

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

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BLINN COLLEGE FINE ARTS EXPRESS

Service Learning Defined

The central theme of this issue is Service Learning. Hence, we are featuring several service learning projects implemented by members of the Blinn College Fine Arts Divisions, as well as an article on the allied concept of Social Advocacy Curriculum, from which service learning methodologies can easily emerge. Service Learning is defined by the American Association of Community Colleges as the "combination of community service and classroom instruction, with a focus on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility."

Student Develops Advocacy Video



Josh Dean (Blinn College Student) promotes financial contribution and/or volunteerism to the "Make a Wish Foundation" via a powerful presentation (produced in video format) for viewing by the Phi Theta Kappa - Beta Alpha leadership and membership on the Brenham campus in the Spring of 2003. Phi Theta Kappa is an International Honor Society which is based on the four cornerstones of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. Dean developed the video in order to reach those Beta Alphas who might become inspired to support the work of this deserving organization (making the dreams of terminally ill children a reality). It is Dean's hope that the video will capture the hearts and minds of Beta Alphas thereby acting as a catalyst for them to support the mission of the "Make a Wish Foundation" with time, effort and financial contribution.

Dean was inspired to act as an advocate for this deserving organization due to a service learning methodology within a Blinn College speech class.

Service Learning Project Develops Into Student Speaking Tour



Far Right: Speech Instructor Dr. Margarita Gangotena and Kathryn Miller. Far Left: Kathryn Miller speaking to a group of junior high and high school students.

Kathryn E. Miller launched a speaking tour of public and private junior and senior high schools in the Bryan/College Station area this fall as a consequence of being enrolled in Speech 1315. Born with cerebral palsy and into a very loving family, Ms. Miller explained that after her Christian conversion experience at age nine she gained peace about her physical condition. This, in turn, helped her to be a woman of character and to attain a strong sense of purpose. At the beginning of the fall semester, Kathryn, a very creative and strong analytical thinker, gave a powerful self-presentation speech that could easily be used to help adolescents understand and accept peers with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Furthermore, from previous experiences with service learning among her students, Dr. Margarita Gangotena, her speech instructor, foresaw that Kathryn's maturity and character made her the ideal person to be involved in a service learning experience, especially since she felt "excited

but kind of nervous, but I felt I could do it." The schools that were approached were extremely receptive, and what had been planned as one presentation at each school, became 3 and 4 presentations each day. Kathryn took it all in stride and was ready to meet the challenge. The Bryan Campus Fine Arts Division Chair, said that Kathryn expressed in her presentation a "profound philosophy regarding the development of internal strength, the importance of a compassionate spirit, and the power of finding value in every situation and person that one encounters." She told Kathryn, "You touch hearts and change lives with your message." Kathryn said that the "amazing thing that really surprised me were the students; they really understood and their questions were excellent!" She added, "In fact, at one of the schools I met a little boy who had cerebral palsy, of the same kind I have. He did not say much, but at least he will have this to draw upon later on." Kathryn is a fine example of what students can contribute to the community. In return, Kathryn has had a profound experience that has strengthened not only her skills, but also her knowledge that she is a valuable participant in civic affairs. This student knows experientially that her education at Blinn College is valuable not only for her future but also in her immediate present.

I HEAR AND I FORGET,

I SEE AND I REMEMBER,

I DO AND I UNDERSTAND.

Confucius

Phi Theta Kappa Leads the Way in Civic Engagement

Phi Theta Kappa is an International Honor Society which embraces the four tenants of scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. With these four tenants as the foundation, the Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa take students on a mindful journey of civic engagement. As evidence of this commitment, the Beta Alpha Chapter recently participated in hospital visitation and cancer awareness initiatives. Members of the Beta Alpha Chapter visited the Texas Medical Center in Houston where they delivered blankets (handmade) and toys to patients at Texas Children's Hospital Oncology Unit. Regarding cancer awareness, a booth was set up at the Washington County Fair where activities and informational brochures targeted youth and tobacco. Additionally, Beta Alpha participated in a breast cancer awareness project (Live Your Best Life with Friends) which included chapter members distributing informational brochures and breast self-exam shower cards. Easing the suffering of ill children and providing information that might save the life of potential cancer victims shows the power of civic engagement by the Phi Theta Kappa membership. Karin Kinson and Debbi Cook (Brenham Campus Speech Instructors) are the advisors for the Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Faculty's Work Illustrates Impact of Civic Responsibility

Dr. Rosemary Kunesh reports that she "receives more than she gives" in reference to her teaching efforts in the Blinn College Off-Campus Programs within the prison system. While she enjoys teaching in a variety of settings, she notes that one of her greatest privileges is teaching in the prison system. She encourages the inmates to improve their "luck in life" by developing effective communication skills. Those students, as well as her campus based public speaking students, learn that "good luck" results from a strategy that builds upon communication strengths, challenges and skills. Notably, Rosemary's teaching impact goes beyond the delivery of traditional course content by providing a foundation for student transformation. The words of a former student reveal the positive impact she has had upon the lives of those incarcerated students who have had the benefit of her mentorship; "I would like to say that in your lifetime you meet a lot of people. And it's not everyday that someone comes along who inspires you. Gives you hope and strength. Dr. Kunesh, that is what you have done for me. The first time I met you was our first speech class. I

knew right away that you were not here just for the money. But instead to instill a little hope and encouragement in us all. You have never once had the "we are just inmates" attitude. You have treated us all like we are human beings. With dignity and respect. I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart....".

