

BLINN COLLEGE FINE ARTS EXPRESS

The Blinn College Fine Arts Program is committed to fostering artistic, musical, and verbal expression on our campuses and within our communities.

Brenham Bryan Schulenburg

- 1 Academic Rigor
- 1 Senate Resolution
- 2 Service Learning
- 3 Leadership Award
- 3 Campbell Appointed
- 3 Redding Published
- 3 Literary Corner
- 4 National Summit
- 4 Phi Theta Kappa
- 4 UIL
- 4 Directorship



Back Row: Debbi Cook, Sandra Bryant, Beth Lewis, Beatriz Amillas.
Front Row: Steven Babalola, Jane Haggard and Karin Kinson.

Service Learning is defined by Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges as *“a teaching method which combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility, and commitment to the community.”* In response to this academic

Service Learning : Academic Rigor Meets Community Service

mission, six Blinn College faculty members and the SACS leadership team representative (Dr. Beth Lewis) attended the 2nd Annual Regional Conference of the Oklahoma, Texas and National Campus Compacts and TACUSPA. The participating faculty members represented both the Natural Sciences and Fine Arts Divisions. The overriding theme of the conference was “Making the Connection: Finding the Common Unity with Faculty, Staff and the Community” with specific focus on “important and timely issues for the field of service-learning, student affairs administrators, and the work of community service.” Blinn College participation in the conference is in preparation for the launch of the upcoming Blinn Service Learning Initiative.

As facilitator of the Blinn College Service Learning Initiative and QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Dr. Loraine Phillips states that “Service Learning is an exciting preliminary initiative for **Increasing Student Engagement**, our topic for the Blinn College Quality Enhancement Plan, part of our reaffirmation of accreditation. Service Learning **encourages students** to see the relevance of the academic subject to the real world and **develop civic responsibility**. Service Learning pedagogy is a great avenue for community **outreach, partnerships, and volunteerism**, particularly for the millennial generation entering college.”

Service Learning: Preparing Our Students For Success!

In this our second issue on Service Learning, you will find that Service Learning is now becoming an integral part of the vision of the Fine Arts Department. In so doing, we are fulfilling the State’s Resolution on Service Learning as stated below:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12

78TH Legislature, Regular Session, 2003 of the State of Texas

WHEREAS, Service learning is acknowledged to be crucial to the sustainability and effectiveness of campus-community collaboration; and **WHEREAS**, Good service learning practices require a strong community voice, orientation and training of participants, meaningful action for learners, intentional

reflection practices, and evaluation of the benefits of service learning for all stakeholders, and **WHEREAS**, Service learning has the potential to bring state-supported campus resources to communities, service agencies, families, and individuals at all levels of need throughout the state; and **WHEREAS**, The collaboration of the member campuses of the Texas Campus Compact and the resources of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, the state office of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Texas Center for Service-Learning, and other statewide networks provide the opportunity for the State of Texas to be a national leader in the area of service learning and engagement; and

WHEREAS, The missions of the public institutions of higher education in the State of Texas involve both educating future citizens and providing services and research to communities and residents of the state; now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge public and private institutions of higher education in the State of Texas to adopt service learning as an important pedagogical tool and a central form of engagement, civic outreach, and citizenship education; and, be it further **RESOLVED**, That the secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the presidents, chancellors, and the chief academic officers of all the institutions of higher education throughout the State of Texas.



The "Storytellers": Kasey and Jacob

Abraham's Oral Interpretation Class and the Service Learning Experience: A Winning Combination of Academic Rigor and Civic Engagement

The young children sat on the floor, their beaming eyes wide with anticipation. They knew they were about to be entertained by the "storytellers" - a group of Blinn College students from Shirley Abraham's Oral Interpretation class. The Blinn students had been preparing for this day under the direction of Abraham to connect with their young audience, to bring the printed page to life in the characters they portrayed. One of the Blinn College "storytellers" details the reaction she and her fellow performer received from two of the elementary school classes they visited;

"The experience at College Hills was incredible, I was amazed at the way the children took to us. ...In one class when we were done the kids were cheering and they said to me "you're cute and funny, and he is funny and scary" (referring to Jacob) and then a little boy proceeded to get on his knees and bow to us saying ..."I bow to the king and queen." It was the most adorable thing I have ever seen. The next class we went to, the kids were so excited they could hardly sit still! When we finished I gave one little guy a high five, and then a line formed behind him cause they all wanted one! It just really makes you feel important, to make a kid smile. I believe that College hills was a great experience, and should be continued on for many years to come."

