STAY CONNECTED:

• Dental Hygiene students provide free services for children in need
• Former director of NASA mission operations joins Blinn faculty
• Legislative Updates
• Livestock judging caps season with victory at Houston

New technology places Blinn Health Sciences in select company
Even after 152 years, Blinn remains committed to innovation. That’s why Destination Success: First-Year Focus will bring learning communities to all our campuses next Fall. It’s also why the introduction of another new program built around learning communities, the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn-Brenham, is such exciting news.

Modeled after the award-winning TEAM (Transfer Enrollment at M) Program, the Engineering Academy began as TEAM-E, a co-enrollment program between Blinn College and Texas A&M that gave students interested in majoring in engineering a pathway to the Dwight Look College of Engineering. The TEAM-E Program has since been transformed into the Engineering Academy, a unique co-enrollment pathway that allows students to pursue an engineering degree from Texas A&M. This year, 250 students on the Bryan campus participated in the program, taking courses at both Blinn and Texas A&M. Next year, the program will double in enrollment, with 400 students attending the Bryan campus and another 100 participating in the new Brenham campus program.

Participants in the Engineering Academy at Blinn-Brenham will live together at College Park Apartments and take their math, science and engineering classes together, creating a strong academic support network. They will take a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester, including two to three credit hours of Texas A&M engineering courses taught by a Texas A&M professor on the Blinn-Brenham campus – courses that were previously reserved only for Look College students.

Similar to all freshman engineering students at Texas A&M, admission to a major is competitive and not guaranteed. However, Academy students who complete all program requirements with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 will be guaranteed full admission to Texas A&M.

Already, more than 400 students have applied for the program. To accommodate these additional students, we have implemented the Associate of Science in engineering, available to any Blinn student interested in pursuing an engineering career. To support this new degree, we have added a slate of new courses that will be offered by Blinn engineering faculty. Additionally, we expect to introduce new drafting design/technology and construction science programs, and will expand the architecture program to the Brenham campus.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to bring this program to fruition. Judging by the enthusiastic student response, your efforts have made Blinn College an even better choice for high-achieving students throughout the state.

Ana M. “Cha” Guzmán, Ed.D.
Interim District President

New virtual dissection table brings lifelike experience to Health Science programs

Dental Hygiene students provide free services for children in need

Former director of NASA mission operations joins Blinn faculty

Legislative Updates

Miller announces resignation from Board of Trustees

Three faculty honored with coveted educator excellence award

Livestock judging caps season with victory at Houston

Webb Historical Society collecting oral accounts from Brazos Valley veterans

Bryan campus theatre arts director takes the stage with professional Colorado theatre

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Blinn inducts 21 students into nursing honor society

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Student-athletes support adoption awareness

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ON THE COVER

New virtual dissection table brings lifelike experience to Health Science programs
New virtual dissection table brings lifelike experience to Health Science programs

This puts us in league with a very elite group of university and Ph.D. programs,’ director says

The Division of Health Sciences recently debuted virtual dissection equipment that will help students understand anatomy and physiology in an exciting new way at Blinn College’s Health Science Center campus.

Blinn faculty and students demonstrated how the recently-donated Anatomage Table will allow students to conduct virtual dissections in a simulated cadaver laboratory setting. Using 3D, high-resolution interactive scans, the Anatomage Table’s touch-interactive display system simulates an operating table and provides a life-size representation of the human anatomy. Its extensive digital library of anatomical images allows the table to be used for radiology, surgery case reviews, patient consultation and research purposes in addition to anatomy education.

“This equipment takes students directly into the body,” said Sami Rahman, simulations director. “It’s like a virtual world, going through every layer of the body all the way to the bones.”

Funds for the device were gifted to the Blinn College Foundation by an anonymous donor.

The virtual dissection table will be used by the physical therapist assistant, associate degree nursing, licensed vocational nursing, radiologic technology, dental hygiene and even veterinary technology students. The table could also be used by the College’s biology and anatomy/physiology courses, Rahman said.

