Dr. Cynthia Griffith appointed vice president for instruction

STAY CONNECTED:

- Blinn’s Physical Therapist Assistant Program prepares students for high-demand careers
- Blinn awarded more than $18,000 to address statewide nursing shortage
- Blinn College alumni association announces new name
Since Blinn College first opened its doors in 1883, it has been committed to being an educational leader, not only in the Brazos Valley but throughout the state of Texas. Our commitment to educational excellence and individual and community enhancement is reflected in our accomplishments over the past 130 years.

To maintain our place as one of the premier community colleges in the nation, we must continue to plan for the future with both short- and long-term planning and a clear, streamlined vision for our College’s future. Through a process involving students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders, we have identified the following institutional priorities.

**Strategic Priority: Student Success**
Goal: Improve processes to support a seamless student experience
Goal: Enhance student skills to support academic achievement
Goal: Prepare students to meet workforce needs
Goal: Foster personal responsibility, social responsibility and teamwork among students

**Strategic Priority: Community Enhancement**
Goal: Be an economic resource in the communities we serve
Goal: Provide cultural enrichment in the communities we serve
Goal: Promote educational opportunities in the communities we serve

**Strategic Priority: Human Capital**
Goal: Enhance the culture of employee recognition
Goal: Expand opportunities for ongoing professional development
Goal: Improve communication between departments and across levels

I am confident that through this planning process we have created a strong foundation that will strengthen our relationships with the students, employees and communities we serve. I look forward to utilizing this plan to aid us in future decision-making as we build upon 130 years of proud tradition and affordable academic excellence.

Harold Nolte, Ed.D.
District President

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**Strategic Planning**

2013-2016

www.blinn.edu/strategic_plan/

- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement
- Strategic Priorities
- Student Success
- Community Enhancement
- Human Capital

Blinn Connection is a newsletter for the faculty and staff of Blinn College published monthly by the Office of Blinn College Marketing and Communications.

**Marketing and Communications**

Jeff Tilley, Richard Bray
Charlie Kelm, Jeanette Morena
Lanya Barrett, Matt Keaton, Brooke Conrad

To submit information, contact the Office of Marketing and Communications.

**Bryan Campus**

Phone: 979-209-7265
Email: richard.bray@blinn.edu

**Mission Statement**

Blinn College is committed to educational excellence and to individual and community enhancement.

**Vision Statement**

Blinn College will be the leading educational, cultural and economic resource for our stakeholders.

**Accreditation**

Blinn College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30030-4497, 404-679-4501) to award the associate degree. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the courses and programs offered by Blinn College.

Blinn College seeks to provide equal education without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability or any other constitutionally or statutorily impermissible reason. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the college.

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**Marketing and Communications**

2013-2016

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**FROM THE TOP**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING 2013-2016**

www.blinn.edu/strategic_plan/

- Vision Statement
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Blinn appoints Dr. Cynthia Griffith its vice president for instruction

Newly-created role will guide College’s academic credit and career and technical certification programs

Blinn College has named Dr. Cynthia Griffith its vice president for instruction to ensure a streamlined vision for the College’s academic credit and non-credit programs.

Griffith, formerly Blinn’s vice president for Allied Health Sciences, will oversee the College’s Academic Affairs Division in addition to Health Sciences and Workforce Education. In this newly-structured position, Griffith will guide the College’s academic credit programs, dual credit for high schools and its career and technical certification programs.

The position includes responsibilities previously held by the vice president for Academic Affairs. Dr. Pamela Anglin was hired to oversee Academic Affairs beginning in January but recently informed the College she would be unable to perform those duties.

Griffith’s new responsibilities mirror those she previously held at Lone Star College – CyFair, where she served five years as dean of academic, workforce and technical education. Those duties included planning, development, implementation and evaluation of instruction and maintaining the latest trends in instructional methods, technology and learning paradigms.

She served as a full-time faculty member from 1985-2001, then continued to teach through 2006 while serving as director. Griffith also brings experience as chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation committees at Angelina and Lone Star colleges.

Griffith earned her Doctor of Education degree from Sam Houston State University with specialization in community college executive leadership. She earned her master’s degree in secondary education from Stephen F. Austin University and her bachelor’s from Midwestern State University.

