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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Welders-in-training show their stuff in first student competition

The San Jacinto College Central Campus Welding Technology Program held its first student welding competition Nov. 18.

“We had a wonderful turnout and participation,” said Ricardo Luna, welding technology program director. “We have talked about doing something like this for a while, and it came together well. We hope to continue this at least once a year in the future.”

Forty-nine students competed across five categories. First-place winners each received Viking 3350 welding helmets donated by Lincoln Electric, and second-place winners earned \$50 welding supply vouchers from IWS Gas and Supply of Texas in Pasadena.

Guest judges were Augustine Dickson, specialty welding coordinator at Turn2 Specialty Companies; Keith Minnon, welding dispatch manager at Turn2 Specialty Companies; Tyler Kirkwood, quality control inspector from Turner Industries; and Robert Thompson, independent welding consultant.

“It’s important for us not only to show our support of the College and



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

this program but also to show the students we are interested in new labor entering the industry,” said Minnon. “We were very impressed with the welds done by these San Jac students, and it was a close call for first place in each category.”

First-place winners were:

- Claudio Barron, six-inch pipe, 6G inclined, SMAW
- Daniel Bugarin, four-inch stainless steel pipe, 2G, horizontal gas tungsten arc welding
- Jason Edwards, metal art fabrication
- Juan Flores, open root 3G vertical beveled plate, SMAW
- Carlos Reyes, two-inch pipe, 6G inclined, gas tungsten arc welding

Second-place winners were:

- Alexandra Andrade Ortiz, six-inch pipe, 6G inclined, SMAW

- Logan Byers, four-inch stainless steel pipe, 2G, horizontal gas tungsten arc welding and metal art fabrication
- Ramiro Perret, two-inch pipe, 6G inclined, gas tungsten arc welding
- Pino Pino, open root 3G vertical beveled plate, SMAW

Learn more about the program at sanjac.edu/program/welding-technology.

Thank you for supporting students in 2022

In 2022, the community gave generously to students through the San Jacinto College Foundation.

Whether attending the “Step Brightly

into the Future” gala, joining in on Giving Tuesday, or giving without an occasion, donors ensured students could complete their education or transfer to universities.

If giving back is one of your resolutions for 2023, what better way to help our community than paying the way for students to enter critical fields like nursing, technology, and teaching?

By easing students’ financial worries, you change lives and strengthen the community. How can you help?

- Support emergent needs
- Give a scholarship
- Fund a program need
- And more...

Your tax-deductible gift — big or small — combines with others to make a big impact. Learn more by calling 281-998-6104 or visiting sanjac.edu/foundation.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

PROFESSOR, ALUMNUS PARISHER CELEBRATES NEARLY FIVE DECADES WITH SAN JAC

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

In fall 1975, a young Roy Parisher stepped foot on the San Jacinto College North Campus for the first time to enroll in the drafting program. Now, 47 years later, he is still walking the hallways of his alma mater but as an engineering design graphics professor.

“I owe so much to the mentors who started me down this path,” Parisher said. “That’s why I never doubt the potential of my students. If I can do it, they most assuredly can too.”

Coming full circle

Mentors Dr. Gary Friery and James Hall encouraged Parisher to become more than just a student, taking active roles in organizations like Phi Theta Kappa and the Drafting Club.

“San Jac became more than just a place to attend class,” he said. “The interactions with instructors were less formal, and we bonded on a more personal level. My instructors



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

motivated me to get involved and make connections.”

After Parisher graduated in 1977, he secured an entry-level job working for Fluor Engineers and Constructors. After a two-year stint, he went to work for Litwin E&C, which promoted him to a senior draftsman. This experience earned him an assignment in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. There, working in the Hess Gasoline facility, he did engineering and design work for the installation of new production equipment.

After working several years, Parisher began attending Sam Houston State University to earn his bachelor’s degree. During

his last semester, his former instructor Friery invited him to teach at San Jac part time.

“I was a full-time student, but I jumped at the opportunity,” he said. “I had to make seven trips back and forth each week between Huntsville and Houston.”

In 1981, Parisher taught summer classes part time at the Central Campus before taking a full-time teaching position in the fall. He feels indebted to Dr. Clay Kelley, then the department chair of the drafting department, for giving him the opportunity.

“I am forever grateful to Dr. Kelley for taking a chance on a 23-year-old kid,” he said.

Blazing the trail in technical animation

In 1995, Parisher helped create new curriculum statewide through the publication of “Pipe Drafting and Design,” a textbook co-created with a Fluor colleague and former San Jac adjunct instructor Robert Rhea.

