 p.m. – Wednesday, Oct. 12

Spring Creek Campus Conference Center

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

Transfer Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m. – Wednesday, Oct. 19

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Ask questions about transfer, upper-level coursework, financial aid, scholarships, pre-admission programs and more. Bring a copy of their transcript for advising.

Contact: <http://transferu.collin.edu>

Auteur Film Series – Quiz Show

7 p.m. – Thursday, Oct. 27

Preston Ridge Campus, Room F249

The film will be followed by a panel discussion. Free, open to the public.

Contact:

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

Respiratory Care Information Session

6:30-8 p.m. – Monday, Oct. 24

Spring Creek Campus Conference Center

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

Respiratory Care Information Session

10:30 a.m.-noon – Tuesday, Nov. 1

Preston Ridge Campus, Room F148

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

Transfer Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Wednesday, Nov. 2

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Ask questions about transfer, upper-level coursework, financial aid, scholarships, pre-admission programs and more. Bring a copy of their transcript for advising.

Contact: <http://transferu.collin.edu>

Surgical Technology Information Session

7-9 p.m. – Tuesday, Nov. 8

Preston Ridge Campus Shawnee Room (F148)

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

Contact: 214.491.6215

Respiratory Care Information Session

Noon-1:30 p.m. – Monday, Nov. 14

Central Park Campus Conference Campus

Receive program packets, and learn about admissions, expectations, career options, salary and more.

Contact: www.collin.edu/rcp or 214.491.6215

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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- [View Continuing Education Schedule](#)
- [Admission & Registration](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



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- [Campus Dates](#)
- [Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival](#)
- [Quick Facts](#)
- [Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'](#)
- [College News](#)
- [Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled](#)
- [Cougar Links](#)
- [Each campus to host Constitution Day events](#)

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Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival

Aspiring graphic designers should take note: Collin College and the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County need you.

The two institutions are teaming up to host a fundraising festival in 2012.

The new festival needs a name and/or logo idea. Submit logo or name ideas to festival@collin.edu. The deadline for submission is Saturday, Oct. 15.

This yet-to-be-named event is set for Oct. 27, 2012. Proceeds for the event will benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, which provides care and support for abused or neglected children in the county, and the Collin College Foundation, which provides much-needed scholarships for Collin College students.

Winning submissions will be featured in event promotional materials and displayed on a float in the 2011 Plano Christmas Parade. Also, winners will be recognized on both organizations' websites and through local media.

The winning submissions will be chosen by the event steering committee. Winners will be notified by Oct. 26, 2011.

Visit www.collin.edu/foundation/festival for more information including logo and art submission requirements.

To learn more about the organizations and their fundraising efforts, visit the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County website at www.caccollincounty.org and the Collin College Foundation's website at <http://foundation.collin.edu>.

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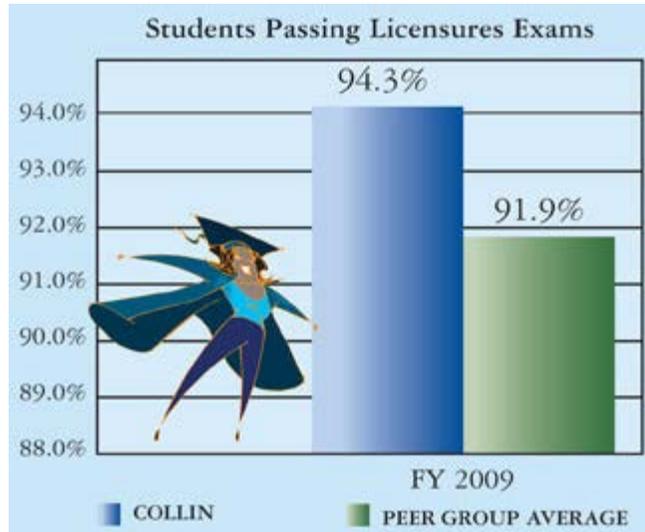
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Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'



age 3, Marketing



I was manufactured in America; "Made in USA". Yet- in 349 days, I no longer exist.

THE ARTS gallery will feature a photographer, who aims her lens at the undocumented citizen culture and neighborhoods in the United States.

Lupita Murillo-Tinnen's show, "American DREAM," will feature portraits of items found in the bedrooms of undocumented citizens -- college students living and studying in the United States.

"American DREAM" will run from Thursday, Sept. 22-Thursday, Oct.13 at the gallery located at the Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano. Admission is free and open to the public.

"All of the students I photograph have demonstrated a commitment to hard work and are currently attending various colleges around North Texas. These educated students want nothing more than to be able to contribute to the only country they know and love," Murillo-Tinnen said.

Murillo-Tinnen is a professor of photography at Collin College. "American DREAM" has been shown at the Arrowhead Gallery at Waubensee Community College in Illinois, Central Texas College and Killeen Convention Center in Killeen and the Women and Their Work Gallery in Austin.

Murillo-Tinnen's photography has been shown around the nation including FotoFest and Houston Center of Photography in Houston, the Dallas Museum for Contemporary Art, The Center for Photography in Woodstock, New York, the Bath House Cultural Center, the African American Museum in Dallas, the Calumet Photo Art Gallery in New York City and The Print Center in Philadelphia.

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A reception for the show is set from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 22 at the gallery.

THE ARTS 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.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery or call 972.881.5873 for information about future shows.

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HOME

September 15, 2011:
Number 614

College Links

www.collin.edu

[CougarWeb](#)

[View Credit Class Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Financial Aid](#)



In This Issue...

