STAY CONNECTED:

- Baylor University and Blinn College announce partnership on new ‘Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement
- Board approves $93.9 million budget
- Radiologic Technology Program celebrates more than two decades of perfection
- Blinn receives $562,500 to support T-STEM scholars

'Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement announced
FROM THE TOP

As we begin the Fall 2014 semester, please allow me to welcome you all back to campus.

We're in for a demanding and important year, but also an exciting one in the history of Blinn College. Our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges on-site visit will take place Oct. 28-30. We have already achieved a major milestone in completing our SACs report, but our reaffirmation efforts are far from over. For the next few months, you will hear quite a bit about Blinn's mission and vision statement, its strategic priorities, and what the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is and how it will benefit our students for years to come.

We will continue to explore opportunities to expand in Brazos County. As you know, we explored a number of sites last year, but didn't find the perfect fit for Blinn and its students. We have created an exploratory committee of College personnel and local real estate experts to help us identify potential sites, and we expect to hear their recommendations this fall. As you know, we took important steps last year to accommodate enrollment growth, including the two new modular buildings on the Bryan campus and the recapturing of some preexisting classroom space. This year we will continue to explore options to accommodate our growing enrollment until a long-term new campus solution is in place.

At this month's regular meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a new budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year designed to position us for that growth. The budget includes new positions to help us meet student needs and positions us for upcoming capital improvements. It includes $400 longevity pay and a 2 percent cost of living increase for faculty, and a salary adjustment for staff as we bring our salaries in line with market averages.

Meanwhile, we continue to build our community partnerships. Earlier this month we signed an agreement with Baylor University that creates academic pathways for Blinn students seeking to transfer to Baylor. The Engineering Academy has enrolled more than 200 students this Fall, and the TEAM agreement with Baylor University that creates academic pathways for Blinn students seeking to transfer with market averages.

Focus, which utilizes learning communities to support first-year college students. Find out more at www.blinn.edu/QEP.


The Blinn College Board of Trustees
Douglas Borchardt - President, Arwood Kenjura - Vice President, David Sommer - Secretary
Carolyn D. Miller, C.P.A., Teddy Boehm, Leon Toubin, Precinct 1 (vacant)

BLINN CONNECTION

Baylor University and Blinn College announce partnership on new ‘Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement

Board approves $93.9 million budget

Blinn names new director of institutional research

Radiologic Technology Program celebrates more than two decades of perfection

Blinn hosts inaugural Livestock Judging Camp

Workforce Education offers training for small business employees

Blinn receives $562,500 to support T-STEM scholars

Blinn names new director of housing and residence life

Blinn names Dr. Robert Brisk interim dean for Division of Science, Engineering & Mathematics

Blinn in the Media

AROUND CAMPUSES

• Physical Therapist Assistant students learn from world’s best therapists

• Blinn-Bryan recognizes 29 future nurses with pinning ceremony

• Blinn-Brenham recognizes twenty future nurses with pinning ceremony

• Paramedic graduates recognized in pinning ceremony

• Welding Technology Program turns beginners into skilled welders

• Brenham Rotary Club gifts additional $11,500 toward Blinn College scholarship

AROUND CAMPUSES

• Brethren Chorale seeks new members for October performances

BOARD NOTES

ATHLETICS

• McIntyre named ABCA Regional Coach of the Year

• Sophomores will lead Buccaneers in quest to defend their NJCAA title

ATHLETICS

• Buccaneers preach discipline, hard work under new coach Thomas

NEW Hires

PERSONAL NOTES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

As part of its commitment to student success, Blinn is implementing a Quality Enhancement Plan titled, “Destination Success: First-Year Focus,” which utilizes learning communities to support first-year college students. Find out more at www.blinn.edu/QEP.

FROM THE TOP

AUGUST 2014

Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg, Sealy

BLINN CONNECTION
Baylor University and Blinn College announce partnership on new ‘Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement

Agreement will help students transfer more easily between the two institutions

Baylor University and Blinn College recently announced the creation of a formal Baylor Bound transfer agreement that will help students transfer more easily between the two institutions and continue to expand educational opportunities for young people all across Texas.