A member of the Texas Community College Teachers Association, the Texas Council of College Instructional Leaders and the Texas Association of College Technical Educators, Griffith was awarded the Sam Houston State University Educational Leadership Doctoral Award in 2006.

For graduates of the Blinn College Physical Therapist Assistant Program, the challenge isn’t finding a job once they’ve passed their national licensure exam. It’s choosing which job offer to accept.

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) help people of all ages with medical problems or health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Among their responsibilities, PTAs teach patients exercises to improve their mobility, strength and coordination; train patients to walk with crutches, canes or walkers; and provide patient treatments such as ultrasound, electrical stimulation, heat, cold and massage.

PTAs are in high demand throughout the nation and the region, and can earn salaries between $55,000 and $70,000 after passing the national licensure exam. A recent U.S. Occupations Employment Statistics Report indicates an approximately zero percent unemployment rate for PTAs, and program graduates can work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics or offices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, education or research centers, schools, hospices, workplace environments, fitness centers and sports training facilities and military settings.

While a physical therapist conducts the initial evaluation and diagnostic testing and develops the patient’s plan of care, the PTA often works one-on-one with the patient to meet the goals set by that plan.

“Our graduates never struggle for job placement and typically have multiple job opportunities,” said Dr. Christy Gaunt, program director. “They are in extremely high demand. Over the next 10 years, they are projecting the demand for PTAs to grow by 28 percent, so even in this troubled economy it’s growing at a tremendous rate.”

Many students entering the program have already earned associate or bachelor’s degrees, and some have even earned graduate degrees.

“They’re looking to enter a career field that’s very appealing, that is in very high demand and has extremely high salaries,” Gaunt said.

Since the program opened in 1997, every student who has graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree and taken the national licensure exam has passed.

“I heard from many people that this was the best PTA school in Texas, and after doing my own research I definitely came to agree with that,” said Sarah Davis, president of the Student Physical Therapist Assistant Association. “The education is top-notch, the expectations are high and that means the graduating class is extraordinary in the field. When we graduate, we already know how to adapt to unique situations and we’ve developed strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills.”

Students study anatomy, kinesiology and biomechanics and learn which exercises and stretching techniques are best for specific ailments. They also learn to position and move patients and master techniques for teaching patients to use crutches, wheelchairs and other tools.

Much of the hands-on training in Blinn College’s Physical Therapist Assistant Program takes place in the 2,800-square-foot lab located at the College’s Health Science Center.

“I toured a PTA program back home and looked at their facilities, and Blinn has far better equipment,” said first-year student Kelsey Studle. “Our lab is top-notch compared to other programs and our professors are extraordinary. They definitely want us to succeed.”

In addition to their coursework, PTA students participate in a number of community service activities. The Student Physical Therapist Assistant Association sponsors a low-income family each Christmas, participates in the Buddy Walk benefiting the National Down Syndrome Society and volunteers at the Special Olympics state meet in Austin, Texas.
Blinn awarded more than $18,000 to address statewide nursing shortage

Funds benefit faculty enhancement, student recruitment and curriculum innovation

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently awarded the Blinn College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program more than $18,000 to continue meeting the state’s growing demand for health care professionals.

Funds disbursement is based upon the program’s enrollment growth and graduation rate. Blinn was awarded $18,400.78 after its ADN program increased enrollment from 80 to 91 students and posted an 84.4 percent graduation rate.

The Texas Legislature appropriated $53.75 million to the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program this year. The fund holds schools accountable by providing up-front funding to schools such as Blinn with a graduation rate of 70 percent or higher, while schools that fail to meet that threshold must apply for funding based on a plan to produce more graduates with strong oversight by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The program was initiated in 2009, and from 2009-10 first-year enrollment in nursing schools grew 15.8 percent while total enrollment increased 12 percent. Graduates increased 10.8 percent. Despite the increase, the Texas Center for Nursing Workplace Studies reports that the demand for full-time registered nurses in Texas exceeds the supply by about 22,000, a total that is expected to grow as the state’s population ages and requires more acute care.