“This table shows you exactly what you would see if you took a scalpel and were conducting the dissection yourself,” said Dr. Christy Gannt, Physical Therapist Assistant Program director. “It’s as if you opened someone’s head and took a photo of their brain. It’s more realistic than any model on the market.”

Approximately 200 institutions around the world feature Anatomage Tables, including Stanford University, the Mayo Clinic, the University of Edinburgh and Imperial College London. Very few Texas colleges or universities offer the equipment.

“This tool allows us to give our students a more active learning experience as opposed to sitting and listening in a lecture or looking at photos in a book,” Rahman said. “It’s all about student engagement.”

The ability for students to study life-size anatomical systems from different angles and cross-sections will prove especially useful, Gannt said.

“It gives us a very advanced way to reinforce and augment what we’re already doing to teach excellence in treatment and human anatomy,” she said. “This puts us in league with a very elite group of university and Ph.D. programs in the country.”

The Division of Health Sciences recently teamed with more than 40 dental professionals and 20 volunteers from the Texas A&M University Pre-Dental Society to provide dental services for 72 children at the seventh annual Give Kids a Smile, an initiative of the American Dental Association that provides exams, X-rays, dental cleaning, sealants and oral health education to local children without access to regular dental care.

“I had a lot of fun!” said 10-year-old Karla Calderon of Bryan. “I learned how to brush my teeth and how to floss better. All the helpers are so nice. I like it here.”

Blinn’s Dental Hygiene Program received over $1,000 in sponsorships for this year’s event. Since the inaugural event in 2009, Give Kids a Smile has provided 441 cleanings, 431 fluoride treatments, 599 X-rays, 1,384 sealants and 448 exams, totaling $138,037 in free dental services.

Megan Gilbert, a second-year student, served as an event coordinator alongside Morgan Davis and Kayla Broussard.

“The kids are so excited when they leave because they know that their teeth are clean,” Gilbert said. “Most of them don’t even care about the toy at the end because they’re just so excited to have been here. This is what I love to do and I’m thankful that Blinn provides a way for me to do it.”

The Brazos Valley Dental Society, Brazos Valley Dental Hygiene Society, Bryan Independent School District and local dentistry professionals have been instrumental in making the event a success. Several local dentists volunteer at the event and offer restorative treatments at no cost to the family.

“We are so appreciative of how the community comes together to make this happen,” Wood said. “When our students leave here, they can take the experience they gained through Give Kids a Smile and start a similar program in their community. We not only want to give them the tools to become top-notch hygienists, but to touch the lives of people everywhere through service.”

Give Kids a Smile is part of Blinn’s Service Learning program, which combines community service with classroom instruction or student club activities, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility to engage students. Service Learning involves students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic or professional skills and commitment to their community. Blinn students have documented more than 456,000 hours of Service Learning and community service hours, valued at almost $9.1 million by the Points of Light Foundation.

Dental Hygiene students provide free services for children in need

More than 70 children served at seventh annual Give Kids a Smile event

The smiles on more than 70 children’s faces in the Brazos Valley are shining even brighter today.

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Former director of NASA mission operations joins Blinn faculty

Paul Hill to promote College’s STEM education programs

With the 84th session of the Texas Legislature in full swing, Blinn College is working closely with legislators in both the House of Representatives and Senate to tell Blinn’s story and to monitor a number of bills that may impact Blinn students.

Regardless of the outcome of any of these bills, our focus will remain on providing our students a safe, engaging environment to live and learn. The bills we are monitoring include:

- **The state budget – Blinn has asked for funding to expand educational capacity for growth associated with the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn, reimbursement for the Hazelwood Exemption and the restoration of funding for Star of the Republic Museum. The differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget will be worked on in the Conference Committee.**

- **Senate Bill 11 and House Bill 937 – Both these bills would allow concealed carry on campus. Senate Bill 11 has been voted out of the Senate and is headed to the House. Attempts to amend the bill to include provisions that would allow public colleges and universities to opt out were defeated. House Bill 937 has been voted out of the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee and is waiting to be brought to the floor for consideration. The Texas Association of Community Colleges has expressed its opposition to the bill and submitted written testimony indicating that if the bill were to pass, community colleges would ask for an opt out provision to be included.**

