OPPORTUNITY NEWS
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2 News from Your College

3 Industry partners lead way for center

4 Bond program under way

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Drone training coming to San Jac

In recognizing the increased need for drones in the public and private sectors, San Jacinto College will offer small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) drone flight training classes this spring.

“Technology advances change, and the commercial and industrial uses for drone technology are evolving,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives, workforce, community and diversity at San Jacinto College. “One lesson learned from Hurricane Harvey was that drones could be used to inspect the conditions at petrochemical plant sites during the immediate aftermath of the flooding when employee access to the site was limited by high water or by safety concerns. The professional use of drones requires a refined skillset, and we are rapidly discovering new ways to use drone technology to grow or improve business operations.” The classes, set to begin later this spring, will include how to safely fly a drone with 18 contact hours and how to prepare for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification exam for small unmanned aircraft systems. The classes will be taught by David Robichaux, a pilot and retired air traffic controller with the FAA. Class participants will receive a drone, simulator and a workbook. For more information, email janis.fowler@sjcd.edu.

College honors Minnie Stevens Piper award nominee, excellence award recipients

San Jacinto College has announced its 2017-2018 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and the Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards recipients. Dr. Carla Garrett, San Jacinto College North Campus college preparatory writing professor, is the College’s 2017-2018 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and Faculty Excellence Award recipient; Kevin Morris, San Jacinto College South Campus dean of business and technology is the College Administrator Excellence Award recipient; Debbie Simpson-Smith, San Jacinto College Central Campus department chair of education; and Casey Prince, San Jacinto College Central Campus dietetics professor, are College Faculty Excellence Award recipients; and College Staff Excellence Award recipients are Hollie Fulsom, San Jacinto College event planner; Loli Priddy, San Jacinto College Central Campus physical sciences senior administrative assistant; and Kate Carter, San Jacinto College North Campus provost’s office senior administrative assistant. Criteria for the College’s Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards nominations include addressing the nominee’s last two years of work and service in the following areas: dedication, service and involvement in the College community; ability to serve as a role model and work collaboratively with others; contributions to addressing or meeting the needs of students and/or employees; and exemplary attributes or qualifications for the selection committee to consider. Read more about this year’s recipients at: sanjac.edu/article/excellence-awards-recipients.

Pathways ‘Experience’ promises unique, interactive event

Guests at the 2018 San Jacinto College Foundation Pathways “Experience” are in for a one-of-a-kind “un-gala” event with hands-on, interactive opportunities to explore the College’s degree and certificate pathways. The Center for Industrial Technology will serve as the venue for the May 18 event. Along with the interactive Pathways displays, guests will enjoy a Punch Wall with various prizes; Vision Balloons to release throughout the evening; student-designed robots to control; a live scholarship auction via video wall displays; and an assortment of fine food at various stations throughout the venue. An exclusive reception and first look at all of the evening’s activities will also be held for all VIP ticket holders prior to the start of the Experience. One of the highlights of the event will be a one-night-only opportunity to experience “Club San Jac” complete with a Nitro Bar and musical entertainment to dance the night away provided by the acclaimed Houston party band, Doppeganger. Attire is black tie optional with an overall style of “cowboy chic.” All proceeds from the Pathways Experience event will benefit San Jacinto College student scholarships and programs. Find out more at sanjac.edu/foundation.
INDUSTRY PARTNERS LEAD THE WAY FOR THE CENTER FOR PETROCHEMICAL, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY

When the upcoming 145,000-square-foot Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology opens in 2019, it will be a facility for industry, by industry.

The Center is positioned to change the face of how process operators and other key technicians of a plant are educated and trained for the petrochemical industry.

“The vision, the design and curriculum within the Center will align with the petrochemical industry,” said Jim Griffin, associate vice chancellor/senior vice president for the petrochemical training division who holds more than 30 years of experience in the petrochemical manufacturing industry.

“We understand that the No. 1 concern of companies is their workforce, and our goal is to provide them with graduates who have completed a rigorous program, met specific success factors and are already acclimated to the culture of a plant.”

The Center will house programs in process technology, instrumentation, electrical, nondestructive testing and craft trades. Students will wear uniforms like that of operators in a plant and operate within a set schedule, similar to plant shift work. The Center also will include a craft training center, a control room, a process simulator lab, a glass pilot plant lab, an exterior glycol distillation unit and corporate training space.