Blinn’s ADN program is accredited by the Texas Board of Nursing, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Program graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Exam to become a registered nurse. Blinn has received commendation from the Texas Board of Nursing five of the last six years, and its licensing exam pass rates are routinely above the state and national average. Program graduates posted an outstanding 92.86 percent pass rate on last year’s board exam.

Blinn College awarded major job-training grant

Blinn will train Mid-South Synergy and Dig-Tech/Line-Tech personnel in electrical and water distribution

The Texas Workforce Commission has awarded Blinn College a $267,648 grant to develop a training program that helps two Central Texas companies meet their demand for highly-skilled workers.

The Skills Development Fund Grant will be used to train 179 employees at Mid-South Synergy and Dig-Tech/Line-Tech, Inc. in areas including water and wastewater operations, distribution line installation and removal, communications, metering and electrical transmission and distribution.

Groundsmen, linemen, foremen, line supervisors, operations technicians and administrative support supervisors will all be trained, and upon completion workers will earn an hourly wage of at least $18.80. All employees will be trained to both recognized industry and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

“This grant will support the continued competitiveness and sustainability of these companies and this region as a whole,” Texas Workforce Commissioner Hope Andrade said. “I strongly believe we must continue to build a talent pipeline throughout Texas because the growth of a skilled workforce is the backbone of our state’s economy.”

From the program’s inception in 1996 through 2012, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 286,000 jobs throughout Texas and assisted 3,901 employers with their customized training needs. The Texas Legislature appropriated $48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2012-13 biennium.

Established in 1940, Mid-South Synergy is headquartered in Navasota and provides electric, water and wastewater service and internet support to customers in Grimes, Montgomery, Madison, Walker, Brazos and Waller Counties.

“Your never lose when you invest in community,” said Mike McDougald, vice president of administration at Mid-South Synergy. “That’s what we believe at Mid-South and that’s what this program has allowed us to do. It has allowed us to not only keep jobs in the local community but build up people and build up the community.”

Headquartered in Bastrop, Dig-Tech/Line Tech provides aerial construction crews with the training and experience to solve challenging power installations and restorations. Mike Furry, vice president of Dig-Line-Tech-LINE, co-owns the company with his father. Both Furry and his wife Glenda attended Blinn College.

“We’ve had many, many opportunities to expand by adding line crews to co-ops throughout the state, but our biggest limiting factor in that is our ability to hire skilled employees,” Furry said. “With this training program we’ll know first-hand that our employees are learning how to do the job safely.”

From left: Dr. Harold Noffsinger, Blinn College District president; Texas State Rep. Lois W. Kolichhorn; Mike Furry, vice president of Dig-Tech/Line-Tech; Dr. Milton Radke, Blinn College grants administrator; TWC Commissioner Hope Andrade; Mike McDougald, vice president of administration for Mid-South Synergy; Tom Wilkinson, executive director of Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley.

TWC Commissioner Hope Andrade endorses ceremonial check for major job-training grant.
The Blinn Foundation recognizes donors of 11 new endowed scholarships

Foundation offers 220 student scholarships totaling almost $14 million

Blinn College recognized the donors who established 11 new endowed scholarships totaling approximately $180,000 during the past year at the College's Brenham campus.

Including those created during the past year, the Blinn College Foundation has established 220 scholarships totaling almost $14 million.

"I used to think it was a great year if we got five or six new donors," said Warren Masonic Lodge #56 Scholarship.

Oliver Wagner / Graham Masonic Lodge Scholarship.

Keith and Elizabeth Twiggs Scholarship.

C. Walter "Walt" Schoenvogel Jr. Scholarship.

A. Melton Schoenvogel Scholarship.

Ben W. Boehnke Memorial Scholarship.

Brenham Cubs Baseball Alumni Scholarship.

Beatrice Bednar Donini Memorial Scholarship.

Sam Duren Music Scholarship.

Steven and Ruth Noack Vocational Nursing Scholarship.

A. Melton Schoenvogel Family Scholarship.

C. Walter "Walt" Schoenvogel Jr. Scholarship.

Keith and Elizabeth Twiggs Scholarship.

Oliver Wagner / Graham Masonic Lodge Scholarship.