- **House Bill 61 – Relating to a single common course numbering system for public institutions of higher education that has been heard and left pending in committee.**

- **House Bill 197 – This bill would require public institutions of higher education to post information regarding mental health resources on the institution’s website. It has been voted on favorably by the house and has been sent to the Senate.**

- **House Bill 505 – This bill would remove limitations on the number of dual credit courses or hours a public high school student may enroll in. It has been voted on favorably by the House and has been sent to the Senate.**

- **Senate Bill 793 – This bill would require the administration of Blinn College to remain in Washington County. It was referred to the Senate Higher Education Committee on March 2 and there has been no movement.**

- **Senate Bill 2042 – This bill would allow the Brazos County Commissioners Court to appoint representatives to the Brazos County to the Blinn College Board of Trustees. This bill was referred to the Senate Higher Education Committee on April 13.**

- **House Bill 2138 – This bill was referred to the House Higher Education Committee on March 13 and there has been no movement.**

- **House Bill 2231 – This bill would move Waller ISD to the Lone Star Community College district. It was referred to the House Higher Education Committee on March 16 and there has been no movement.**

- **House Bill 2361 – This bill would move Waller County to the Lone Star Community College district. It was referred to the House Higher Education Committee on March 13 and there has been no movement.**

- **House Bill 2621 - This bill would allow the Brazos County Commissioners Court to appoint representatives from Brazos County to the Blinn College Board of Trustees. This bill was referred to the House Higher Education Committee on March 16 and there has been no movement.**

Legislative Update

Cathy Blaske
Associate Vice President for Government & Public Affairs

Blinn has announced that Hill, director of Mission Operations at the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center since 2007, will serve as a lecturer at the College as part of an interagency personnel agreement between Blinn and NASA.

Hill will work primarily with Blinn’s Division of Science, Engineering & Mathematics on the Blinn-Bryan campus. In addition to his duties as a member of the faculty, Hill will utilize his unique experiences to participate in curriculum development and conduct space-related outreach to highlight NASA programs and promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

“We are very excited to bring someone with Paul’s incredible expertise and leadership skills into the classroom and into contact with our students,” said Sylvia McMullen, president of Brazos County

Many college students, math and science can feel like rocket science. But after 25 years as one of NASA’s leading rocket scientists, Paul Hill is uniquely prepared to help them on their path to high-demand careers.

Hill began working for NASA in 1990 as a space station and space shuttle operations engineer, where he was a leader in the development of Space Station Freedom assembly operations and participated in every formal space station design review.

In 1996, he was appointed space shuttle and international space station flight director, and was responsible for the safe conduct of manned space flight missions, leading the team in flight preparation and execution from Mission Control. As flight director, he supported 24 shuttle and international space station missions.

Hill led the Space Shuttle Columbia accident investigation team responsible for detecting and locating early debris during re-entry, obtaining and analyzing all data collected by government agency sensors during entry and coordinating radar testing with the Air Force Research Laboratory. Most notably, he led the teams that developed methods to detect and repair shuttle damage in orbit and then was the Flight Director who led shuttle’s return-to-flight.

As an executive, Hill managed a $650 million, 3,000-employee enterprise that included Mission Control. While continuing space operations, he led initiatives that cut Mission Control’s operations costs in half and increased capability. He developed groundbreaking partnerships with commercial spacecraft manufacturers that resulted in NASA’s Mission Control providing commercial service to this new industry, and pioneered additional commercial partnerships to share aerospace-related facilities with other industries, further reducing NASA’s costs of doing business.

Hill has an unprecedented track record for evolving an established large organization into an aligned, high-performing senior leadership team, and has transformed a government organization into a competitive, customer- and market-focused enterprise by embracing corporate business rigor in financial and project management practices.