Blinn District President Harold Nolte and Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr signed the partnership agreement during a ceremony in the Janis Sneed Banquet Room in the Blinn – Brenham campus Student Center.

As one of its goals under the Pro Futuro strategic initiative, Baylor intends to create 10 Baylor Bound partnerships with strong Texas community colleges over the next five years. The Baylor-Blinn agreement is the third partnership, along with McLennan Community College in Waco and Tyler Junior College in Tyler.

The Baylor Bound program will serve highly motivated Blinn students who, upon meeting the program’s criteria, will transfer to Baylor toward the goal of completing their baccalaureate degree. Students will be able to participate in Baylor Bound at Blinn starting in the fall of 2015, with the intent to transfer to Baylor in the fall of 2016.

“This is a natural partnership,” Nolte said. “Baylor and Blinn have long traditions of creating educational opportunities for Texas students and providing them the tools they need to be successful. This agreement gives our students a formal pathway into Baylor University and the opportunity of a lifetime.”

“The Baylor Bound program is a wonderful avenue for so many community college students who wish to continue an outstanding education at Baylor University,” Starr said. “We are grateful to Blinn College for entering into this historic agreement, which will provide greater educational access for students in the Brazos Valley.”

Students may declare their intent to transfer to Baylor by submitting the Baylor Bound application prior to enrolling at Blinn or while enrolled as a full-time student. Admission to the program will be determined by Baylor’s Office of Admission Services.

Blinn students who become part of the Baylor Bound program can choose a plan from 66 distinct majors, all of which are articulated through specific MAPS -- or Major Academic Planners -- that will assist them as they move toward timely degree completion.

More information about these majors and course transfer equivalency between Baylor and Blinn is available at www.baylor.edu/advising/transfer.

Most students in Baylor Bound will take classes for one year at Blinn and three years at Baylor. However, some students may be approved to take two years at Blinn and two at Baylor, depending on the student’s major and number of transfer credit hours.

Students must be enrolled in an approved A.A. or A.S. academic program leading to an approved Baylor B.B.A., B.A., B.S.W. or B.S. degree and refer to Baylor’s Major Academic Planner when planning coursework.

Advisors from both institutions will help students select courses that satisfy program requirements to allow for a successful transition from Blinn to full-time status at Baylor. Blinn Baylor Bound students also will receive information about scholarships for transfer students and special transfer residential experiences. Also, Blinn students will have access to Baylor’s libraries via the Interlibrary Loan Agreement as well as special opportunities to visit the Baylor campus and meet with Baylor representatives.

Baylor and Blinn officials, along with alumni, friends and special guests from across the region gathered in the Janis Sneed Banquet Room inside the Blinn – Brenham campus Student Center to celebrate this historic partnership between the two institutions. Speakers included Joseph “Hal” Machat, Baylor and Blinn alumnus, Starr and Nolte.

The newly-approved budget marks a 5.3 percent increase over the previous fiscal year, incorporating increased revenues associated with the College’s expanded course offerings and enrollment, general fee and housing rate increases and the 7 percent increase in health benefits for full-time employees.

The budget includes an approximately $1 million increase in auxiliary fund expenditures to assist with capital and master planning needs on the College’s Brazos County campuses. Additionally, approximately $980,000 has been budgeted for 14 new faculty and staff positions to assist the College in accommodating growth, including a controller, a chief of staff for Brazos County campuses and a director of strategic initiatives.

In February, BOKA Powell, a Dallas-based architectural design and planning firm, presented the College with projections that saw enrollment on the Brazos County campuses exceeding 15,000 by 2017 and approaching 20,000 by 2025. Blinn has experienced 31.1 percent enrollment growth since 2006, registering 18,413 students district-wide last Fall, including 12,883 on its Brazos County campuses.

“This budget positions Blinn to not only provide excellent service for students during the upcoming fiscal year, but allows us to engage in capital projects that will meet the demands of students,” said Kelli Shomaker, senior vice president for Finance & Administrative Services/CFD.