W. Lawrence "Larry" Hodde, Jr. Technical Education Center, the J. Hal and Aline Machat Music Facility, the W.J. "Bill" Rankin Agricultural Complex and the Bert and Mae Dean Wheeler Residence Hall.

An additional $1 million has been spent purchasing classroom equipment and supplies requested by Blinn faculty.

The Foundation supports programs and activities that enhance the quality of education for Blinn College students and expand the College and to promote excellence in education.

"I was struck with a sense of awe about something that's so miraculous and much larger than myself," she said.

The Exhibit was recently on display at the Science Engineering Art and Design (SEAD) Gallery in downtown Bryan. Phillips has also exhibited at the Kinetix Institute, the Texas National, the Bath House Cultural Center in Dallas, the Forryth Galleries at Texas A&M University, the Visual Arts Alliance in Houston and the University of Science and Art in Oklahoma, among others.

A member of the Blinn faculty since 2009, Phillips teaches painting, drawing and art history.

From left: Blinn College District President Harold Neufeld, scholarship recipients Tyler Krebs and Kylee Arentsweil and Joe Al Picone of the Blinn College Foundation celebrated 11 endowed scholarships established during the past year during a luncheon hosted by the Blinn Foundation. The new scholarships totaled approximately $580,000.

Texas 10th Court of Appeals brings classroom to life for Blinn students

Students observed four cases as campus hosted unique court session

Blinn College students got to see appellate law in action recently as the Texas 10th Court of Appeals heard four cases at the school's Bryan campus.

The court, which consists of Chief Justice Tom Gray and Justices Rex Davis and Al Scoggins, is based in Waco and hears civil and criminal appeals from 15 counties in Central Texas, including Brazos County. This marked the second consecutive year the court has visited Blinn. Last year’s appearance was its first in Brazos County in more than a decade.

"It’s very special for a court to go out on the road and hold court on a college campus," said Robert Staudtberry, Blinn’s Legal Assistant Program coordinator. "It’s a great opportunity for all students, especially for students in our Legal Assistant Program, to supplement their classroom experience with hands-on learning.

Lawyers will work with Blinn’s Legal Assistant Program students to supplement their classroom experience with hands-on learning.

The 10th Court, which hears roughly 400 criminal and civil appeals annually, recently began scheduling sessions outside of Waco to give the public an opportunity to glimpse the law in action.

The 10th Court, which hears roughly 400 criminal and civil appeals annually, recently began scheduling sessions outside of Waco to give the public an opportunity to glimpse the law in action.

After hearing the first two cases today, the court took a recess and the justices answered questions from the public.

Two of the four cases involved incidents that took place in Brazos County. The first, Michael Harrison Boone v. the State of Texas, asked the court to decide whether the tip of an anonymous informant is sufficient for a police officer to stop and investigate a driver. The second, Debrah Elson Banerjee v. the State of Texas, asked the court to determine whether an officer can investigate all the passengers in a vehicle when another passenger or passengers admit to using marijuana.

Now that arguments have been heard, the justices will research the legal issues and precedents back in Waco, then issue a written opinion.

“The event is hosted by Blinn’s Legal Assistant Program and Legal Assistant Student Organization. The Legal Assistant Program trains students for careers as legal assistants, or paralegals. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for paralegals is projected to leap 28 percent between 2008 and 2018, and job opportunities abound in private law firms, courts, government, insurance companies, administrative agencies and corporations.

At first glance, art and science seem like an unlikely pairing. But Blinn Fine Arts Instructor Becky Phillips merges the two flawlessly, especially in her latest series of paintings dedicated to a recently-discovered theoretical particle.

Phillips’ 10-painting exhibit exhibit, “Sublime Encounters: Science and Art Collide,” will be on display at the Texas A&M Health Science Center SFPH Administration Building through Feb. 1, 2014.

The paintings were inspired by the Higgs particle, an elementary particle initially theorized in 1964 that was tentatively confirmed to exist in March, a discovery that made worldwide headlines. The mysterious Higgs particle, or Higgs boson, explains why elementary matter is mass.

"I grasped the relevance and the excitement that was in the physics community internationally, reading anything I could on the topic," Phillips said. "I watched videos of physicists speaking about the excitement of being able to complete a mathematical formula through really capturing the theory of a subatomic particle.