The third-generation graduate of Texas A&M University, Hill earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in aerospace engineering. Following graduation, he worked in military satellite operations in the Air Force. Attaining the rank of captain, Hill served as an aeroscientist and aircraft performance instructor.
Three faculty honored with coveted educator excellence award

NISOD Excellence Award recognizes faculty for outstanding teaching and leadership

Blinn College cemented its claim as the top livestock judging team in the nation, capping the season with a victory at the 2015 Houston Intercollegiate Junior & Senior Livestock Judging Contest.

Blinn placed first in total points, oral reasons, beef cattle and sheep and goats, and placed second in swine. Blinn finished the 2014-15 season with victories in three of the four national events. Blinn also won at Kansas City and Denver, and finished in second at Louisville.

At the season’s final competition, Chama Martin (Mason) placed second overall in individual competition and Payton Warmke (Brenham) placed third. Brody Halfmann (Garden City) finished sixth. Wayne Moore (Geronimo) finished seventh and Quest Newberry (George West) came in at 10th place. Blayne Bierwinkle (Lampasas) and Drew Gonzales (Winters, Calif.) competed in the alternate contest and finished first and second overall, respectively.

“These kids have worked hard and deserve all that they have received,” coach Brice Mund said. “As coaches, we couldn’t be more pleased with their success, but I am more proud of the people they have become.”

Coaches Joe Rathmann and Mund were named national coaches of the year. Warmke, Halfmann, Newberry and Martin were named to the Livestock Judging All-America team, giving Blinn more honorees than any other school in the nation.

“I think our success comes from practicing all the time and the support of our coaches,” said Warmke, a sophomore who plans to transfer to Texas A&M University in the fall.

Blinn’s Agricultural Sciences Program is one of the largest in the nation with almost 800 students enrolled – roughly four times the size of any other two-year agricultural program in the state. Blinn offers agriculture classes on all its campuses, with the W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex serving as the program’s hub. In addition to its excellence in the classroom, Blinn offers extracurricular educational activities in the areas of livestock judging, agriculture club, wildlife, agriculture mechanics, horticulture and agricultural sciences.

Three faculty honored with coveted educator excellence award

NISOD Excellence Award recognizes faculty for outstanding teaching and leadership

Three Blinn College faculty were recently honored with the 2015 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award in recognition of their dedication to student success.

Visual & Performing Arts Instructor Brad Nies, Natural Sciences Instructor Linda Richardson, and Humanities Instructor Ann Voelkel will be recognized in May at the annual three-day NISOD conference in Austin.

Created in 1978, NISOD is a consortium of community and technical colleges that share a philosophical commitment to support excellence in teaching, learning and leadership. NISOD member institutions receive weekly professional development materials and are eligible to nominate outstanding faculty, staff and administrators for the annual Excellence Awards program.

Recipients were nominated by the heads of their divisions based on their character and integrity, effectiveness as instructors, involvement in student organizations and activities, service to Blinn College and participation in professional organizations and professional development activities.

“Educators don’t always have a sense that they are making a difference,” Richardson said.

“To be nominated for this award means a lot. It has reassured me that what I do every day matters.”

In addition to teaching biology, Richardson has served as assistant division chair, lead instructor for two of the College’s Bryan campus biology courses and director of Blinn’s Regional Science Olympiad, a program that promotes science education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

“While I teach my students biology, my main emphasis is enhancing their critical thinking skills to improve their ability to learn,” Richardson said. “I don’t expect them to remember all the specifics; I hope they walk away better learners.”

Voelkel has been with the College for 19 years as philosophy instructor for face-to-face, online and blended courses at the Bryan campus. Outside the classroom, Voelkel serves on both the hiring and the curriculum committees for the Division of Humanities. She also runs a “logic lab” outside her regularly-scheduled office hours to offer additional assistance to philosophy of logic students.

Nies has served as the Blinn-Brenham campus Theatre Arts Director for 25 years and has won several awards, including recognition as college educator of the year by the Texas Educational Theatre Association. Several of his plays and short stories have been published, and Nies is a member of a variety of state and national theatre associations. Nies sponsors Delta Pi Omega, a national theatre fraternity, and has served as an officer for the Blinn College Professional Association and the Blinn College Faculty Council.