The budget includes longevity pay and a 2 percent cost of living increase for full-time faculty, and a staff salary adjustment to bring Blinn’s non-faculty salaries closer to market averages based upon a compensation study conducted by Fox Lawson & Associates last year.

In other action, the board approved the effective tax rate of $0.0584 per $100 of property value, a decrease from last year’s $0.06 tax rate. The effective tax rate, the rate that would generate essentially the same revenue as the previous year, was set by Washington County Chief Appraiser Willy Dilworth. Blinn’s tax rate was the lowest of the state’s 50 community college districts last year, more than 10 cents below the state average of $0.1659 per $100 valuation, and Blinn officials expect the proposed tax rate to again be the lowest of the state’s 50 community college districts.

Property taxes are expected to generate $1.610,655, which represents roughly 1.7 percent of Blinn’s revenue and approximately 22.8 percent of the College’s Brenham campus facilities budget. In accordance with state law, Blinn may only apply revenues generated through the property tax toward the maintenance and operation of its Brenham campus.

A study completed earlier this year by Economic Modeling Specialists International found that Blinn makes a $345.9 million impact on the local economy each year. The study found that Washington County taxpayers receive a cumulative value of $4.90 for every dollar of public money invested in the College.
Radiologic Technology Program celebrates more than two decades of perfection

For Dr. Shelley Pearson, Blinn College Radiologic Technology director, the key to her students’ success on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists national certification exam is simple — Blinn faculty don’t teach to the test, they teach beyond the test.

It’s not enough for program graduates to merely be able to pass the certification exam; instead, students are trained to pass the test and quickly succeed in their new career.

That strategy has now worked for a quarter century. During that span, which includes more than 300 students, only one has failed to pass the exam, and every student since 1992 has passed. In fact, only two students in the history of the program have failed to pass the test on their first attempt.

“That’s incredible pressure, I don’t mind telling you,” Pearson said. “We focus on preparing them for a career and giving them the skills to be successful in the community, not just the basic math problems to get the license.”

Approximately 50 percent of program students take cumulative exams that include all the information they have learned throughout their tenure in the program. That cumulative testing prepares students for the all-inclusive certification exam.

“We’re not waiting until the end to test students on all the information we’ve covered. We’re doing that in every test we take,” Pearson said.

Each year, Blinn accepts 16-23 radiologic technology students. Prior to admission, each candidate must complete RADR 1309: Introduction to Radiography and Patient Care, an open-enrollment, three-credit hour course that provides an overview of radiography. The course allows students to judge whether it’s a career they may be interested in, and if students choose to pursue another profession, the credits count toward their science elective.

Beginning in January, applicants can pick up an application packet. To be considered, students must have a 3.0 in their prerequisite classes, score at least a 70 on the Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test, write an essay, conduct a hospital observation, begin a Hepatitis-B shot regimen and participate in an interview.

Students take cumulative exams that include all the information they have learned throughout their tenure in the program. That cumulative testing prepares students for the all-inclusive certification exam.

“We know the curriculum is there so they can pass the test,” she said. “We focus on preparing them for a career and giving them the skills to be successful in the community, not just the basic math problems to get the license.”

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Once students enter the program, things begin moving quickly. By the second week, first-year students begin working in clinics two days a week. During the Summer semester, they will spend four days a week in clinics, and second-year students spend three days each week in clinics.

“We have incredible clinic sites,” Pearson said. “The techs or students work with during their clinicals are fully 50 percent of the program’s success. Most of them are Blinn graduates, so they know what the standards are and they care about the program.”

In addition to hospitals such as St. Joseph’s, The Med and Scott & White in Bryan/College Station, students learn at clinics in Caldwell, Brenham, La Grange and Belville.

“You get that information in class and the next day you’re working with patients and using what you’ve learned,” Pearson said.

Approximately 50 percent of program graduates start working toward their bachelor’s degree within the next two years, and some students have transferred to medical and veterinary schools.

Blinn has an agreement with Midwestern State University that creates a pathway for students to earn their bachelor’s degree online while transferring the credits they earned at Blinn.