For Phillips, the excitement of that discovery translated into 10 large canvas paintings, all inspired by the Higgs boson.

"I was struck with a sense of awe about something that’s so miraculous and much larger than myself," she said.

The exhibit was recently on display at the Science Engineering Art and Design (SEAD) Gallery in downtown Bryan. Phillips has also exhibited at the Kinetix Institute, the Texas National, the Bath House Cultural Center in Dallas, the Forryth Galleries at Texas A&M University, the Visual Arts Alliance in Houston and the University of Science and Art in Oklahoma, among others.

A member of the Blinn faculty since 2009, Phillips teaches painting, drawing and art history in the College.

“We are at a critical time in our culture and our community when we really need to instill in students and the public at large an appreciation for art, because it is the artist who takes a daring leap to live out loud," she said. "The process of creating, of letting the mind wander, to ask questions and to solve the puzzles in making art, is the mental space where the imagination is required. And these are the processes that students need."

Blinn-Fine’s Art Fine Arts Division offers 51 courses, including architectural design, interior design, drawing, painting, ceramics, digital art, photography, watercolor, music theory, acting, argumentation, professional speaking and introductory speech.
Star of the Republic Museum technology shines light on Texas history

Director Houston McGaugh recently presented at international museum administration conference

Star of the Republic Museum administered by Blinn College has utilized modern technology to shine a light on Texas history – and museum administrators around the world want to emulate its example.

McGaugh discussed the experience at the recent Museum Administration Conference in Washington, D.C.

"If you go to a museum and you don’t know anything about it, you don’t have a reason to go," said McGaugh. "Star of the Republic Museum has taken a great deal of initiative to make sure that people know where they are going."

Star of the Republic Museum, which is part of the Conroe Museum of Fine Arts, is housed in the restored courthouse in Downtown Conroe.

McGaugh said Star of the Republic Museum is one of the only museums in the country to have a展厅 specifically designed for presenting exhibits.

"They have a great exhibit hall, and they’ve done an excellent job of taking that hall and converting it into an exhibit hall that’s dedicated to Texas history," McGaugh said.

He said the museum has taken a lead role in the industry by sharing its experience with other museums.

"They’re very gracious and it’s been a great experience to go to a museum and see how they’ve done it," McGaugh said.

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AROUND THE CAMPUSES

State Rep. Kolkhorst addresses Blinn students in Veterans Day event
College’s person of the year discusses importance of Veterans Day and leadership

State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst can’t express enough gratitude for the veterans who have demonstrated leadership and commitment while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. As part of Blinn College’s Veterans Day celebration, she challenged students to demonstrate those same attributes in their daily lives.

Kolkhorst spoke to students on the College’s Brenham campus about the meaning of Veterans Day and the importance of leadership in everyday life. The College’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society and Student Government Association sponsored the event.

“We are so appreciative of Rep. Kolkhorst joining us on campus on Veterans Day,” said PTK President William Ferguson. “She’s a very humble individual and we’re grateful she took time out of her schedule to speak with us.”

Kolkhorst, who serves District 13 in the Texas House of Representatives, spoke of former military members she has met through her time in office and how they’ve helped shape her life and time in office.

“Give thanks to the veterans who have served our country, because we can never repay them for their service,” Kolkhorst told the audience.

Kolkhorst stressed the importance of being a leader – much like the veterans who fought on behalf of their nation.

“I tell my kids each day, ‘Be a leader today,’” she said. “Being a leader could be a Friday night with your friends who are about to make a bad decisions and saying, ‘Let’s not do that tonight.’

“Nothing can stop you from being a leader if you set your mind to it.”

Kolkhorst was named the College’s person of the year and was inducted into its Hall of Honor in October for her contributions to the community. As Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, she oversees the state’s health care system and sets priorities for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. She is also a member of the House Committee on County Affairs, where she helps solve challenges facing the state’s 254 counties.

Kolkhorst spent six years on the House Appropriations Committee, managing and directing funds for public schools, community colleges, universities and medical schools. As an advocate for education issues, she has been honored by both the Texas Retired Teacher Association as well as the College of Education at Sam Houston State University for her longtime support of teacher and classroom issues.