To gain insight into exactly what the industry needs, from curriculum to the Center’s development, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor, invited a wide range of industry leaders to serve on a Petrochemical Advisory Council.

INEOS has donated $250,000 and will receive naming rights for one of the Center’s skills labs. Hunter Buildings has donated a blast-resistant building that is now part of most plant sites. This building will be used as a training space for outside operators and house the Motor Control Center for the glycol unit. Eaton engineer Amber Wright has designed the electrical labs, and the company will donate training equipment and most of the electrical components for the glycol unit. Tracer Construction is donating the electrical heat-tracing system for the glycol unit. NiSoft is donating a safety program package.

“We want this facility to represent a day in the life of an operator,” Hellyer said. “We cannot thank our industry partners enough for everything they’re doing to ensure that San Jacinto College is home to the premier training facility for the region’s petrochemical workforce.”

San Jacinto College offers a variety of petrochemical-related certificates and associate degrees and incumbent worker training. For more information about the Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology, visit sanjac.edu/CPET.

COLLEGE JOINS C3 TO CONTINUE SAFE, QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

San Jacinto College announced at its Monday, Feb. 5, Board of Trustees meeting the approved recommendation that the Central Campus Welcome Center project enroll in the Construction Career Collaborative (C3) initiative.

C3 is a non-profit collaboration of owners, contractors, specialty contractors, industry associations and design professions with the mission of developing a safe, skilled and sustainable craft workforce in commercial construction for the Houston region.

“San Jacinto College is proud to be a C3 partner in higher education,” said Bryan Jones, San Jacinto College associate vice chancellor, facilities services.

“In line with the College values of excellence and accountability, C3 is an organization that demands quality in the area of construction. We expect to see better buildings, better value and most importantly, safe projects.”

Other Houston area C3 certified projects include Texas Children’s Hospital pediatric tower E expansion, Ronald McDonald House of Houston, Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center expansion, Museum of Fine Arts — Houston expansion and more.

According to Chuck Gremillion, executive director of C3, “the participation of the College in the C3 program demonstrates that San Jacinto College is a leader in the development of a high-quality, skilled trades workforce and is dedicated to applying the C3 principles.

Program continued on page 7
In November 2015, voters in the San Jacinto College community authorized the College to invest $425 million to improve learning facilities throughout the San Jacinto College District. These bond funds will allow San Jacinto College to renovate nine facilities that are at least 30 years old; build new, state-of-the-art facilities focused on petrochemical manufacturing, engineering, culinary and cosmetology training; provide space for dual credit and early college high school programs; and update much needed infrastructure, technology and security. These new facilities and the upgrades to existing buildings are critical for our students to continue to learn in a quality environment with hands-on instructional experiences.

**Central Campus**
Start of programming and design for:
- Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology

**South Campus**
Start of programming for:
- Student Center (Phase I)
- Center for Cosmetology

**North Campus**
Start of programming for:
- Center for Cosmetology / Culinary

**Central Campus**
Start of construction for:
- Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology
Start of planning for:
- Central Plant Update
- Welcome Center
- Classroom Building

**South Campus**
Start of renovations for:
- Student Center (Phase I)
Start of design for:
- HVAC Training Facility
- Center for Engineering and Technology
- Center for Cosmetology
- Longenecker Building Renovation (Phase I)
Start of planning for:
- Utilities Upgrades
Completion of:
- Student Center (Phase I)

**North Campus**
Completion of:
- Lehr Library demolition
Start of design for:
- Center for Cosmetology / Culinary
- Underground Utility Tunnel Renovations

**College-Wide Projects**
Continuation of:
- Digital Data Control Network
- Data Closets
Completion of:
- Access/Security Review

**Central Campus**
Continuation of construction for the Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology Central Plant Upgrade
Start of design for:
- Davison Building Renovation
Start of programming for:
- McCollum Building Renovation
Start of construction for:
- Welcome Center

**South Campus**
Start of construction for:
- HVAC Training Facility
- Center for Engineering and Technology
- Center for Cosmetology
- Longenecker Building Renovation (Phase I)
- Utilities Upgrades

