STAY CONNECTED:

• Blinn names Dr. Mary Hensley its 15th district president
• Agricultural Mechanics Show draws record number of entries
• Inaugural Clay Shootout raises more than $35,000
• Blinn softball makes a return trip to nationals, places fifth
FROM THE TOP

The first time I sat down with Blinn’s Executive Council, I asked them how they wanted to spend next few months. Would we stand pat and wait for the announcement of the next president, or would we move forward and work to address the challenges before us?

The council was unified in its response—each and every person at that table was ready to move forward with new ideas and new initiatives for the benefit of this College and its students. It was the first sign of the teamwork and passion that have made my experiences here at Blinn so enjoyable.

I have been blessed to be part of a tremendous team at Blinn College these past five months. During that time, we have faced the challenges of managing historic enrollment growth and of a legislative session that put a spotlight on our College. Through it all, we remained focused upon our primary goal—educating students.

Led by Douglas Borchardt and a Board of Trustees that never wavered in its commitment to students, we announced the purchase of 95 acres for the development of a new campus in Bryan, and began work on a $10 million, multi-stage renovation project that will provide our students with more study and leisure space and help us accommodate our growing student population.

Our administrators, deans, faculty and staff have worked together to strengthen our relationship with Texas A&M University and bring new programs such as the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn to our Brenham campus, and have developed new Associate of Science degrees in engineering and construction science. Program initiatives such as these provide a roadmap to strengthening the enrollment and financial stability of our smaller campuses.

Even our community, led by Paige Michel and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, have rallied around Blinn, demonstrating their commitment to our College and our students. We have announced new programs that will benefit students, such as the Texas A&M Engineering Academy, and have developed new Associate of Science degrees in engineering and construction science. Program initiatives such as these provide a roadmap to strengthening the enrollment and financial stability of our smaller campuses.

There are still opportunities ahead as we seek a new vice president for instruction and a new dean for our Division of Science, Engineering & Mathematics, but as Dr. Mary Hensley prepares to begin her presidential duties in July, I take pride in realizing that I leave Blinn in a better place than I found it. As I prepare for new adventures in my life, I will always remember the way the Blinn College community quickly came together to accomplish so much during these past five months. The Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff and our neighbors in the community have made it clearer than ever that Blinn is a beloved institution with a very bright future ahead.

Sincerely,

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

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 Keil, Jeannette Mornu
LaVela Barnett, Brooke Corral, Jaine Gordon

To submit information, contact the Office of Marketing and Communications in person at the Bryan campus: phone: 979-209-7285
email: cothpartactic@ blinn.edu

Mission Statement
Blinn College is an educational institution 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 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (www.sacscoc.org) to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; or telephone 404-679-4500; or Web site www.sacscoc.org for questions about the accreditation of Blinn College.

Blinn College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs or activities. For information regarding Title IX, ADA, Section 504 and other anti-discrimination coordinators, see the Required Notices link on the Blinn College main webpage.
Blinn names Dr. Mary Hensley its 15th district president

For the first time in its 132-year history, Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, will have its first female president. The Board of Trustees of Blinn College is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Mary Hensley as the College’s 15th district college president.

Dr. Mary Hensley has been serving the Austin Community College District for 14 years, the last six and a half years as the Executive Vice President for College Operations. Among her responsibilities is oversight of 11 campuses and six off-campus centers. She also provides leadership and support to the Campus Advisory Committees for each campus.

Board President Douglas Borchardt noted, "Dr. Hensley brings years of community college experience, professionalism and a track record of successful leadership to Blinn College. The full Board is delighted to make this selection and we foresee a very bright future for Blinn College under her leadership." He added, “I am pleased that Dr. Hensley was selected from a strong pool of applicants by a search committee made up of college faculty, staff and students as well as community members. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) assisted the Board with the national presidential search process.

“The search itself was thorough and rewarding for the search committee and the Board. There were applications from throughout the country, and I was extremely pleased with the quality of the candidates,” stated Borchardt. Dr. Hensley was expected to assume the presidency on about July 1.