Miller announces resignation from Board of Trustees

The board will determine a process to select a new at-large representative to the governing process who will be deeply missed.”

Bryan College, and her contributions to the governing process will be deeply missed.”

Carolyn D. Miller has served the Blinn students since 2011, including duties as chair of the Audit/Budget/Investment Committee. She also served on the Policy/Long-Range Planning Committee.

Miller has served on the board since August 2011, including duties as chair of the Audit/Budget/Investment Committee. She also served on the Policy/Long-Range Planning Committee.

Miller has served on the board's unanimous decision in February to purchase 95 acres for the development of a second Blinn campus in Bryan. Blinn plans to develop this land into a 10,000-15,000 student campus that will allow the College to develop additional science, technology, engineering and mathematics offerings and expand its workforce, technical, research and health-related education programs.

“Has been a privilege to serve Blinn College students alongside Carolyn Miller,” said Douglas Borchardt, board president. “Her dedication to public service, commitment to student success and attention to detail have been tremendous assets to our board and to Blinn College, and her contributions to the governing process will be deeply missed.”

The board will determine a process to select a new at-large representative to serve until the May 2017 election at a future board meeting.
Webb Historical Society collecting oral accounts from Brazos Valley veterans

Many Blinn College students pass through Bryan-College Station for a short time, but one student group is pursuing to make a lasting investment in the community. The Blinn College chapter of the Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society—a statewide organization that works through college and university history departments to encourage students to discover, research, write and publish Texas history as they find it—was established last fall by history professors Ken Howell and Chuck Swanlund to give students an opportunity to engage in Texas history outside the classroom.

“We invite all Blinn students to join, whether they plan to study history or not,” Howell said. “This is the students’ club and they get to steer it. We hope that more students will begin to realize all of the opportunities that are at their fingertips when they join a club like the Webb Society.”

In less than three months, the organization has expanded its roots on the Blinn College-Bryan campus with an ongoing project that will connect current and future Webb Society members with veterans in the Brazos Valley.

“Webs Society is about much more than checking out historical sites,” said club President Austin Knoepp, a second-year student from Keller. “We want to get our hands on the history right here in Bryan-College Station.” Members are reaching out to former servicemen and local veterans groups to collect oral accounts from Brazos Valley veterans. Students will record interviews for a digital audio collection to be archived at the Blinn-Bryan campus library. The collection will be available to students and employees at each of the College’s four campuses.

“Webb Society students recently got a behind-the-scenes look at Blinn’s Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and recently volunteered at the museum’s Regional History Fair. The students plan to visit the Bullock Texas State History Museum in April and will have opportunities throughout the semester to hear about their state’s history from an array of speakers.

If you are a veteran interested in sharing your story, please contact Kenneth Howell at khowell@blinn.edu.

Bryan campus theatre arts director takes the stage with professional Colorado theatre

Greg Wise gets fresh perspective on student life with six-week acting stint

Blinn College–Bryan campus Theatre Arts Director Greg Wise got a refreshing look into life as an actor during a recent six-week stint with a professional theatre in Colorado.

Wise, a six-year veteran instructor, rehearsed for two and half weeks and performed for another three with THEATREWORKS, a professional theatre in Colorado Springs.

Wise was invited to play the role of Ben in “Detroit,” a comedy by Lisa D’Amour that won the Obie Award for Best New American Play in 2013 and was a finalist for the Pulitzer and Susan Smith Blackburn Prizes.

Wise and D’Amour studied theatre together in graduate school at the University of Texas in the 1990s. D’Amour visited THEATREWORKS to watch the first weekend of performances. “I realized I had never performed for a professional, living playwright,” Wise said. “It was an absolute honor.” “Detroit” follows two couples in an unnamed suburb who question the American dream and what it means to be middle class.

Ben has just lost his job as a bank loan officer and is starting a new career operating a website to assist people in debt. Ben and his wife Mary host their new neighbors, Sharon and Kenny, who live next door in a rented home with no furniture, for a backyard barbecue. The characters begin to question what it means to live out the American dream when it feels more like a nightmare.