“When we set out to write the textbook, I thought it would be a great addition to include video and technical animation,” he said. “I really had to advocate for it because at the time animation wasn’t a standard tool in drafting.”

To become skilled in technical animation, Parisher took a six-week internship with Blausen Medical Communications — the developer, owner, and licensor of the world’s largest library of medical and scientific illustrations and 3D animations.

To transition and apply animation technology and software from medical to engineering, Parisher developed three local-need courses that were incorporated into the drafting curriculum. His determination paid off when the Workforce Education Course Manual

Committee chose to use his curriculum statewide.

Parisher went on to earn his master’s degree at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and at one time served as a San Jac department chair. Reflecting on his career is nostalgic for Parisher, who has seen the College touch every part of his life in the last 47 years.

“I’ve seen a lot of changes over my time at the College,” he said. “I’ve taught on the Central, North, and South Campuses. I even met my wife through a colleague. San Jacinto College permeates my life. It has been a blessing for me and my family.”



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo
San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

| DATE | EVENT | TIME | SITE |
|------------|--|-------------|--|
| Feb. 10-11 | Artists for Hope 2023 Charity Dance Concert | 7 p.m. | South Campus, Proscenium Theatre, \$15.151 (tickets: sanjacdance.ticketleap.com) |
| Feb. 15-18 | “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!” | 7:30 p.m. | Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13) |
| Feb. 16 | San Jac Full-time and Part-time Job Fair | 3-7 p.m. | Central Campus, Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology (C45; explore open positions and apply at careers.sanjac.edu) |
| Feb. 16 | Small Business Workshop Series: Lender Matchmaking | 7-8:30 p.m. | Free/Generation Park Campus (to register, email centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu) |
| Feb. 19 | “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!” (Matinee) | 2:30 p.m. | Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13) |
| Feb. 19 | Auditions: Student-Produced Plays and Films | 8 p.m. | Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13; open to public) |

All times and event schedules listed are subject to change. For more information, visit sanjac.edu.



ONLINE EDUCATION CAN BE THE BOSS

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Want to be an essential member of almost any business team? San Jacinto College's business office systems and support program is offered 100% online for hard and soft skills to become an administrative or executive assistant.

The BOSS program includes three certificate levels that apply toward the associate degree:

- Office assistant, occupational certificate (18 credit hours)
- Administrative assistant,

certificate of technology (30 credit hours)

- Executive administrative assistant, Level 2 certificate (45 credit hours)
- Executive administrative assistant, Associate of Applied Science degree (60 credit hours)

Students who want to enter the workforce immediately might benefit from pursuing a certificate program. While attending fully online offers more flexibility, students can still choose the face-to-face option or a mix of both.

"This path is for someone who is interested in getting

a certificate or associate degree and getting out into the workforce quickly," said Gabriela Kisner, BOSS professor at the North Campus. "This is a great area. As many companies shift the workforce or even downsize, they always need this position across most industries."

Jobs for graduates

With the associate degree, a student qualifies to be an executive assistant or office manager, according to Kisner. Each level of the program designates the career level for which students will train.

"The curriculum for the associate degree has a vast range of classes to help students learn the basics for most areas of the office," Kisner said. "The courses teach skills from accounting and QuickBooks to PowerPoint and record retention."

Flexibility is the deal maker

All coursework can be completed online. One semester includes a practicum, similar to an internship, where the student trains at a job site, but the classwork is all online via Blackboard.

"Every class, online and in-person options, has a Blackboard site that is loaded with class information that includes everything from overall class information and textbook access to a schedule of assignments for the course," Kisner said.

Some classes meet via Zoom while others do not formally meet online at all. However, the instructor can be available via email, in person, or on Zoom to accommodate and answer student questions or offer help. Each class varies, and instructors control the method of learning, but a variety of options makes it flexible and convenient for students.

The learning tools include interactive textbooks, online assignments, group assignments, Zoom classes, and helpful

videos. Students who opt for fully online education also have access to tutoring and campus resources.

Remote yet hands-on

"The program includes in-person training called practicum," Kisner said. "This is completed in the final semester of the associate degree. Students must work 20 hours a week in a place of business assisting with the office work and special projects."

During this time, the student and professor touch base weekly, either by phone or Zoom.

Kisner explained that many students who are currently employed can get an approval to use their job for the practicum credit. For students who do not already have jobs, the program helps place them in local businesses. The practicum course is one full semester.