Dr. Hensley is expected to assume the presidency on about July 1. She is the right fit for Blinn College." He added, "I am pleased that Dr. Hensley was selected from a strong pool of applicants by a search committee made up of college faculty, staff and students as well as community members. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) assisted the Board with the national presidential search process. The search itself was thorough and rewarding for the search committee and the Board. There were applications from throughout the country, and I was extremely pleased with the quality of the candidates,” stated Borchardt.

Blinn College celebrated another year of outstanding instruction by honoring three instructors for their commitment to student success.

Blinn named Theresa Wahrmund its Teaching Excellence Award winner for the Brenham, Schulenburg and Sealy campuses, while Linda Bow and Shelley Pearson earned the honor on Blinn’s Bryan campus. The awards are presented by the Blinn professional associations on the Brenham and Bryan campuses.

Rachael Lacina-Taylor and Stephen Sebesta were named finalists for the Brenham, Schulenburg and Sealy campus awards. On the Bryan campus, Nicole Cloutier and Jane Kalcher were awarded Blinn Professional Association student scholarships.

Blinn also recognized its recent retirees on all campuses, including:

Cynthia Griffith, vice president for instruction for technical and workforce programs;
Harold Nober, district president; Joan Richards, apartment manager;
Marvin Tate, associate director of resource development;
Wanda Cartwright, residence hall coordinator; Esther Landey, administrative assistant; Lola Hanson, business office assistant director; Lori Kehnau, academic affairs assistant; Nancy Roeder, instruction for academic programs administrative assistant; Robert Ferguson, computer science instructor; Jane Haggard, communication instructor; Rosemary Degner, fine arts instructor;

Edwin Uexkull, criminal justice instructor;
Gary Lynn Thomas, humanities instructor; Esther Quarmstoll, humanities instructor; Sally Dreszmeyer, communication instructor; Virginia Machmann, humanities instructor; Victoria Sharp, natural science instructor; Gary Ivy, mathematics instructor; Charles Helier, natural science instructor; and Chance Robam, humanities instructor.

Wahrmund, TEACH Program director for the Division of Humanities, has served on the Blinn faculty since 2001. Prior to that, she worked for Brenham ISD as a teacher, curriculum specialist and lead teacher and technology specialist.

“She believe she has a student who works at the top of the class and to the subject she teaches is great,” wrote one of the students who nominated Wahrmund for the award. "'She believes in us and lets the students know she believes in them every day in the classroom.'"

Another student wrote, “I think Mrs. Wahrmund could teach the most boring subject in the world and make it interesting. I think all teachers, elementary all the way through college, could learn something from her.”

Bow, a Blinn instructor since 2000, is department head for the English and Philosophy Department within the Division of Humanities. "Linda is one of the most effective instructors with whom I have worked in almost 20 years of teaching experience at the college and university level,” said Dr. Richard Williamson, director of the Blinn – Bryan campus Writing Center.

“Linda has been an active member of the Blinn faculty, continually improving her teaching skills and engaging students in the learning process. She is a true professional who inspires her students to excel. She is a true role model for all of us,” said Dr. Richard Williamson, director of the Blinn – Bryan campus Writing Center.

"As a teacher, scholar and faculty member, Linda exemplifies what a successful and inspiring college instructor should be."

Pearson, director of the Radiologic Technology Program in the Division of Health Sciences, began her relationship with Blinn as a volunteer clinical coordinator before joining the faculty in 2005.

“Albert Einstein said, 'It is the business of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge,' and I find that to have been so true of

Blinn names its 2015 Teaching Excellence Award winners

Wahrmund, Bow and Pearson are recognized for their commitment to student success
Trustees elect David Sommer new board president

The Blinn College Board of Trustees elected David Sommer board president during its regular May meeting.

The board also elected outgoing president Douglas Borchardt as vice president and Atwood Kenjura as secretary. Richard Powell, Theodora "Teddy" V. Boehm and Stacy Holle Aschenbeck were each sworn in by 21st District Judge Carson Campbell after Powell and Boehm won re-election and Aschenbeck was elected earlier this month.

Sommer, a Brenham native and Blinn honors graduate, was president of Germania Insurance until his retirement in 2011. He was appointed to the board later that year. He served on the Blinn College Foundation Board and has been board chairman, treasurer and chair of the finance committee. Now retired from the Foundation, he is active in local civic organizations, having been a member of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce Board and the Economic Development Foundation.