**North Campus**
Start of construction for:
- Center for Cosmetology / Culinary
- Underground Utility Tunnel Renovations
Start of design and programming for:
- Spencer Building Renovation
- Brightwell Building Renovation
- Wheeler Building Renovation

**College-Wide Projects**
Completion of:
- Digital Data Control Network
- Data Closets

*This plan and timeline is fluid and subject to change as decisions and assessments continue to develop.*
These facilities will be used to prepare students to transfer to universities or for training for great careers right here in our community and the Greater Houston region. At San Jacinto College, we recognize the need to provide well-trained workers, who can receive top-notch, hands-on training, and graduate with the certificates or associate degrees they need to immediately enter the workforce. We also know our students transfer to four-year universities and have better success because of the quality educational foundation they receive at San Jacinto College. That’s why looking ahead and planning for the future is critical to the combined success of our students and our community!

[2019]

**Central Campus**
Completion of:
- Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology
- Welcome Center
- Central Plant Upgrade
Start of design for:
- Classroom Building
- Davison Building
- McCollum Building

**South Campus**
Completion of:
- Center for Engineering and Technology
- Center for Cosmetology
- Longenecker Building Renovation (Phase I)
- Utilities Upgrade
Start of design for:
- Jones Building Renovation

**North Campus**
Completion of:
- Center for Cosmetology / Culinary
- Spencer Building Renovation
- Underground Utility Tunnel Renovation
Start of construction for:
- Spencer Building Renovation

[2020 and later]

**Central Campus**
Completion of:
- Davison Building Renovation
- McCollum Building Renovation
Start of construction for:
- Classroom Building

**Central Campus**
Completion of:
- Davison Building Renovation
- McCollum Building Renovation
Start of demolition for:
- Frels Building

**South Campus**
Completion of:
- Jones Building Renovation
- Student Center Renovation (Phase II)

**North Campus**
Completion of:
- Wheeler Building Renovation

Start of construction for:
- Student Center Renovation (Phase II)
- Jones Building Renovation
- Spencer Building Renovation
- Brightwell Building Renovation
- Wheeler Building Renovation
OTs/OTAs HELP PATIENTS ADAPT, DO DAILY TASKS

By Cheryl P. Rose
CORRESPONDENT

If you had a stroke that paralyzed your right arm, could you button your shirt, tighten your belt or tie your shoe? If you couldn’t, there are patient teachers called occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (OTs and OTAs) who can help you adapt and learn new ways to function.

April celebrates national occupational therapy month, a career field poised for explosive growth, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Kira Beal, an occupational therapist for 13 years and the program director for San Jacinto College’s new occupational therapy assistant program, said that this type of therapy involves skills for daily living.

“Occupational therapy helps people across the life span, especially people with injuries or disabilities, learn or regain skills,” she said. “We are a profession that takes a holistic point of view, customizing care for the individual. We don’t just focus on movements but incorporate all aspects of the individual’s life.”

New OTA class
San Jacinto College will welcome its first class of 12 OTA students this fall.

“We just closed the application period, and we had more than double the applicants than we can accept,” Beal said. “Word has gotten around.”

The next application period for the OTA program at San Jacinto College will begin in January 2019.

Beal said that OTs develop treatment plans, but OTAs then practice with the patients and help them master the new skills. She clarified that an OTA works independently, with their own caseload, while under the supervision of an OT.

“The OTA actually builds the relationship with the patient and implements the plan,” she said. “It is a rewarding profession. You can’t beat being able to help someone who couldn’t brush his or her teeth or play with grandkids. As an OTA, you are a vital part of a medical team and interact with other health professionals.”

Occupational therapy covers a broad range of therapeutic purposes. For example, Beal said children with sensory issues — such as sensitivity to textures or noise — might benefit from occupational therapy. Teaching social and interacting skills for kids and teens with developmental challenges is another aspect. Working with adults, occupational therapy can help adapt personal or household tasks if there is a physical or mental impairment. Occupational therapy also encompasses ergonomics in the workplace, among many other techniques.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE JOY, PASSION OF DANCE

By Cheryl P. Rose
CORRESPONDENT

In their early teens, Dalia Trejo and Jason Dang discovered joy in dance. Their dance experiences didn’t involve each other or even lessons at a dance studio. On separate paths, their shared passion brought them both to San Jacinto College’s Dance Program, where they are now partners in a modern dance duet performance titled, Shelter.