Radiologic Technology is part of Blinn’s Division of Health Sciences, which also offers associate degree nursing, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, physical therapist assistant, fire science, therapeutics manufacturing, veterinary technology and vocational nursing programs designed to quickly train students for high-demand professions.

“The program is tougher, the standards are higher and it shows,” she said. “That’s not to say the techs coming out of other programs are bad in any way, but Blinn graduates are more prepared for what the real world has to offer.”

Blinn hosts inaugural Livestock Judging Camp

Some participants traveled more than 1,500 miles to learn from the nation’s best

Teens from as far as Oregon, Indiana and Illinois didn’t let distance to stop them from learning from some of the nation’s leaders in agriculture.

Blinn College’s Division of Agricultural Sciences recently hosted its inaugural Livestock Judging Camp, offering participants ages 8-17 an opportunity to gain hands-on livestock judging training from the College’s nationally recognized livestock judging team.

More than 100 participants learned to evaluate live animals, including cattle, sheep, hogs and goats through presentations and hands-on activities. On the final day of camp, students participated in a mock judging contest where they were asked to rank various animals and list reasons for ranking the animals as they did. Awards were given to the top student judges.

“We look at the camp as a benefit to the community,” said Joe Rathmann, livestock judging coordinator. “We can fine-tune the skills they already have and help them get their foot in the door with a little more experience.”

In the past year, the freshman team has captured top honors at its first two competitions of the year, the Tidus State Fair and the State Fair of Texas, while the sophomore team took honors at Denver and Fort Worth. The team has won national competitions in seven of the last eight years.

“We wanted to offer this camp because our livestock judging team has been so successful,” said Bryn Behnke, assistant dean of Agricultural Sciences. “We were hoping we’d have at least 30 or 40 participants and we had 110. We were very pleased with the turnout and we give all the credit to the students and past teams who have made Blinn College a recognizable judging program across the nation.”

Proceeds from the camp will help to offset costs associated with travel, lodging and contest entry fees for the livestock judging team.
Blinn receives $562,500 to support T-STEM scholars

**STEM awards will help students pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math**

In its second year of participation, Blinn College has awarded a $562,500 grant to award scholarships that will continue to help students pursue high-demand careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Blinn will award 225 scholarships of up to $2,500 per student, through the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship Program. The program was established by House Bill 2910 in 2011 and is funded through a grant from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, provided to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

T-STEM Scholarship program makes it possible for community and technical colleges to provide merit-based scholarships to qualifying, high-achieving students pursuing careers in STEM and related fields. This is Blinn’s second year of participation in the program after it was awarded $427,000 last year.

In a 2011 report, the U.S. Department of Commerce said STEM jobs had grown three times as fast as non-STEM jobs over the previous 10 years and that STEM workers command 26 percent higher wages than their non-STEM counterparts. The report noted that STEM degree holders enjoy higher earnings even if they work in a non-STEM occupation.

“STEM jobs are in incredible demand as we grow the bio-tech and research industry in the Brazos Valley and throughout the state,” said Deborah Noe, grant and resource developer at Blinn College. “These scholarships will help students engage in their education full-time as they develop career pathways in majors that often lead to high-paying, high-demand jobs.”

As a participating college, Blinn is partnering with local business and industry to identify local employment needs in T-STEM occupations and develop part-time employment opportunities for scholarship recipients.

Eligibility requires: graduation from a Texas high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average on a four-point scale in mathematics and science courses, enrollment or the intent to enroll at Blinn and declared in a T-STEM instructional program, and full-time student status while attempting 30 credit hours for the academic year (2014-15).

Eligible programs include Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Dental Hygiene, Emergency Medical Technician, Veterinary Technician, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Information Technology Administrator, Microsoft Certificate and Linux Specialist. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis with the first 225 qualified applicants receiving awards.
Physical Therapist Assistant students learn from world’s best therapists

Blinn College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students left Bryan-College Station before sunrise recently to share their knowledge with children and learn from some of the world’s finest physical therapists.