Borchardt, executive vice president and CFO at Brenham National Bank, has served on the board since 2010. A 1969 Brenham High School graduate, he attended Blinn before transferring to Texas A&M University to earn his finance degree. He is a member of the Washington County Fairgrounds Management Board, a founding director of the Goodfellows of Washington County, a director of the Washington County Healthy Living Association, a founding director and treasurer of the BISD Education Foundation, and a vice chairman of the Mission Endowment Fund of the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Kenjura, a 1965 Blinn graduate, is the owner of Kenjura Pharmacy. He has served on the board more than 39 years, including three terms as board president. An active member of the Brenham Rotary Club, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, the Brenham Booster Club and the Economic Development Foundation, Kenjura was named Washington County’s Man of the Year in 2011.

Board officer positions are elected every two years.

Ag Mechanics Show draws record number of entries

The 14th annual Blinn College Ag Mechanics Project Show drew more than 200 entries from 75 schools around the state recently at the W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex.

Brian Muzny, Mia Carrola, Logan Bourgeois, Brandon Spreen and Jarrett Reynolds from Kendall County FFA were named grand champions for their maroon 35-foot lowboy gooseneck trailer with hydraulic ramps. Luke Tinsley from the Gonzales FFA was named reserve champion for his work on an 826 International Gold Demonstrator tractor.

The more than 200 projects mark an all-time best for the show. The top three entries in each division received Blinn scholarships.

"The show continues to grow in popularity each year," said Johnnie Schroeder, show co-founder and Agricultural Sciences instructor.

The show featured projects developed and designed by students in high school FFA chapters and county 4-H clubs. Students worked 300-400 hours on some projects, which were then judged on quality and showmanship. Projects included agriculture machinery and equipment; livestock equipment; trailers; recreational items including barbecue pits, picnic tables, metal and wood furniture, entrance gates, deer blinds, animal traps and horticulture products; and engines and reconditioned tractors.

Demonstrations in welding, cutting and power tools were held throughout the day. The show also included welding, metal-cutting, wildlife and horticulture contests.

The Blinn Agricultural Sciences Program is roughly four times the size of any other two-year agricultural program in the state and offers agriculture classes on all of 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 agriculture sciences.

More than 200 projects are submitted from FFA and 4-H students across the state.
Blinn College will launch a new engineering degree this Fall on its Brenham campus.

Offered by Blinn’s Division of Science, Engineering & Mathematics, the 60-hour Associate of Science degree plan will include new courses such as Introduction to Engineering, Engineering Graphics I, Engineering Mechanics: Statics, Engineering Mechanics: Dynamics, and Introduction to Digital Systems.

“This program will provide students interested in engineering, engineering technology or other science, technology and math-related careers a competitive advantage when transferring to four-year universities,” said Dr. Robert Brick, interim dean for the Division of Science, Engineering & Mathematics.

The program serves as an alternative for students who do not enroll in the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn, a unique co-enrollment partnership between Texas A&M University and Blinn. In March, Blinn announced that the Engineering Academy was expanding to the Brenham campus, where students would participate in a one-of-a-kind living and learning community. Participants in the Engineering Academy at Blinn-Brenham will live together in the Blinn College Park Apartments and will take their math, science and engineering classes together to create a strong academic support network.

“Early on, it became clear that the interest in a living and learning approach to an engineering education would far exceed the cap of 100 students for the Engineering Academy in Brenham,” Hibbs said. “This program can accommodate those students and is open to any student who wishes to pursue a career in engineering.”

Blinn anticipates bringing the Associate of Science courses, taught by Blinn faculty, to the Bryan campus in Fall 2016. Blinn has earned a statewide reputation for academic quality and affordability. Its academic transfer rate regularly ranks among the highest in the nation and is approximately 20 percent higher than the state average. Out-of-district students taking 30 credit hours at Blinn in 2014-15 save approximately $4,000 in tuition compared to the average Texas public university (48.8 percent).