[Top 10 Tips For College Success](#)

[Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success](#)

[Campus Dates](#)

[Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival](#)

[Quick Facts](#)

[Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'](#)

[College News](#)

[Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled](#)

[Cougar Links](#)

[Each campus to host Constitution Day events](#)

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College News

David Alexander, professor of music, was invited to teach voice and work with students in acting and character development for the opera "The Magic Flute" at an Austrian American Academy this summer in Salzburg. The international music festival, Salzburg Festspiele, celebrates Mozart's birthday annually.

Watercolor class donates work for Japanese relief



Professor of art Cathy Cotter-Smith's watercolor students donated paintings to the Raytheon Japan Tsunami Relief Forum recently. The paintings generated \$1,345 in donations, which Raytheon matched totaling \$2,690 to benefit relief efforts in Japan. Pictured (from left) are some of the students who donated: Joan Dumke, Katy Lacy, Linda Stith, Marta Nilsson and Mina Daffinee. Not pictured are Debbie Parker, Robert Garcia, Sonya Ottavi, Lynda Kingsley and Marlene Davis.

Dr. Connie Siciliano Avila, associate professor of psychology, received her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Texas Woman's University in August. She successfully defended her dissertation titled "Fathers' Attachment Styles and Father/Child Relationships by Partner and Caregiver Types."

Pastry arts students **Lindsay Harris** and **Maddie McGuire** had photos of their cakes published in the September issue of *North Texas Child* magazine. Go [here](#) to see their creations. Also, McGuire and **Erika Gallegos** will make cakes to compete in the Oklahoma Sugar Show in October.

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HOME

September 15, 2011:
Number 614

College Links

- www.collin.edu
- [CougarWeb](#)
- [View Credit Class Schedule](#)
- [View Continuing Education Schedule](#)
- [Admission & Registration](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



In This Issue...

- [Top 10 Tips For College Success](#)
- [Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success](#)
- [Campus Dates](#)
- [Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival](#)
- [Quick Facts](#)
- [Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'](#)
- [College News](#)
- [Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled](#)
- [Cougar Links](#)
- [Each campus to host Constitution Day events](#)

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Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled

Transfer U has scheduled its fall Transfer Fairs.



These fairs are opportunities for Collin College students to meet and talk to representatives from about 50 colleges and universities from around Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa and New Mexico.

Ask questions about transfer, upper-level coursework, financial aid, scholarships, pre-admission programs and more. Students are encouraged to bring a copy of their transcript for advising.

The scheduled fairs include:

- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Tuesday, Sept. 20 – Central Park Campus Atrium
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Wednesday, Oct. 5 – Preston Ridge Campus Founders Hall
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. – Wednesday, Oct. 19 – Spring Creek Campus Atrium
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Wednesday, Nov. 2 – Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Transfer Fairs are open to any student and are free.

Some of the colleges and universities attending include: the University of Oklahoma, The University of Texas, Iowa State University, Oklahoma State University, the University of North Texas, The University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Houston, Southern Methodist University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Dallas Baptist University, Baylor University, Texas Woman's University, Austin College, the University of Arkansas, the Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Texas Christian University and more.

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

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HOME

September 15, 2011:
Number 614

College Links

- www.collin.edu
- [CougarWeb](#)
- [View Credit Class Schedule](#)
- [View Continuing Education Schedule](#)
- [Admission & Registration](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



In This Issue...

- Top 10 Tips For College Success
- Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success
- Campus Dates
- Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival
- Quick Facts
- Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'
- College News
- Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled
- Cougar Links
- Each campus to host Constitution Day events

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Cougar Links

The Internet is awesome. Cougar Links is here to prove it.

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

[Won't You Be My Neighbor?](#)

On Fred Rogers and crayons.

[Portraits Génétiques](#)

Faces of the family.

[Isner, Mahut and Endless Tennis](#)

The three-day tennis match.

[The American Drug Lord](#)

On Edgar Valdez.

[Cancer Killer](#)

A new, experimental way to fight the Big C.

[Coding](#)

Warning: Nerd alert.

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HOME

September 15, 2011:
Number 614

College Links

- www.collin.edu
- [CougarWeb](#)
- [View Credit Class Schedule](#)
- [View Continuing Education Schedule](#)
- [Admission & Registration](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



In This Issue...

- Top 10 Tips For College Success
- Student Veterans Association seeks to make impact on student success
- Campus Dates
- Logo, name submissions sought for upcoming festival
- Quick Facts
- Photography professor shoots the 'American DREAM'
- College News
- Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled
- Cougar Links
- Each campus to host Constitution Day events

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Each campus to host Constitution Day events

It is the document that defines the United States.

For one day this month, all three Collin College campuses will place the Constitution under the microscope during Constitution Day 2011.

All events are free and open to the public.

Collin College celebrates and reflects Friday, Sept. 16 with this slate of Constitution Day events:

Constitution Day Trivia Game Show

1-2:30 p.m.

Central Park Campus Conference Center

Collin County elected officials face off in this entertaining Constitutional Day Trivia Game Show.

A Faculty Debate of Constitutional Issues – “Conceal and Carry”

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Preston Ridge Campus, Room F148

Faculty members take on faculty members in a friendly debate on the issue of "conceal and carry."

Reading of the U.S. Constitution

Game Show: Constitution Style

Student Organizations Constitution Day Poster Session

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spring Creek Campus Atrium

Join students from the theatre department as they read aloud the U.S. Constitution, then mingle with student organizations as they explore the history of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in an interactive poster session presentation.

Visit www.collin.edu/csce for more information.

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