At the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science, the 21 students acted as docents for three different hands-on activities for children and their parents. The respiratory, digestive and cardiovascular systems were each represented at a station where students taught museum guests what a healthy smoker’s lung looks like compared to a healthy lung, how much sugar is in a can of soda and how much blood the human body contains.

“The presentations at the museum helped sharpen our communication skills and made the information really sink in,” said Brittany Martin, a second-year student from Lindale. “The museum was incredible to walk through—the exhibits were hands-on and very involved. It was a great learning experience.”

The students finished their day at The Institute for Rehab and Research recently to share their knowledge with many therapists moving nonstop and working diligently with their patients. The staff had a way of approaching rehab that was really inspiring.”

The Houston trip was a first for the students, but PTA faculty are already working to make it an annual affair.

“The opportunity to travel with their instructor, and together they go over prevention, anatomy and physiology, basic nursing skills, nutrition, pharmacology, pediatrics, neonatal and surgical nursing and mental health and mental illness. Students spend 35-40 hours per week in scheduled activities and attendance is mandatory. Because students devote a great deal of time to studying and preparing for class and clinicals, faculty recommend that students limit their work hours.

Graduates who pass their state board exams qualifies them for employment in the field or obtaining a bachelor’s degree. Paramedics also perform services, trauma management, cardiology, medical technician, clinical emergency medical services, trauma management, cardiology, medical emergencies and EMS operations. Students must also complete the Paramedic Academy, a three-semester program that prepares students for certification or licensure by the National Registry of EMTs and the Texas Department of State Health Services. Students graduate received the Certificate of Paramedic Technology, which can be applied to working in the field or obtaining a bachelor’s degree. Interim program director Sandy Medina, a Blinn College alumni and 13-year emergency medical services veteran, attributes the students’ success to the program’s experienced instructors and rigorous coursework.

“It’s been quite a year for these 23 students and I couldn’t be more proud of them,” said Sandy Medina, interim program director. “The students had to endure three grueling semesters of not just didactic material, but countless hours of lab and clinical rotations ending with a 240-hour internship in the summer session. They’re truly a stellar class who will serve their communities well.”

Blinn-Bryan recognizes twenty future nurses with pinning ceremony

Vocational Nursing Program among the most challenging Blinn College offers

Blinn-Brenham recognizes twenty future nurses with pinning ceremony

Twelve Blinn College Licensed Vocational Nursing graduates were welcomed into the profession Wednesday night during the program’s 51st pinning ceremony at the Dr. W.K. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center on the College’s Brenham campus.

Last year, all 10 of Blinn’s vocational nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensing Examination on the first attempt, earning commendation from the Texas Board of Nursing. Since 2009, all 81 Blinn vocational nursing graduates have passed the licensing exam for a 100 percent pass rate. The national average is approximately 84 percent.

The 12-month program’s first semester includes 10 courses, and students must pass all their classes to advance to the next semester. Should they fail, they must re-apply for the program the following year. To pass, students must score at least a 75 percent, and the program also features a strict attendance policy. If a student fails an exam, they must schedule an appointment with their instructor, and together they go over the exam to discover the source of the student’s confusion.

“The consistency and excellence of our faculty is a big reason for our success,” said Program Director Michelle Marturano, who graduated from the program herself in 1988. “Our faculty knows the program and understands the ins and outs of the profession. We also have a strong applicant pool each year and our students work really hard.”

Students who pass their state board exams are qualified to work in home health, dialysis, hospitals, clinics and physicians’ offices.

Paramedics graduates recognized in pinning ceremony

Twentye-three students excel in EMS readiness through state-of-the-art training

The Blinn College – Bryan campus Paramedic Program recently welcomed 23 students to the profession in a pinning ceremony hosted at the College’s Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room. Each graduate completed 45 credit hours to earn their paramedic technology certificate, which qualifies them for entry-level paramedic positions.

Courses include basic and clinical emergency medical technician, clinical emergency medical services, trauma management, cardiology, medical emergencies and EMS operations. Students must also complete the Paramedic Academy, a three-semester program that prepares students for certification or licensure by the National Registry of EMTs and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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Welding Technology Program turns beginners into skilled welders

When Brittany Everett was laid off from her drafting and design job, she was desperate to find a job that would support herself and her young daughter. “I always wanted to try welding since I was in high school,” said Everett, a 2018 Sealy High School graduate. “I don’t mind working hard or sweating, and I knew welding is a really good field to get in to.”