Convenience factor

"Having a program that can be 100% online helps busy students who need to manage their time around family, jobs, and other commitments," Kisner said. "Assignments are always available for a few days, so students can look at their schedules and figure out when they can do their schoolwork in that time window. It offers the most flexibility while still allowing students to earn degrees."

To learn more, visit sanjac.edu/program/business-office-systems-and-support.

San Jac Online

San Jac offers online and in-person classes to meet your learning needs. Get started at sanjac.edu.



ALUMNA TRADES WAR ZONE FOR OPPORTUNITY-RICH CYBERSECURITY FIELD

By Courtney Morris

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

On Sept. 11, 2001, Nevin Coco was on a U.S.-bound plane when the World Trade Center attacks shut down airspace. Plane diverted, she found herself stuck in Amsterdam for several weeks.

This began a journey that would take the 19-year-old from limited opportunities in war-torn Palestine to successful cybersecurity engineer and San Jacinto College adjunct faculty member two decades later.

Finding home away from home

Coco grew up with four older sisters in Bethlehem. Their father passed away early, leaving their mother to manage the family alone. In 2001, a sister who had moved to Houston and earned a San Jac

technology degree offered to help her get a student visa.

“She wanted to help me make something of my future, knowing the limitations we had back home,” Coco said.

Arriving in Houston, speaking only Arabic, Coco started with ESOL classes at San Jac. Then she picked the associate degree that seemed the fastest way to support herself: business.

Beyond English lessons were cultural ones. One professor, future South Campus provost Dr. Brenda Jones, took the young woman under her wing.

“She was truly the best teacher, mentor, and leader I have ever had,” Coco said.

Sometimes, long after other students had left, Coco would stay in the classroom, digesting the material. Jones never rushed her, just smiled and said, “Take your time.”

Later, Jones encouraged her to apply for a part-time position in the South Campus business and technology department. In three months, she went from part-timer to administrative assistant. Interacting with the IT community and talking to her sister and husband — also IT professionals — she decided to pursue technology too.

“I knew I wouldn’t be hurting for opportunities, knowing the demand and shortage of workers,” she said.

Proving herself

With a business degree already under her belt, Coco fit San Jac networking and security classes around her work schedule.

She transferred to University of Houston-Victoria, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in 2019. Within 30 days of graduating, she landed a job with a top firewall security company.

Today, even small companies seek to protect themselves from cyber threats. As a technical enablement lead, Coco trains techs to secure apps from vulnerabilities and misconfiguration.

Did she have to overcome barriers as a woman in this field?

“That is definitely still a thing,” she said. “When you show the customer you know your stuff, it disappears, but you have to prove yourself.”

Showing her value has also meant quick promotions, top pay, and the chance to globetrot. During a recent business trip to London, Coco fired a miniature cannon at King Charles’ first birthday celebration at Windsor Castle.

Investing in future IT professionals

In 2020, South Campus business and technology dean Kevin Morris invited Coco to teach part time in the computer information technology program. Outside her full-time job, Coco now teaches online cloud computing and cybersecurity classes.

“It was a learning curve to enter the industry,” she said. “That’s why Mr. Morris picked me to help part time. He



Photo courtesy of Nevin Coco

wanted to hire people who knew the needs and demands to get students ready to go into the market.”

Coco also helps revamp the CIT curriculum to align better with industry.

“What matters to me is not the quiz or the test,” she said. “Are you learning? Are you getting the hands-on? Am I getting you ready to go in the field and talk about security and networking?”

Two decades ago, Coco landed in Houston unsure where to start. Today, she boasts a thriving career and coaches future IT professionals.

She tells San Jac CIT students they’re in the right path and right place. With just an associate degree and industry certifications, they can land solid IT jobs.

“Cybersecurity is a great choice because it’s the future,” she said. “If you have a passion for it, there are so many opportunities. They don’t have enough people to fill these jobs. That’s job security for you forever.”

Learn more at sanjac.edu/CIT.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME
**FACULTY AND STAFF
JOB FAIR**

Feb. 16, 2023 | 3-7 p.m.

San Jacinto College Central Campus
LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology (Bldg. C45)
7901 W. Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77507

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TRAFFIC CLASS GOES BEYOND THE BOOKS

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

In traffic law and investigation class, students learn their ABCs — but not in the traditional sense. Theirs is a phonetic alphabet.

The Texas Law Enforcement version begins with Adam, boy, Charles and is used to call out license plates, for example.