Dang’s passion is breakdancing. He has refined his skills over years of practice and participates in breakdancing competitions.

“When boys hear about dance, we tend to think of tutus and point shoes, but dance is also about athleticism as well as artistry,” he said. “For boys, it’s often more appealing to get upside down on our hands than up on our toes. For me, dance is like communication and language; it gives me a voice.”

When Dang enrolled at San Jacinto College, he didn’t have a career or study plan for dance. He just wanted to get his basic subjects completed. However, he needed a place to practice his breakdancing, which led him to the dance studio on the South Campus. Dance professor Jamie Williams spotted his talent and encouraged him to try other genres of dance.

Trejo’s passion for movement and dance began with her high school drill team. She had taken a few dance classes along the way, but now it became her passion. As a talented student in science and math, it was a hard sell to convince her teachers and family that she was serious about pursuing dance in college and beyond.

“There’s a stigma in dance that you can’t start ballet at 13 years old, but look at Misty Copeland,” she said. “I started to dance late compared to some, but I’m catching up with my own timeline of my life, not the world’s. For me, the dance studio is a safe space. Dance is very therapeutic for me. Instead of hiding from pain, you make it into a dance and tell your story. It feels good.”

In 2017, Williams suggested the two partner for a piece she choreographed. Performing a modern duet was new step for both dancers. When Williams teamed them together, the two were barely acquaintances.

Dance continued on page 7

KALEIDOSCOPE
SPRING DANCE CONCERT

See Dalia Trejo and Jason Dang perform “Shelter” among other student dance performances April 27-28, starting at 7 p.m. at San Jacinto College South Campus, Bldg. 15, 13735 Beamer Road. Tickets are $10 general admission, $5 for students. Purchase tickets at sanjacdance.ticketleap.com.
to their projects.”

The Central Campus Welcome Center is a $22 million, 52,040 square-foot project designed by Page. The project will be built by Tel- lepsen Builders, a C3 accredited contractor. It is part of the $425 million bond referendum approved by voters in the District in November 2015.

As a C3 project, all construction workers on the project will be employees, not independent subcontractors, who will receive hourly pay with overtime and worker’s compensation insurance coverage. Additionally, the workforce will be required to have Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety credentials and will be provided with ongoing safety and craft training.

Dance from page 6

Tances. Trejo said it took a lot of trust to allow someone to lift and hold her initially, but now the pair have performed multiple times. And there may be future opportunities to collaborate, as both students graduate this spring and are transferring to Sam Houston State University’s dance program.

Trejo has dreams of performing in at least one Broadway show, but ultimately, she is drawn to sharing her love of dance by teaching. She already teaches an after-school dance team at Queens Intermediate in Pasadena.

“Sometimes I love teaching more than dancing,” she said. “The feeling I get when a student says, “Miss, I did it,” is so rewarding; to know that I made this change in a student.”

Dang also enjoys teaching breakdancing. Though he plans to continue competing in breakdancing, dancing with Trejo has introduced new perspectives to the pair. He said, “I’d like to explore other genres to see what I can learn about myself,” he said.
Surrounded by monuments of history, industries and maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has been serving the citizens of East Harris County since 1961. As a fiscally sound institution, the College currently holds bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s, respectively. San Jacinto College is a 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Rising Star Award recipient and an Achieving the Dream Leader College. Approximately 30,000 students each semester benefit from a support system that maps out a pathway for success. The College offers seven areas of study that prepare a diverse body of students to transfer to a four-year college or university or enter the workforce with the skills needed to support the growing industries along the Texas Gulf Coast. San Jacinto College graduates contribute nearly $690 million each year to the Texas workforce.

**Vision** — San Jacinto College will be the leader in educational excellence and in the achievement of equity among diverse populations. We will empower students to achieve their goals, redefine their expectations and encourage their exploration of new opportunities. Our passions are people, learning, innovation and continuous improvement.

**Mission** — Our mission is to ensure student success, create seamless transitions and 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 20 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, 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 sanjac.edu/foundation.