“To rehearse every day for six to eight hours and to focus on the craft, to collaborate and live with these artists was incredibly rewarding,” Wise said. “It was very intensive and fast-paced, but it was a complete pleasure.”

Thanks to Dr. Marcelo Buskii, Division of Visual & Performing Arts dean, and a handful of trusted colleagues, including Jean Daniels, Wise was able to teach two classes online and an acting course via Skype while in Colorado.

“It’s important that we as faculty can be artists as well. We need to stay active in our field and relevant to our students,” Wise said. “I’m so thankful to my colleagues and staff at Blinn who made this happen for me.”

Every other year, Wise said he searches for opportunities such as this to stay sharp.

“It’s always great to remember what it’s like in the students’ shoes,” Wise said. “It makes me a better teacher and communicator. I’m always directing them and sometimes forget what it’s like to grapple with a script. It’s a healthy reminder of the perspective I need to keep as an educator.”

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!

Don’t get left in the dark... Sign up for Blinn Alerts today!

Initially, when an event is posted to the Blinn Calendar, it will receive automatic inclusion in the Blinn Bulletin Board, an informal, two-week snapshot of upcoming events and announcements happening throughout the college district. During a normal publication schedule, a brief listing of events and other items of interest will be e-mailed each Friday to all faculty, staff and students.

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.
Refined Ladies host fashion show benefitting Boys & Girls Club

Boots & Blue Jeans for Blinn raises money for Sealy student scholarships

Students present research at world’s largest chemistry conference

Blinn inducts 21 students into nursing honor society

Renowned psychologist encourages students to think critically

Safety in Public Assemblies

Board notes

Regular board meeting April 21, 2015, Brenham, Texas

The board read resolutions for the 2015 national championship cheer, dance and livestock judging teams and received or heard reports from:
• Agricultural Sciences Instructors Doug Fierce and Johnnie Schroeder and Division of Business, Agriculture & Kinesiology Assistant Dean Bryn Behnke on updates from the Agricultural Science programs.
• Dr. Marcelo Buszki, dean of the Division of Visual & Performing Arts, on updates from Visual & Performing Arts.
• Dr. Ana M. “Cha” Guzman, interim district president, on administrative announcements.
• Sylvia McMullen, president of Brazos County campuses, on updates from Brazos County campuses.
• Cathy Boeker, associate vice president for Government and Public Affairs, on the 84th session of the Texas Legislature.
• Dr. M. Elia Flores, dean of the Division of Health Sciences, on updates from Health Sciences.

The board reviewed the financial statement and list of checks for the period ending March 31, 2015.

The board voted to:
• Approve the minutes for the March 10, 2015 special meeting, the March 24, 2015 regular meeting, the April 1, 2015 special meeting and the April 7, 2015 special meeting.
• Approve the minutes for the March 10, 2015 special meeting, the March 24, 2015 regular meeting, the April 1, 2015 special meeting and the April 7, 2015 special meeting.
• Accept the resignation of Carolyn D. Miller, Blinn College Trustee, At-Large Position I.
• Authorize the Administration to award a contract with Dudley Construction for $143,500 for the accessibility compliance project on the Brenham campus.
• Authorize the Administration to spend an additional $300,000 on the construction improvements for the 2015 Bryan campus renovation project.
• Use contingency funds to purchase parking software, equipment, installation and salary adjustment to one current position.
Cheer and dance had to push themselves even harder to repeat as champions

Blinn College’s cheer and dance teams knew they couldn’t repeat as national champions without improving.

So even after they both won the NCA & NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships in 2014, both squads went to work on new routines, even more challenging than those they used to win the 2014 national titles.

Earlier this month, that hard work paid off, as they each captured their second consecutive championship in Daytona Beach, Fla.

“We knew that we had to come back even better than the year before,” said Courtney Prinzel (Atascocita), a dance team captain. “I always gave 110 percent so that everyone else on the team would see that and do the same.”

Prinzel and Bailee LeCompte (League City), sophomore dance captains, were tasked with building team camaraderie. LeCompte said that the closeness of the team helped the second championship taste even sweeter.