Grant offers scholarships for Blinn Certified Nurse Aide students
Accelerate Texas grant helps students acquire skills in high-demand occupations

Funds from a statewide grant will help Blinn College certified nurse aide students learn the skills they need for a career in healthcare.

Blinn was awarded a $325,000 Accelerate Texas grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board earlier this year to help adult students acquire skills and certificates in high-demand occupations.

Blinn has already begun utilizing the grant for programs at the A.W. Hodde Jr. Technical Education Center in Brenham, and beginning in January 2014 the grant will provide scholarships for students enrolled in the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Program based in Brenham. The grant will allow Blinn to offer scholarships for CNA students, free adult basic education classes and a free support class.

CNA graduates are often employed in nursing care facilities. Their responsibilities include answering calls for help, delivering messages, serving meals, making beds and tending to patient’s rooms, taking a patient’s temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate or blood pressure and aiding patients in getting in and out of bed and walking.

Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to take the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Exam. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the demand for Certified Nurse Aides is expected to increase 51 percent between 2006 and 2016.

The Accelerate Texas grant increases the participation and success of adult basic education students in workforce training programs at community colleges and public technical institutions. According to jobs in the Future, at least 60 percent of jobs in Texas will require a career certificate or college degree by 2020, but 44 percent of Texans over age 25 have never attended college.

While state and federal funding for adult basic education programs have increased in Texas, enrollment is down almost 20 percent over the last five years. To combat this trend, Accelerate Texas programs are integrating basic skills programs with career and technical pathways to help adult students acquire the skills they need for productive careers.

The grant also helps pay for personnel, new scholarships and supplies.
Blinn football coach Feldman resigns after three seasons at the helm

Coach led Buccaneers to perfect regular season in 2011!

Blinn College football coach Ronny Feldman announced his resignation after six seasons with the program, including the last three as head coach.

Feldman led the Buccaneers to a 14-14 mark during his three years as head coach, including an undefeated regular season in 2011 and a berth to that year’s Mississippi Bowl.

The Buccaneers concluded a 4-6 season Saturday with a 38-7 loss to Trinity Valley in the Southwest Junior College Football Conference semifinals.

“We thank coach Feldman for his six years of service and wish him the very best,” said Athletic Director Scott Schumacher.

Defensive coordinator Thomas Rocco was named interim head coach. An 11-year coaching veteran, Rocco just completed his third season with the Buccaneer coaching staff. Under his tutelage, nine Blinn defensive backs have gone on to play Division I football, including one All-American and three all-conference selections.

Feldman spent three seasons as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks/receivers coach under Brad Franchione before being named head coach. In 2009, he coached quarterback Cam Newton, the 2010 Heisman Trophy winner and top selection in the 2011 NFL Draft, as the Bucs won the fourth national championship in program history.

During his six years with the program, including his term as an assistant coach, Blinn went 44-19, reached the playoffs five times, won four conference championships and played in four bowl games.

In 2011, his first season as head coach, the Buccaneers won their first nine games to go undefeated during the regular season.

After seven weeks as the No. 1-ranked team in the nation, a hard-fought conference title and a perfect run through the NJCAA Championships in Casper, Wyo., the Blinn Buccaneers captured their third national championship in five years.


“That’s what we came here to do and that was our ultimate goal and to finally check it off our list is our greatest accomplishment,” sophomore setter Crystal Young said. “It feels amazing — we are on top of the world right now.”

Tyler pushed the Bucs to the brink on multiple occasions. The Bucs had to rally from 23-21 in the first set, then watched as Tyler completed a rally of its own to take the second set. But when Tyler threatened to force a fifth and deciding set late in the fourth, Blinn got a kill from Young and a monstrous block by Kariana Castanon-Hill and Young to end the match.

Following that block, the Bucs rushed the floor to celebrate their championship.

“I didn’t see the ball, but I saw everybody cheering and I thought, ‘Oh my god, we are national champions,’” sophomore outside hitter Briana Evangelista said, who had a game-high 23 kills. “We knew this wouldn’t be an easy game.”