Students who choose to pursue Blinn’s Associate of Science in engineering may be eligible for the Texas – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (T-SYSTEM) Challenge Scholarship, which is open to students from a Texas high school who graduated with a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

Blinn’s Brenham campus combines the excitement of a traditional college experience with Brenham’s inviting atmosphere. In addition to being the only Blinn campus to offer on-campus housing for students, Brenham is home to Blinn’s music, theatre, agriculture and athletic programs. The Brenham campus experience is further enhanced by the student activities and student life programs that offer students the opportunity to explore, learn and develop outside of the classroom.

When local small business owners need a morning jolt, they can pick up a cup of Independence Coffee. When their business needs a similar pick-me-up, they turn to the Blinn College Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Last year, the three-person Blinn SBDC staff helped local business owners in Washington, Colorado and Austin counties obtain almost $82 million in loans and generate 27 new businesses and 91 new jobs.

“We help create jobs by helping businesses get loans or finding financing,” said Matthew Weltring, SBDC director. “We can help create or expand an existing business by helping small business owners develop and execute business plans and marketing strategies and strengthen their loan applications.”

Independence Coffee Company is one of the local businesses to take advantage of these free or low-cost services. Founded in 2001, Independence Coffee now roasts nearly 200,000 pounds of high-grown Arabica coffees from 13 different producing countries and growing companies for customers ranging from individual consumers to large grocery market chains such as H.E.B. and Whole Foods Market.

“The SBDC has been with them since day one,” Weltring said. “They came to us with an idea and we gave them a little direction and have helped them along the way.”

Ragan Bond, vice president at Independence Coffee Company, said that the SBDC does the type of work for free that a business would usually have to hire a business advisor for.

“I credit the SBDC for saving our company from later closed down.

Bond said the SBDC has usually done the necessary research even before he makes a phone call. The SBDC recently helped Independence Coffee obtain financing to purchase a new roaster by reviewing the company’s portfolio and highlighting its strengths for lenders.
Future nurses recognized in Blinn pinning ceremony

Forty future nursing professionals were recognized with their nursing pins after completing Blinn College’s highly-regarded Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program on May 18.

Blinn recognizes dental hygiene graduates in pinning ceremony

Fourteen future dental hygienists were recently recognized after completing Blinn College’s highly-competitive Dental Hygiene Program.

Radiologic technology graduates recognized with pinning ceremony

Fourteen future radiologic technologists were recognized on May 15 with a pinning ceremony after completing Blinn College’s rigorous Radiologic Technology Program.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program recognizes new graduates

The Blinn College Physical Therapist Assistant Program recently welcomed 21 graduates to their new profession with a special celebratory luncheon on May 19.

Blinn recognizes 10 veterinary technology graduates with pinning ceremony

Ten graduates of Blinn College’s Veterinary Technology Program were recognized with a pinning ceremony welcoming them to the profession Thursday at Texas A&M’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences on May 15.

BOARD NOTES

Regular board meeting May 19, 2015, Brenham, Texas

The board canvassed votes cast in the May 9, 2015, Blinn College Junior College District of Washington County Board of Trustees election for Precinct Positions 1 and 4 to serve six-year terms and Precinct Position 3 to serve the remaining two years of an unexpired term, issued certificates of election and signed officer’s statements, swore in newly-elected officers of the board for the Precinct Positions 1 and 4 for the period of May 2015 through May 2017, and elected officers of the board for two-year terms for the period of May 2015 through May 2017, and elected officers of the board for Precinct Positions 1 and 4 for the period of May 2015 through May 2017, and elected officers of the board for two-year terms for the period of May 2015 through May 2017.

The board heard reports from:

- Dr. Ana M. “Cha” Guzman, interim district president, on administrative announcements.
- Sylvia McMurter, 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. Pat Westergaard, dean of Humanities, and Dr. Richard Williamson, director of the Bryan campus Writing Center, on the Writing Center.
- Richard O’Malley, assistant vice president of facilities, planning and construction, on buildings and grounds.

The board reviewed the financial statement and list of checks for the period ending April 30, 2015.