Rosemary has a long history of civic engagement having been executive director for several non-profit organizations and having been actively involved in community-based volunteer programs. The educational background for Dr. Kunesh includes a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science in Management Communication from the University of Portland, and a Bachelor of Business Administration also from the University of Portland.

Dr. Kunesh's work illustrates the positive impact of civic responsibility and civic engagement. Her approach to teaching provides students with a role model who lives a life of service and meaningful purpose.

Haggard's Social Advocacy Curriculum Featured in 2003 Allyn & Bacon Release

The following is an excerpt from *Ethics and Foundations of Education: Teaching Convictions in A Postmodern World* by Patrick Slattery and Dana Rapp.

If educators are serious about peace, ecological justice, erasing racism, reversing hatred, and ending starvation, then we must migrate to people who will inspire, challenge, and propel us to act whose commitments to social justice are part of an unfinished praxis out of which more spirits, visions, actions, and movements have come/are coming/are about to come. We must not go quietly into the night.



Individual teachers make a huge difference in this process. We think of Jane Haggard, an instructor in a rural college in south central Texas who has developed a speech course based on her commitment to social advocacy issues. Her *Power of Positive Speaking: Speech Methods and Practices* course takes students on a mindful journey of self-reflection by way of research, writing, and speaking assignments.... The speech class becomes a laboratory for social justice.

Occasionally, a service-learning methodology emerges from the student's self-reflective odyssey. Among the experiences that illustrate this component of the course is that of the team who visited a children's hospital and ultimately became actively involved in the lives of these children, many of whom were in long-term care.... Another example of the service-learning methodology emerging from an advocacy-based classroom is a team of students who worked at a mission house for the homeless and displaced families within the community. This experience not only taught the students the principles of research, a course goal, but also, and more important, provided transformative insights into how they can make a positive impact in their community through social action.

Dr. Haggard is guided by a philosophy that provides students with an opportunity for transformation of their own design in order to develop a vision of justice in their community, nation and world. Her course *Voices of Advocacy: Vision and Action* offers total immersion in social advocacy issues The development of this course illustrates the instructor's own transformation as she takes the hidden agenda of the curriculum—social conscience and agency—into the forefront of the speech classroom design.

It is our hope that other educators will provide examples of critical theories translated into constructive actions for social justice, like Jane Haggard and the many other teachers and students highlighted throughout this book...

Johnston Acts As Service Learning Proponent

Sitting in a Blinn College classroom was Dr. Ron Johnston (Vice President of Academic Affairs) as he witnessed the impact of service learning methodology on the lives of a group of Blinn College Students. During a speech course presentation, these students chronicled their experiences within a children's hospital volunteer program. Their presentation poignantly emphasized the positive impact of civic engagement and academic rigor. This speaking event occurred several semester's ago and acted as fuel in Dr. Johnston's support of service learning methodology. Currently, he is investigating the development of a Service Learning Program on our Blinn College Campuses.

Blinn College Young Pianist Competition

The first annual Blinn College Young Pianist Competition will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2003 in the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center on the Blinn College Brenham Campus. This year's contest will honor Dr. Henry Boehm, Jr., physician, musician, and member of the Blinn College Board of Trus-

tees. Gratitude is extended to Dr. Boehm, Robert Boehm and Kathryn Boehm Wehring for the generous donation of the Bosendorfer Imperial Grand Piano. These piano keys will be the vehicle by which young musicians will bring musical magic to the stage.

Fall Band Concert

The Fall Band Concert offered the audience energized and diverse musical selections performed by notable local and guest musicians. With football season over the marching band quickly became two concert groups in the form of the Symphonic Band, directed by Larry Campbell and the Concert Band directed by Jill Stewart. The concert this fall was once again privileged to feature guest soloist, Steve Campbell (son of Blinn College Band Director Larry Campbell) who performed the Concerto in F Minor for Bass Tuba by R. Vaughn Williams. Steve is a 1990 graduate of Brenham High School and 1995 graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston. A former student of Dave Kirk of the Houston Symphony and Chester Schmitz of the Boston Symphony, Steve is currently principal tuba with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra in Albuquerque. Steve's professional experiences includes performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra on their Far East Tour in December of 1994, their North American Tour in 1996, Carnegie Hall concerts with the BSO in '95 and '97 and principal tubist with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia in La Coruna, Spain '97-'99. Steve also performed as a substitute player with the Boston Pops and Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestras '92-'97 and was the tubist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra '95-'96. Prior to his present position with the NMSO Steve was the principal tubist with the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami Beach. Steven's wife Michelle Montone Campbell is a free lance musician on clarinet and bass clarinet and performs with the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra and the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra.