Just before competition at nationals, dance coach Sarah Flisowski tried a tactic that reminded the team to not rest on winning the year before.

“Coach took away our national championship rings right before competition and told us to go out there and get another one,” LeCompte said. “After that, I said I want my ring back and another one.”

Cheer was in the same situation. The sophomores knew what to expect at nationals, but had to prepare the freshman class.

“Sophomore year was a lot more exciting,” said Dena Robison (Needville). “There is just more expectation for the veteran cheerleaders to return and do well at nationals.”

Marissa Lemmons (Tomball) said she had far fewer nerves at nationals as a sophomore, and credited cheer coach Michael Brewster.

“Without our coach, we would not have been able to have success,” Lemmons said. “He is a very emotional coach, so he really connects with us throughout the year.”

Student-athletes support adoption awareness

Blinn College student-athletes recently stepped up to the plate—figuratively speaking, of course—with a check presentation of more than $1,000 to support adoption awareness.

Blinn’s football, volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball and softball teams combined to raise $1,062.50 for Here I Am Orphan Ministries, a Christian, nonprofit ministry dedicated to reaching orphaned children domestically and abroad.

Proceeds came from ticket sales at sporting events throughout the year and contributions from Buccaneer fans.

“I was honestly just amazed at the generosity of Blinn College athletics,” said Hope Batchman, office administrator for Here I Am Orphan Ministries. “When we went to the games everyone was treating us so well and the children loved attending the game.”

The support for Here I Am Orphan Ministries is part of Blinn’s Adopt-a-Charity program, which supports local charities. The program is modeled after the success of the baseball team’s annual Turn Back the Clock games, in which the team would sponsor a charity and donate a portion of the gate proceeds. Blinn supported Adam’s Angels Ministry with its first Adopt-a-Charity campaign in 2013-14.

“This is a good life lesson for the student-athletes, that life is much more than winning a contest,” said Scott Schumacher, athletic director.

Last fall, Blinn student-athletes contributed 857 service hours. So far this spring Blinn student athletes have totaled 782 service hours performed.
NEW HIRES
Brenham Campus, Full-time
Justin Kern-Dollar, Night Assistant Manager and Kristy Reper, Accounts Payable Clerk.
Bryan Campus, Part-time
Joyce Laub, Instructor; Morgan Pesek, Tutor; and Jamie Saucier, Tutor.

PERSONAL NOTES
Scott Hickle, adjunct history professor, participated in a workshop and panel entitled “Identity and Community in Antebellum America” as part of the Organization of American History’s annual international meeting in St. Louis, Mo., April 16-19. Hickle represented Blinn College and the Community College Humanities Association by presenting a paper entitled, “Utopia Lost: Reflections on Failed Experiments In 1840s Massachusetts.”

Professor Essie Childers was invited to the 10th Annual On Course National Conference in Anaheim, Calif., April 16-17 to present a workshop titled, “The Assignment Swap.” Participants were given an opportunity to discuss and share their favorite assignment.

Mark your Calendar

MAY 1 ............... Retirement Luncheon, Janis Sneed Banquet Room, 11:30 a.m.
MAY 4-5 ............ Presidential Finalist Open Forums
MAY 6 ............... National Championships Banquet, Janis Sneed Banquet Room, 4 p.m.
MAY 9 ............... Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony, 3251 Austin’s Colony Parkway, Bryan, 10 a.m.
MAY 11 - 14 ....... FINALS
MAY 13 ............... Veterinary Technology Program Info Session, Post Office Campus, 6 p.m.
MAY 14 ............... Veterinary Technology Pinning Ceremony, Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, 2 p.m.
Radiologic Technology Pinning Ceremony, Scott & White Hospital – College Station, 6 p.m.
MAY 14 ............... Spring BBQ, Washington-on-the-Brazos, 5-8 p.m.
MAY 15 ............... Spring Graduation, Brenham High School, 6:30 p.m.
MAY 16 ............... Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony, 3100 Cambridge Dr., Bryan, 3 p.m.
MAY 18 ............... May Minimester Classes Begin
MAY 25 ............... Holiday

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.