Another Blinn College "storyteller" states;

"When I went to College Hills it was an awesome experience for me, not only because I love children but because I got to finally perform for a real audience. It really helped me to see how all of the things that we learn in class apply. I learned how to get into character, and how to give a presentation, while at the same time having fun and being a little goofy. I enjoyed my time there very much and hope that I will get a similar opportunity later."

Another Blinn College "storyteller" states,

"We could sense their enthusiasm and so we got them involved in the story. We sat on the floor with this class,...and asked them to pound on the floor when they knew that the giant was coming! They had a lot of questions afterwards and wanted to see all of the pictures over and over again....The reason I accepted this duty is because I believe not enough children foster the joy of reading. I hope that by our coming out to visit and reading to the children, we will have indeed aided in giving them that joy. It is important to show children that reading can be fun."

The young children received more than storytelling entertainment on the day the Blinn College "storytellers" visited their elementary school. They met role models who were engaged in their community, they met role models who were making their higher education goals a reality, they met role models who made reading fun, and they met role models who cared.

Another role model is Abraham herself. She not only gives Blinn College students the opportunity for civic engagement and academic excellence, she herself was a "storyteller" at College Hills Elementary.

Service Learning Methodology

It is our hope you have enjoyed the journey into this Blinn College Oral Interpretation classroom. This dynamic methodology is based upon the following five steps which combine academic rigor and civic engagement:

Preparation—Action—Reflection—Celebration—Evaluation



Blinn College Service Learning Team Receives the 2004 International Exemplary Leadership Award



Pictured front to back: Greg Phillips (Campus Coordinator), Mary Barnes, Loraine Phillips, Debbi Cook, Beatriz Arnillas (Service Learning Director), Sandra Bryant, Jane Haggard, and Karin Kinson.

The Blinn College Service Learning Team was recently awarded the 2004 International Exemplary Leadership Award from the Chair Academy. The award recognizes the "ability to advance academic and administrative leadership on your campus".

The service learning team members are currently developing the Blinn College Service Learning infrastructure, training materials, promotional/procedural materials, pilot courses, and timeline. They have spent countless hours in the development of the service learning initiative including training, research, material development, and advocacy efforts. On an academic level, all of the team members are deeply committed to implementing service learning within their own classrooms and promoting service learning to other faculty members across the Blinn College campuses. Their efforts represent an ongoing forward-moving initiative that will provide enrichment to students, faculty and community.

The service learning program will actively enhance our Blinn College learning

community by promoting an interdisciplinary guild of instructors and enhancing cross-campus collegiality. Additionally, the service learning program expands course offerings and addresses the needs of varying student populations. Notably, the service learning program will benefit students, faculty, and community members via the empowering nature of the methodology. Finally, the service learning program will promote collaboration between faculty and members of the community thereby providing students with both theory and practice within their academic experience.

For additional information about service learning contact Beatriz Arnillas (Service Learning Director) at 209-7555 or Greg Phillips at 830-4204.

The 29th Annual Buccaneer Marching Festival

Thirty five high school bands consisting of over 4,000 students converged on the campus of Blinn College on October 4th for the 29th Annual Buccaneer Marching Festival held at Spencer Field. The event was sponsored by the Blinn College Band under the direction of Larry Campbell and Jill Stewart. Besides offering area bands an opportunity to perform for constructive

criticism and compete for awards in each classification, this event has developed into a major recruitment project for the college and specifically the Buccaneer Band. In addition to the participating band members each band usually generates a substantial following of parents, school officials and marching band fans for an estimated total attendance of 5,000.

Campbell Appointment

The Blinn College Fine Arts Division is pleased to announce that Larry Campbell, Blinn College Band Director and Brenham Campus Fine Arts Chair, has been

appointed to the executive board for the Texas Association of Music Schools (TAMS) as the Chair on Music in General Education.



Redding Article Published

The Will to Power: Forensics as a Sometimes-Dysfunctional Family was recently published in The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta in its Winter 2003 edition. The article was co-written with three others -

Jeff Hobbs, University of Texas-Tyler; Jodee Hobbs, Andover High School in Andover, Kansas; and Amy Veuleman, McNeese State University.

Literary Corner



I've no sad, September song to sing.
No "Winter's coming," blues.
I'll simply watch the seasons change
And revel in their hues.

I know the year is ending soon,
And, winter comes 'fore then
But I will play in falling leaves
And, rise to love again.

I will not laden soul with grief
For summer days slipped by
But, I will seize the Autumn's gold
For a twinkle in my eye.

I do not fear the winter chill
For Autumn leads me in,
And I will sing some other song
When winter's at its end.