The board voted to:

- Approve the minutes for the April 21, 2015 regular meeting.
- Accept a gift to the College of various equipment to be used for student training in the Dental Hygiene Program.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in engineering.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in construction science.
- Adjust housing fees for select rooms in apartments and in Wheeler and Halsted residence halls to accommodate additional students.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with Boettcher & Associates Architects, Inc. for design and construction phase services related to parking cage improvement project.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the preparation of a traffic impact analysis related to the development of the new Blinn College Bryan campus at the 95.29-acre site located at Leonard Road and FM 2818.
- Authorize the issuance of a resolution declaring expectations to reimburse expenditures with proceeds of future debt.
- Approve contingency funds to hire two new full-time advisors in Bryan due to the increase in enrollment.
- Approve the minutes for the April 21, 2015 regular meeting.
- Approve a gift to the College of various equipment to be used for student training in the Dental Hygiene Program.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in engineering.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in construction science.
- Adjust housing fees for select rooms in apartments and in Wheeler and Halsted residence halls to accommodate additional students.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with Boettcher & Associates Architects, Inc. for design and construction phase services related to parking cage improvement project.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the preparation of a traffic impact analysis related to the development of the new Blinn College Bryan campus at the 95.29-acre site located at Leonard Road and FM 2818.
- Authorize the issuance of a resolution declaring expectations to reimburse expenditures with proceeds of future debt.
- Approve contingency funds to hire two new full-time advisors in Bryan due to the increase in enrollment.
- Approve the minutes for the April 21, 2015 regular meeting.
- Approve a gift to the College of various equipment to be used for student training in the Dental Hygiene Program.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in engineering.
- Approve the addition of a new Associate of Science degree in construction science.
- Adjust housing fees for select rooms in apartments and in Wheeler and Halsted residence halls to accommodate additional students.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with Boettcher & Associates Architects, Inc. for design and construction phase services related to parking cage improvement project.
- Authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the preparation of a traffic impact analysis related to the development of the new Blinn College Bryan campus at the 95.29-acre site located at Leonard Road and FM 2818.
Blinn College has named sophomores Christian Ramos and Anaisis Dalley its 2015 Mr. and Ms. Buccaneer for their outstanding leadership and academic accomplishments during their two years at Blinn.

Ramos, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School in Austin, played offensive line for the Buccaneer football team after amassing all-district honors in high school. Dalley, from Mansfield, was an officer in the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies and served as a student delegate. Dalley was also a student ambassador during her time at Blinn, guiding campus tours and answering questions for prospective students and their families.

Ramos and Dalley were recognized at the recent Student Leadership Awards Banquet at the Brenham campus Student Center.

To be eligible, nominees must be full-time students who have exhibited outstanding leadership and moral character and have a grade-point average above 3.0. Nominations are made by the Blinn faculty, administration and staff before the top nominees are placed on the ballot and voted upon by the students.

“It is a great honor to receive this award,” Ramos said. “Playing football and being a part in the Student Government Association really helped me get involved on campus.”

Ramos was in the fundraising, events and housing committee for the Student Government Association and was a sophomore captain. He plans to study math and play football at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., and would like to become a college school teacher.

Dalley is transferring to Texas A&M University to study veterinary science and would like to become a small animal vet.

“Getting this award just means that it is possible to balance extracurricular activities and academics,” Dalley said.

In all, 37 students were recognized for academic excellence for maintaining a grade-point average of 3.5 and above, and four were given the Emerging Leaders Award: Kaelyn Thurmond (Corona, Calif.), Katie Crayne (Sealy), Sean Miller (College Station) and Trent Soechting (Katy).

The Student Government Association was named social program of the year while the Agriculture Club was named top service program. Johnnie Schroeder was named advisor of the year for his work with the Agriculture Club.

Blinn names its 2015 Mr. and Ms. Buccaneer

Agriculture Club named College’s service program of the year

Star of the Republic Museum thanks military families for their service

More than 2,000 museums are participating in Blue Star Museum free admission program

Star of the Republic Museum administered by Blinn College will show its appreciation for members of the U.S. armed forces this summer by offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Free admission to all sites at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site will be offered Monday, May 25 – Monday, Sept. 7 as part of the Blue Star Museums program, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the U.S. Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums nationwide.