Everett enrolled in Blinn’s inaugural 128-hour short track and wire welding technology class on the Blinn College – Sealy campus even though she knew next to nothing about the trade. Last week, she received her welding certification and Welder’s Procedures Qualification Record (WPQR). She will soon tackle several interviews she lined up just days after completing the course.

“The best part was getting that certificate and knowing that I proved a lot of people wrong,” Everett said. “Everyone said, ‘You’re a girl—you can’t do this.’ My instructor was always there to encourage me. It was a great course that I hope more people will pick up.”

An entry-level welder can expect to make between $12 and $15 per hour. The average national salary of a welder is $37,040 annually, according to earnings based on region, years of experience and industry, where welders may earn in excess of $55,000 annually.

Welding technology non-credit classes are offered at Blinn’s Brenham and Bryan campuses in addition to Sealy. The program in Sealy opened in the Spring and can serve up to 12 students per course. The hands-on classes are offered by a highly-trained Blinn instructor in the Sealy High School welding shop.

“None of my students had any knowledge of welding when they started,” said Lucky Howe, welding instructor. “When they leave my class they can market themselves. No matter how technology advances, there will be a need for the hands-on welder.”

Blinn College awards 267 scholarships to deserving students

Blinn College awarded $3.9 million in the form of 267 scholarships to students this year. The Brenham Rotary Club Scholarship was previously endowed with gifts totaling $16,286. That program has been reinstated and will soon tackle several interviews she lined up just days after completing the course.

The Brenham Rotary Club has gifted an additional $11,500 toward Blinn College scholarship funds. This was previously gifted totaling $16,286. It is available to sophomore Blinn students, with preference given to Washington County residents.

“The scholarship only adds to Brenham Rotary Club’s outstanding reputation for community service,” said Susan Myers, executive director of the Rotary Club of Brenham. “This generous gift will help students in Washington County follow their passions through an affordable, quality education.”

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary Club members belonging to 34,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Since 1979, Rotary has helped reduce polio cases worldwide by 99 percent, helping to immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries.

Founded in 1921, Brenham Rotary Club is one of the oldest in Texas. One of its most notable early projects was the building of a bridge across the Brazos River where U.S. Highway 290 now resides in place of the ferry that then existed.

The Foundation supports programs and activities that enhance the quality of education for Blinn College students and expand the educational opportunities for the entire community. While raising funds is an important function, the Foundation also seeks to heighten community awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the College and to promote excellence in education.

Since its inception in 2000, the Foundation has raised more than $13 million for Blinn. These funds have been used to help launch major construction projects across Blinn’s campuses, including the A.W. Hodge, J. Technical Education Center, the J. Hall and Alyne Macht Music Facility, the W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex and the Bert and Mae Dean Wheeler Residence Hall.

An additional $31 million has been spent purchasing classroom equipment and supplies requested by Blinn faculty.

Blinn names dean of student success

Thomas brings 15 years of experience helping students reach their dreams

Blinn College has named Jeremy Thomas, a 15-year veteran of inspiring students to reach their dreams, dean of student success. As dean of student success, Thomas will supervise directors and managers of personnel for student success units, including academic advising and counseling, the Blinn TEAM Program, disability services and the health clinics, and will serve as co-director of Blinn’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The College has selected “Destination Success: First-Year Focus” as its QEP topic. As part of the plan, Blinn will develop learning communities to support first-year students making the transition from high school to college.

Thomas comes to Blinn from Angeloina College, where he had served as director of Admissions and Enrollment Services since 2008. In that role, he supervised Angelina’s academic counselors, classified admission personnel, admission counselors, concurrent enrollment coordinator, coordinator of student activities, health services assistant and welcome center, and managed new Student Orientation, the East Texas Partner Program with Stephen F. Austin State University and the college’s portion of the Gear-Up Grant.