Wyniese Way
September '03

Civic Leadership Embraced by Blinn Faculty

Do noble things, not dream them all day long; And so make Life, Death, and the vast Forever one grand, sweet song” (Charles Kingsley). This quote alludes to becoming a catalyst for positive change in the present, and through those actions, bequeathing a legacy to the future. Five Blinn College Fine Arts faculty have embodied these prophetic words (Beatriz Arnillas, Debbi Cook, Karin Kinson, Sally Deuermeyer, and Margarita Gangotena). Their combined commitment to active civic leadership has been illustrated by an ongoing commitment to student mentorship, service learning experiences, participation in a National Hispanic Leadership Conference in Washington and an appointment as the Development Director , Center for Hispanic Advocacy in Bryan/College Station.



Arnillas Attends National Summit of Latino Leaders and Allies

Beatriz Arnillas recently attended a *National Summit of Latino Leaders and Allies* organized by the *National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI International—www.ncbi.org)*. NCBI International is a grassroots non-profit organization with 50 community chapters nationwide and about 70 Campus affiliates in the US, Canada, and Rumania. The international chapters, that include various European countries have worked with workshops among Irish Catholics and Protestants and diversity consulting for larger organizations such as Texaco, the Los Angeles Police Department, U.S. Congress, National Public Radio, Dupont, and others. The organization emphasizes training for coalition building to leaders in communities, so that they can help transform and develop inter-group collaborations and dialogues, and intra-group programs that promote principled leadership. One of the teams is located here in the Brazos (www.NCBIBV.org) with trainers from various academic and service departments as well as independent trainers such as Ms. Arnillas. Latino Leaders of Caucasian, Native American, Puerto Rican, Mexican and South American backgrounds working with NCBI community organizations and college campuses met with three senior leaders from NCBI International that represent Jewish, African American and Caucasian groups. Ms. Cherie Brown, founder and executive director of NCBI International was one of them. The other two were Ms. Joyce Shabbazz, Director of the Black African-American Caucus and Dr. Robert Buchanan, Director of the NCBI Men Constituency Group. Beatriz Arnillas, a Senior Latino Leader in NCBI International, and the Regional Director of the NCBI Campus Project in the State of Texas was one of the guests invited to this meeting. In her role as Regional Director, Beatriz acts as consultant to directors of diversity initiatives in university and college campuses in the State of Texas. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the challenges that Latinos face as leaders, the challenges as a large, historical and growing minority group in the U.S.A., to explore ways in which Latinos can seek institutional and community support for professional and personal development, and to identify ways in which Latinos can work in coalition with people from other groups for the betterment and unity of our communities.



Cook and Kinson Inspire and Facilitate Student Civic Leadership By the Phi Theta Kappa Membership



The Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa provides a multitude of civic outreach programs through the dedicated efforts of their membership. Among the many projects they have sponsored are health related outreach efforts, activities at the Boys and Girls Club, food drives, and countless other initiatives. As advisors for the chapter Cook and Kinson provide ongoing mentorship of Blinn College students in activities that are meaningful and foster a sense of civic responsibility.

Deuermeyer’s Link to Public Schools *“Your students have always been such a help, and we appreciate them tremendously”* was the comment of the UIL Coordinator from the Normangee ISD after



a service learning experience Sally Deuermeyer’s students have participated in for some years. Deuermeyer reveals that she was contacted by a resourceful speech teacher from Normangee ISD needing students to help judge UIL speech events. Thus began a connection between Deuermeyer’s Spch 1315 classes and the Normangee public school system. Sally collected the names of students interested in expanding their speech and listening skills by volunteering to judge UIL events, usually held fall semester. Previous experience was not needed and, as judges, they listened to Middle and Junior High school students performing impromptu, interpretive reading and modern oratory presentations. The outcome? A set of college judges for Normangee ISD UIL speech competitions and some newfound listening skills developed in a fun and enjoyable setting. The students strengthened their critical listening abilities as well as their appreciation of speakers’ skills. Deuermeyer hopes this positive connection between this local public school and her speech classes continues and possibly expands to include other school districts!

Gangotena Named as Director

Dr. Margarita Gangotena has been appointed Director of Development for the Center for Hispanic Advocacy headed by Jorge Uresti. Dr. Gangotena has also agreed to be the editor-at-large of *The Hispanic Advocate*, the Center's flag star nationwide publication.



The hope for a “grand sweet song” is indeed far-reaching in a world marred by imperfection. However, the members of the Blinn College Fine Arts Division through service learning projects, student mentorship and civic action strive to foster civic outreach and responsibility.