“Our museum is proud to be part of Blue Star Museums, which gives us a chance to thank our military families for their service and share with them our love of Texas history,” said Houston McGaugh, Star of the Republic Museum director.

The program is open to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card, a DD Form 1173 ID card or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active U.S. military as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the NOAA Commissioned Corps. Up to five family members will also be admitted free of charge.

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally-recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Rush-Douguet. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

This year, more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative. A complete listing of museums participating in the Blue Star program is available at www.bluestarmuseums.org.

Star of the Republic Museum was created by the Texas Legislature and is administered by Blinn College as a cultural and educational institution. Its purpose is to collect and preserve the material culture of the Texas Republic from 1835-1846 and to interpret the history, cultures, diversity and values of early Tejanos.

The museum is located at 23200 Park Road 12, Washington, Texas, off Highway 105. From Highway 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12. Daily museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.starmuseum.org or call 936-878-2461, ext. 237.

Schulenburg campus names winners of Emerging Writers Contest

Eight young scribes earn recognition for academic writing, fiction, non-fiction and poetry

Eight Blinn College — Schulenburg students were recognized for their writing in the College’s fourth annual Emerging Writers Contest. Shannon Miley (Schulenburg) placed first and Brittany Weishuhn (La Grange) placed second in academic writing; Alexander Taylor (Weimar) placed first and Kara Koehrer (La Grange) placed second in fiction, Jessica Tippie (La Grange) placed first and Brianna Atchukiper (La Grange) placed second in non-fiction; and Craig Burns (Schulenburg) placed first and Shaylee Bohren (La Grange) placed second in poetry.

Miley, Tippie, Bohren and Taylor are enrolled in Blinn’s Dual Credit Program, which allows students to take college courses both for high school and college credit. Beginning in the summer following their sophomore year, high school students may take as many as two dual-credit courses each semester.

To read the winners’ work, visit www.blinn.edu/schulenburg/emerging_writers/2015.html.

“I had a very difficult time choosing winners,” contest judge Beth Wiseman said. “I think that each and every student has the potential to take their writing to whatever level they choose.”

This marks the fourth year Wiseman has judged the contest. A resident of Fayette County, Wiseman has written 23 novels and is best known for her work on the Daughters of Promise series. She has been listed on the Christian Booksellers and Evangelical Christian Publishers Association bestseller list. To date, she has sold 1.5 million books.

The contest, open to current and dual-credit students who have taken a course on the Schulenburg campus within the last academic year, was sponsored by Cengage Learning. Cengage Learning honored previous winners by featuring their work as models of exemplary student writing.

“We have such a variety of students who submit their work, from our traditional students who are right out of high school, to our dual credit students, to mothers who are returning to school to earn their degree,” said English Professor Audrey Wick. “It’s really a big honor for our students.”

60 SECONDS OF SAFETY

Vacations, and conferences are just a few times when you may find a hotel is your home away from home. On average, one of every 12 hotels report a structure fire each year. You should always be prepared while staying in a hotel and know what to do in case of an emergency.

• Choose hotels that have smoke alarms and sprinkler systems.
• When you get to your room, find the nearest exits.
• If the alarm sounds, leave immediately. Use the stairs, not the elevator.
• If you encounter smoke, get low and proceed to nearest exit.
• If you can’t escape:
  • Shut off the air conditioning.
  • Stuff wet towels around doors.
• Call 911 and let them know where you are.
• Wait at the window and signal with flashlight or brightly-colored cloth.

WANT A CROWD TO COME?

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: (http://calendar.blinn.edu/events/) and click “Submit Event” when you’re ready to get started.

Yep. It’s just that easy.
Evangelista and Young were each named American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Americans. Evangelista was named the NJCAA Female Athlete of the Year, and Mellinger was recognized as the AVCA Southwest Region Coach of the Year.

Mellinger led the Buccaneers to a 40-1 record and the first-ever back-to-back championships in program history last season. Blinn won the Region XIV District L conference championship and the Region XIV Tournament championship, and Reeve, Alualu and Jordin Keano were all named NJCAA All-Americans. Mellinger was named the AVCA Two-Year College Coach of the Year and the Southwest Region Coach of the Year.