“We cover the Texas Transportation Code, which is used as our textbook,” said John White, Central Campus criminal justice professor. “This class has a lab component. Therefore, we learn how to do a traffic stop using the seven-step contact approach. We scaffold this with basics — from using the Texas peace officer’s phonetic alphabet, radio protocol, and dealing with cooperative citizens — and work our way to a high-risk felony stop.”

Who should register for this course?

Anyone seeking a certificate, Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice, or law enforcement career would benefit from the class.

“This class is not transferable to four-year colleges because it is within a terminal degree plan,” White said. “However, anyone could just take it to learn more on this topic and see if criminal justice is a track for them.”

Preparing students for the real world

“I remember getting out of college, and eventually the police academy, and feeling anxious to do the job, but there was so much more I learned on the streets in the field training officer program that I never really had time to dig into, or it just was not covered,” White said. “So I teach this class

from that perspective. How to handle traffic stops is the most important thing to learn in this class because there’s no such thing as a routine traffic stop.”

Students run through various scenarios ranging from a simple arrest, applying de-escalation and communication skills, to many other extremes. They also learn how to work a crash scene, complete a Texas CRB-3 report and basic diagram, and rehearse problem-solving policing in the field.

“They may have to deal with verbal non-compliance, check someone for warrants, confirm they have one, and have to arrest the person,” White said. “Another possibility is stopping

a car with multiple occupants involved in a robbery and precipitating a high-risk felony stop.”

During a typical class day, students practice putting on tactical gear, handling weapons, and role-playing traffic stop verbiage. They gather outside to perform mock traffic stops in specifically positioned vehicles, adding flashing lights for effect. In one scenario, White acts as a traffic law violator who’s been pulled over while a student approaches as the police officer. After a few practice rounds, White discusses the activity with the class, offering kudos and helpful critiques on their performances.

Grading and final exam

In the service learning module of this class, students must finish 10 hours of service learning to complete traffic class requirements.

They have an opportunity to shadow San Jac police officers around campus to observe and learn about traffic safety. Students present their observations to the College’s police department to help problem-solve identified traffic spots with the three E’s — engineering, enforcement, and education.

“Students keep a weekly journal where they reflect on subject matter learned,” White said. “Also, the ‘practicals’ are critical. They are graded on

performance of tasks learned in the hands-on training. They do a traffic law test that resembles one from a police academy, and they must do another traffic stop.”

Kacy Huerta, criminal justice major, calls the class an amazing experience.

“This class is very hands-on and a lot of fun,” Huerta said. “The most important thing I learned was safety. It’s extremely important to be safe and careful when you’re conducting a traffic stop.”

After graduation, Huerta plans to become a police officer and move up the ranks with time and training.

To learn more about the criminal justice program, visit sanjac.edu/program/criminal-justice.



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

SAN JACINTOSM
COLLEGE

THIS MONTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



1 Student Engagement & Support specialist Ginnette Ruelas showed us how to sign up for the San Jac Marketplace, which provides up to 30 pounds of free grocery items each week for any current students and employees.



2 We had a chat with students about what they're thankful for during the holiday season.

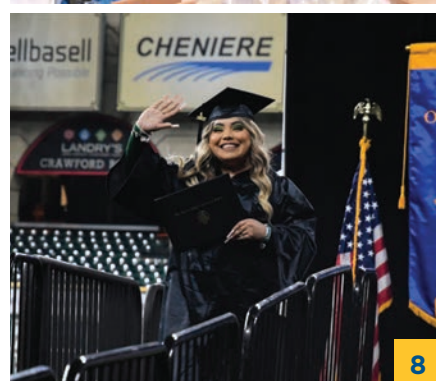
3 Dean of student development Tami Kelly answered students' pressing questions about commencement during a live Q&A session on Instagram.

4 The San Jacinto College Foundation raised \$18,646 on Giving Tuesday!



5 The North Campus art and design program hosted a winter art sale featuring some incredible student work.

6 In collaboration with Communities in Schools of Southeast Harris and Brazoria County afterschool programs, the College hosted a STEM Expo at North and South Campus to spark younger students' interest in STEM education and careers.



7 Cosmetology instructor Diana Perez discussed job interview tips during her students' mock interviews in class.

8 Chancellor Brenda Hellyer closed the fall commencement ceremony with a surprise unveiling of San Jac's new official mascot. Go Ravens!

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

ONLINE

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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit [sanjac.edu/foundation](https://www.sanjac.edu/foundation).

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation, as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.