Blinn got solid contribution from every aspect of its lineup: Young’s 47 assists, Alyssa LaMont’s 15 digs and 15 combined blocks, none bigger than the final that clinched the national title.

Blinn defeated Tyler in all five meetings this season, including on Oct. 22 when then top-ranked Tyler visited the Blinn P.E. Building and was swept by the second-ranked Bucs. From that point, Blinn never gave up its No. 1 ranking.

The national title is Mellinger’s first as a head coach. In 2009, she was an assistant coach with the College of Southern Idaho when the Golden Eagles won the title.

“I never thought that by my second year here at Blinn we’d win a national championship,” Mellinger said. “But when you come into a program with a tradition of winning, it’s an expectation, and I’m so happy for these girls that they get to carry on that tradition.”

Evangelista was named the tournament MVP, and freshmen Trinity Ahiaku and Rebecca Reeve were named to the all-tournament team. In four matches, Evangelista combined for 57 kills and a .422 hitting percentage.

Through the course of their 42-game season, Blinn defeated 10 nationally ranked teams, including four in the top five, and swept 21 matches.

Blinn opened the national tournament with victories over Guadalupe State and North Idaho that propelled them into the final four, then defeated Hillsborough to reach the finals.

This season marked Blinn’s ninth trip to the national tournament in the past 11 years, including national titles in 2008 and 2011.
PERSONAL NOTES
Geographic Society places second at annual conference

Members of the Bryan campus Geographic Society attended the Southwest Association of American Geographers/SWAAG annual conference in Nacogdoches, Texas, Oct. 25-26. Members presented the poster “Geographic History of the Brazos Valley” in the undergraduate poster contest and placed second. The members attending were: Moises Ortiz, Ann Cleary and Michael Brooks. Ortiz and Brooks also competed in the Geocaching contest and placed second.

Essie Childers selected as keynote speaker at conference

Essie Childers, a parallel studies professor on the Bryan campus, was keynote speaker at the second annual American Association of Adjunct Education Conference Nov. 2 at the Lone Star Community Building in The Woodlands. Childers’ presentation was titled “Falling in Love Again With Teaching,” in which she encouraged adjunct instructors to recapture their enthusiasm for teaching. Her afternoon session was titled, “Motivation Matters.”

Mark your Calendars

DEC. 2.............Women’s Basketball vs. Hill, Adam’s Angels Fundraiser Night, 5:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Lone Star – Tomball, Adam’s Angels Fundraiser Night, 7:30 p.m.
DEC. 4.............Kid Concert, Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
DEC. 5.............Winter Choir Concert, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 6 – 8 p.m.
DEC. 6.............College & Career Summit, E-105, 120 and 121, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Early Childhood Intervention Christmas Party, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 6 – 8 p.m.
DEC. 7.............Band Concert, Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
DEC. 8.............Bryan campus Choir performs at Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra’s Holiday Pops Concert, Christ United Methodist Church, College Station, 5 p.m.
DEC. 9.............Brenham Chorale performs Handel’s “Messiah,” St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 7 p.m. Jazz Concert, Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
DEC. 9-13...........Final exams
DEC. 13.............Final day to register for Winter minimester New Student Information Session, Science Bldg., 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
DEC. 13-14..........Brenham Children’s Chorus Christmas Concert, Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
DEC. 16.............First day of Winter minimester classes
DEC. 18.............President’s Holiday Reception, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
DEC. 19.............President’s Holiday Reception, Janis Sneed Banquet Room, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
DEC. 23-JAN. 6.....Holiday

Want a crowd to come?
Promote your events online for FREE, 24x7
Visit the calendar online (http://calendar.blinn.edu/events/) and click “Submit Event” when you’re ready to get started. Yep. It’s just that easy.

Happy Holidays 2013
Blinn College District President Harold Nolte invites you and your guest to attend an Employee Holiday Reception

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013
STUDENT CENTER, BRYAN CAMPUS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013
STUDENT CENTER, BRENHAM CAMPUS

11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

PLEASE ATTEND THE CAMPUS MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU.
RSVP TO MRS. BECKY KLEBS – 979-830-4112 – bklebs@blinn.edu
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF THE RECEPTIONS AND WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.