Prior to his service at Angelina, Thomas served as College of the Mainland’s distance education advisor for approximately a year before being named director of advisement and dual credit services. He served two years as Northwestern State University’s assistant director of university recruiting for honor students and almost three years as the university’s Academic Center coordinator and instructor.

Thomas earned the Academic Advising Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Academic Advising Network earlier this year and is also a recipient of the National Academic Advising Association Graduate Scholarship. He is a member of the National Academic Advising Association. He has served as president and vice president of technology for the Texas Academic Advising Network and served on the ApplyTx and academic advising assessment committees at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Thomas earned his bachelor degree and Master of Education in Educational Technology from Northwestern State University. He holds a graduate certificate in academic advising from Kansas State University and is currently completing his dissertation for a Doctor of Education in Developmental Education with a concentration in student development from Grambling State University.

Museum Exhibit

Star of the Republic Museum recently installed this exhibit on the third floor of the Brenham campus Administration Building, displaying the handmade, hand-forged wooden shoe-making tools Heinrich Wilhelm Tiemann and his wife brought from Germany to the community of William Penn when they emigrated in 1885.

AROUND THE CAMPUSES

Brenham Rotary Club gifts additional $11,500 toward Blinn College scholarship

The Brenham Rotary Club has gifted an additional $11,500 toward the Blinn College scholarship it originally endowed in 1999, the College has announced.

The Brenham Rotary Club Scholarship was previously endowed with gifts totaling $16,286. That program has been reinstated and will be distributed equally to students attending Blinn College at the Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg and Sealy campuses.

The Board voted to:

• Approve the minutes for the July 15, 2014 regular meeting and the July 28, 2014 and July 29, 2014 workshop meetings.
• Adopt a resolution declaring the board has reviewed the board’s investment policies and investment strategies and reaffirmed each as it provided in Board Policies CAK (Legal and Local): Appropriations and Revenue Sources – Investments.
• Approve the 2014-15 budget of the Washington County Appraisal District.
• Authorize the board president to take all further action to effectuate the transaction including negotiating, finalizing and executing a repurchase of Lot 1, Block 1 and subdivision of 7,200 acres to form Lots 1 and Lots 2 of Block 1 of the Blinn College Saeger Street Subdivision, Section 1.
• Adopt the budget for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year.
• Adopt a resolution to set the tax rate for 2014.
• Adopt legislative priorities for the 84th session of the Texas State Legislature.
• Adopt revisions to the following Blinn College board policies: DBE (LOCAL): Employment Requirements and Restrictions – Nepotism; DH (LOCAL): Employee Standards of Conduct; DJ (LOCAL): Assignment, Workload and Schedules; FKC (LOCAL): Student Activities – Registered Student Organizations.

AROUND THE CAMPUSES
Sophomores will lead Buccaneers in quest to defend their NJCAA title

Erin Mellinger and the Blinn Buccaneers don’t like to use the phrase “repeat” when speaking about the opportunity to defend their 2013 NJCAA national championship.

“It’s not a repeat because this is a whole new group,” said head coach Erin Mellinger, now entering her third season with the Buccaneers.

“We’ve had a whole new journey with a different roster and a different chemistry.”

The 2013 season marked Blinn’s third NJCAA championship after previously capturing the title in 2008 and 2011.

“It’s all about how much you want to take care of one another,” Mellinger said. “It starts with strong leadership, and I’m really not worried about the leadership on this team. We have some sophomores who are very focused, and our freshmen chose to come here because they want to be a part of it. We just have to remember this is a new team with a clean slate.”

The Buccaneers return six sophomores from last season’s squad, which went 39-3 on its way to the Region XIV Conference and NJCAA championships. Five of those six returners — Alyssa Luafalemana, Rebecca Proske, Rachel Sharp, Rebecca Reeve, and Rachel Sharp — played more than 30 sets last season.

Luafalemana, a 5-foot-11 outside hitter from Honolulu, Hawaii, was the team’s Most Valuable Player of the Year.

“I’m really, really happy with our setting class,” Mellinger said. “I’m excited about all three of them.”