The Symphonic Band Program also included two additional Vaughn Williams works; A Vaughn Williams Christmas and Flourish for Glorious John. Florentiner (Grande Marcia Italiana) by Julius Fucik. A Moorside Suite by Gustav Holst and Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson completed the Symphonic Band Program. The Concert Band directed by Jill Stewart performed Festal Overture by Jared Spears, Yorkshire Ballad by James Barnes and A Jubilant Christmas arranged by John Cavas.

Faculty Recital A Success

The annual faculty recital presented by the Brenham music faculty on November 12 was well attended and featured a varied program. John Dujka, instructor of piano and music theory performed Pononaise in A flat Major by Chopin followed by Larry Campbell, Fine Arts Division Chair and director of bands performing Concerto for the Double Bass by Capuzzi on tuba. Vocal selections were presented by Joel Plaag, Director of Choral Studies performing J.S. Bach's "Agnus Dei" from the Bminor Mass. Jennifer Wise, soprano and new part-time vocal instructor this Fall performed Die Bekehrte by Hugo

Coeur by Francis Poulenc. Dr. Craig Garrett, Director of Jazz Studies and instructor of trumpet performed Rustiques by Eunene Bozza. Another part-time faculty member John McCroskey, instructor of trombone performed Concerto for Alto Trombone by Johann Albrechtsberger. Mr. McCroskey joined the music faculty in Brenham last Spring having recently retired from the Houston Symphony. Jill Stewart, assistant band director and woodwind instructor finished the program with an exciting rendition of Sonata for Clarinet Solo by Miklos Rozsa.

Blinn College Jazz Ensemble On The Road



The Blinn College Jazz Ensemble continued a thirty year tradition when it went out for its annual tour November 18th - 19th. The nineteen member ensemble performed a varied musical program of swing, Latin, and popular music at Houston-area schools this year, with seven concerts in Waller, Crosby, and Katy. Multiple concerts were presented in both Waller and Katy, and the tour culminated in Katy at the new Mayde Creek High School Performing Arts Center. The Tuesday evening concert was by invitation of Claude Hedspeth of Mayde Creek to share the stage for

the MCHS Jazz Ensemble fall concert. At each venue Blinn College Jazz Ensemble director Dr. Craig Garrett presented insightful recruitment comments regarding both the music department and the college in general, availability of scholarships, etc. (additionally, literature was distributed). The musical selections were the repertoire for the Fall Concert—An Evening of Jazz and Pop, presented in the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center on Thursday, December 12th.

Service Learning Workshop

The Bryan Campus Fine Arts Division Chair attended the Texas Campus Compact and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Workshop which focused on “Revitalizing the Spirit of Democracy through Community Engagement” and the development of successful service learning programs within institutions of higher learning. The workshop provided reinforcement and inspiration for further development of the Division of Fine Arts service learning initiatives (such as those detailed in this newsletter).

For additional “service learning” information visit the following web sites:

www.texascampuscompact.org
www.compact.org
www.gseis.ucla.edu/slc
www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning

Next Issue Highlights

The Bryan Campus Fine Arts Division was recently represented in a televised panel discussion regarding distance learning which was aired on Cable Channel 18 from 10:30 - 11:00 am on December 8th, 10th, and 11th. And on Broadcast Channel 15 from 11:30 pm - 12 midnight on December 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Look for additional information concerning the Blinn College Division of Fine Arts distance education initiatives in the next issue of the “Fine Arts Express”.

Service Learning Methodology

It is our hope you have enjoyed the journey into two Blinn College classrooms that fostered service learning projects. This dynamic methodology is based upon the following five steps which combine academic rigor and civic engagement:

Step One	Preparation
Step Two	Action
Step Three	Reflection
Step Four	Celebration
Step Five	Evaluation

Redding Published in *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*

Clay Redding, Bryan Campus Speech Instructor, co-authored an article with Dr. Jeffrey Dale Hobbs (professor at the University of Texas at Tyler). The article was published in *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* in a themed issue - *Pi Kappa Delta in the New Millennium: A Historical Perspective*. The Hobbs/Redding article is titled *Preserving History: Why and How to Write a History of Your Forensics Program*.

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

Lincoln



Rearview Mirror: Looking at where we have been through the eyes of Shirley Abraham

(a series of three featured articles)

I remember the first time I applied for work at Blinn. I was living in Dallas in 1982, wanting to move closer to Bryan to be with my mother. I got several phone calls from Blinn, but a full-time position was not available since Speech was not then designated as a part of the core curriculum. However, by the time I got my family situated in the Bryan/College Station area, and found a job in public education...I was called by Dean Carrington that I could step in for a professor who was on sabbatical for a semester. That's when I was introduced to the spaciousness and ambiance of the Kraft building in downtown Bryan! My classroom was next to an extraordinary sociology professor named Burns Dubose. His voice could shake the building. The walls could not withstand the power of his delivery!! My beginning speech students quickly learned the importance of projection!!!!

This was my first remembrance of teaching at Blinn. And lo and behold, Dean Carrington has only recently retired and I am still here? You gotta love it!!