"Obviously, Erin's accomplishments as the Blinn College volleyball coach are impeccable, but her student athletes and the athletic department will miss her friendship even more," said Scott Schumacher, athletic director.

Blinn has earned NJCAA all-academic recognition in each of Mellinger's three seasons, and has participated in a variety of community service programs, including Blinn's Adopt-a-Charity Program and the Sideout Foundation's Dig Pink.

"I've had the honor of coaching some pretty incredible young ladies and it has brought me more joy than I ever thought coaching could. "I've had the people who will be lifelong friends," Mellinger said. "I've had the chance to advise and help a great set of athletes grow into amazing young adults."

In her first season at Blinn in 2012, Mellinger led the Buccaneers to a 25-7 record and the quarterfinals of the Region XIV Tournament, and freshman middle blocker Bruna Evangelina was named an NJCAA All-American.

In 2013, Mellinger led the Buccaneers to the program's third national championship, going 39-3 en route to the Region XIV District L conference championship and the Region XIV Tournament championship. Evangelista was named the NJCAA Tournament MVP and Trinity Aluatu and Rebecca Reeve were named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team. Evangelista, Crystal Young, and Kariana Castanon-Hill were named NJCAA All-Americans and NJCAA All-Tournament Team. Spirit coordinator and dance coach Sarah Flosowski introduced her team and gave thanks to cheer coach Michael Brewster and the team's supporters.

Eight Blinn graduates who played under Mellinger played at four-year universities this season, and five players from this season's roster have signed with four-year programs.

Eight Blinn graduates who played under Mellinger played at four-year universities this season, and five players from this season's roster have signed with four-year programs.

After two years of missing out on a trip to nationals, Blinn College softball put together a successful season and secured a spot in the 2015 NJCAA Division I National Tournament in St. George, Utah.
NEW HIRES

Brenham Campus, Full-time
Shannon Buck, Graphics Designer; and Nereida Vega, Financial Aid Specialist.

Brenham Campus, Part-time
Suzanne Grawunder, Instructor

Bryan Campus, Full-time
Guadalupe Arendondo, Police Officer; and James Larkin, Advisor

Bryan Campus, Part-time
Ulman McMullen, Shuttle Bus Driver

Museum, Part-time
Martha Lee, Tour Guide

PERSONAL NOTES

Audrey Wick, Schulenburg campus English and kinesiology instructor, served as a judge for the 2015 Turnitin All-Star Awards after winning the 2014 All-Star MVP Award and earning honorable mention for the All-Star Integrity Award.

Blinn personnel participated in the Washington County Leadership Program. Director of Purchasing, Ross Schroeder and Director of Alumni Relations, Kyle Merten recently graduated from the Washington County Leadership program. David Yeager, Director of Workforce Education at the A. W. Hodde, Jr. Technical Education Center was the keynote speaker.

JUNE 1. Blinn College Advising Days for TEAM and TEAB, Barbara Pearson Banquet Room and the Student Center, 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m, Bryan

JUNE 2. Associate Degree Nursing (LVN-Transition Option) Information Session, Clinical Building 1, room 3539, on the Texas A&M Health Science Center Campus, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

JUNE 3. Associate Degree Nursing Program Information Session, Clinical Building 1, room 3539, on the Texas A&M Health Science Center Campus, 5:30 - 7 p.m

JUNE 3. May Minimester Finals

JUNE 5. Brenham - Advanced QuickBooks Workshop, Bob Bullock Building, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m

JUNE 8. Blinn College Advising Days for TEAM and TEAB, Barbara Pearson Banquet Room and the Student Center, 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

JUNE 9. Day of Record - Summer I

JUNE 11. Small Business HR Training, Brenham Student Center, 6 p.m.

JUNE 12. Blinn College Advising Days for TEAM and TEAB, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room E-120 -E-123 and E-132, 7:15 a.m.- 5 p.m.

JUNE 15. Blinn College Advising Days for TEAM and TEAB, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room and the Student Center, 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

JUNE 16. Brenham - Board of Trustees Meeting, Brenham campus Administration Building, 6:30 pm

JUNE 22. Bryan - Blinn College Advising Days for TEAM and TEAB, Barbara Pearson Banquet Room and the Student Center, 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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.