The Buccaneers also looked up on middle blockers. Luafalemana comes to Blinn from Carson, Calif., and Mellinger described her as a similar athlete to former Buccaneer All-American middle blocker Bruna Evangelista — except faster and able to jump higher.

Abigail Onipede hails from Blinn, Texas, where she played at Delius High School. Like Luafalemana, Onipede is a terrific athlete with huge jump ability and a powerful swing.

Haley Howard of Keller, Texas, could also make an impact in her freshman season after earning honors at Keller Central.

“We’re hoping he’s one of the better backs we’ve had in a while,” Thomas said. “He was hurt in workouts during the summer.”

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NEW HIRES
Bryan Campus, Full-Time
Joshua Guajardo, Information Technology Technician and Sarah Doyle, Financial Aid Clerk.

Museum, Part-time
Alisha Zenor, Maintenance Helper.

Schulenburg, Part-time
Casey Walters, Workforce Education Instructor.

AROUND THE CAMPUSES

Mark your Calendars

SEPT. 1 ...... Labor Day Holiday
SEPT. 2 ...... Bryan campus Welcome Week
              Taste of B/CS, Student Center,
              11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
              Bryan campus theatre auditions,
              Student Center E-120, 6 p.m.
              Bryan campus Welcome Week
              Country Night, Pearson Banquet
              Room, 7 p.m.
              Bryan campus Welcome Week
              Field Day, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
SEPT. 3 ...... Bryan campus Welcome Week
              Glow Party, Pearson Banquet
              Room, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 4 ...... First 8-Week Session Begins
              Bryan campus Welcome Week
              Buccaneer Bash, Pearson Banquet
              Room, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 4-7 .... ‘Greater Tuna,’ Dr. W.W.
              O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
SEPT. 6 ...... Football vs. Tyler, Cub Stadium,
              7 p.m.
SEPT. 10 ..... Texas A&M Academic Advisor
              Visit, Brenham Administration
              Building Rm. 206,
              10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
SEPT. 12 ..... Fall 2014 Day of Record
              Volleyball hosts Blinn Invitational,
              P.E. Building, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
SEPT. 13 ..... Volleyball hosts Blinn Invitational,
              P.E. Building, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
SEPT. 17 ..... U. of Houston Advisor Visit,
              Brenham Administration Building
              Rm. 206,
              10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
SEPT. 18 ..... Texas State Advisor Visit, Brenham
              Administration Building Rm. 206,
              12:30 – 4 p.m.
SEPT. 19 ..... Volleyball vs. Temple, P.E.
              Building, 6 p.m.
SEPT. 20 ..... Football vs. Arkansas Baptist
              College, Cub Stadium, 3 p.m.
SEPT. 23 ..... Suicide Prevention Week Resources
              Available, Bryan Student Center,
              11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
              Volleyball vs. Wharton County,
              P.E. Building, 6 p.m.
              Board of Trustees Meeting,
              Brenham Administration Building,
              6:30 p.m.
SEPT. 24 ..... Suicide Prevention Week BVCASA
              Presentation, Bryan E-120, noon –
              1:30 p.m.
SEPT. 25 ..... Suicide Prevention Week
              #loveyourselfie, Bryan Student
              Center, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
SEPT. 26 ..... Buccaneer Backer Golf
              Tournament, Bellville Country
              Club, 1 p.m.
SEPT. 29 ..... 12-Week Session Classes Begin
SEPT. 30 ..... Volleyball vs. San Jacinto, P.E.
              Building, 6 p.m.

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Promote your events online for FREE, 24x7
Blinn’s online calendar works for you to draw attendance to your
event, day and night, weekends,
even during holidays. It’s your tool
to use and your first step to host
an event with a terrific turnout.
Check it out. It’s easy to use,
the price is right (free) and you decide how much or how
little detail you want to add!

Visit the calendar online
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when you’re ready to get started.
Yep. It’s just that easy.

Blinn College Division of Visual and Performing Arts Presents
GREATER TUNA
By Jaston Williams, Ed Howard, and Joe Sears
SEPT. 4 - 7, 2014